



Dear Patrons of the Pittsburgh Public Library,

2022 was a rebuilding year at the Pittsburgh Public Library. We learned more than a few lessons from the years of the Covid-19 pandemic (didn't we all?). I hope we learned to be kinder, a little more resilient, and adapt more quickly to change. We also realized some of the service models that we implemented during the pandemic were worth keeping. Curbside Pick-Up, a necessity during the pandemic, is now a convenient service for our patrons.

Outdoor programs—another need during the pandemic—also worked well. Using the Bookmobile as a puppet stage and holding Story Time in the park on a beautiful summer day proved to be a huge success. Utilizing our wonderful City parks for library programming is something we plan to continue. Of course, when the temperatures get too hot and humid, it's always nice to return to the cool comfort of our beautiful library building.

The increase in outdoor programming made us realize that we needed a more user-friendly outdoor space at the library. With this in mind, we came up with a plan to renovate the existing courtyard space on the south side of the building. Funded by the PPL Foundation, the renovation is set to be finished in early 2023.

We discovered that we couldn't just take for granted that the library services offered before the pandemic were still relevant. Staff had to ensure that we were keeping up with the ever-changing needs of our community. To do this, we engaged in long-range strategic planning.

The staff and Board of Trustees of the Pittsburgh Public Library worked through the summer and fall on the strategic planning process. One aspect included a comprehensive community-wide survey, which was widely distributed both in-house and virtually during September and October. We garnered nearly 300 responses, comments, and ideas from community members on a wide range of library topics.

Community input from these surveys, as well as staff research of library trends, formed the basis of our new strategic plan. This plan impacts all aspects of library services—collections, programs, technology, and outreach. We are pleased with the outcome and look forward to sharing these new and improved programs and services with our community.

Many thanks to library staff and the Board of Trustees for their work during the strategic planning process. And as always, a very special thank you to our library patrons who have provided input into what services they want and need—and especially for their continued support.

If 2022 was a year of rebuilding, 2023 will be a year of action.

Thank you,

Bew Clarkson

Pittsburg Public Library Director

Pittsburg Public Library Board of Trustees

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
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2022 Financials

Income

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Ad Valorem Tax | 792,637 |
| Motor Vehicle Tax | 95,200 |
| Delinquent Tax | 30,372 |
| Investment Income | 2,574 |
| SEKLS | 42,245 |
| PPL Foundation support* | 181,000 |
| Friends of the Library | 10,000 |
| State Library | 5,718 |
| Fees | 2,855 |
| Copies, faxes, prints | 6,598 |
| Skubitz grant | 17,386 |
| Other | 3,382 |
| Total | \$1,189,967 |

Expenditures

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Staff Salaries | 588,877 |
| Employee Benefits | 153,957 |
| Utilities & Contracts | 110,699 |
| Library Collection | 85,114 |
| Courtyard Project* | 66,744 |
| Maintenance | 27,629 |
| Operating Supplies | 20,695 |
| Programs | 14,057 |
| Computers/Electronic Access | 37,513 |
| Other Operating Expenses | 1,664 |
| Total Expenses | \$1,106,949 |

*The Courtyard Project is funded by the PPL Foundation and will be completed in 2023.



Pittsburg Public Library
308 N. Walnut, Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620) 231-8110 PPLonline.org

Program Highlights



"A wonderful Valentine treat bag was just delivered to my door by the Pittsburg Public Library Bookmobile. Our library and staff are Pittsburg treasures. We are very fortunate!"
—Kathy Stuckey

Adults

78 programs were offered to adult patrons in 2022. These programs were designed to engage, enlighten, and entertain.

From learning a new skill, creating a craft, or participating in a book discussion or reading program, there was something for a variety of interests.

Attending a library program is also a great way to connect with other community members!



The Big Kansas Road Trip was held May 5-8, 2022 and celebrated Crawford, Cherokee, and Bourbon Counties.

The library served as an information center for the event and also hosted a book signing by 100 Things to Do in Kansas Before You Die author Roxie Yonkey.



Babs Tims and Susan Knell read aloud holiday tales to a delighted audience of adults at our Fireside Tales program in December.

