

CHARLES E. BEATLEY CENTRAL LIBRARY
20 Year Birthday Celebration
© KaNikki Jakarta, Poet Laureate of Alexandria, VA
(January 31, 2020)

Welcome to Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library
On Duke and Pickett Street
A heartbeat
of creativity that means so much to you and me
In this 20 year celebration
We acknowledge the knowledge gained here
Through reading and workshops
We give a silent cheer
Because shhh this is the library
Where whispers are greatly preferred
As not to interrupt the readers
And conversations should not be overheard
Let us marvel at the architecture
Created by Michael Graves
and remember the time we spent here
and rejoice upon those days
Named after and in honor of a former mayor
Who wanted to preserve Alexandria's history
20 years ago almost to the date
This library came to be
Let us welcome you back to
Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library
Where open doors and open minds nest here
Borrowed books to share or learn from
And memories that you can hold dear
So don't forget your library card
A treasure waits to behold
What is yet to come from this glorious building
is a story yet to be told