Plenary Session 2
People are our catalysts for change
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People are our catalysts for change

ALEX CLIFTON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, STORYHOUSE
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Transformation

Funding

“The librarian”

Community
Transformation vs. information
Careers and hobbies

Education and literacy

Life skills and languages

Technology and training
The public library isn’t free
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Average annual increase in total income for all U.S. public libraries

1996-2005: 6%
2006-2016: 3%
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Voters who would definitely or probably vote yes for library funding

2008: 73%
2018: 54%

The public library isn’t free
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Spending on U.K. libraries by local authorities in 2018

Down £30m to £741m
The “passionate librarian”
The library is the community
A place that offers activities and entertainment you can’t find anywhere else in the community

+10%

A place that provides people with skills for the workplace

+7%

A place that provides classes, programs, and materials for immigrants

+10%

A place for the community to gather and socialize

+9%
What opportunities do you have?

• What are the needs in your community? How can you develop programs to solve those problems? Who can you partner with?

• Can you identify alternative ways to fund the library and its programs?

• Are there opportunities to create new roles for your staff inside the library and out in the community?