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Contact Information:

Jim Staley, Community Relations & Planning Director
Mid-Continent Public Library
jstaley@mymcpl.org | 816.503.4177



Library Explores Rise and Impact of Music Tech

MCPL's 'Facing the Future' Tech Series Returns with 'Mood Machine' Author Liz Pelly

Kansas City, MO – **On Tuesday, May 13, at 6:00 p.m.**, Mid-Continent Public Library will host journalist and author Liz Pelly to discuss her new book, *Mood Machine: The Rise of Spotify and the Costs of the Perfect Playlist*. Held at MCPL's Woodneath Auditorium (8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, Mo.), Pelly's presentation marks the relaunch of the Library's Facing the Future tech series, which began last year, featuring experts on a range of emerging technologies.

"We're thrilled to bring back our Facing the Future series, and are so grateful to author Liz Pelly for kicking us off and bringing her expertise to Kansas City," said Erin Kennedy, MCPL Digital Innovation Manager. "The mission of Facing the Future has been to examine advances in technology and learn how these might influence our day-to-day lives. Our hope is that programs like Liz's will help break down some of the more complex topics like algorithms and shine a light on how they impact each of us."

Michelle Bacon, touring musician and Content Manager at local radio station 90.9 The Bridge, will lead the discussion with Pelly as they dive into the origin and evolution of the music streaming platform Spotify, and how the platform has transformed today's music industry into one that Pelly describes as "increasingly playlisted, personalized, and autoplaid."

"During my career, both as a musical artist and industry professional, I've seen firsthand the changes in how listeners both discover and engage with music," said Bacon. "I'm delighted to be part of this program and facilitate this interesting discussion with Ms. Pelly about her book and the past, present, and future of music."

Pelly's program is free to attend (registration required), and attendees will have the opportunity to receive a free copy of *Mood Machine*, while supplies last (first come, first served). In addition to her book, Pelly is a contributing editor for *The Baffler*, a political and cultural magazine, and her writing has also appeared in *The Guardian*, NPR, *Rolling Stone*, and *Pitchfork*, among others. She is a recurring guest on radio shows and podcasts where she discusses the music streaming industry, including *The New York Times Popcast* and NPR's *Morning Edition*, and is a teacher at the recorded music program at New York University.

MCPL's next Facing the Future program will continue to explore the theme of music tech and how algorithms, artificial intelligence, and other emerging tech are influencing the type of music and artists we

listen to each day. The program will be held this fall and will feature a panel discussion with local musicians and music industry experts. **More information about all of the upcoming Facing the Future events, and related resources, can be found at mymcpl.org/FacingTheFuture.**

Previous Facing the Future featured speakers have included:

- Tobias Rose-Stockwell, author of *Outrage Machine: How Tech Amplifies Discontent, Disrupts Democracy—And What We Can Do about It*
- *New York Times* tech reporter Kashmir Hill, author *Your Face Belongs to Us*, covering the implications of facial recognition software
- Taiwan’s first Minister of Digital Affairs, Audrey Tang
- Kyle Chayka, author of *Filterworld: How Algorithms Flattened Culture*

Visit mymcpl.org/FacingTheFuture to learn more.

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Founded in 1965, [Mid-Continent Public Library](#) is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 34 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 850,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).