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# Maryland Libraries Together Event to Feature Jane McGonigal

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BALTIMORE - Bestselling author, researcher, and game designer Jane McGonigal this month is set to lead librarians and the public in a discussion on how to prepare for the future during a virtual “lunch and learn” hosted by the [Enoch Pratt Free Library](#) and Maryland Libraries Together.

“Jane McGonigal: Building Urgent Optimism for the Future” will be streamed live by Enoch Pratt Free Library from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on April 25. The event is supported in part by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the [Maryland State Library Agency \(MSLA\)](#).

McGonigal is an award-winning designer of alternate reality games, designed to solve real problems and improve players’ lives. As a *New York Times* bestselling author and Research Director at the [Institute for the Future](#), McGonigal is prepared to discuss with those in attendance a new framework for cultivating optimism in the face of uncertainty.

“As the State Library Resource Center, the Pratt Library is a proud partner in the Maryland Libraries Together initiative,” said Darcell Graham, Interim CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library. “Virtual programs like this open the doors of access to library customers across the state to engage with compelling speakers and content that can help spark community conversations.”

Maryland Libraries Together is a collaboration of libraries, developed by a statewide task force and coordinated by MSLA, that works to engage communities in enriching educational experiences that advance an understanding of the issues of our time. McGonigal’s program is an opportunity to extend the work of the 2023 Maryland Library Futures Conference, a two-day, high-energy event that allowed librarians to explore ideas and strategies for meeting the challenges of creating future-ready libraries. It also serves as the latest in an ongoing effort by Maryland Libraries Together to develop and support programming that benefits libraries, librarians and the communities they serve.

Library staff and members of the public will have an opportunity to discuss questions that include: “How do we prepare ourselves for ‘unthinkable’ change?” and “How do we ready our teams and organizations for ‘unimaginable’ future events?” The event will allow participants to practice in the art of “mental time travel” and learn how to bring others along to a better future. Those who attend also

will develop a practical way to combat normalcy bias and think more creatively and effectively in the face of dynamic global events.

“I’m proud of the work of Maryland Libraries Together and thankful to the Enoch Pratt Free Library for hosting this important event,” said Maryland State Librarian Irene Padilla. “The world is changing, so it’s important for librarians and the community to focus on how they envision this future and what we can do to get there.”

The event will be streamed live, but not recorded. To register, [visit here](#).

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