



Agenda: Board of Trustees
May 4, 2023, at 4 pm
Conference Room, Downtown Library

Literacy, Access, & Inclusion

Library Board President – Clint Twedt-Ball

- A. Call to Order
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
 - Minutes: April 6, 2023
- C. Public Comments and Communications
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
- F. Board Education: Strategic Plan Updates & Summer Dare – Kevin Delecki
- G. Library Board Committee Reports
 - Advocacy Committee – Rafael Jacobo, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - Finance Committee – Monica Challenger, Committee Chair
 - **Action:** FY24 Budget Amendment
 - Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - Westside Project Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
 - No Action
- H. Library Director's Report
- I. Old Business
- J. New Business
- K. Adjournment

The next Board of Trustees meeting is **June 1, 2023 at 4 pm**, in the Community Room, Ladd Library.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Jessica Musil, Library Administrative Assistant, at 319.261.7323 or email musilj@crlibrary.org as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Cedar Rapids Public Library
Board of Trustees
April 6, 2023

Board members in attendance: [President] Clint Twedt-Ball, Jade Hart, Chris Casey, Elisabeth Hepworth, Rafael Jacobo, Susie McDermott (in person); [Vice President] Monica Challenger, Hassan Selim (via Zoom)

Staff in attendance: Dara Schmidt, Todd Simonson, Amber McNamara, Patrick Duggan, Jessica Musil (in person); Jessica Link (via Zoom)

Others: Charity Tyler, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation; Libby Slappey, President, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library; Marissa Payne, *The Gazette* (via Zoom)

- A. Call to Order
 - Mr. Twedt-Ball called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
 - Minutes: March 2, 2023
 - Special Event Application

Ms. Hart moved to accept the consent agenda. Ms. McDermott seconded. The action carried with unanimous approval.
- C. Public Comments and Communications
 - There being none, the meeting continued
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
 - The Foundation continues to coordinate the quiet phase of capital campaign, and plan the May 5 Literary Vines fundraiser event. Tickets are now available, and invitations were mailed last week. During the event, the Programming Team will showcase library resources, focusing on technology and experiences.
 - The semi-annual joint Focus newsletter, produced by the Foundation and Friends, should be out April 16.
 - The Foundation will celebrate National Library Week in April with an additional t-shirt on their Raygun store. The community can purchase 'University of Cedar Rapids' shirts in honor of the library's 125th anniversary.
 - Mr. Twedt-Ball expressed thanks for the Literary Vines event, and he appreciates how the fundraiser has grown. Ms. Hart asked about the event's ticket sales. Ms. Tyler does not have a count at this time.
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
 - The Friends hosted an amazing April Fools Day sale at the Cherry Building. They sold new books for \$1 each, garnering over \$2,000. The event was packed with constant traffic. Now, they are preparing for the big spring sale at the downtown library in May, followed by Farmers Market sales this summer.
- F. Board Education: Reinvigorating Active Service – Todd Simonson
 - Todd Simonson, the library's Public Service Manager, led a strategic planning committee to reinvigorate the active service model for patron interactions. The committee, made up of nine employees, represented all departments and both branches.
 - Active Service is meeting people wherever they are in the library to provide compassionate engagement and equitable access to services. When both buildings opened in 2013, following research and board support, the library adopted this model to meet patron needs, proactive behavior and safety intervention, and establish positive connection and relationship building.

Mr. Elges joined the meeting at 4:11 pm.

- The library is re-focusing on active service again because the practice was halted due to challenges presented by COVID-19. In addition, we've had a large staff turnover, which was seen in many industries across the country during COVID, and many of the staff did not work with the active service model. We anticipate a significant increase in visitors to programs and with the summer reading program.
- All departments will have a refresher training during the professional development day on April 28. Staff will be surveyed to identify training needs. The Public Service leadership will collect data to monitor success. In addition, active service will be discussed regularly in staff meetings.
- Mr. Twedt-Ball asked what kind of data would be collected for this. To start, we'll observe active service in order to help inform data to collect; for example, observing staff making connections on the floor or leaving the desk. Ms. Schmidt noted we talked about balancing this the twice a year reference data collection, as required by the State Library of Iowa, to gauge if we're actively serving people. We're talking about new data points and old data points that may change due to the work. Ms. Casey asked if there are any particular areas or populations (such as young adult, Children's, etc.) that may have a greater need. Mr. Simonson thinks there is probably a different need. For example, Young Adult is a small portion of the building but active service will look different than second floor non-fiction.
- Ms. McDermott noted that the 1985 library had a central desk and people had to approach for assistance. Ms. Schmidt said the word 're-invigorate' was intentional in the strategic plan. Active Service was important to the board when it was adopted, and now it's time to use the model after challenges from COVID. This philosophy will be incorporated into the westside library design.

G. Library Board Committee Reports

- Advocacy Committee – Rafael Jacobo, Committee Chair
 - The committee met on March 28, and reviewed a new statistics dashboard, which will be discussed later in the agenda. Ms. Schmidt noted that the new dashboard would not have happened without feedback from the committee.
- Finance Committee – Monica Challenger, Committee Chair
 - Ms. Hepworth reported for Ms. Challenger and reviewed the February Finance memo as presented in the board packet. The library is projected to meet or exceed revenues and expenses are on track with the budget.
 - The City Council is scheduled to present and approve the FY24 budget on April 25. Following the budget hearing, the board will receive the final library budget amendment for approval in May.
- Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - **Action:** Policy 4.03: Community Postings. The committee updated the policy to more accurately reflect the current framework, which includes what's allowed and timeframes. Mr. Elges agreed that the proposed draft policy is more robust.
The committee recommendation to approve Policy 4.03 as presented in the board packet carried with unanimous approval.
- Westside Project Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
 - The committee recently reviewed some more final drawings. Ms. Hart looks forward to showing these drawings to our community at the next public open house on May 1 from 4-6 pm in the Ladd Library Community Room. OPN Architects and library staff will present the project and gather more public feedback. The project will aim for LEED Gold or Platinum certification. OPN has completed the first set of massing drawings to go to the cost estimator. In a week, we should have the first pricing; depending on the outcome, we may need to alter the plans to stay within budget.

H. Library Director's Report.

- With assistance from the Advocacy Committee, the library has been evaluating ways to we tell our story. The Director's Report, included in board packets, is sent out monthly and widely available. It can be an incredible advocacy piece, which we hadn't considered in the past. Mary Sharp, past trustee and committee chair, started this process, especially thinking about the 125th anniversary. In the past, the library had a separate sheet of statistics, that have changed over the years, and a narrative piece of the Director's Report. This new report combines both. The report's data is starting in FY23 so we can create a new baseline because previous data has not reliable. The graphs will change in future as we establish the baseline. Ms. Schmidt reviewed the new report.
- Ms. Hepworth expressed kudos to the staff and committee for this report. She feels it is a great report with lots of quantitative and qualitative information. Ms. Casey believes the data is really great for anyone to understand, and to use in advocacy efforts. With the new report, built in Power BI, the library can pull data quickly every month to share at any time. Mr. Elges complimented the document, noting it is much more readable and intuitive with combined data and narrative. Ms. Schmidt feels the library has made it through complex issues presented by COVID, and can now focus on being a library again.
- The library will be closed on Friday, April 28 for its semi-annual All Staff Professional Development day. Ms. Schmidt will send the schedule to trustees in case they'd like to attend. In the morning, OPN will provide feedback sessions for staff.

I. Old Business

- There being no old business, the meeting continued.

J. New Business

- There being no new business, the meeting continued.

K. Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 4 pm in the Conference Room, Downtown Library

COMMUNITY



THINGS TO DO TODAY

POWERED BY HOOPLA:
WWW.HOOPLANOW.COM

MUSEUM/EXHIBIT

“Journey with Christ Through Icons”

Iconographer Robert Appel will exhibit 37 icons he has painted in the Greek style, a tradition going back at least 15 centuries. Exhibit runs to April 16.

- **When:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Where:** St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1340 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids
- **Cost:** Free

HEALTH/FITNESS

Tai Chi

Gather with Tom for a relaxing morning session of Tai Chi in person or via Zoom.

- **When:** 8 to 9 a.m.
- **Where:** Ely Public Library, 1595 Dows St., Ely (Ely.lib.ia.us)
- **Cost:** Free

EDUCATIONAL

Brown Bag Event: Medication Disposal

University of Iowa College of Pharmacy students will host a safe medication disposal event where you can bring in old or expired medications to be destroyed. Seniors can ask medication-related questions. Register at (319) 356-5220.

- **When:** 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Where:** Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center, Room 311, 28 S. Linn St., Iowa City
- **Cost:** Free

MUSEUM/EXHIBIT

Built This Way:

Architecture in Art

This exhibition looks at the appearance of architecture in art from the museum's collection, exploring the many ways in which architecture plays an important and pivotal role.

- **When:** Noon to 4 p.m.
- **Where:** Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids
- **Cost:** Free to \$10

COMMUNITY

LADOS (Life After Death of Spouse)

A grief support group that meets the second Tuesday afternoon of each month for fellowship, support, socialization and guest speakers.

- **When:** 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Where:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 8300 C Ave., Marion
- **Cost:** Free

HOBBY

Prairiewoods Knitters & Stitchers

This is a group of crafters of various skill levels who create handmade goods for charity. New participants are always welcome.

- **When:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, 120 E. Boyson Rd., Hiawatha
- **Cost:** Free



The Ladd Library branch of the Cedar Rapids Public Library is seen at 3750 Williams Blvd. SW. (Nick Rohlman/The Gazette)

Cedar Rapids Public Library to hold another open house

Event to be held evening of May 1

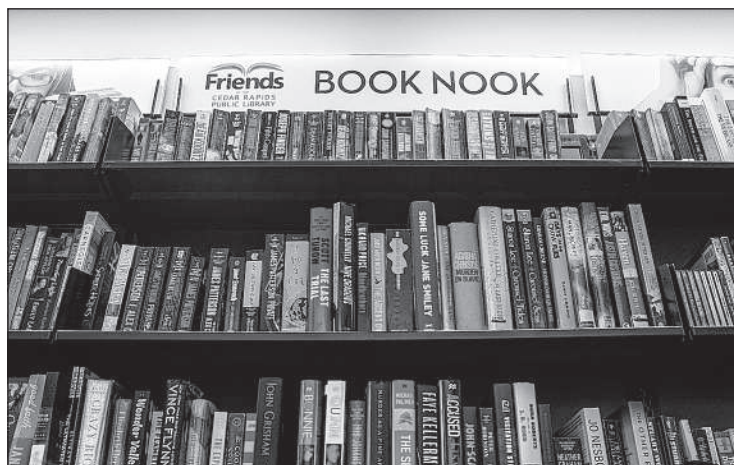
By Marissa Payne, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — The Cedar Rapids Public Library will hold another open house so residents can give input on the new permanent west-side library project.

Residents can visit the Community Room at the Ladd Library, 3750 Williams Blvd. SW, from 4 to 6 p.m. May 1 for an update on the project. At that time, there are likely to be schematic drawings available, library board members said in a meeting last week.

“Moving this one to the evening offers more accessibility to people who are working, and so we want to make sure as we go through these different iterations of public meetings, we will probably shift the time a few times just so that we’re catching as many people as we can,” library Executive Director Dara Schmidt said.

The site of the new library — 27 acres at the corner of 20th Avenue and Wiley Boulevard SW — is planned to interplay with housing, open space and other amenities, including an opportunity center offering a wide variety of social services and a food pantry. Once complete, the new library branch would replace the Ladd Library, a leased



The book nook at the Ladd Library in Cedar Rapids. (Savannah Blake/The Gazette)

space that opened in 2013 and was established through a grant from the Hall-Perrine Foundation.

The library is looking at an “active service model” for this library where people don’t fear approaching the service desk with questions, Schmidt said.

The library board has noted that 28 percent of households in southwest Cedar Rapids sit below the poverty line, indicating that this quadrant of the community is in need of information, experiences and services that this new facility would provide.

The library’s goal is to raise \$25 million for the project, but officials still are in the quiet phase of the capital campaign — privately securing financial support before launching the campaign to the broader com-

munity.

Library board member Jade Hart, who heads the west-side library project committee, said the facility is seeking possibly gold or platinum LEED certification, meaning the building is designed and built in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way. Platinum would be the highest score.

The Cedar Rapids City Council has allocated \$6 million to the library project. The Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation already has committed \$2 million to the new facility, Community Development Director Jennifer Pratt previously said. The Linn County Board of Supervisors allocated \$4 million of its American Rescue Plan Act funds.

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Cedar Rapids Public Library open house on west-side library project
- **Where:** Ladd Library, Community Room, 3750 Williams Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids
- **When:** 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, May 1
- **Cost:** Free

To fill in the remaining gap, the library is looking to secure \$3 million through other state and federal resources. A community investment campaign is seeking to raise \$10 million.

The design, development and fundraising campaign began last fall and will wrap up in 2024. A groundbreaking is slated for summer 2024, with a summer or fall 2026 opening.

Hart said the facility is planned to have electric vehicle charging stations and bike storage. The City Council also awarded another \$100,000 to go toward the design of a park coinciding with the new library, adding open green space to a part of town that lacks enough of it.

Exact cost estimates are not yet available, but OPN Architects and cost estimators are working to nail down a figure.

“We’re at a very critical, high-impact time,” Schmidt said.

Comments: (319) 398-8494; marissa.payne@thegazette.com

EASTERN IOWA BRIEFS

CEDAR RAPIDS

Families Helping Families of Iowa to host Resource Fair for Foster and Adoptive Caregivers

Families Helping Families of Iowa is hosting its second annual Resource Fair for Foster and Adoptive Caregivers from 1 to 3:30 p.m. April 22 at Grant Wood Area Education Agency, 4401 Sixth St. SW, Cedar Rapids.

Amber Jewell will be speaking at 1 p.m. Jewell has more than 15 years of experience working with youth and families involved with child protective services, within the education field, and in mental health services. Jewell is a nationally published author of “Finding Hope: The 12 keys to Healing Hardships, Hurts, and Sorrow.”

As many organizations have witnessed there is a need to focus on mental health and healing in our communities. Families Helping Families will be hosting 25 community partners with a focus on mental health providers. Caregivers will have the ability to visit with each partner.

Foster and adoptive caregivers will

be awarded 2.5 hours of training credits. Child care will be provided, but registration will be required to be sure there is enough staffing/volunteers. To register for child care, visit familieshelpingfamiliesofiowa.org/foster-adoptive-resource-fair-2023. For more information, contact office@fhfia.org or call (319) 294-9706.

IOWA CITY

Comedian Ben Miller’s Stand-Up Science coming to Iowa City

Coming to Joystick Comedy Arcade in Iowa City in April is a multimedia stand-up comedy show about science.

Ben Miller will perform at 9:30 p.m. Monday at Joystick Comedy Arcade, 13 S. Linn St., Iowa City. Tickets are \$5 to \$10 at www.playatjoystick.com/event-details/ben-millers-stand-up-science

Miller’s show is equal measures hilarious, educational and deeply personal. The New York City-based scientist and comedian uses stories on topics ranging from his musculoskeletal condition to his childhood history with milk as jumping off points for scientific and comedic exploration.

A scientist with an Ivy League education — he has a degree in materials science and engineering from Columbia University — the comedian worried about coming off as pretentious or unrelatable. But during the COVID lockdowns, Miller combined his skills to educate and amuse, making science funny and accessible. He filmed a few episodes of a web series called “Stand-Up Science.” The web series now has been developed into a live show.

CORALVILLE

Enroll kids into Safety Village

There still are spots open for 2023 Safety Village Summer Camp held June 13 to 30. Safety Village is a two-week summer safety camp where children learn about safety in a hands-on way from the area’s first responders.

The camp is designed for children ages 5 to 7 who have completed kindergarten. Participants can register for the 8 to 10 a.m. session or 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. session. Cost is \$100 per child.

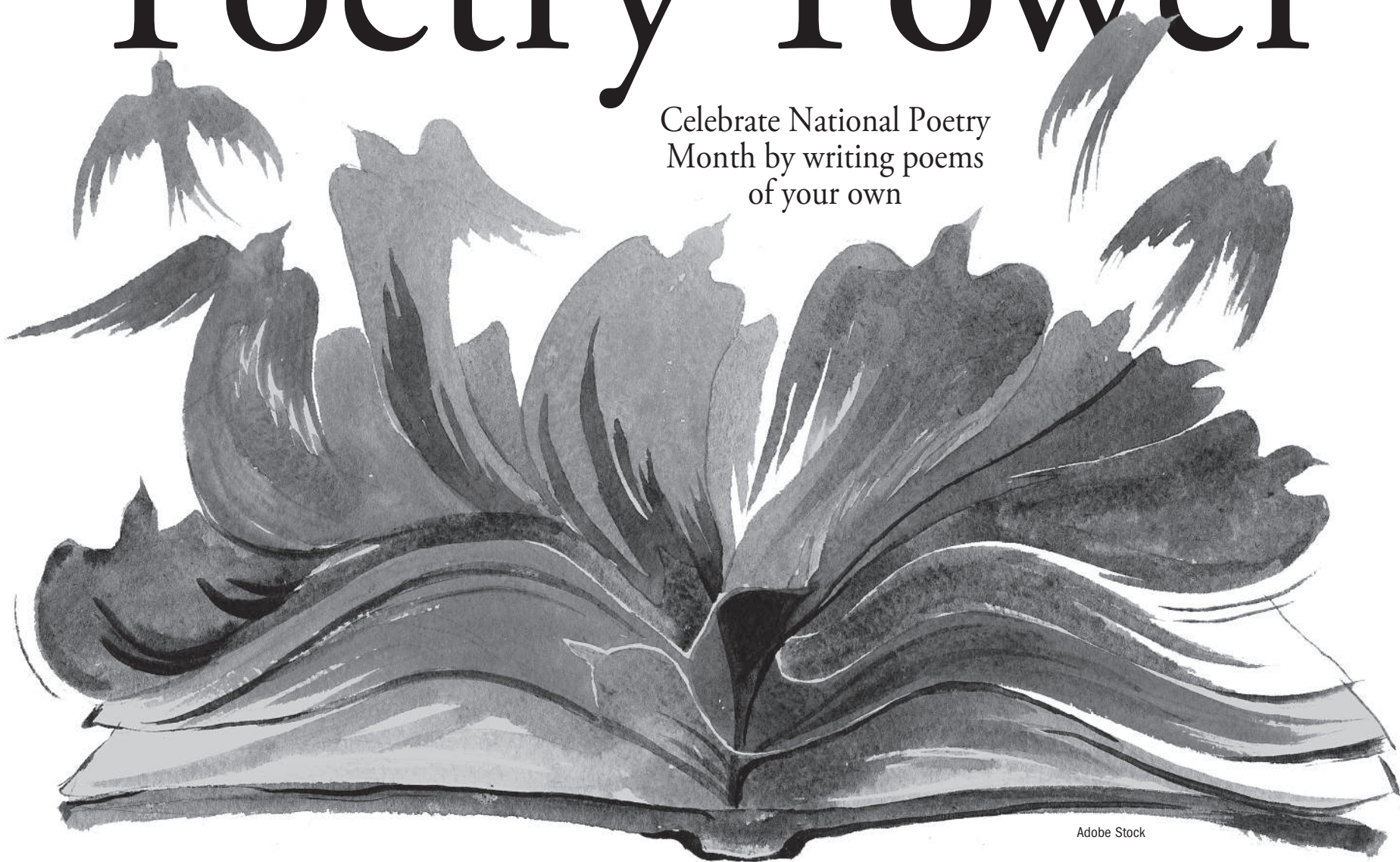
For more information, visit safetyvillage-ic.com.



kids gazette

Poetry Power

Celebrate National Poetry Month by writing poems of your own



Adobe Stock

Cedar Rapids Public Library

CEDAR RAPIDS — In celebration of April as National Poetry Month, the Cedar Rapids Public Library will host a Poetry Power Workshop for third through sixth-graders from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 29 at the Downtown Library.

Activities will include bubble gum poetry, equity poetry, movement poetry and nature poetry. The workshop will end with a read-aloud portion of participant's original poetry or favorite poems. Registration is required online at events.crlibrary.org/events.

Submit your poem to the Kids Gazette!

• Submit your poetry for a chance to be featured in the Kids Gazette! With the help of an adult, email your poem to Kids Gazette editor Grace King at grace.king@thegazette.com. Include your name, age and grade and a photo of yourself!

WHAT IS POETRY?

Retired Cedar Rapids Franklin Middle School teacher Deb Siebenga will lead the workshop and share some activities to help young poets get started. She started with this poem by her father:

What is Poetry
by Jack W. Hardcastle

What is poetry? I'll be darned if I know
Is it words put together in groupings so,
That there is rhythm and there is a beat,
And the words kind of flow off your tongue
It's so neat:
To read, or write it or just sit and listen
To sounds and the silence.....between them, they glisten,
When poets read poetry with emotions and feeling
Words become pictures and thoughts so appealing
So what is poetry? Who really

knows?

Just words in packages, tied up in bows?
It's much more than that without a doubt
It's man's inner self, trying to get out.

DEB'S POETRY TIPS

- Poetry is your very own voice.
- Poetry doesn't have to rhyme.
- Poetry can be funny or serious.
- Poems can be very short and meaningful.
- Poetry is meant to be shared aloud.
- Poetry is creating a piece of art with words.
- Poetry can be your gift to family members or others.
- Poetry can help you process life.
- Poetry allows you to play with words.
- Poetry can inspire others.

GET STARTED!

- Artwork and poetry are a great

combination. Experiment with being inspired by art and writing poetry or your own painting or drawing in combination with your own poetry. Both are wonderful experiences.

- Experiment with chalk poetry by writing outside on your driveway! Inspire your neighborhood to be kind and happy with both art and short poems.
- Try some haiku poetry. It's a Japanese form of poetry that follows a pattern of five syllables, seven syllables and five syllables. Try writing a poem about nature — flowers blooming or a rainstorm.
- Add some song and movement to your life with poetry with friends and family. "I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly" is a great example to get you up, singing and moving.
- Write a poem for a special family member. Mother's Day is right around the corner!
- Poetry is everywhere once you start looking! You will find it in children's books, greeting cards, and especially songs.

NEED MORE INSPIRATION?

Borrow these recently published poetry books for kids from the library:

- *The Undeclared*, by Kwame Alexander (2019)
- *Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance*, by Nikki Grimes (2021)
- *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, by Nikole Hannah-Jones (2021)
- *The Dirt Book: Poems About Animals That Live Beneath Our Feet*, by David L. Harrison (2021)
- *The Last Straw: Kids vs. Plastics*, by Susan Hood (2021)
- *Before We Stood Tall: From Small Seed to Mighty Tree*, by Jessica Kulekjian (2021)
- *The One Thing You'd Save*, by Linda Sue Park (2021)
- *At the Height of the Moon: A Book of Bedtime Poetry and Art*, edited by Annette Roeder, Alison Baverstock, and Matt Cunningham (2021)
- *Take Off Your Brave: The World Through the Eyes of a Preschool Poet*, by Nadim Shamma (2022)

Penn Elementary presents 'The Wizard of Oz'

School's first production will feature a surprise guest playing the Wizard

By Grace King, The Gazette

NORTH LIBERTY — Penn Elementary School in North Liberty is presenting the first production of its new theater program.

The kids are performing "The Wizard of Oz" in the auditorium of Liberty High School, 400 Dubuque St. NE, North Liberty, at 7:30 p.m. April 21 and 22 and at 2:30 p.m. April 23 at

Tickets are available for purchase at the door (\$5) via cash, check or Venmo.

The show is being directed by parent Zachary Mannheimer and produced by

parent and current Iowa City School Board member Lisa Williams.

"We are so excited to bring together so many of the Penn Elementary community to present this production," Mannheimer said in a news release. "Most of the students have never had the opportunity to participate in a show, and they have excelled. Theater is the ultimate collaborative

event, and we are fortunate to have so many great partners at Penn."

Parents, teachers, and other community volunteers have come together to create a production with over 70 elementary students performing and working backstage.

The production will bring together the talents of many faculty and staff, with a surprise guest playing the Wizard

of Oz.

"This is one of the many examples of the extraordinary opportunities being offered to students in the Iowa City Community School District," Williams said. "These students have risen to the occasion and are going to put on a remarkable show."

Comments: (319) 398-8411; grace.king@thegazette.com

To: Monica Challenger, Finance Committee Chair
From: Dara Schmidt
Date: 4/27/2023
Subject: **March 2023** Financial Report

March Monthly Analysis

Library Operations 151XXX: When reviewing March 2023 financial information and budget to actual, we assume:

- At least 1/12 of revenue will be received per month (75% thru March). Actual revenues are expected to meet or exceed budgeted amounts.
- No more than 1/12 of discretionary, fleet, facilities, fuel budget is spent per month (remember due to processing times, expenses have a 1 month lag so 66.7% thru March).
- For all other expenses, no more than 1/12 of budget are spent per month (75% thru March).
- Regardless of funds/cash available, total actual expenses, excluding transfer out, may not exceed total budgeted expenses.
 - **Total actual revenue (less transfer in) is 81% or \$656K of budgeted \$810K. Exceeding budget.**
 - Budget was amended in November to add for grant revenue received relating to COVID IMLS federal grant for \$10.8K. Final expected amount per General Accounting.
 - **Total actual expenditures are 73% or \$5.5M of \$7.4M budgeted. Right on track with budget.**
 - Personal Services is tracking at **73% or \$4M of \$5.55M budget.**
 - Refresh savings budget of \$135K was removed in September for approved reduction of budget.
 - Accrual for FY 2023 will have entire paycheck accrued back this FY (June will have 3 paychecks actually posted). Estimated to have 126K remaining budget at 6/30.
 - Discretionary is trending over budget thru March. Total incurred is **\$695K of \$810K budget or 86%.**
 - Rent of Land & Buildings has incurred 12 months of Lease & CAM \$16,387.67 July thru December and \$17,600.17 Jan thru June (including CAM reconciliation for 2021) for Ladd library or \$214K. Parking actuals thru March is \$30K. anticipate spending more than budgeted.
 - Electricity is spending greater than budget available thru February . 56% spent or \$119.6K of \$213.8K budget. Estimated to be over budget by \$18.5K.
 - Facilities Maintenance has posted EMS costs thru March - \$11.5K and Maintenance billing for July-December is \$147K. FMS maint has billed for January of \$30.8K but not yet posted to financials. (On track to fully spend down this budget.)
 - Fleet Services is billed thru January for work order billing. Currently at 33% or \$457 of \$1.4K budget.

Special Revenue & CIP Funds:

- Fund 7010 – Special Revenue
 - Thru March, total expenditures are 29% or \$150K of \$525K budget.
- Fund 7020 – Special Revenue
 - Total expenses equal budget and no longer active. Budget amendment requested of \$353.69 to spend full fund balance.
- Fund 316 – CIP

- Thru March, total expenditures are 72% or \$465K of \$650K budget.
 - Patron furniture (project 316756) needs purchased up to \$100K as well as reimbursement from Library Foundation .
 - Circulation material (project 316750) is 74% or \$408K of \$550K budget. Budget amendment requested of \$50K to use cash on hand.

FY 24 Budget Amendment:

The Finance committee is recommending approval of amending the FY24 316-CIP budget to reduce the library's allocation for books and materials up to but no lower than \$500K. This will continue City funding of books at current FY 2023 levels of \$500K. Any further requests for reduction would require full board approval.

If Library FY 2023 operations ends favorable with unspent budget after adjusting for any revenue shortfalls (if they would occur), a combination of rollover funds or transfers could still increase the FY24 Books and Materials CIP budget. FY24 increases would not require board approval.

City of Cedar Rapids
 151 General Fund - Library
 2023-03-31

| Account Name | Account | Prior Fiscal Year 2022 YTD Actuals | Current Fiscal Year 2023 Adjusted Budget | Current Fiscal Year 2023 YTD Actuals | Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance | Percent of Budget Received Spent | Current Month 2023 Actuals |
|--|---------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Revenue | | | | | | | |
| Taxes | | | | | | | |
| Total Taxes | | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Intergovernmental Revenue | | | | | | | |
| Federal Operating | 421001 | - | 10,800.86 | 10,800.86 | - | 100% | - |
| State Operating | 422001 | 112,069.27 | 115,000.00 | 101,964.62 | (13,035.38) | 89% | - |
| Local Govt Grants and Reimb | 423000 | 107,264.82 | 125,000.00 | 306,625.73 | 181,625.73 | 245% | 2,338.09 |
| Total Intergovernmental Revenue | | 219,334.09 | 250,800.86 | 419,391.21 | 168,590.35 | 167% | 2,338.09 |
| Other Revenue | | | | | | | |
| Printing & Duplicating of Form | 431006 | 3,702.40 | 25,000.00 | 8,861.81 | (16,138.19) | 35% | 2,794.81 |
| Dept Charges-External to City | 431012 | 252,439.41 | 409,792.00 | 124,320.74 | (285,471.26) | 30% | 281.86 |
| Library User Fees - Not Fines | 431201 | 7,722.54 | 5,600.00 | 8,168.30 | 2,568.30 | 146% | 2,153.91 |
| Vending Sales | 431301 | 62.49 | - | 33.29 | 33.29 | 0% | - |
| Building Rental | 461001 | 26,797.80 | 43,455.00 | 27,654.50 | (15,800.50) | 64% | 4,486.40 |
| Contributions & Donations | 471002 | 31,175.00 | 70,000.00 | 65,595.22 | (4,404.78) | 94% | 1,905.52 |
| Sale of Inventory | 471003 | 1,147.25 | 2,000.00 | 730.10 | (1,269.90) | 37% | 48.25 |
| Other Miscellaneous Revenue | 471005 | 0.01 | 3,500.00 | 1,100.00 | (2,400.00) | 31% | 30.00 |
| Cash Over (Under) | 471007 | - | - | (6.49) | (6.49) | 0% | (12.89) |
| Total Other Revenue | | 323,046.90 | 559,347.00 | 236,457.47 | (322,889.53) | 42% | 11,687.86 |
| Proceeds of Long Term Liabilities | | | | | | | |
| Total Proceeds of Long Term Liabilities | | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Transfers In | | | | | | | |
| Operating Transfer In - Inter | 483001 | 14,000.00 | 36,000.00 | 11,000.00 | (25,000.00) | 31% | - |
| Total Transfers In | | 14,000.00 | 36,000.00 | 11,000.00 | (25,000.00) | 31% | - |
| Total Revenue | | 556,380.99 | 846,147.86 | 666,848.68 | (179,299.18) | 79% | 14,025.95 |
| Expenditures | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | | | | | | | |
| Regular Employees | 511100 | 2,786,561.74 | 3,986,814.00 | 2,898,479.35 | 1,088,334.65 | 73% | 342,825.98 |
| Temporary/Seasonal Employees | 511200 | - | 34,694.40 | 4,053.00 | 30,641.40 | 12% | - |
| Overtime | 511300 | 57,219.89 | 114,773.40 | 53,016.00 | 61,757.40 | 46% | 11,587.25 |
| Other Special Pays | 511400 | 19,478.12 | 20,180.00 | 34,468.02 | (14,288.02) | 171% | 379.26 |
| Group Insurance | 512100 | 332,412.97 | 513,159.00 | 406,854.09 | 106,304.91 | 79% | 52,428.30 |
| Social Security Contributions | 512200 | 204,342.83 | 326,956.00 | 226,164.76 | 100,791.24 | 69% | 34,670.52 |
| Retirement Contribution | 512300 | 259,163.18 | 404,672.00 | 284,374.07 | 120,297.93 | 70% | 43,829.50 |
| Unemployment Compensation | 512400 | - | - | 12,484.00 | (12,484.00) | -100% | - |
| Workers' Compensation | 512500 | 95,913.89 | 145,893.00 | 106,004.00 | 39,889.00 | 73% | 16,170.88 |
| Other Employee Benefits | 512600 | 6,394.20 | 7,315.08 | 4,939.32 | 2,375.76 | 68% | 625.39 |
| Total Personal Services | | 3,761,486.82 | 5,554,456.88 | 4,030,836.61 | 1,523,620.27 | 73% | 502,517.08 |
| Discretionary Expenses | | | | | | | |
| Advertising & Marketing | 521100 | 18,805.21 | 5,000.00 | 9,635.79 | (4,635.79) | 193% | 2,529.38 |
| Consulting & Technical Service | 521104 | 46,940.18 | 10,000.00 | - | 10,000.00 | 0% | - |
| External Contracted Labor | 521105 | 77,756.24 | 105,466.00 | 110,840.46 | (5,374.46) | 105% | 4,060.24 |
| Health Services | 521106 | 274.35 | - | 318.60 | (318.60) | -100% | 47.20 |
| Other Professional Services | 521108 | 2,543.00 | 10,523.63 | 6,954.00 | 3,569.63 | 66% | 525.00 |
| External Banking/Financial Fee | 521109 | 10,334.57 | 15,700.00 | 14,932.66 | 767.34 | 95% | 1,358.45 |
| Security Services | 521110 | - | 5,000.00 | - | 5,000.00 | 0% | - |
| Computer Hardware | 522100 | 40,076.44 | 35,000.00 | 33,869.77 | 1,130.23 | 97% | 2,789.49 |
| Computer Software Maintenance | 522101 | 153,271.46 | 222,220.00 | 159,120.81 | 63,099.19 | 72% | 1,171.66 |
| IT Services - External | 522102 | 49,884.63 | 75,500.00 | 41,860.49 | 33,639.51 | 55% | 5,142.19 |
| Building & Grounds Services | 522104 | 2,494.80 | 15,000.00 | 8,645.20 | 6,354.80 | 58% | 272.00 |
| Equip/Furniture/Fixtures Serv | 522105 | - | 9,000.00 | - | 9,000.00 | 0% | - |
| Vehicles & Rolling Equip Serv | 522106 | - | - | 29.95 | (29.95) | -100% | - |
| Phone Services | 523107 | 22,831.76 | 26,500.00 | 22,501.54 | 3,998.46 | 85% | 2,499.97 |
| Rental of Equip & Vehicles | 524101 | - | 500.00 | 10,182.42 | (9,682.42) | 2036% | 3,892.22 |
| Printing, Binding, & Duplicate | 525102 | 8,347.63 | 15,950.00 | 11,748.78 | 4,201.22 | 74% | 3,142.17 |
| Awards & Recognition | 531102 | 31.00 | 250.00 | 8.50 | 241.50 | 3% | - |
| Books & Subscriptions | 531103 | 110,243.59 | 109,171.80 | 141,230.60 | (32,058.80) | 129% | 4,660.96 |
| Cleaning & Janitorial Supplies | 531105 | 166.19 | 1,250.00 | - | 1,250.00 | 0% | - |
| Computer Supplies | 531106 | 6,067.79 | 5,000.00 | 1,125.76 | 3,874.24 | 23% | 504.98 |
| Equipment/Furniture/Fixtures | 531109 | 26,456.16 | 11,500.00 | 12,013.53 | (513.53) | 104% | - |
| Photography Supplies | 531110 | - | 300.00 | - | 300.00 | 0% | - |
| Miscellaneous Supplies | 531114 | 527.72 | 2,000.00 | - | 2,000.00 | 0% | - |
| Office Supplies | 531116 | 15,122.59 | 15,320.00 | 8,644.93 | 6,675.07 | 56% | 324.82 |
| Paint Supplies | 531117 | 106.56 | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Program Supplies | 531118 | 23,372.47 | 37,000.00 | 21,308.37 | 15,691.63 | 58% | 827.88 |
| Shop Supplies | 531119 | 78.84 | 250.00 | - | 250.00 | 0% | - |
| Sign & Signal Supplies | 531120 | 235.13 | - | 1,984.91 | (1,984.91) | -100% | - |
| Uniforms | 531123 | 931.00 | 694.00 | 1,196.98 | (502.98) | 172% | - |

City of Cedar Rapids
 151 General Fund - Library
 2023-03-31

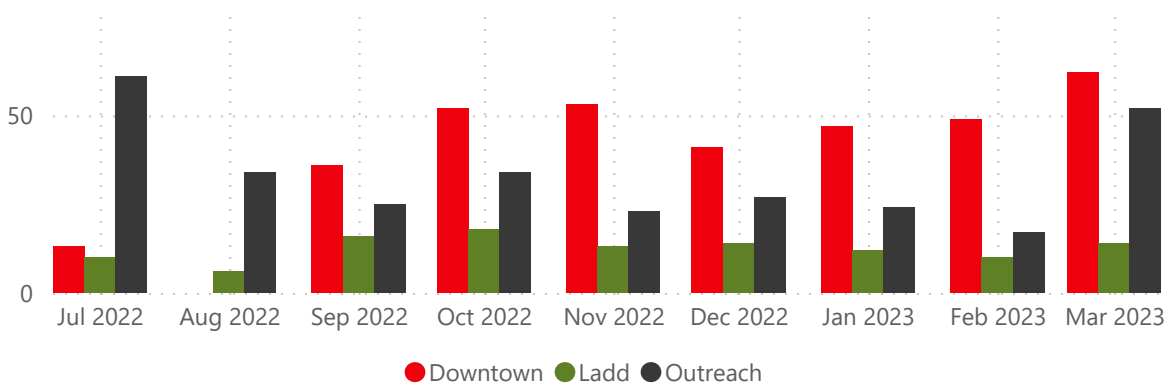
| Account Name | Account | Prior Fiscal Year 2022 YTD Actuals | Current Fiscal Year 2023 Adjusted Budget | Current Fiscal Year 2023 YTD Actuals | Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance | Percent of Budget Received Spent | Current Month 2023 Actuals |
|---|---------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Personal Protective Gear | 531124 | 5,194.17 | - | 1,959.85 | (1,959.85) | -100% | 18.60 |
| Building & Grounds Supplies | 533100 | 7,136.79 | 21,748.15 | 12,334.60 | 9,413.55 | 57% | 328.05 |
| Equip/Furniture/Fixtures Parts | 533101 | 470.63 | - | 570.00 | (570.00) | -100% | - |
| Conferences, Training, Travel | 542102 | 5,602.67 | 23,200.00 | 42,504.13 | (19,304.13) | 183% | 1,738.05 |
| Dues & Memberships | 542103 | 8,692.55 | 10,000.00 | 11,740.50 | (1,740.50) | 117% | 6,000.00 |
| Licensing Fees | 542106 | - | - | 60.00 | (60.00) | -100% | - |
| Postage & Freight | 542108 | 3,555.22 | 17,500.00 | 6,850.25 | 10,649.75 | 39% | 2,809.95 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | 542111 | 245.55 | 3,000.00 | 1,006.98 | 1,993.02 | 34% | 173.34 |
| Admin Charges - Inter Departments | 521114 | - | - | 225.00 | (225.00) | -100% | - |
| Chemical Supplies - Non-Snow & Ice | 531104 | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Facility Services - Non-routine | 522107 | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Fleet Services - Abnormal Maintenance | 522108 | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Fleet Services - Non-Safety Modifications | 522108 | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Fleet Services - Accidents | 522108 | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Total Discretionary Expenses | | 647,796.89 | 809,543.58 | 695,405.36 | 114,138.22 | 86% | 44,816.60 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | |
| City Accounting Services | 521113 | 56,250.00 | 77,500.00 | 58,124.97 | 19,375.03 | 75% | 6,458.33 |
| City Information Tech Services | 522109 | 6,931.98 | 5,878.33 | 4,408.74 | 1,469.59 | 75% | 489.86 |
| Electricity | 523100 | 147,964.00 | 213,800.00 | 154,860.61 | 58,939.39 | 72% | 15,481.18 |
| Natural Gas | 523103 | 5,624.54 | 4,500.00 | 4,172.07 | 327.93 | 93% | 1,331.77 |
| Rental of Land & Buildings | 524100 | 224,854.28 | 245,000.00 | 243,797.14 | 1,202.86 | 100% | 5,817.75 |
| Liability Insurance | 525104 | 25,671.67 | 42,148.00 | 33,418.49 | 8,729.51 | 79% | 3,512.33 |
| Property Insurance | 525107 | 66,615.75 | 100,110.00 | 75,082.50 | 25,027.50 | 75% | 8,342.50 |
| Vehicle Insurance | 525108 | 1,309.50 | 1,200.00 | 900.00 | 300.00 | 75% | 100.00 |
| Gasoline Fuel | 532101 | 93.81 | 498.58 | 88.31 | 410.27 | 18% | - |
| City Inter Department Charges | 521114 | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Chemical Supplies - Snow & Ice | 531104 | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Facility Services (Routine) | 522107 | 183,385.94 | 313,107.55 | 147,398.49 | 165,709.06 | 47% | 22,391.51 |
| Fleet Services (Routine) | 522108 | 309.60 | 1,400.00 | 456.69 | 943.31 | 33% | - |
| Total Other Expenses | | 719,011.07 | 1,005,142.46 | 722,708.01 | 282,434.45 | 72% | 63,925.23 |
| Capital Outlay | | | | | | | |
| Vehicles, Equipment, Software | 554000 | 30,013.66 | 50,000.00 | 2,946.99 | 47,053.01 | 6% | 1,661.99 |
| Total Capital Outlay | | 30,013.66 | 50,000.00 | 2,946.99 | 47,053.01 | 6% | 1,661.99 |
| Debt Service | | | | | | | |
| Total Debt Service | | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Transfers Out | | | | | | | |
| Total Transfers Out | | - | - | - | - | 0% | - |
| Total Expenditures | | 5,158,308.44 | 7,419,142.92 | 5,451,896.97 | 1,967,245.95 | 73% | 612,920.90 |
| Net Revenues over/(under) Expenditures | | (4,601,927.45) | (6,572,995.06) | (4,785,048.29) | 1,787,946.77 | | (598,894.95) |

| Project Number | Project Name | Project Quadrant | FY 2024 Budget | FY 2025 Budget | FY 2026 Budget | FY 2027 Budget | FY 2028 Budget | Scope of Work |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|

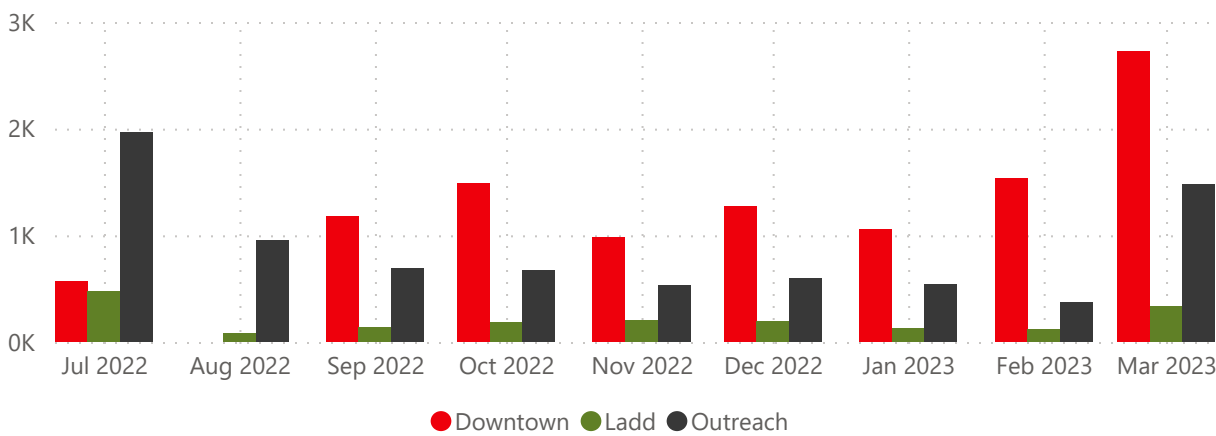
| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| 316750 | Books, Periodical and Subscriptions | Expenses | 500,000 | 550,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 | Library needs to continually circulate books, periodicals, E-books, etc. to maintain new material for patrons and to be accredited with the State of Iowa. |
|--------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| GO Bonds | 500,000 | 550,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| TIF Bonds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revenue Bonds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SRF Loan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| State Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Local Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IFM Transfer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Streets LOST Transfer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RUT Transfer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TIF Transfer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Operations Transfer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Transfer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Revenue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash on Hand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Transfer Out | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Revenue | 500,000 | 550,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| Net | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Programs



763
of Programs



20,430
of Attendees

Programming is in full spring swing! April started off with a bang with more than 400 people at our Bluey children’s event, and never slowed down! Our early learning programs have been incredibly busy, with 30-70 people attending each one – so busy that we’re doubling the number of early learning programs for the summer to keep up with interest. Multiple passive programs have been featured in the Commons downtown, including highlighting Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Limb Difference Awareness Month, and providing free seeds for gardens from Free Iowa First. We are also hosting a VERY popular Plant Swap, and a poetry workshop for elementary students that will immerse them in the world of poetry, and create a fun way for the rest of our patrons to interact with poems. The Civil Rights Commission has continued to hold office hours in partnership with the library as well, reaching populations who may not come into their offices or reach out when they need help.

We had such a fun night Tangoing last night! I wanted to share a lovely story about one of the people who came.

She showed up about half an hour early and took a seat halfway up in Whipple for a beginning presentation. When we started the lesson and invited everyone to the dance floor, she shook her head and said she just wanted to watch. After a while, one of the dancers check in with her and coaxed her onto the dance floor. She participated the rest of the time and did a great job picking up the steps.

Afterward, she told me she had been super nervous to even come, and had hyped herself up by saying she was just going to watch. She recently lost around 150 pounds and she has been nervous to be out in public. She said this was the first time in her life she has ever danced with a partner. She put her name on the contact list saying she wants to continue doing Tango!

I'm so glad she felt safe and affirmed in our space and had the opportunity to try something new! Thanks for the opportunity to be part of the amazing work the library does every day!

- Olivia Stoner, Programming Specialist

Yesterday a middle-age woman asked me where Ladd's Chair Yoga class was going to be. We chatted as we walked towards the Community Room.

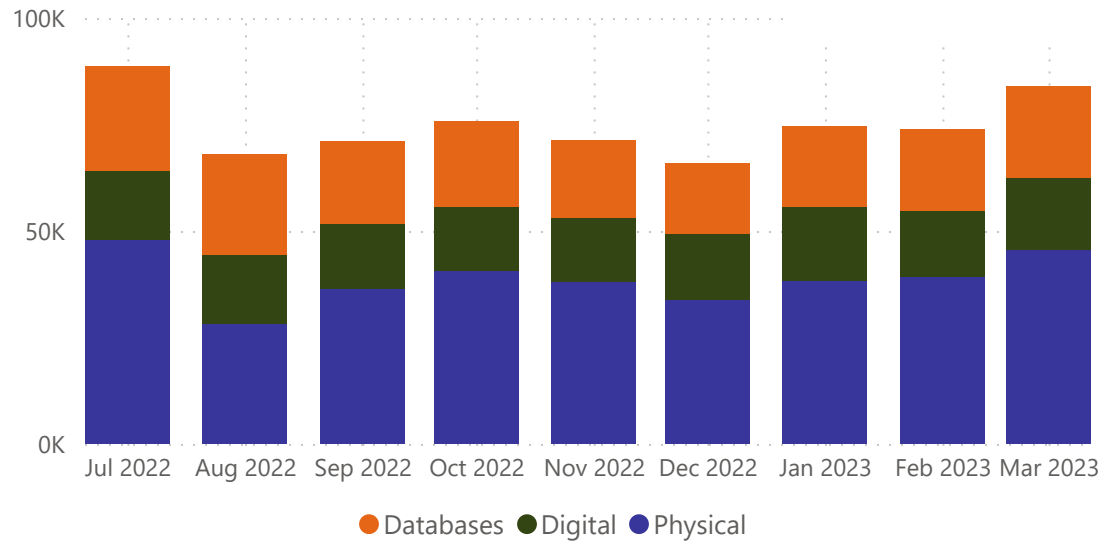
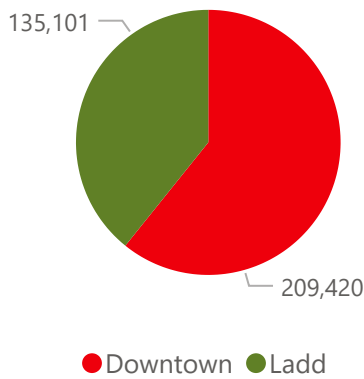
She bubbled with excitement as she told me that last week, she went to the Tango 101 event Downtown. She was just planning to watch but "They got me up and Dancing!" She's making an effort to try new things, less than halfway through April and CRPL has already been part of two of them.

- Nancy Geiger, Librarian

Borrowing & Collections

182,206 Databases 142,817 Digital 344,521 Physical 3,962 Technology 651,008 Total

Physical Circulation, by Location



The Materials department is completing recommendations for the strategic planning committee to evaluate downtown collection locations. These recommendations will be presented to the library board in the summer, and implemented after the busy summer is over.

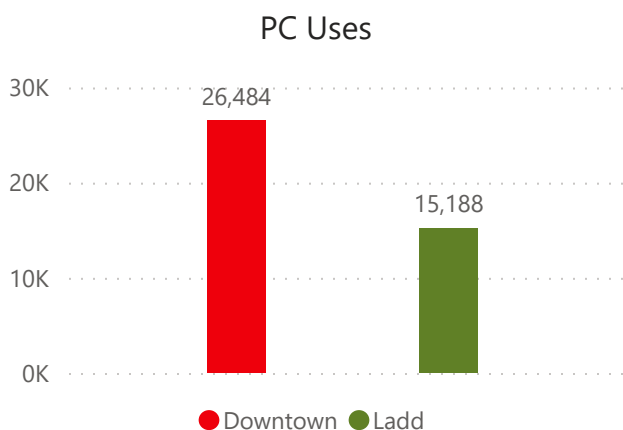
Database and digital service renewals are taking place now. We recently presented usage statistics for our newest digital service PressReader to the Foundation board. The service has had over 33,000 articles read between July 2022 and April 2023, so we're excited to see this service continue to grow over the next year. The library will adjust usage limits for pay-per-use services hoopla and cloudLibrary. Limits were increased at the start of the pandemic to get materials to patrons when access to physical materials was limited. Now that the demand for physical materials has gone back up, these slight adjustments will help us control costs and maintain physical collections.

A patron came to the Downtown Public Library to get a library card. I handed the patron their new card and they asked how much they owed. I told them it was free, which put a smile on their face.

They asked about eBooks and I showed them our resources. They stated that they would download the apps once they had a little more cash on hand. I told them the apps are free to use with their library card; this put a HUGE smile on their face. We downloaded some apps on their phone and even checked out a couple eAudiobooks. As the patron was packing up, they stated that they could not believe what they were leaving with and that it was ALL free.

- Michele Prostine, Patron Services Specialist

Technology Access



131,478

Virtual Visits

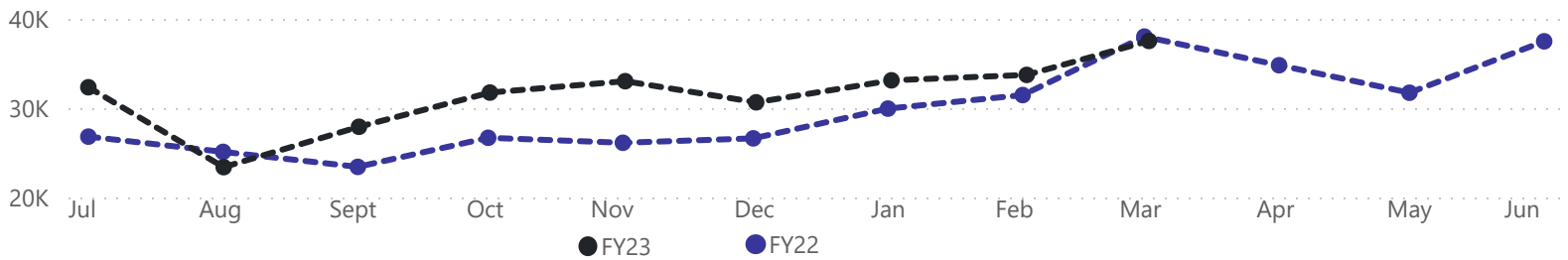
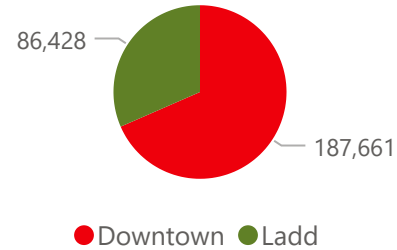
88,756

WiFi Sessions

The Technology Solutions team is working on vendor bids to update staff computers, many staff members are using computers that were purchased when the Downtown building was opened. IT will also be beginning work on updating networking in the Downtown building to improve the WiFi connectivity. As the building ages, more of these updates will be necessary to ensure we're meeting patron needs. The new library document stations and faxing solutions have been well received by staff and patrons.

Visits

274,089
Physical Visits



The Downtown Ambassador Program, which the library is a part of in conjunction with Cedar Rapids Police Department, Cedar Rapids Park Department, Downtown Economic Alliance, and Willis Dady started meeting in April in preparation for the Summer Ambassador Program. The library contributes to the program through the Navigator Positions, which oversee the program. A group of representatives from each partner meets on a monthly basis and working on creating a presentation which will be shared with City Council.

The department continues to work on Active Service (which information was shared with the board in April). Already in the short focus we have worked to re-invigorate the service model, we have received several positive feedback from patrons (some of which are shared as great stories). This demonstrates the effectiveness of Active Service in our library and shows the commitment from the staff who provide this service day in and day out.

Community Relations continues to finalize collateral and plans for summer, including the newest issue of OPEN magazine. We have reimagined much of the collateral for this year and are excited to see how that changes our participation and completion. We are working very closely with Programming on our goals and implementation tactics for the summer and look forward to seeing everything come together. We've also celebrated National Library Week in April, a chance to celebrate the work the library does in the community as well as highlight the state of libraries in America in 2023. We worked with our advocates to share the State of Libraries report and celebrate the Right to Read on April 24, highlighting our commitment to intellectual freedom.

This spring, Elizabeth, our literacy coordinator, worked with the programming department and community partner YPN to complete a series of three-night parent and child educational classes. This short program covered early literacy practices, kindergarten success skills, along with story and engagement practices and tips. We reached sixty-three families, including seventeen Hispanic families, six African American families, thirteen Afghan families, eleven African families, and fifteen white non-Hispanic families with this program. Families were given a kit filled with interactive educational tools at the completion of the program.

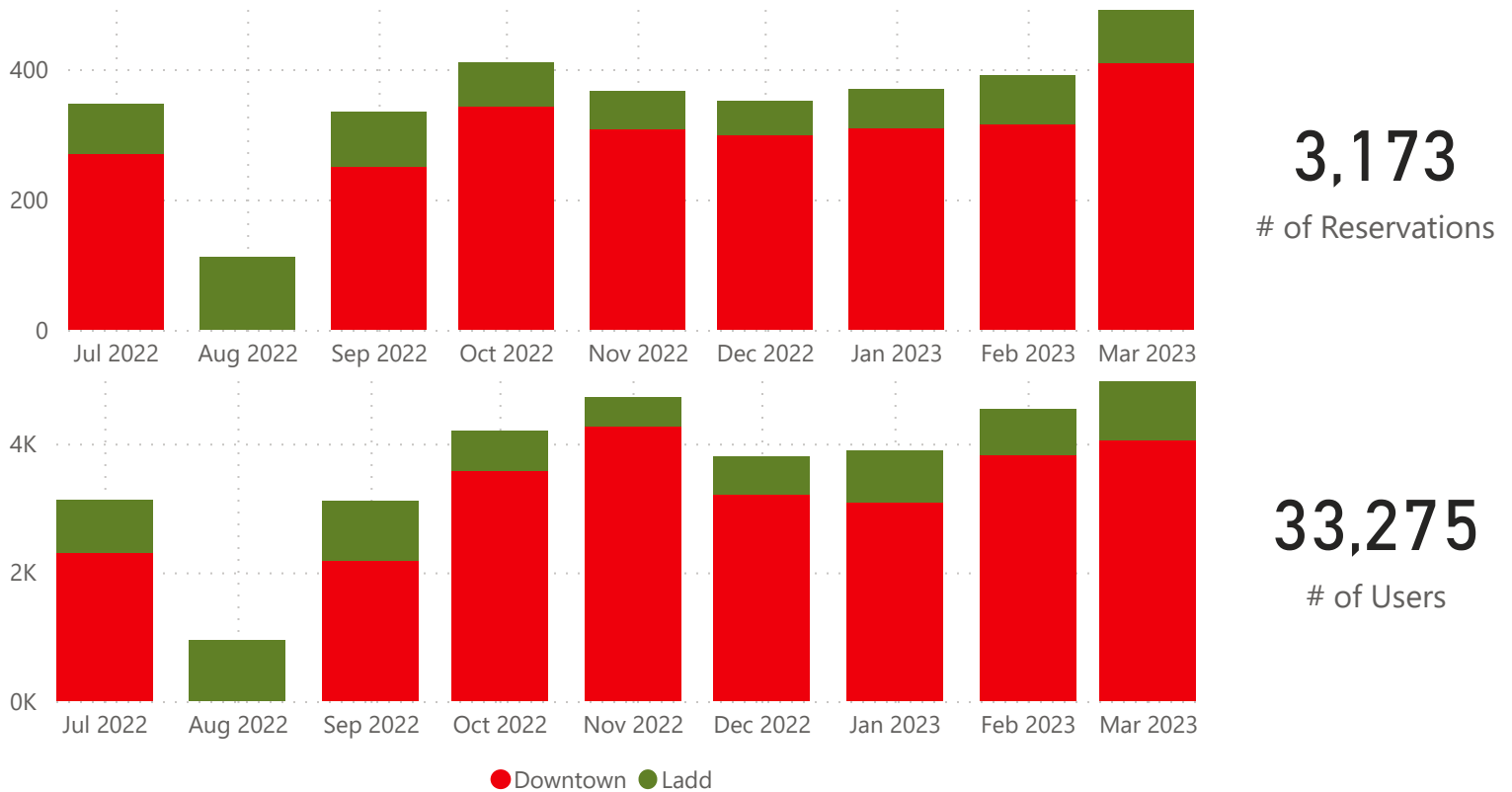
Upcoming Events:

- Westside Library Project Open House, May 1, 4-6 pm, Community Room, Ladd
- Literary Vines: a Fundraiser for the Library Foundation, May 5, 6-8:30 pm, Downtown
- Free Dental Screening, May 6, 10 am, Downtown
- Friends Book Sale, May 19-21, Downtown
- Friends Farmers Market Sale, May 27, 7:30 am, Downtown

Library Closures:

- May 28-29 for Memorial Day

Meeting Room Use



3,173

of Reservations

33,275

of Users

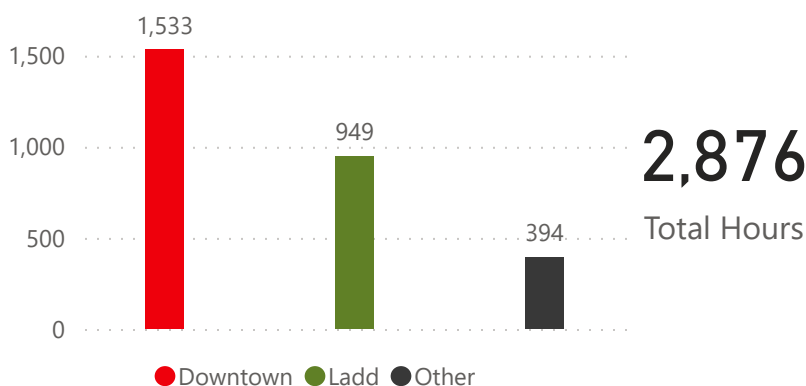
For the month of March, there were 410 room reservations, serving over 4,000 patrons. March marked a change of seasons in terms of meeting room use as Whipple’s audio and visual equipment’s repairs allowed for graduations and celebrations of local youth, the Opportunity Center Classroom served as a location for VITA’s tax assistance, and smaller spaces were used numerous times to host remote graduate school interviews.

The library continues to serve as a place for celebrating life events such as baby showers and birthday parties, including serving as the location for a marriage proposal this month.

We welcomed dance groups and music therapy sessions as well as corporate and non-profit organization meetings. Dorsi the Dolphin made their first public appearance at the library since transitioning to identify as nonbinary at a story time hosted by the Civil Rights Commission.

Volunteers

Volunteer Hours



2,876

Total Hours

This April 17-22, we celebrated National Volunteer Week and our dedicated Library volunteers. Some quick facts: In 2022, we had 223 volunteers give 4,234 volunteer hours, a \$77,238 value. That included 26 Holds Hunters volunteers, who give 1,034 hours; three Media Maintenance volunteers who gave 216 hours; seven Closed Captioning volunteers who gave 285 hours; and 19 Adopt-A-Shelf volunteers who give 558 hours. Collectively the Adopt-A-Shelf volunteers re-shelved 1,951 books! On Saturday, April 22 we hosted a volunteer appreciation open house to highlight our volunteers, show them some unique, behind-the-scenes Library resources, and connect with our staff.

Volunteer Hours in March 2023: 405

The State of AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

2023

LIBRARIES *adapt* AND *innovate*
IN THE MIDST OF RECORD-BREAKING
ensorship challenges.



From the Executive Director

TRACIE D. HALL




This year's edition of the State of America's Libraries finds libraries literally and figuratively at the epicenter of the dialogue (and debate) about the wellbeing of our communities, the health of our economy, and the state of our democracy as the nation seeks to rebound from the enduring COVID-19 pandemic and recognizes expanding information and digital access as critical to that recovery.

Many libraries and their staffs nationwide—school, public, college and university, special, carceral, and consortial—found themselves contending with reduced funding and staffing, threats to personal safety in the form of bomb scares and to professional livelihoods from [firings and job losses](#), and bills threatening to criminally charge librarians or defund libraries altogether for making certain materials available on their shelves or findable through reference services. Despite these pressures, libraries have proven themselves to be among the most adaptable of public and community-serving institutions. Just as they have faced numerous challenges, they have also found themselves needed in new and profound ways by their constituencies and, in responding to these rising demands, have found a way to innovate hybrid-service delivery models and programs that increasingly seek to get to the root causes of information, education, and socio-economic inequities and create opportunities in those same spaces.

Across the country, we have seen an emphasis on mental health and trauma resources, support for people who are neurodivergent or coping with memory loss, job upskilling and business-entrepreneurship programs, school libraries advancing instruction, academic freedom advocacy in higher education, and an increasing push towards open access and digital instruction in libraries.

Though there is continued recognition and public support for the work that libraries do as well as the symbolic role that libraries play in the maintenance of our democratic values as a nation, the steep surge of legislation that increasingly positions and compels library workers on and to the frontlines of book banning and censorship challenges demands that the LIS sector (including LIS education) and the American Library Association (ALA) expand opportunities for education and training on the tenets of intellectual freedom. Such endeavors will help build the competencies and capacity needed by our current and future workforce to not only help us to protect the right to read, but preserve library services more broadly. Towards that end, the information and data contained in this report, the presentation of new ALA platforms like [Unite Against Book Bans](#) and long-standing ones such as Banned Books Week or the review of the Top 13 Most Challenged Books of 2022 should not just be seen as data to consume, but rather as tools that can help libraries convene, empower, and mobilize their campuses and communities. It is our greatest hope that this report inspires all who read it to more clearly understand the power and more deeply mine the potential of America's libraries.

Tracie D. Hall is executive director of the American Library Association



The State of AMERICA'S LIBRARIES 2023

Contents

- 2 From the Executive Director
- 3 Introduction:
There's More to the Story
- 4 2022: A Year of Unprecedented
Challenges
- 7 Top 13 Most Challenged Books of
2022
- 8 Censorship By the Numbers
- 9 Librarians on the Frontline: A
Record Year for Challenges in School
Libraries
- 10 Forward Momentum: A Year of
Adaptability and Innovation
- 14 A Lifeline for the Incarcerated
- 15 Advocates Make Progress for Federal
Investment in Libraries
- 16 A Round of Applause for America's
Librarians
- 17 About This Report

INTRODUCTION

There's More to the Story

LESSA KANANI'OPUA PELAYO-LOZADA



Over the last few years, our communities, our library workers, and our libraries have had to be braver than we ever thought possible. Living in the shadow of a global pandemic and navigating our new normal, we have

also continued to face unprecedented attempts to ban books and other assaults on the freedom to read. In the face of these changes and challenges, our libraries have found opportunity and our communities have shown that there's more to the story for everyone.

Our brave communities have used libraries to learn, be creative, and gain access to information. Our brave communities have used libraries to start small businesses, record podcasts, and earn their high school diplomas. Our brave communities have used libraries as safe havens for all ages, where anyone can be transported to Narnia or Wakanda and let their imaginations soar.

Our library story is the story of our communities. We grow, adapt, and change for their needs, and we focus our services on the values and ideals of our communities. As trusted institutions, libraries are the last bastion of democracy that is truly inclusive and free. Our professional values of intellectual freedom and social responsibility speak to the stories we can share in our libraries—stories of success and rising above.

When I visited Park View Middle School in Cranston, Rhode Island, librarian Stephanie Mills shared with me the stories of her students and how they embraced virtual and hybrid spaces to keep themselves connected to each other, to

books, and to the library. The students themselves described books with queer characters and stories with swear words that made them feel seen. For students who visit the library—sometimes multiple times a day, whether virtual or physical—it is their grounding place and will remain so throughout their

lives. The stories of these students and of their librarian motivate us to unite against book bans, be brave for our communities, and ensure access to information for all.

As a former children's librarian, I know that stories are the foundation of almost everything. As a mixed-race Native Hawaiian woman born and raised in the continental United States, I know that access to my own stories and histories, as well as those of others, is essential to creating the society we try to model in libraries. When we talk about inclusion and being seen, we mean included and seen in all the intersectionalities of our lives, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, religion, ability, socioeconomic status, and more. When we talk about inclusion in libraries, we take all of these into account and take the wholeness and humanness of our communities into account, which is why we are the trusted institutions in our communities. It is

also why, despite the pushback against us, we continue to be there for those who need us year after year. There is always more to the story, and the library is here to make sure those stories get heard.

Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada is 2022–2023 president of the American Library Association and Adult Services Assistant Manager at Palos Verdes (Calif.) Library District.



ALA's Celebrate National Library Week poster.

2022: A Year of Unprecedented Challenges

DEBORAH CALDWELL-STONE



The American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) has compiled information and data about efforts to censor books in libraries for more than 20 years, documenting how censorship in libraries has affected readers, communities, and the profession. Overall, the story over the decades is one of uplift and perseverance. Libraries and library professionals who are committed to upholding the freedom to read provide a broad range of information resources to students and library users. They support early literacy activities and homeschooling families; assure that there are programs to inform and provide cultural enrichment for all ages; and supply essential data and information to businesses and entrepreneurs—all while ensuring that digital tools and broadband connections are on hand to provide everyone access to the internet, including those seeking to access government services and benefits.

But since the fall of 2020, reports submitted to OIF document a precipitous rise in the number of attempted book bans in school and public libraries across the United States. In 2022, OIF received a record 1,269 book challenges, the highest number of demands to ban books reported to ALA since the Association began compiling data about censorship in libraries. This nearly doubles the 729 challenges reported to OIF in 2021.

Censors targeted 2,571 unique titles in 2022, a 38% increase from the 1,858 unique titles targeted for censorship in 2021. Of those titles, the vast majority were written by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community or by and about Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color.

Nearly 51% of censorship demands targeted books, materials, displays, and programs in school libraries and schools; 48% targeted public libraries. Most concerning, however, is the fact that 90% of the reported book challenges were demands to censor multiple titles—and of those demands to censor library books, 40% sought to remove or restrict over

These numbers . . . are evidence of a growing, well-organized, conservative political movement whose goals include removing books addressing race, history, gender identity, sexuality, and reproductive health from America's public libraries and school libraries that do not meet their approval.

100 books all at once. But prior to 2020, the vast majority of challenges to library books and resources were brought by a single parent who sought to remove or restrict access to a book their child was reading.

These numbers—and the list of the Top 13 Most Challenged Books of 2022—are evidence of a growing, well-organized, conservative political movement whose goals include removing books addressing race, history, gender identity, sexuality, and reproductive health from America's public libraries and school libraries that do not meet their approval. Using social media and other channels, these groups distribute booklists to their local chapters and individual adherents who then utilize the lists to initiate a mass challenge that can empty the shelves of a library.

Books are no longer the sole target of attacks orchestrated by conservative parent groups and right-wing media. Both school and public librarians are increasingly in the crosshairs of conservative groups during book challenges and subject to defamatory name-calling, online harassment, social media attacks, and doxxing, as well as direct threats to their safety, their employment, and their very liberty.

In 2022, legislators and elected officials in 12 states initiated legislation to amend state criminal obscenity statutes



in order to permit criminal prosecution of librarians and educators for distributing materials falsely claimed to be illegal and inappropriate for minors. For example: In Missouri, SB 775, signed into law in August 2022, requires school librarians to remove books claimed to be “explicit sexual material” or face criminal prosecution. As a result, hundreds of works of classic and contemporary literature, as well as works pertaining to health, wellbeing, and the sciences, have been removed from Missouri’s school libraries.

In December 2022, Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry introduced a “Protecting Minors” tip line for Louisiana residents to report librarians, teachers, school board members, district superintendents, and library supervisors who share books and resources addressing gender identity, sexual orientation, and materials addressing puberty, even as Landry admitted that the books being challenged in Louisiana’s public libraries were legal, constitutionally protected materials.

In communities and states where libraries, librarians, and board members have stood up against organized book challenges, there have been attacks on funding sources for libraries. Boundary County Library in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, closed when a group demanding the removal of books

that were not even in the library’s collection threatened to sue, causing the library’s insurer to cancel its insurance. In Jamestown Township, Michigan, a vocal conservative and religious group campaigned to defeat Patmos Library’s funding levy as a means of forcing the removal of six books with LGBTQIA+ themes. The group was successful, which means that Patmos’ access to life-changing services for job seekers, new computer users, budding readers, entrepreneurs, veterans, and tax filers will cease when Patmos Library runs out of cash.

Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and state legislators are threatening to deny essential state aid to Missouri’s public libraries if their demands to censor books that they deem inappropriate are not met, which will likely close small and rural libraries throughout the state, ending access to essential library services for many Missourians.

Nevertheless, librarians, library users, and library champions are standing up to the censors and defending the freedom to read in libraries. With the assistance of the Missouri ACLU, the Missouri Library Association and the Missouri Association of School Librarians have gone to court to challenge the constitutionality of SB 775, arguing that no

Every Book Banned Leaves A Hole In A Child's Learning



Unite Against Book Bans Instagram graphic.

© 2023 UNITE AGAINST BOOK BANS

school librarian should be required to violate their students' First Amendment rights under threat of criminal prosecution. Citizens in Llano County, Texas, successfully sued in federal court to require the county and public library board to reinstate books removed from library shelves. And in Virginia Beach, Virginia, a state court dismissed an action filed by a local political candidate seeking to declare two books obscene for viewing by minors, holding that there was no evidence presented that either book (*Gender Queer* and *A Court of Mist and Fury*) was obscene.

Local residents are joining with librarians, library trustees, board members, parents, and library advocates from all walks of life to form groups like Texans Right to Read, Louisianans Against Censorship, FReadom Fighters, and more across the country. And thousands of individuals have joined Unite Against Book Bans since its debut in April of 2022.

[Unite Against Book Bans](#), an ALA initiative, is a broad coalition of more than 65 national partners, state affiliates, local organizations, and more than 10,000 individuals who trust people to make their own decisions about what to read. They

have harnessed their collective power to stand up together to fight censorship. They are standing up for libraries and library workers—the very people who protect the First Amendment rights of readers of all ages and ensure that everyone is able to use and access the library's resources, making the promise of the freedom to read a reality.

“At a time when government, civic institutions and even facts themselves have come under withering partisan attack, our libraries have become more important than ever. Their solemn place as safe spaces for truth and learning help nurture our kids, making for stronger citizens, stronger families and stronger communities. There are few better places for a child to spend time, and fewer worse places to make a political scapegoat.”—*The Tampa Bay Tribune* Editorial Board, March 10, 2023.

Deborah Caldwell-Stone is director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

TDP 13

MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2022

The American Library Association tracked **1,269 challenges** to library, school, and university materials and services in 2022. Of the **2,571 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2022, here are the top 13 most challenged.



1

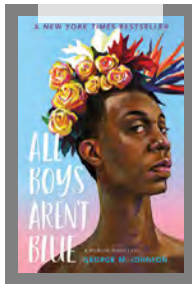


GENDER QUEER

by Maia Kobabe

REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

2

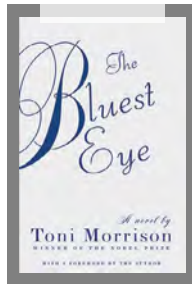


ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE

by George M. Johnson

REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

3

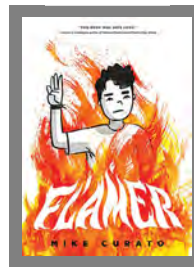


THE BLUEST EYE

by Toni Morrison

REASONS: rape, incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content

4



FLAMER

by Mike Curato

REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

5



LOOKING FOR ALASKA

by John Green

REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content



THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

by Stephen Chbosky

REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, rape, drugs, profanity

7

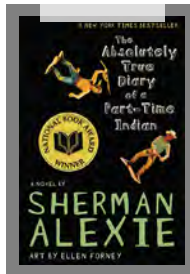


LAWN BOY

by Jonathan Evison

REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

8



THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN

by Sherman Alexie

REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity

9



OUT OF DARKNESS

by Ashley Hope Perez

REASON: claimed to be sexually explicit

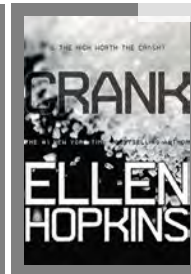
10



A COURT OF MIST AND FURY

by Sarah J. Maas

REASON: claimed to be sexually explicit



CRANK

by Ellen Hopkins

REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs



ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL

by Jesse Andrews

REASONS: claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity



THIS BOOK IS GAY

by Juno Dawson

REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit



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Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

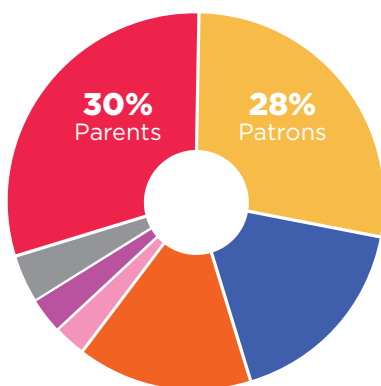
CENSORSHIP

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, the American Library Association tracked the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago; 2,571 unique titles were challenged last year, up from 1,858 in 2021. [Learn more at ala.org/bbooks](https://ala.org/bbooks)



WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?



17% Political/religious groups

15% Board/administration

3% Librarians/teachers

3% Elected officials

4% Other
(Includes non-custodial relatives, nonresidents, community members without library cards, etc.)

Statistics based on 1,207 cases with known initiators.

WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



48%
Public libraries



41%
School libraries



10%
Schools

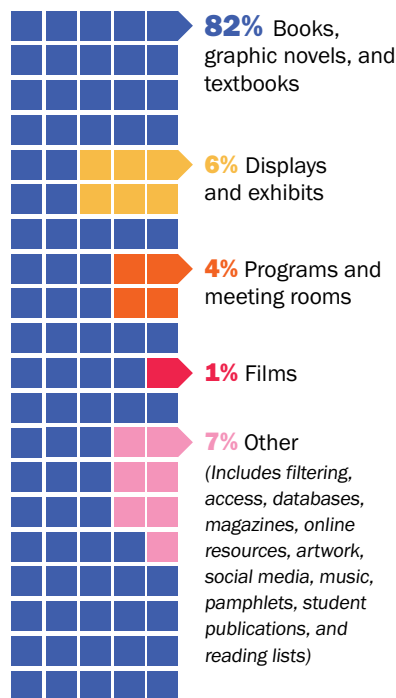


1%
Higher education libraries and other institutions

Statistics based on 1,264 cases with known locations.

BOOKS AND BEYOND

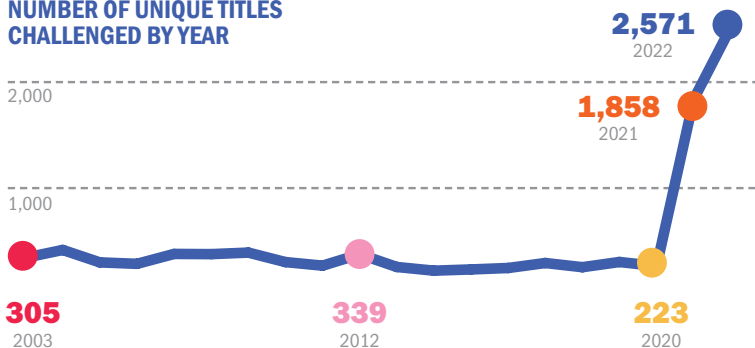
ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **1,269 challenges** in 2022. Here's the breakdown:



CENSORSHIP ON THE RISE

The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly doubled the number reported in 2021. The number of unique titles targeted marked a 38% increase over 2021.

NUMBER OF UNIQUE TITLES CHALLENGED BY YEAR



CENSORSHIP
STATISTICS
COMPILED BY:



OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

Librarians on the FRONTLINE

A Record Year for Challenges in School Libraries

2022 SAW AN UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE IN BOOK BANS AND CHALLENGES ESPECIALLY IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES. AND STANDING AT THE FRONTLINES AGAINST THESE ATTACKS TO DEFEND THE FREEDOM TO READ FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG READERS WERE SCHOOL LIBRARIANS. THE NATIONAL PRESS TOOK NOTICE.



WITH RISING BOOK BANS, LIBRARIANS HAVE COME UNDER ATTACK

New York Times, July 6, 2022



ALUMNA WHO FOUGHT BOOK BAN AS SCHOOL LIBRARIAN RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Rutgers University, July 22, 2022



THE SCHOOL LIBRARY USED TO BE A SANCTUARY. NOW IT'S A BATTLEGROUND

CNN, October 31, 2022



SCHOOL LIBRARIANS VILIFIED AS THE 'ARM OF SATAN' IN BOOK-BANNING WARS

The Los Angeles Times, January 27, 2023



N.J. LIBRARIAN WHO FOUGHT BOOK BANNING CO-CREATES APP TO HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME

NJ.com, September 13, 2022



SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE ARE QUIETLY REMOVING BOOKS FROM THEIR LIBRARIES: MEET THE LIBRARIANS FIGHTING BANS AND SCRAMBLING TO PRESERVE CHILDREN'S FREEDOM TO READ

Washington Post, March 22, 2022

Forward Momentum

A YEAR OF ADAPTABILITY AND INNOVATION

EDITED BY PHIL MOREHART

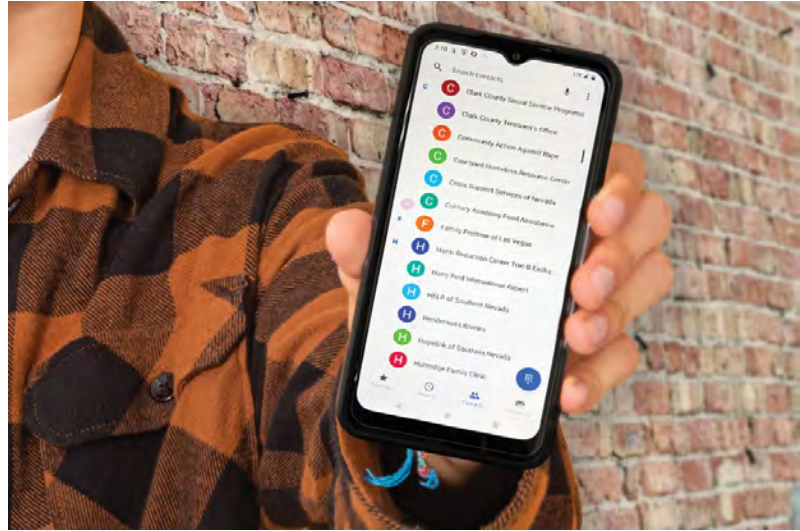
2022 was a year of continued change: The global COVID-19 pandemic entered its third year; book bans across the U.S. surged beyond numbers recorded over the last two decades; political, economic, and digital divides grew. But despite these upheavals, libraries thrived—specifically because they addressed these and many other challenges, while pivoting to offer new and updated services to their communities. Adaptation and innovation shined in 2022, proving that there truly is “more to the story” at libraries. Here are some standouts:

CONNECTING THE UNHOUSED TO TECH

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact communities in 2022, particularly in terms of digital equity. Libraries took the reins masterfully, offering technological and connectivity assistance to those in need.

When Las Vegas–Clark County Library District (LVCCLD) in Nevada closed its doors at the start of the pandemic, the technological barriers that existed within the community were laid bare, especially those affecting people facing homelessness. In April 2022, [LVCCLD launched its Cellphone Lending Program](#), an innovative approach to providing access to needed services and social connection. Since its inception, LVCCLD has provided more than 400 smartphones to unhoused people, offering them a lifeline to family, support systems, and critical social services.

The phones are loaned for an 18-month period and have unlimited calls and 5G hotspot capability. Each phone is programmed with more than 50 social service provider contacts, offering easy assistance with food, healthcare, housing, and other general services, as well as five of the most used library apps. For those who needed help with their smartphones, LVCCLD and its partners organized a vendor fair alongside the phone distribution, which included training, a Q&A session, and other resources. At the end of the lending



Each phone in Las Vegas–Clark County (Nev.) Library District’s Cellphone Lending Program was loaded with more than 50 social service provider contacts.

PHOTOS: ©CARBALLO/ADOBE STOCK (PERSON); LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY (NEV.) LIBRARY DISTRICT (PHONE)

period, recipients are able to keep their phones and phone numbers and can arrange a contract with any telecom provider at their own expense.

“Access to technology is a basic human right,” Kelvin Watson, LVCCLD executive director, told *American Libraries*. “Our Cellphone Lending Program is an example of how public libraries empower and uplift members of underserved communities by finding innovative ways to expand that access.”

ENHANCED LIBRARY CARDS INCREASE ACCESS

Photo identification is an essential part of American life. But for large swaths of the populace, photo IDs can be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. Enhanced library cards can be an alternative. These cards are designed to address the need for



Patrons display their new enhanced library cards after April 6, 2022, sign-up event at the Fairbanks branch of Harris County (Tex.) Public Library. The cards offer another form of ID.

PHOTO: NANCY HU/HARRIS COUNTY (TEX.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

photo IDs, often displaying the holder's photo, name, date of birth, address, and gender. Many public libraries in Texas are leading the way on getting these cards into people's hands.

The demand for enhanced library cards gained urgency in early 2018, with the onset of then-President Donald Trump's immigration policies and the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Also in 2018, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law SB4, known as the "show me your papers" law, which requires local governments and law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration officers.

In addition to immigrant and undocumented communities, the cards can be beneficial for unhoused people, formerly incarcerated individuals, those working toward ID recovery following fraud or a natural disaster, and LGBTQ+ people in need of gender-affirming identification. Libraries are uniquely equipped to provide this form of identification, say advocates of

the IDs, because public libraries protect patron privacy and are not subject to SB4.

In Harris County, Texas, a county commissioner contacted Harris County Public Library (HCPL) to ask if the library could legally issue these photo identification cards. After consulting with county attorneys, HCPL determined it could issue cards but with a crucial stipulation: Neither the library nor Harris County has the authority to say that anyone is required to take it as legal identification.

The library was approved for \$297,000 to implement the project. The funds cover hardware, software, and supplies needed to print the cards and can be used to cover additional supply-related expenses for several years. HCPL distributed more than 2,000 enhanced library cards in the two months following its mid-March 2022 launch. "The response has been more brisk than I anticipated," Fred Schumacher, circulation services manager at HCPL, [told American Libraries](#).

AN OASIS IN A FOOD DESERT

Hinton, West Virginia, population: 2,800, faced an ongoing problem in late 2021: Misused and abandoned shopping carts were strewn all around the small town. Some community members considered the buggies an eyesore, and stores were finding it hard to recover lost property. The police threatened disciplinary measures for what it referred to as the unlawful removal of buggies.

Summers County Public Library Director Austin Persinger saw the situation differently.

“I read this story through the lens of a rural librarian conducting a reference interview,” [Persinger wrote in American Libraries](#). “What I was being told was that the city and stores suffer because people steal and abandon shopping buggies. But the story that I heard was that there are lower-income people in our community who take these carts because they live in a food desert and lack reliable transportation.”

“Stores in Hinton lie at the bottom of a steep hill. The sidewalk is inadequate and dangerously close to traffic. Depending on where someone lives in the city, going to the store might be one-to-six miles round trip,” Persinger said. “There is no simple or comfortable way for people to carry their groceries home. Buggies make the trip marginally better, but when they’re being pushed uphill on a broken sidewalk—instead of on the polished floors they were designed for—the trip still isn’t easy. After walking many miles to get groceries, walking many more to return a shopping cart seems exhausting and unreasonable.”

Persinger tackled the problem using the Library of Things—a growing movement showing that our institutions can loan so much more than books—as a framework. He solicited donations on different Facebook pages and through the local newspaper to purchase a fleet of lightweight utility wagons for about \$100 each. The library had a fundraising goal of \$1,200 and ended up raising \$2,000, checking out six wagons within a month.

DIGITAL BEEHIVES TEACH KIDS ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD

Wright Brothers School, a public elementary school in New York City, took a unique and high-tech approach to teaching students about nature and sustainability when it implemented its digital beehive in partnership with the Savannah Bee Company.



Patron Xander Dianen returns a wagon to Summers County (W.Va.) Public Library. The wagons help users without access to transportation carry groceries up a steep hill.

PHOTO: AUSTIN PERSINGER/SUMMERS COUNTY (W.VA.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library media specialist Lauren Ginsberg DeVilbiss—one of 10 recipients of the 2023 I Love My Librarian Award—leads conversations and lessons on pollinators, sustainability, food, and the importance of bees, using digital screens that replicate the cross section of a beehive full of active, working bees. The “hives” allow students to witness firsthand how bees work from the safety and comfort of the school library.

Ginsberg DeVilbiss supplements her digital beehive instruction with videos, books, and songs about bees. And beekeepers at the Savannah Bee Company visited with the burgeoning young entomologists at the school to answer questions and teach about honeybees, climate justice, and other sustainable practices.

For Ginsberg DeVilbiss, the beehive shows students the library’s full capabilities while also being very fun.

“The library is more than four walls,” Ginsberg DeVilbiss [told CBS2 New York](#). “It’s how many experiences can my children get from the time they come here in pre-k to the time they leave here in fifth grade that is exposing them to anything,” she said.

CREATING VIRTUAL WORLDS FOR MED STUDENTS

Medical students at Augusta University (AU) in Augusta, Georgia, can now “experience” conditions that they may have

to treat in future patients thanks to librarians at the university's Greenblatt Library.

Jennifer Davis, instructor and scholarship data librarian, Lachelle Smith, health sciences librarian, and Gail Kouame, former assistant director of research and education services at AU and now director of Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library at University of South Alabama in Mobile, developed a [3D virtual-reality \(VR\) pilot program](#) that emulates vision deficits, from things like macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy, as well as the effects of Parkinson's disease. By using VR, students can virtually do tasks like open a pill bottle, open a shampoo bottle, and turn on the shower. There is also a simulation for post-stroke rehabilitation. The librarians [told American Libraries](#) that they conceived of the program to help build empathy in health sciences students who would be dealing with patients with those issues. They also built a virtual reality escape room game to teach data management skills to health sciences students.

"The advantage of VR is it's very experiential and very immersive," Kouame said. "It allows a person to experience a situation as though it were almost real To me, it's as close as you can get to sending somebody into, say, an elderly person's apartment and having them open a pill bottle."

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Parents and child caregivers often juggle multiple roles, with work and family time commingling throughout the day. Fairfield Area Library (FAL) in Henrico, Virginia, addressed this issue by helping to make onsite technology access easier for these patrons.

FAL installed innovative workstations designed to help caregivers of small children use the library's computers more effectively. Each station includes a computer desk with an adjacent play enclosure connected to it, letting a caregiver work while the child plays nearby. The play space includes interactive play panels that support early literacy and low set mirrors that encourage tummy time for babies. The workstations reinforce the fact that libraries are for everyone, providing a space that helps facilitate learning and working for adults and their very young.

"This should be in all sorts of spaces where adults have to be stationary, and they need to also be able to keep an eye on their kids," Shay Ramsey-Martin, Children's Public Supervisor at the Fairfield Area Library, [told WRIC](#).

FOSTERING NEW BUSINESS AND CHANGING LIVES

An innovative new program at Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) in Georgia has been helping to foster new businesses in the community, with a specific focus on those started by formerly incarcerated individuals.

Funded by Google in partnership with ALA as a part of the Association's [Libraries Build Business](#) initiative, GCPL's New Start Entrepreneurship Incubator provides the formerly incarcerated with the tactics and tools needed to develop a small business and overcome barriers to professional success. Its third cohort ran from July to December 2022; over the course of the 6-month program, the 15 participants received assistance with developing business ideas, learned what is needed to run a successful business, and received one-on-one support from successful entrepreneurs and business experts.

"The whole idea is to ease their transition back into society and make sure that they're successful and that they don't return to prison," [said GCPL Executive Director Charles Pace](#). "Each person that goes through this program and completes it, I've seen their lives be changed and altered in a very profound and significant way. It's programs like this that really alter the trajectory of people's entire life."

GCPL's incubator gives new life and energy to people who are often thrust back into the world post-incarceration to face an unforgiving world. "Coming out into society and trying to find normality again is very hard," said incubator graduate Charles Barber. "Something like this gave me confidence to know that it's a new day. It also gave me the push to excel and do what I wanted to do."

Libraries contribute to economic vitality in virtually every community across the country. Nearly half of libraries in the U.S. provide free services to entrepreneurs who wish to start and grow a business. This ranges from offering free access to market trends databases and hosting business coaching classes to providing incubation space and providing seed capital through business-plan competitions. Simply being an entry point to the entrepreneurial ecosystem by connecting individuals to agencies and resources as well as organizing relevant information is a crucial contribution to local economies—and something at which many libraries already excel.

Phil Morehart is communications manager for the American Library Association

A Lifeline for the Incarcerated

PAYAL PATEL

Libraries can be a lifeline for people who are incarcerated or detained at a time “when mass incarceration has now come to represent the likelihood that nearly 50 percent of all adults in America have an immediate family member who has been incarcerated in a jail or prison for at least one night, and this percentage is even higher for Black and Latinx adults in the United States” (Jeanie Austin, *Library Services and Incarceration: Recognizing Barriers, Strengthening Access*, ALA Neal-Schuman, 2022).

The impact of incarceration on the communities that libraries serve is incalculable. In recognition of this harsh reality, a working group of American Library Association (ALA) members—including librarians for incarcerated people, formerly incarcerated librarians, and other justice-involved members—came together to work on a historic reimagining of ALA’s 1992 *Library Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions*.

Building on important foundational documents, such as the recently updated [ALA Statement on Prisoners’ Right to Read](#), the new [ALA Standards for Library Services to the Incarcerated or Detained](#) underscores the tenets of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, heeding the current phenomenon of mass incarceration; the inequitable incarceration rates of Black, Indigenous and People of Color; and the rising rates of incarceration of women—especially women of color—LGBTQIA+ individuals, undocumented people, and youth in jails, prisons, and other detention facilities.

Reginald Dwayne Betts, founder and executive director of Freedom Reads—an organization working to transform access to literature in the prison system—offers a shining example of the power of accessibility to books and information in prisons and other detention facilities. After serving nine years in prison, Betts, a critically acclaimed writer, Yale Law School graduate, and a MacArthur Fellow, now works to bring micro libraries and literary ambassadors into prisons to create communities around books.

“[Even before prison], I was convinced that if you could read enough books, it would allow you to survive,” Betts shared at “Defending the Fifth Freedom: Protecting the Right to Read for Incarcerated Individuals,” a program at ALA’s 2022 Annual Conference & Exhibition in Washington, D.C. “I deeply believe



At ALA’s 2022 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., a broad range of stakeholders came together to participate in a historic hearing that continues to inform the revision of the *Library Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions*.

that literature is our access point to the humanity we cannot touch.”

In 2022, ALA announced a \$2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that would help advance this work and support a collaboration between San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) and ALA aimed at improving and expanding library services for incarcerated individuals both locally and nationally.

Co-led by SFPL’s Jail and Reentry Services team, the [Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People](#) initiative includes a comprehensive survey of existing models for library services to people in jails and prisons and a revision of outdated standards in collaboration with formerly incarcerated people and librarians. Additionally, the project is piloting digital-literacy training to support people in the process of reentry.

Jeanie Austin, author and jail and reentry services librarian at SFPL, recognizes that the path for this work is not easy, but it is possible through ongoing innovation.

“We need to look outside of what a library is and think of a whole support system,” Austin said. “We have to dream really big in this work.”

Payal Patel is interim director of the American Library Association’s Communications and Marketing Office

Advocates Make Progress for Federal Investment in Libraries

SHAWNDA HINES

Libraries in 2022 saw two federal budgets passed, but the year brought mixed results for library programs. The combined outcome for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and FY 2023 was a net gain for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the leading source of federal funding for America's libraries. The FY 2023 congressional appropriations cycle concluded on December 24, 2022, nearly three months into the 2023 fiscal year (which officially started on October 1, 2022). LSTA received an increase of \$13.5 million, which raised the program to \$211 million. The boost for LSTA in FY 2023 was encouraging to library advocates after a lackluster close to the [FY 2022 budget](#).

The Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program, a U.S. Department of Education program designed to support school library literacy initiatives, saw similar modest support. The \$1 million increase in FY 2023 made up for the FY 2022 loss of the same amount, with IAL ending the calendar year at \$30 million.

Taken together, the results for the two fiscal year budgets passed in calendar year 2022 represented a return to normal political life as compared to the unprecedented hundreds of millions of dollars libraries saw in supplemental funding during the pandemic, during which additional funding into the trillions was made available. In March 2023, nearly six months into the fiscal year, the final budget agreement between the administration and House and Senate leadership resulted in funding for many library programs significantly below levels originally proposed by Congress. Compared to other domestic programs, level funding for LSTA in FY 2022 was a win. Considered alongside 6% inflation rates, the level funding for IAL and modest increase for LSTA over the two fiscal years amounted to a loss.

The results of FY 2022 were not due to the lack of effort from library advocates. During the same period, libraries saw incremental gains in other areas, including modest increases for library-eligible educational programs such as Education Title IV, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Library of Congress.

Advocates made long-term progress on two fronts. ALA ventured a request for Congress to allocate at least \$20 million in FY 2023 for a new national program to improve library facilities,

inspired by the Build America's Libraries Act (S. 127/H.R. 1581). Although the House bill did not include the requested funding, one of the draft proposals released by the Senate Appropriations Committee did include the funding. While the final FY 2023 appropriations law did not include the requested funding for library facilities, it did include language supporting efforts to assess the condition of library facilities.

Members of ALA and the American Association for School Librarians (AASL) also made progress by advocating for the Right to Read Act ([S. 5064](#) and [H.R. 9056](#)), introduced in October 2022 by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ-03) to support and highlight the work of school librarians. Introducing the bill late in this Congress was intended to set up a more vigorous campaign to advance the bill in the 118th Congress that began in January 2023.

The Right to Read Act was designed to ensure all students, including low-income and minority students, children with disabilities, and English-language learners have access to an effective school library staffed by a certified school librarian. The act would have increased student access to fully staffed and appropriately resourced school libraries and authorized funding to meet those needs and would have supported recruitment, retention, and professional development for state-certified school librarians. The legislation also reaffirmed that First Amendment rights apply to school libraries and would have extended liability protections to teachers and school librarians facing challenges to books and employment. Thousands of library advocates participated in a thank-you campaign to the bill's cosponsors, solidifying their support for legislation focusing on school librarians.

While the disappointing federal funding results for libraries in FY 2022 were superseded by increases to key programs in FY 2023, the outcome for 2022 is a wake-up call for library advocates not to rest on past success, but to work even harder to make the case for libraries on Capitol Hill in an increasingly competitive political climate.

Shawnda Hines is deputy director of communications at ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office.

A Round of Applause for America's Librarians

CHASE OLLIS

The impact of America's librarians ripples throughout the communities they serve. From defending the freedom to read to teaching digital literacy skills to providing access to everyday needs, librarians are making it happen—and getting recognized for it. Check out some highlights from the past year of librarians making national waves for their work in their communities.

FIGHTING FOR #FREEDOM AND THE RIGHT TO READ



Martha Hickson

For her successful efforts in fending off multiple attempts to ban books and protecting her students' right to read in the school district, as well as her work in raising awareness about censorship among the general public, **Martha Hickson**, a librarian at North Hunterdon High School in Annandale, New Jersey, was awarded the Judith

Krug Outstanding Librarian Award by the National Coalition Against Censorship.



Amanda Jones

Amanda Jones, the embattled school librarian from Live Oak Middle School in Denham Springs, Louisiana, who became a target of advocacy groups in 2022 after speaking out against censorship at Livingston Parish Public Library's board meeting, was awarded the American Association of School Librarians' Intellectual Freedom Award.

"Amanda works hard to ensure that every child in her school is seen and heard, and that their lives are not only reflected in the books on the shelves, but they are able to find books into other worlds and ways of life to

be more empathetic citizens." – Kelsye Baudoin, 2022 Louisiana School Librarian of the Year

Honoring its work in protecting and defending the First



Freedom to Read Foundation
FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY

Amendment right to read and the right of library workers to serve their communities, the *Los Angeles Times* awarded the Freedom to Read Foundation its 2022 Innovators Award Book Prize, which spotlights efforts to bring books, publishing, and storytelling into the future.

"Created to support and defend librarians, the organization is as important and relevant today as it was at its inception in 1969."—*Los Angeles Times* Deputy Managing Editor of Entertainment and Strategy Julia Turner

#FREEDOM FIGHTERS



Becky Calzada and Carolyn Foote
PHOTO: ALLIE LEEPSON AND JESSE MCCLARY

also recipients of the American Association of School Librarians' 2022 Intellectual Freedom Award.

People featured the critical work by Texas librarians **Becky Calzada** and **Carolyn Foote**, organizers of the #FReadom Fighters campaign, which has been pushing back against efforts by government officials to ban books in the state. Calzada and Foote, along with #FReadom Fighters co-organizer librarian Nancy Jo Lambert, were

"Books shouldn't be contraband."—Carolyn Foote

DIGITAL LITERACY AND INFORMATION ACCESS FOR ALL



Tracie D. Hall

The National Book Foundation recognized **Tracie D. Hall**, executive director of the American Library Association (ALA), with its 2022 Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community for her years of service and advocacy to eradicate information

poverty, provide equitable access to information for incarcerated individuals, and improve digital literacy skills.

“Tracie D. Hall is a courageous champion for readers and libraries. Her accessibility and resource-driven advocacy is especially important at this moment when books are increasingly under attack nationwide. We are so proud to recognize Hall’s tremendous work supporting the individuals and communities who depend on libraries’ services—in other words, everyone.” – Ruth Dickey, executive director of the National Book Foundation



Dr. Kenneth A. Yamashita

Honoring his distinguished career dedicated to confronting injustice and promoting library services to non-traditional communities, ALA awarded retired librarian **Dr. Kenneth A. Yamashita** with the 2022 Joseph W. Lippincott Award. Yamashita, who also serves as president of the Joint Council of Librarians of Color, is the first and

only Asian American to receive the award to date.

MEET AMERICA'S FAVORITE LIBRARIANS

Why do communities love their librarians? From bringing services outside of the library’s walls to meet patrons where they are to helping families in need access clothes and groceries to teaching critical literacy and research skills, the myriad ways librarians go above and beyond for their communities is an inspiration. In 2022, thousands of library users across the country told us why they love their librarians, and 10 stood out from the crowd. The recipients of the 2023 I Love My Librarian Award are:



I Love My Librarian Honorees

- **Kathryn Blackmer Reyes**, San José State University in San José, California
- **Vikki Brown**, Highlands County Library System in Sebring, Florida
- **Cara Chance**, Lafayette Public Library in Lafayette, Louisiana
- **Tara Coleman**, Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas
- **David Ettinger**, George Mason University in Washington, DC.
- **Julie Marie Frye**, Childs Elementary School in Bloomington, Indiana
- **Lauren Ginsberg DeVilbiss**, P.S. 28 Wright Brothers School in New York City, New York
- **Jamie Gregory**, Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville, South Carolina
- **Roseanna Gulisano**, P.S. 11 Highbridge School, in Bronx, New York
- **Elacsha Madison**, Evanston Public Library in Evanston, Illinois

“Even in these unprecedented times and as our nation’s library workers face historic levels of intimidation and harassment due to an ongoing wave of book censorship, librarians continue to empower their patrons, teach critical literacy skills, promote inclusion in their space and collections, and provide vital services for their communities.”—ALA President Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada

Chase Ollis is communications manager for the American Library Association

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ABOUT ALA

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, ALA has been the trusted voice of libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit ala.org.



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