2023 ANNUAL REPORTS
of The Indianapolis Public Library and
The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation
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.

2023: Empowering Tomorrow

Mrs. Roberta Knickerbocker Jaggers and Ms. Angela Mager

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

The Fort Ben Branch
2023 Community Impact

289,611 Cardholders
8,825,961 Total circulation
2,515,625 Library visitors

2023 Community Impact

Virtual and in-person programs
Total attendance for all programs
Foundation support
Active cardholders
Total access to electronic materials*
Total access to Digital Indy and Encyclopedia of Indianapolis
Total electronic circulation (e-books only)

7,485
148,299
$2,309,114
55.9%
2,785,378
1,152,602
3,249,542

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
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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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2023 Annual Report
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

**50 Year Service Award**
Debbie Faust
Library Assistant, Southport Branch

**40 Year Service Award**
Mike Perkins
Public Services Librarian, Central Library

Indianapolis Public Library Foundation

2023 Board of Directors

- Ms. Angela Mager, Chair
- Ms. Christia Hicks, Vice Chair
- Mr. Brad Holtz, Vice Chair
- Dr. Amparo de la Peña, Secretary
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- Ms. Elizabeth Schuerman
- Ms. Shelley Stewart
- Mr. Berthran Ugeh

Mrs. Roberta Knickerbocker Jaggers
President,
The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation

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

2023 Statement of Financial Position

**BALANCE SHEET**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Pledges receivables, net</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<th>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</th>
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<td>Accrued expenses</td>
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<td>Net assets</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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**STATEMENT OF REVENUE, SUPPORT & EXPENDITURES**

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<th>Revenue and Support</th>
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<td>Contributions, net</td>
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<td>Indy Library Store (book sales)</td>
<td>$230,086</td>
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<td>Dividends and interest, net</td>
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<td>Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments, net</td>
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<td>Change in Value of Beneficial Interest in Assets Held by Others</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>$4,817,668</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Programs—support for The Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs—other</td>
<td>$77,299</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$370,079</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$536,868</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3,293,360</td>
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Accrual basis of accounting
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.

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

Scenes from Circulate: Night at The Library
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.

$25,000+

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2023 Legacy Society

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.

2023 Staff Giving

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.

2023 Memorial and Tribute Gifts

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 Carinene Adams, AJ and Tophor Korka and Oliver and Emilia Katz
Robert Katz and Becky Vargas Katz
In honor of my wife Ashley
Violet Rodriguez
In memory of Marie Christine Bernadac
Sarah Bernadac
In memory of Carol Bossee
The Kirk Family Foundation, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation
In honor of Robin Brunning
Mindy Rader
In memory of Audrey Burlingame and in honor of Dwight Burlingame
Melba Hopper
In memory of Sara Burns
Annette M. Burns
In memory of Sue Webb Cardwell
Anonymous Donor
In memory of Frank Chandler
Dan Bowler, Farah Himman and Jennifer Wargel
In memory of Ann Colwell
Christie L. Mitchell
In honor of Ian Cunningham
Lee and Teresa Cunningham
In honor of Claire Kathleen Davidson
Bev, Becky, Ian and Adele
In honor of Susan Dulin
Kaildin Goldsmith
In memory of Judith K. Fair and in honor of Amelia May Rogers
Anonymous
In memory of Penny Francis
Crystal L. Francis and Dennis K. Frick
In memory of Polly Cochran Grabow
James and Jill Due
In memory of Maria Harper
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In memory of Maggie Harry
Lou Harry
In memory of Julia Hayes
Mark Hayes
Jane McCarthy
Roberta Speaker
In memory of Tina Hickman
Nikki Koval
In honor of Judith Carol Hill
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In honor of Steve Hyatt
The Three Nancys and Friends Book Club
In memory of Vanessa Jamerson
Mark Jamerson
Ema & Wayne Robbins
Waren Branch Library staff
In memory of Carolyn Johnson
Daniel W. Johnson
In memory of Margaret Joss
Theresa and Thomas Gorrell
Paul Hildebrandt
Leszcz Family
Carolyn and Jack Stafford
Suzanne and Bob Stanis
Anonymous
In honor of Thea Kitty Barnes & Thornburg LLP
In memory of Marnia Kennon
CL and Ione Townsend
Cynthia Shipley
Judith Strange
CL and Ione Townsend
Suzanne and Bob Stanis
Anonymous
In honor of Nicole L. Schill
Judith Hansell
In memory of Anna Schmuckler
Anonymous
In honor of Pat Shurette
Paul A. Shurette
In memory of Jeanne Sheehan
Anonymous
In honor of Sally Shutter
The Progressive Club of Indianapolis

"Indicates deceased"

Karen and Paul Ainslie
Kathryn R. Allen-Wantz
Jessica Barth
Bryce H. Bennet, Jr.
Nancy Boroet
Diane and Bob Borgmann
Jeff and Diane Bowen
Robert and Helen Brodin
Theresa M. Browning

Barbara K. Burke Ed D
Florence Bedford Cooper and Chuck Cooper
Bonnie and Andrew Craig
Diane (Doe) Cranmer
Andrea Davia
Danny and Debbie Dean
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Jason D. Duidich
Michael E. Farmer*

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Estate of Peggy Hilman & Herbert Kirt*
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2023 Annual Report

2023 Annual Report
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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 contributions honoring Harrison Connor Strader Wood for a celebrated career of the new Glendale branch library opening in 2024. Please visit the Glendale branch library foundation.org to learn more about Harrison, his family and his love of reading.

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Connor Wood
Wayne and Gaye Wood
Robert and Kayla Woodward
Mikayla Wright
Heather Wrightsell
Sharon Zier
The Zerbini Family
Anonymous (26)
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.”

Learn more and download digitally at indypl.org and indyplfoundation.org

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This annual report was designed by Indianapolis Public Library Volunteer Amanda Goehlert.