

The
INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC
Library

150 YEARS

• SINCE 1873 •

2023 ANNUAL REPORTS

of The Indianapolis Public Library and
The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation

The
INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC
Library

FOUNDATION



The Fort
Ben Branch



Mrs. Roberta
Knickerbocker
Jaggers and Ms.
Angela Mager



Ms. Hope C.
Tribble and
Mr. Gregory
A. Hill, Sr.



Kim Fields
(left) at Fall Fest

2023: Empowering Tomorrow

So much has changed in our city and our world since The Indianapolis Public Library opened its doors for the first time in April of 1873 at the Indianapolis High School.

In 2023, as The Indianapolis Public Library (IndyPL) entered its 150th year of service, IndyPL and The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation recommitted to our mission of promoting literacy, lifelong learning, and connections that support the pursuit of knowledge. We believe public libraries are an integral—and critical—aspect of a thriving community in the 21st Century.

One highlight of the year was bringing hometown bestselling author John Green to our Central Library stage during Banned Books Week to advocate for the right to have access to books and information without restriction.

Our commitment to fostering a relevant and inclusive Library has inspired us to redesign and re-envision our branch locations, build new branches in service area gaps, and provide new programming and services to the Indianapolis community. Notably, we opened a new branch at Fort Ben—answering the call for greater convenience to our patrons in this growing community.

We have a responsibility to support our librarians and staff in their professional growth. Through internal mentorship programs and scholarships that help staff advance their educational goals, we are nurturing talent and creating a foundation for sustained excellence.

Lastly, we are tuned into our society's information advancements, which will propel libraries forward, enabling us to serve our communities in new and exciting ways.

All these efforts—and many more—represent our ongoing duty to ensure that every resident

of Indianapolis has access to the resources and opportunities that empower them to thrive. You can read more about our story in the pages ahead.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to our dedicated librarians and staff, hard-working volunteers, generous donors, and our loyal patrons of all ages. Your unwavering support is the driving force behind our success. Together, we are creating a future where The Indianapolis Public Library will be a beacon of knowledge, learning, and connection for generations to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey and for joining us in the exciting mission of empowering tomorrow.

Please enjoy our joint annual report.



Mr. Gregory A. Hill, Sr., MLS, MSM,
Chief Executive Officer, The Indianapolis Public Library



Ms. Hope C. Tribble, *President,*
The Indianapolis Public Library Board of Trustees



Mrs. Roberta Knickerbocker Jagers, *President,*
The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation



Ms. Angela Mager, *Chair,*
The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation Board of Directors



2023 Community Impact

289,611

Cardholders

8,825,961

Total circulation

2,515,625

Library visitors



Bookmobile at
Indy Eleven

7,485

Virtual and
in-person programs

148,299

Total attendance
for all programs

\$2,309,114

Foundation
support



65

Schools, museums, and
special libraries in the
Shared System

46,058

Shared System
cardholders

6,963,325

Website visits

584

Number of volunteers



Bottom row of photos, from left: Freedom to Read event with author John Green;
young patron enjoying an art app; checking out; Mariachi Festival.



Central African Festival

55.9%

**Active
cardholders**

2,785,378

**Total access
to electronic
materials***

1,152,602

**Total access to Digital
Indy and Encyclopedia
of Indianapolis**

3,249,542

**Total electronic
circulation
(e-books only)**



*Electronic materials include databases and articles that patrons access with a Library card.
This number does not include Digital Indy and The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis.

Indianapolis Public Library Strategic Plan Activity

Racial Equity and Inclusion

The Library is committed to integrating racial equity and inclusion into our organizational culture. To achieve this, we employ a customized adaptation of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Racial Equity Toolkit in the creation of every Library program. This toolkit ensures that our policies, practices, programs, and budgets grant priority to achieving equity.

