

CCPL Welcomes a New Board of Trustees Member: Shirley McCrary-Simmons

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born in Boston, MA, the fifth of nine children (a true middle child). I graduated from college and law school in New England and then moved south to Atlanta, Georgia. I met my husband, Nathaniel, there and we have one daughter, Charity. We are a military family.



My husband is an Army retiree and we are both retired from the federal government. I have served soldiers, veterans and their families for the last 22 years. I am a VA volunteer and group leader. I am currently serving on the Board of the Cecil County Community Mediation Center. I am a member of the historic Wright's AME Church in Elkton where I serve as a teacher, women's ministry leader and church administrator.

What led you to want to serve on the Library's Board of Trustees?

I believe the public library is a vital community anchor and great societal equalizer. The Cecil County Library system is an amazing accomplishment in a county this size. The pandemic has shown us that the Cecil County Library system serves as a resource in the areas of education, health, employment, business and charity. I desired to contribute to this legacy, to assist in accomplishing the library's mission and to support its core values of community, access for all, reading and literacy, trust and integrity, continuous learning and leadership.

What do you love about the Library?

I come from a family of avid readers. For my siblings and I, the library exposed us to places, ideas, and people outside of our reality. We spent a great deal of time at the Boston public libraries. I worked in the public library during high school and at the university libraries in college and law school. What I love about the library is that your age, race, ethnicity, or economic status does not matter; knowledge, information, and resources are available to everyone.

What's something you wish other community members knew about the Library?

Our public library offers more than borrowing books. They are great community spaces providing study and meeting rooms, outdoor spaces, internet access, job help, hands on experiences for kids, business and nonprofit resources, and special programs. The new North East Library is state of the art and designed based on input from across the community.

What's something you've recently read and would recommend?

Call Us What We Carry, poems by Amanda Gorman.