By the Numbers

131,508 Print checkouts
25,786 Digital borrows
5,499 Database uses
157,294 Total Checkouts

1.8 million
print & digital materials
available to card holders

"I like the Hoopla platform, but also love to go to second floor and pick up a book. You have it all."
—Belinda Brumfield

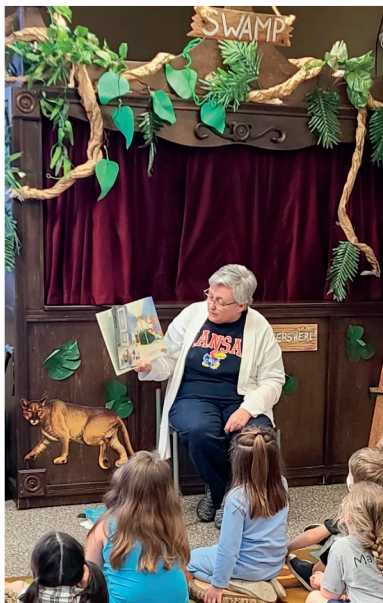
62,039 Library building visits
35,585 Questions answered
29,924 Website visits
21,929 Patrons with library cards
18,962 Wireless users
8,264 Computer users
1,202 New library cards
688 Curbside pick-ups
533 Bookmobile deliveries
125 Hotspot check-outs*

*providing thousands of hours of free internet use!

Children

The Youth Services Department offered a whopping **249** programs in 2022!

From programs that promoted early literacy, inspired creativity, or educated—we had something to offer the over **13,000** program participants in 2022!



Gail Sheppard, Children's Librarian, reads a book in front of the puppet stage during an alligator story time.

Story times are offered three times a week and are a beloved tradition at the library.



Kids and staff made giant bubbles on the courtyard during story time.

“ The Pittsburg library is like no other! We’ve lived in two cities since our youngest was there, and no program compares. So thankful for our years of memories at the Pittsburg library! —Kelsey Hotchkiss

384 programs were offered for all ages
17,993 community members attended a library program

Teens

2,100 teens attended over **50** teen programs in 2022, including reading programs, STEM activities, movies, games, trivia, and bingo.

Teen volunteers met twice a month during VolunTeens meetings to help with library projects and earn community service hours.

“ VolunTeens is such a cool group! I wish they had this when I was in school. Those kids are growing up to be lifetime volunteers and readers. —Logan Wright



In the spring, teen volunteers created sea life decorations to hang around the library in anticipation of the Summer Reading Program theme, *Oceans of Possibilities*.



(Right) VolunTeens help decorate the library's Holiday Literary Trees. The themed trees have become an annual tradition attracting hundreds of visitors to the library.



In Memoriam
Janet Dutton
1951–2022

Janet was a beloved member of the library staff, working in the Youth Services Department for over ten years following her retirement from teaching. Janet cast a bright ray of sunshine on everything she did at the library. She was truly one of a kind.

Community Outreach



The Bookmobile made **533** deliveries to homes, daycares, preschools and senior living facilities in 2022, delivering teal bags full of books, DVDs, audiobooks, and more each week.

Books & Treats bags from the Adult Services department were delivered for Valentine's, Camp Read-A-Lot, and Halloween (pictured below in the Bookmobile with Tori Glover and PJ Graham).

One of our favorite Outreach Services is the permanent StoryWalk located at Lakeside Park. StoryWalks combine literacy, exercise, and family bonding.



You may have spotted us at...

Trunk-or-Treat with the City of Pittsburg

PSU Community Fair

Pittsburg Art Walk

Farmer's Market Kids' Days

Summer Story Time at Lincoln Park

PSU Homecoming Parade

City of Pittsburg Christmas Parade

YMCA

PHS's ESOL class

PCMS's 6th grade classes

USD 250 Kindergarten Round-Up

Root Coffeehouse

Earth Day Celebration at Pritchett Pavilion



“The StoryWalk was magical! The girls loved it. Thank you! —Rhonda White

2022 Special Projects

- A new and improved library website debuted in March.
- Skylights were replaced on the 2nd floor in September.
- The library received a new outdoor HVAC unit in October.
- The new library Courtyard Project began in 2022 and is scheduled for completion in early 2023! The project includes a new concrete pad, gate, sun sail, lighting, refinished fencing, and improved drainage.