In 2023, we

- Achieved a diverse vendor spend of 52.3%. This exceeded our goal of 27%.
- Spent 34% of our recruitment budget on diverse recruitment efforts.
- Applied the IndyPL Racial Equity Toolkit while designing 100% of our programs.
- Continued to diversify our collection with books and materials by and about African American, Latine, and LGBTQ+ communities. Our combined purchases for our target equity communities increased from 31.1% to 33.9%.

Partnerships

The Library is committed to cultivating mutually beneficial connections with individuals, leaders, and organizations within Indianapolis. In pursuit of this objective, we consistently engage in the active formation of new partnerships and enhance existing collaborations with our past partners.

In 2023, we

- Collaborated with educators to reach youth through visits to local schools and early childhood centers.
- Partnered with culturally diverse community members, leaders, and organizations for Library programs. In 2023, we had 476 partnerships.
- Used tools such as public surveys and meetings to seek input, collaboration, and feedback from the community.

Digital/Technology Inclusion

The Library is conscientious of the digital and technological divide that impacts our community, influenced by variations in income, education levels, age, and race. As such, we work to promote technology education and increase access to technology.

In 2023, we

- Delivered 716 technology and computer training sessions to patrons, with an additional 277 general technology and computer programs and 471 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) programs.
- Partnered with Easterseals Crossroads to install accessible workstations at all Library locations to ensure patrons have access to assistive technology.

Education

The Library is dedicated to providing access to programs and resources that inspire lifelong learning. Therefore, we work with schools and educators to promote resource sharing.

In 2023, we

- Provided seven sessions of professional development to educators through engagement with community partners.
- Launched a new season of Reading Ready Time, a virtual experience designed to help children between the ages of 3 and 6 get ready to read and connect with The Library.
- Added 16 new schools to the Shared System. Students at Shared System member libraries have access to their own library's collection as well as over 2 million additional IndyPL books, resources, and databases.

Reading and Writing

The Library continues to support recreational and educational reading. By increasing community awareness and accessibility, we put reading resources in the hands of the public.

In 2023, we

- Gave Indianapolis Public Library e-resource cards to more than 8,218 students*, providing access to e-books, e-audiobooks, streaming music and video, and more than 124 research databases. These cards allow limited borrowing of books and other physical materials.
- Increased our usage of student library card campaign e-resource cards from 38% to 39.15%.
- Had 161,763 active cardholders by the end of the year.

*Number of e-resource cards given to students during the 2023-24 school year.



Teen chef



Painting party



Teddy Bear concert

"I love crafting for adults! Great time for my self-care!"

Financial Literacy

The Library aims to play a role in equipping the public with the knowledge necessary to make informed financial decisions. We collaborate with local partners to provide classes and resources that help the public achieve financial independence.

In 2023, we

- Offered 52 financial literacy and management classes to patrons, exceeding our goal of 15+.
- Had 5,419 financial literacy materials for adults, teens, and children in our collection.
- Purchased 1,147 new financial literacy materials.

Health and Wellness

The Library believes personal health and wellness are basic needs for both our staff and the Indianapolis community at large. Because of this conviction, we partner with local health and wellness leaders to provide innovative programs, classes, and resources.

In 2023, we

- Offered 14 health and wellness classes for IndyPL staff.
- Offered 413 health and wellness classes for patrons.
- Purchased 3,660 new health and wellness items for our health and wellness collection.
- Made available 19,736 health and wellness materials for adults, teens, and children.



Climate Improvement Process Updates

Indianapolis Public Library continues our commitment to racial equity. Our staff are at the forefront of our organization, and we want to ensure they are supported and can succeed. We will continuously evaluate and improve our policies and practices through an equitable lens to avoid systemic disadvantages and provide opportunities for everyone.

Some accomplishments in 2023 were:

- Creating an internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) plan as a supplement to the strategic plan.
- Enhancing communication practices by sharing DEIA efforts and initiatives in the IndyPL staff newsletter.
- Conducting annual disability awareness training with a local community partner.
- Continuing to provide enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility education and managerial leadership training.
- Continue enhanced Career Development Program and Mentor Program initiatives.
- Leadership participating in the 25th Annual Diversity Roundtable Conference.



