

News Release

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CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY *ENGAGE HER* EVENTS SCHEDULED

Library partners with universities and honorary chair Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles to encourage, inspire and educate on voting in the 2020 election

Charlotte, NC – September 14, 2020 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library partners with Queens University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Johnson C. Smith University to present three online events in September and October spotlighting the history of women’s voting rights and engaging students and the community in conversations about past and current civic and social trends. As part of the Library’s Engage 2020: Look Back, Move Forward program focusing on notable women in political and public leadership, the first *Engage HER* event is on September 17, 2020 at 7 p.m., in partnership with Queens University Wells Fargo Center for Community Engagement. Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles is the keynote speaker. More information on *Engage HER* can be found at cmlibrary.org/engage2020.

The Queens University *Engage HER* event will be livestreamed on the Library’s Facebook page and YouTube channel, and is open to all in the Charlotte community. Mayor Vi Lyles, honorary chair of the Engage 2020 program, is the keynote speaker, while Queens University Civic Engagement Fellow Emily Sears will moderate the panel, which includes NC Representative Carolyn Logan, at-large member of the Board of Education Jennifer De La Jara, and president of the League of Women Voters Charlotte-Mecklenburg Delores Johnson Hurt.

“As a Queens alumna, I am thrilled to be part of this *Engage Her* event with Charlotte Mecklenburg Library where we can gather and participate in a conversation with other prominent women on the importance of voting, civic engagement, and public service,” says Vi Lyles, Charlotte Mayor and Honorary Chair of the Engage 2020 program. “This event is important as we look at the women who came before, the women with us today who are rethinking the rules and inventing new paths, and the women who will lead us in future generations. These women use their voices, reimagine the workplace, create cultures of inspiration and lead with determination. In coming together, we will harness the energies and resources of all our community assets.”

The Engage 2020 event will be highly interactive with participation from students and the community encouraged. “*Engage HER* at Queens is a vital opportunity for students and community members alike to gain new perspectives on the importance of local government officials and the formidable women who work tirelessly for the equitable advancement of all Mecklenburg residents. As we look towards the election, I believe that *Engage HER* will play an important role in encouraging college students, particularly young women, to make informed decisions about issues and candidates that will appear on their ballots in November,” says Emily Sears, Queens University Civic Engagement Fellow.

The second *Engage HER* event is through a partnership with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, pending scheduling in mid-October. The third *Engage HER* is through a partnership with Johnson C. Smith University on October 26, 2020 and will feature North Carolina Congresswoman Alma Adams.

The Library launched Engage 2020: Look Back, Move Forward in March of this year, in partnership with the Digital Public Library of America and with support from Pivotal Ventures, a Melinda Gates company.

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Photo caption: Logo Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Engage HER

Photo caption: Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, honorary chair of Engage 2020 and keynote speaker for Engage HER Queens University

About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America's leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

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Charlotte Mecklenburg Library newsroom: cmlibrary.org/library-news

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Engage HER logo



Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, honorary chair Engage 2020 and keynote speaker for *Engage HER*.

