



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY CEO TO RETIRE IN MARCH 2021

Charlotte, NC – June 22, 2020 – Today Lee Keesler, Chief Executive Officer with Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, announced he will retire effective March 31, 2021. Appointed in 2012, Keesler will leave an impactful legacy on the Library and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. The Library’s Board of Trustees outlined a transition plan, and a newly formed Board of Trustees Search Committee is leading the search for Keesler’s successor, with members appointed by the incoming Board Chair, Joe Helweg.

“During Lee’s tenure, he steered the Library through significant growth and transformation. A staunch advocate of literacy and improving our community, the Library has benefited in numerous ways from his leadership,” said Rob Harrington, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Board of Trustees current Chair.

While serving as Library CEO, Keesler led a leadership team whose accomplishments include the creation and execution of a strategic operating plan, increasing access to digital resources to support education and workforce development, launching the ONE Access™ partnership program, and expanding services and facilities with the renovations at Morrison, North County, South County and South Boulevard libraries, along with the development of a new Main Library. Keesler sponsored the launch of the Library’s employee culture initiative FOREWORD and strengthened partnerships with Mecklenburg County, Read Charlotte, the Seventh & Tryon redevelopment project and more. Keesler will also leave the organization having established a strong Library Foundation to stimulate more active fundraising to enable the continued success of the Library.

“From the time my mother would take my young brothers and me to Myers Park Library to pick out and drop off books until today, the Library has been a place to learn and grow, to meet and connect with anyone and everyone, and to serve,” said Lee Keesler, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library CEO. “It’s been an honor and a privilege to work alongside our terrific library staff and Board and I look forward to following their collective work improving lives, building a stronger community and advancing this essential institution.”

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Photo caption: Charlotte Mecklenburg Library CEO Lee Keesler

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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