New Branches and Renovations



Fort Ben Branch Opens

In July 2023, The Indianapolis Public Library opened the Fort Ben Branch. The 22,000-square-foot branch is the first library branch in the state of Indiana to receive international accreditation for autism through the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES). This enables us to provide exemplary services to autistic and sensory-sensitive patrons and their families. The Branch is projected to welcome 180,000 – 200,000 patron visits annually, filling a service gap between the Lawrence Branch on the northeast side and the Warren Branch on the far east side. Within an hour of the branch opening (10 – 11 a.m.), 1,013 people came through the doors.



Glendale Branch Under Construction

The new Glendale Branch was under construction in 2023 and opened March 30, 2024. The Branch has drive-up material returns, access to public transportation, a community meeting room with a capacity of 100 people, and LEED Silver Certification. The 24,800-square-foot Branch is located at the site of the former John Strange Elementary School at 3660 E. 62nd St. IndyPL estimates that 225,000 – 250,000 patrons will visit the Branch annually.



Nora and Pike Begin Renovations

The Nora Branch and the Pike Branch both closed for extended renovations in late 2023 to ensure that our physical spaces adapt to the changing needs of the communities we serve. Prior to that, in early 2023, the Pike and Nora communities were invited to submit ideas for the renovation's design and to share local community needs via a series of community meetings and a survey. The Nora Branch is expected to reopen in late 2024 while the Pike Branch is expected to reopen in early 2025.

Library Plans Learning Curve Redesign

The Indianapolis Public Library is in the early stages of planning a renovation of The Learning Curve at Central Library, a high-tech, hands-on area designed just for kids, teens, and their families. The redesign is scheduled to begin in 2024.

Above: Scenes from the Fort Ben Grand Opening.
Below: Glendale Branch.



Total Revenues: \$78,399,709

Intergovernmental

\$9,410,439

12.0%

Miscellaneous

\$8,553,451

10.9%

Charges for Services

\$1,350,368

1.7%

Fees

\$250,243

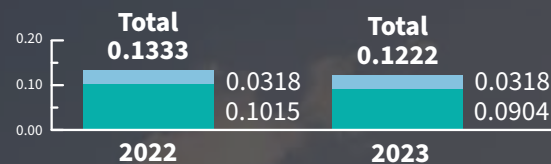
0.3%

Property Taxes
\$58,835,208

75.0%

Tax Rates

■ Debt Service ■ Library Operations



Revenues and expenses are actual YTD 12/31/2023. For details, please see the audited 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at indypl.org when available in the second half of 2024.

Summary of Unaudited Governmental Funds

Total expenses: \$87,571,037

Other Services and Charges

\$17,865,320

20.4%

Library Materials

\$4,168,591

4.8%

Supplies

\$2,353,275

2.7%

Capital

\$12,398,630

14.2%

Debt
\$19,268,280
22.0%

Personal Services
\$31,516,940
36.0%

Indianapolis Public Library Board of Trustees

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Mr. Raymond J. Biederman, *Vice President*

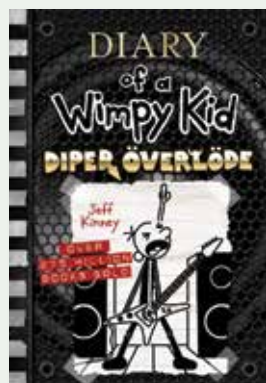
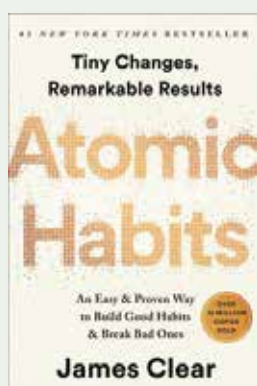
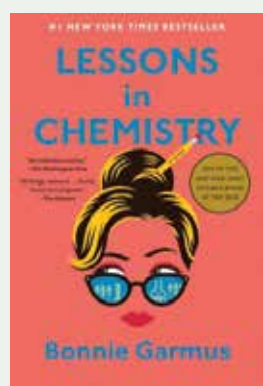
Dr. Patricia A. Payne, *Secretary*

Mr. Stephen Lane

Dr. Khaula Murtadha

Dr. Luis A. Palacio, P.E.

