

# PROCLAMATION

## A PROCLAMATION Honoring Seattle Public Library's Chief Librarian, Marcellus Turner

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has been serving as the Seattle Public Library's (SPL) Executive Director and Chief Librarian since 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has over 30 years of public library experience, working in libraries in Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, Tacoma, Tennessee, and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has supported increasing financial stability for SPL, leading SPL through two levies in 2012 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has helped SPL thrive in making changes for the public and serving communities, including prioritizing racial equity; and

WHEREAS, as part of his commitment to equity and eliminating the digital divide, Mr. Turner oversaw the elimination of fines for overdue library books, a barrier to all communities having access to the Library, as well as adding wi-fi hotspots to circulation; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Turner's leadership, SPL was awarded the 2020 Gale/Library Journal Library of the Year, a prestigious award that honors libraries that are role models in their service to the community, show creativity and innovation in developing specific community programs or a dramatic increase in library usage; and demonstrates leadership in creating programs that can be emulated by other libraries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner's commitment to community engagement resulted in creation of a multi-year strategy to connect with the people it serves and feedback from this engagement prompted the Library to make changes to increase access and services; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner led SPL in finding out how it could further serve the community with an external focus, and held Community Conversations at each branch to discuss how the Library could help residents with learning, access, and equity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner oversaw changes including the ability to borrow library materials when patrons do not have proof of residence, installing a social worker at the Central Library and various branches; and creating digital literacy series; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner rebooted the Library's Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) training, included RSJI in the Library's Strategic Plan, and formally adopted RSJI across the Library system; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Turner displayed his excellent leadership in having SPL pivot quickly to best serve the community when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, organizing curbside pickup, expanding digital resources like e-books and digital content; creating virtual story-time and classes, allowing instant digital library cards, and more; and

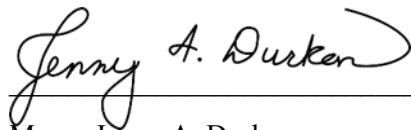
WHEREAS, under Mr. Turner's leadership, SPL has awarded 5-star ratings from the Library Journal's Index of Public Library Service for ten years in a row; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has accepted a position as the Executive Director and Chief Librarian for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library in Charlotte, North Carolina, and will be sorely missed in Seattle; and

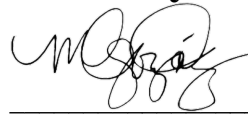
WHEREAS, while Mr. Turner's last day at SPL is scheduled for March 31, 2021, his legacy of kindness and fierce advocacy for equity will remain a cornerstone of our Libraries for generations to come; and

*NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021 TO BE*

## **Marcellus Turner Day**



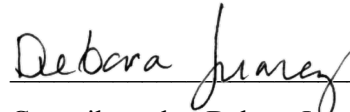
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



Council President M. Lorena González



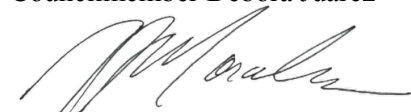
Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Debora Juárez



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss