

# Annual Report

*2021: Here, There, & Everywhere!*

A Year of Transition at Pittsburg Public Library



## Dear Patrons of the Pittsburg Public Library,

2021 was a year of transition as the library continued to navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. From January through mid-April, the library was only open by appointment for computer use and browsing. By mid-April we had reopened completely with limits on in-person programs.

With our popular Summer Reading Programs on the horizon, library staff brainstormed ways to continue to offer summer programs in a safe (but still fun) manner.

We utilized the Bookmobile heavily during the summer. We partnered with USD 250 to bring the Bookmobile to schools offering the Summer Meal Program. We offered book and material check-outs, as well as handed out free Make-&Take craft kits to kids and child-care providers. We also took the Bookmobile to the Farmer's Market, bringing not only books, but crafts, games, and prizes.

And, my personal favorite—we provided Story Times and other library programs at Lincoln Park all summer long. I don't know if a Bookmobile has ever been used as a puppet stage before, but somehow, library staff made it work!

We also offered many programs in the Courtyard area south of the building throughout the year. The Friends of the Library held two book sales in the Courtyard during the fall. These outdoor programs proved to be a big hit with our patrons.

However, the limitations of the Courtyard quickly became apparent. There was no shade available during hot weather, and heaving bricks made it dangerous for anyone with mobility issues.

With outdoor programs becoming more and more common, we realized we would have to address these issues. At the PPL Foundation's Annual Meeting in September, the Foundation board agreed to fund a renovation of the Courtyard area in 2022. We are so thankful to our Foundation and the many ways it supports library services.

The pandemic has been a tumultuous, almost two-year ordeal, impacting nearly every aspect of society—including library services. The way we now serve our community has changed as a result. Instead of our patrons always visiting the library building for our services, we are now reaching beyond library walls to provide our community with the library's collections, technology, and programs.

My deepest thanks to the Board of Trustees of PPL for their guidance, and to library staff for their flexibility and perseverance to take on new challenges at a moment's notice.

Finally, special thanks and deep appreciation to our wonderful library patrons for their ongoing patience, willingness to try new things, and for their continued support.

Thank you,

*Bew Clarkson*

**Pittsburg Public Library Director**

# Pittsburg Public Library Board of Trustees

Frances Mitchelson	President
Beth Geiger	Treasurer
Jamie Brooksher	Secretary
Devin Gorman	Trustee
Joe Hart	Trustee
Susan Knell	Trustee
Dan McNally	Trustee
Bev Clarkson	PPL Director

## 2021 Financials

### Income

Ad Valorem Tax	781,800
Motor Vehicle Tax	28,944
Delinquent Tax	94,326
Investment Income	653
SEKLS	42,418
PPL Foundation support	92,000
Friends of the Library	5,000
State Library	5,699
Fees	2,706
Copies, faxes, prints	3,067
ARPA grant	9,786
Other	954
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067,353</b>

### Expenditures

Staff Salaries	565,662
Employee Benefits	149,515
Utilities & Contracts	89,301
Library Collection	82,701
Bookmobile Carport*	81,454
Maintenance	30,918
Operating Supplies	11,002
Programs	11,740
Computers/Electronic Access	27,592
Equipment/Furniture	10,411
Other Operating	5,848
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,066,144</b>

\*The Bookmobile Carport Project was funded by the PPL Foundation.



# Program Highlights



**Outdoor programs** were the norm in 2021. Programs were regularly held in the library courtyard and local parks. The need for a functional, accessible outdoor space at the library quickly became apparent.

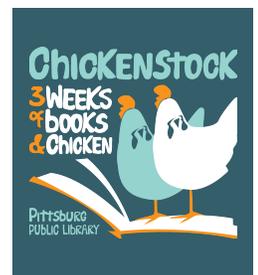
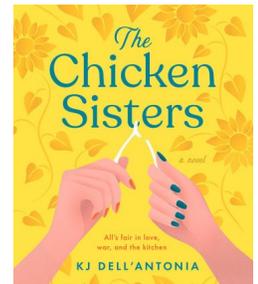
**194**  
programs offered

**4,993**  
Take-and-Make  
activity kits created

**4,447**  
community members  
attended a library  
program

**3,950**  
community members  
participated in a  
reading program

**Chickenstock** was a popular series of virtual programs in February 2021 celebrating both SEK's tradition of fried chicken dinners and the publication of the book *The Chicken Sisters* by KJ Dell-Antonia—who has local roots in Southeast Kansas!



Seasonal **Books & Treats Bags for Adults** and the **Young Adult Book Boxes** proved to be very popular with patrons.



*"I picked up my bag curbside. It was awesome, 2 good books & everything you need to enjoy a good read on a rainy day! This library & employees are awesome!"*  
— Zenna Appier



Programs included virtual, outreach, and in-person, and were provided for patrons of all ages!

# Outreach

## Bringing the Library to You

The **Bookmobile** made appearances at many community events in 2021, including the annual Christmas parade, local schools, and the Farmer's Market.

A new Bookmobile Carport was constructed in the spring. The structure mimics the architectural design of the library and was approved by the Kansas Historical Society.

The new carport will protect the Bookmobile from inclement weather and provide a covered area to load library materials.



Just like the Bookmobile, this project was paid for by the Foundation.

“I took a walk through the park today and enjoyed this story. I love that you guys care so much about the community. My kids and I always enjoy the new stories.” — Kendra Keopke

## 2021 by the Numbers

94,831 Print checkouts

23,330 Digital borrows

4,630 Database uses

122,791 Total Checkouts

1.5 million print & digital materials available to card holders

32,635 Questions answered

29,094 Website visits

20,728 Patrons with a library card

13,589 Computer & wireless users

2,417 Curbside pick-ups

454 Bookmobile deliveries

10 Wi-Fi Hotspots for check-out providing up to

52,752 Hours of free Hotspot use

Permanent **StoryWalk** kiosks were installed at Lakeside Park in September. StoryWalks combine literacy, exercise, and family bonding.

A new story is added each month. Stories are available in English and Spanish, and you can listen to the story using a smartphone & QR code.

The Story Walk project was funded through a grant from the Community Foundation of SEK.

“Thank you so much for everything you do for the community members of SEK and surrounding areas!!”

— Jenifer McDonald



The **PPL Foundation** was founded in 1999 to enhance the services of the Pittsburg Public Library. In 2021, the PPL Foundation funded:

- \$78,000 in operating expenses for digital resources, electronic access, and more!
- The Bookmobile Carport Project
- Agreed to provide up to \$80,000 for the future Courtyard Project scheduled for Spring 2022

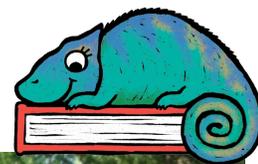


The **Friends of the Library** volunteered hundreds of hours of service to the library in 2021, sorting through thousands of donated books.

The Friends held two “mini book sales” in the library courtyard during the fall of 2021 and donated \$5,000 to fund library programming.



# Tails & TALES



## 2021 Summer Reading Program

In 2021, Summer Story Times were held in Lincoln Park. It was a great way to safely accommodate the large crowds of 100+ community members at each program. Kids even had the opportunity to check out books from the Bookmobile.

Did we use the Bookmobile as a puppet stage? Why, yes we did! Necessity often is the mother of invention! Hundreds of children (and adults) enjoyed puppet shows, skits, a scavenger hunt, and animal yoga.

We were thrilled to partner with USD 250 and bring the Bookmobile to a different school each week during the School Lunch Program. Along with lots of books, we also handed out free Take-&-Make crafts.



“My boys and I stopped by the Bookmobile at the farmer’s market last week and went to the Petting Zoo last night and then went to the library. **Every time we interact with library staff, either in person, through email, or on the phone, we have felt so welcome.** Everyone is so kind and has made my boys excited to read this summer. I wanted to reach out and express how grateful I am for the everyday services you provide as well as the additional summer programs!!” —Stephanie Swezey

**545** kids & teens signed up      **2,347** reading prizes earned  
**82** adults participated      **2,160** Take-&-Make crafts made  
**80+** programs offered      **Hundreds** of free books given out



An outdoor Poetry Reading by Melissa Fite Johnson was the highlight of the Adult Summer Reading Program!

450 community members attended Monday Family Fun Nights in June, featuring music, juggling, and a petting zoo!

The library again partnered with our friends at Greenbush to offer an 8-week series of fun and free science-based summer programs for kids entering 3-6 grades.

Teen volunteers donated over 60 hours of service at weekly VolunTeen events throughout the summer. Young Adult Book Boxes filled with books and prizes were popular with the 48 teens who signed up for the personalized box.

“My daughter **loved** unboxing her personalized Summer Reading Young Adult Book Box! All the contents were a huge hit and she can’t wait to start reading her new book! Thank you!”

### Special thanks to all of our Community Partners:

Greenbush Educational Services

The Parolo Trust

City of Pittsburg

Pittsburg Parks & Rec

Pittsburg Farmers Market

USD 250