Dr. Eugene G. White



Top circulating items for 2023

Adult Fiction – *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

Adult Non-fiction – *Atomic Habits; Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones* by James Clear

Adult Biography – *Spare* by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

Movie – *Top Gun: Maverick*

Children's Book – *Diper Överlöde* by Jeff Kinney

e-Magazine – *The New Yorker*

Teen Book – *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas

2023 Award Winners



*Helen L. Norris Distinguished
Service Award*

Amy Spurrier

Business Analyst, IT



Beth Tindel Award

Olanike Olaniyi

Collection Development Librarian

and

Olutimilehin Olaniyi

Purchasing Order Specialist



*Laura Bramble Distinguished
Service Award*

Bethany Allison

Manager, Eagle Branch

*40 Year
Service Award*

Mike Perkins

Public Services Librarian,
Central Library

*50 Year
Service Award*

Debbie Faust

Library Assistant,
Southport Branch

Indianapolis Public Library Foundation

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Mr. Gregory A. Hill
Chief Executive Officer,
The Indianapolis Public Library

2023 Statement of Financial Position

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Investments	\$21,322,450
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,570,164
Pledges receivables, net	\$221,065
Other	\$97,391
Total	\$24,211,070

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts payable	\$2,781
Accrued expenses	\$40,373
Net assets	\$24,167,916
Total	\$24,211,070

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, SUPPORT & EXPENDITURES

Revenue and Support

Contributions, net	\$2,047,872
Indy Library Store (book sales)	\$230,086
Dividends and interest, net	\$301,242
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments, net	\$1,184,946
Change in Value of Beneficial Interest in Assets Held by Others	\$1,053,522
Total	\$4,817,668

Expenses

Programs—support for The Library	\$2,309,114
Programs—other	\$77,299
Management and general	\$370,079
Fundraising	\$536,868
Total	\$3,293,360

Accrual basis of accounting

2023 Foundation Highlights

Lillian Childress Hall Scholarship Endowment

Lillian Haydon Childress Hall (1889-1958) was Indiana's first Black librarian. In 1915, she graduated from the Indiana Public Library Commission's Summer School for Librarians at Butler University. In 1921, she joined The Indianapolis Public Library to organize the Paul Laurence Dunbar Branch at Indianapolis Public School 26. In 1927, she moved to the public library at Crispus Attucks High School, where she served as manager until 1956.

In honor of The Library's 150th anniversary, The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation established the Lillian Childress Hall Scholarship Endowment. Starting in 2024, this permanent fund will provide scholarships for staff members working toward their master's degrees in library science. The selection criteria will prioritize candidates who are of diverse backgrounds and underrepresented in the library profession. As West Region Area Resource Manager and Lillian Childress Hall Advisory Committee Member Naomi Konja explained, "This scholarship will build diversity within our librarian staff."

We thank the information professionals and many generous donors who made this fund possible.

Circulate: Night at The Library

Circulate: Night at The Library is The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation's annual fundraiser; the 2023 event was the second year. Circulate was held at Central Library on Saturday, March 4. The theme for 2023 was "escape." The event was after hours at The Library. It featured a variety of activities and entertainment. Presenters included IndyPL staff, Arts for Learning artists, an artist from the Harrison Center, Hedgehog Hannah, and the band Protocol. With more than 250 attendees and 21 sponsors, The Foundation raised \$65,000. Circulate is held every spring. Look for it each year on the Foundation website and on social media.