Community Support

The library partnered with many community organizations and individuals to facilitate new programs and services for our patrons in 2022. We couldn't do it without you!

Education

7-11 Science Summer Programs
with Greenbush

Books & Badges
with Pittsburg Police Department

Foraging for Beginners
with Jesse Gilmore of Wildcat Extension

Planting for Pollinators
with Jesse Gilmore of Wildcat Extension

Talking Heads Discussion Group
led by local community members

Health

Dementia Caregivers Support
with KU Alzheimer's Research Center

Grief Support Group
with Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice

Health Insurance Information
with SEK-CAP

Nutrition Story Time
with Crawford County WIC

Social Services Assistance
and Vaccinations
with Community Health Center of SEK

Enrichment

Element Movement Dance Class
with Darcie Shultz of Books & Burrow

Fireside Tales & Spooky
Campfire Stories
read by Babs Tims and Susan Knell

Ozark Folk Tales and Songs
with Gil Cooper, Randy Roberts, & Don Viney

Pittsburg Brass Quintet
with PSU Music Faculty

Hobbies

Beer Brewing Safety
with K-State Research, Drop the H, & Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Fire Spinning Demonstration
with LaStacia Marie of Eclectic Soul

Modern Calligraphy
with Lucy Mwanzia

Scrabble Club
led by local community members



The **PPL Foundation** was founded in 1999 to enhance the services of the Pittsburg Public Library.

Foundation funding has provided both annual operation support and funded many library improvement projects, such as the library's digital collections, the Bookmobile, the Carport, and more.

In 2022, the PPL Foundation funded:

- \$78,000 in operating expenses for digital resources, electronic access, and more.
- The Library Courtyard Project, which will provide a usable outdoor space for library programs, Wi-Fi usage, and a community gathering place.



At the front desk, we often joke with kids about working here. Gracie simply asked, "Where do I sit?" Library staff fixed her up with a lanyard and a pen behind her ear.

"She has asked to wear the lanyard to bed... She says she is ready to report for work tomorrow," said Gracie's mom, Michelle Kerr Stockebrand.

David and Dean Monohon (pictured right) and Brett Dunbar, from Double D Game Calls, found this beautiful reading dragon at In the Garden and purchased him for the Library.

This handsome fellow is now our second library dragon and presides over the library's lobby.



The **Friends of the Library** volunteer hundreds of hours a year sorting books and stocking their ongoing book sale in the library's Reading Room.

In 2022, the Annual Labor Day Book Sale returned! Now held in the Library Courtyard, the Friends Labor Day book sale was a rousing success. Their efforts provide \$10,000 to fund library programming.

We are very thankful for our Friends.

2022 Summer Reading Program

Oceans of Possibilities

Summer Story Times were held at Lincoln Park in June. We learned during Covid that outdoor programs are popular with our patrons and the park is a wonderful place to accommodate large summer story time crowds! The Bookmobile doubles as a puppet stage, and carts of books are available for check-out.

When the summer temperatures became too extreme in July, we returned to the library's meeting room. Crowds of families gathered for books, songs, and puppet shows, and each participant took home a Make & Take craft project.

For school-aged children, the library partnered with our friends at Greenbush to offer a series of fun and free science-based programs.

Hundreds of free books were given to kids and teens during summer reading.

Over **700** community members attended a petting zoo in the park and a professional juggling program sponsored by the library.



690
kids & teens signed up
6,238
program attendees
92
programs offered



19,963
books read
2,151
reading prizes earned
2,400
crafts given out



The Adult Services Department offered a special Camp Read-A-Lot summer program for adults.

41 participants followed special reading trails and earned prizes. A Spooky Campfire Party concluded the program.

Teens enjoyed a wide variety of programs both at the library and at our outreach programs at Root Coffeehouse! Programs included trivia, game nights, movies, crafts, and a book swap.

An end-of-summer luau party offered fun and an opportunity to learn about Polynesian culture. **33** teens donated over **200** hours of volunteer service at weekly VolunTeen events.

Special thanks to all of our Community Partners:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Greenbush Educational Services | City of Pittsburg | USD 250 |
| Pittsburg Parks & Rec | Pittsburg Farmers Market | Books & Burrow |
| K-State Research and Extension | Root Coffeehouse & Creperie | |