Scenes from Circulate: Night at The Library



Summer Reading Program

Thanks to generous donors, summer reading continues to impact youth by helping them build reading confidence and foster lifelong learning. In addition, participants indulged in space-themed workshops and activities to develop innovation, literacy, and STEM skills. Summer outreach initiatives delivered books to 11,452 youth at summer camps, summer school programs, and childcare centers. The 2023 Summer Reading Program saw an 8.4% increase in participation with more than 22,000 participants reading for 16 million minutes.



“Thank you for your commitment to helping children cultivate a passion for reading and learning. We love our public library! We’re especially thankful for each of you that make this summer reading program successful.”

– A parent of a Summer Reading Program participant

2023 Donors

The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation gratefully acknowledges the individuals and organizations who made contributions in 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If there are any oversights, please contact The Foundation office at foundation@indyplfoundation.org or 317-275-4700.

**indicates deceased*

\$25,000+

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The Wilson Family
Anonymous (4)

\$100 - \$249

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Carole Adams
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The Library Foundation is fortunate to have several endowment funds that support our mission in perpetuity. Many thanks to all donors who established and/or contributed to these funds. Contact the Library Foundation if you would like to learn more about contributing to an existing fund or establishing a new fund.

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The Legacy Society recognizes those who have made planned gifts to The Foundation. Planned gifts include several kinds of giving, ranging from a bequest to The Foundation in a will, to designation of The Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, to arrangements that provide some income for donors during their lifetime.

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Thank you to The Library and The Foundation staff members who supported us in 2023. Staff contributions supported Library programs and services as well as professional development opportunities for current and future Library staff.

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These generous gifts were given to The Foundation in memory of or in tribute to friends, loved ones, family members, and respected members of the community.

In honor of Charlotte and Corinne Adams, AJ and Topher Korka and Oliver and Emilia Katz

Robert Katz and Becka Vargus Katz

In honor of my wife Ashley

Violet Rodriguez

In memory of Marie Christine Bernadac

Sarah Bernadac

In memory of Carol Besore

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In honor of Robin Brunning

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In honor of Susan Brock Williams

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In Honor of Kenelm F. Winslow and Nanette Burket Winslow

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In memory of Harrison Connor Strader Wood

The Library Foundation received an unprecedented outpouring of donations honoring Harrison Connor Strader Wood for a dedicated space at the new Glendale branch library opening in 2024. Please visit the [Glendale Branch](https://www.indyplfoundation.org) or [indyplfoundation.org](https://www.indyplfoundation.org) to learn more about Harrison, his family and his love of reading.

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A Selection of Patron Comments

"I love all of The Library's garden programs, but Garden Club is the very best! I love these meetings! This program gets us out with like-minded folks and is very important to us."

"MY 10-YEAR-OLD SON HATED READING BECAUSE HE WASN'T A STRONG READER. ONE DAY HE CAME WITH ME [TO THE LIBRARY] AND HE STARTED LOOKING AT BOOKS. NOW HE WANTS TO GO TO THE LIBRARY, AND HIS TEACHER SAYS SHE SEES BIG IMPROVEMENT IN HIS READING."

"Libraries stand tall for the public good, ultimate wellsprings and preservers of the right of all people to knowledge freely shared, developed, and enjoyed. It's wonderful that Indy has a place that aspires to match this spiritual truth to a physical, architectural reality."

"This library is so well-organized and maintained. Everything is current (flyers, reading challenges, events) and the staff is helpful and engaging. This is an example of what a good neighborhood library should 'feel' and look like."

"The staff is extremely knowledgeable. They also recommend other authors similar to the one you like so you can find new authors to enjoy!"

"I thank The Library for offering this program for someone with a disability. I am thankful for a gentle (Meditation and Yoga) class."

"[THIS PROGRAM] MADE ME SO EXCITED TO CONTINUE LEARNING HOW TO CROCHET. IT MADE ME FEEL A SENSE OF COMMUNITY."

"This location is perfect and so easy to access in a wheelchair. The staff is incredibly nice and professional."

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