

2023 Summer Reading Program



Summer Library Programs are designed to promote literacy, educate, engage, and entertain.

In 2023, we continued our summer tradition of holding Story Time programs in Lincoln Park during the month of June. The park is a great place to accommodate the large groups of community members who attend our summer programs. Plus, the bookmobile doubled as a fine puppet stage!

In July, Story Time programs moved back to the library to escape the heat.

Summer Programs for Children and Teens included:

- All Together Now Community Block Party
- Summer Reading Programs for all ages. Kids and teens earned reading prizes and swim passes!
- Story Time Programs 3x a Week
- Maker Monday STEAM Programs
- Programs for kids ages 7-11 year that feature literature, art, and science in June
- Greenbush Science Programs for kids in July
- Petting Zoo Special Event
- Professional Puppet Theater Special Event



786
kids & teens signed up
7,773
program attendees
106
programs offered



18,618
books read
2,508
reading prizes earned
2,997
crafts given out

The Adult Services Department celebrated the “All Together Now” theme with an Open Mic Night and a Community Sing Along program.

42 participants turned in a Summer Reading Bingo Card and earned a groovy button and magnet prize.

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 “Good Vibes” party offered a fun finale for the teen’s summer programs. **55** teens donated over **220** hours of volunteer service at VolunTeen events.

Special thanks to all of our Community Partners:

Greenbush Educational Services	City of Pittsburgh	USD 250
Pittsburgh Parks & Rec	Pittsburgh Farmers Market	Books & Burrow
K-State Research and Extension	Root Coffeehouse & Creperie	
Community Health Center of SEK	Pittsburgh State University	

Annual Report

2023: All Together Now



Dear Patrons of the Pittsburgh Public Library,

All Together Now was the nationwide theme for the 2023 Summer Reading Program. Its goal was to celebrate unity, friendship, and cooperation. I believe this sentiment is much bigger than just a one-time theme. All Together Now reflects our way of life here at the Pittsburgh Public Library.

It takes the efforts of a great number of library patrons, board members, community partners & organizations, and library staff members to create a successful library:

- The PPL Board of Trustees: who provides leadership, direction, and counsel for the Library.
- The PPL Foundation Board: who raise and allocate funding for many essential library services and special projects throughout the year.
- The Friends of the Library: who spend countless hours behind the scenes preparing for the ongoing book sale and the annual Labor Book Sale that provides funding for so many library programs.
- The City of Pittsburgh: who provides essential services to both library staff and the library building and are a constant source of support.

- Pittsburgh State University’s Axe Library: who provides our integrated library system that makes our checkout system possible.
- Our community partners: too many to name here, whose support and assistance with our programs and services, allow us to offer more to our community than we could alone.
- Our library staff members: who realize that working at the library is not just a job—but a service to our community. They always put out extra efforts in service to our community.
- Finally, the thousands of Patrons of the Pittsburgh Public Library: there is simply no library without you. You are why we exist. We value and appreciate our patrons. In return, we strive to offer the best collections, programs, and services that we possibly can—every single day.

This 2023 Annual Report of the Pittsburgh Public Library reflects the results of all of these groups working All Together Now. I am thankful to you all.

Bew Clarkson

Pittsburgh Public Library Director



Pittsburg Public Library
Board of Trustees

Table with 2 columns: Name and Title. Rows include Dan McNally (President), Susan Knell (Treasurer), Jaime Dalton (Secretary), Cara Cramer (Trustee), Joe Hart (Trustee), Monica LaForte (Trustee), Jay O'Ferrell (Trustee), and Bev Clarkson (PPL Director).

2023 Financials

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Rows include Income (Property Taxes: 952,838; Investment Income: 16,743; SEKLS: 42,775; State Library: 5,847; PPL Foundation: 75,000; Friends of the Library: 10,000; Fees: 2,630; Copies, faxes, prints: 9,482; Other: 3,123) and Total (\$1,118,438).

Expenditures

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Rows include Staff Salaries (595,501), Employee Benefits (150,650), Utilities & Contracts (101,790), Library Collection (91,904), Building Maintenance (74,061), Operating Supplies (38,337), Programs (18,448), and Total Expenses (\$1,070,691).



Pittsburg Public Library
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Program Highlights



(Left) Author Juliet Patterson presented a program on her book, "Sinkhole," as part of PSU's Writerfest 2023. (Right) Phil Carter led the carols to a delighted audience at our Cup of Christmas program in December. (Far right) Patrons enjoyed a wide variety of programs this year at PPL, such as Galentine's Day and a pop-up Book Tasting.

"I am so thankful for a wonderful library full of kind and knowledgeable people. I love the programs offered and attend as many as I can. —Judy Mattson

Adults

123 programs were offered to adult patrons in 2023. These programs were designed to engage, enlighten, and entertain.

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

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.



Dr. David Hurford, Director, and staff members of the PSU Center for READING (Research, Evaluation, and Awareness of Dyslexia) pose with PPL staff members at the Cup of Conversation program in October.

Since its debut, A Cup of Conversation has seen over 100 community members come to have a coffee and chat with a local person of interest.

Collections and Services

128,142 Print checkouts
25,594 Digital borrows
4,236 Database uses
157,972 Total Checkouts

2.1 million
print & digital materials
available to card holders*

*up from 1.8 million in 2022

63,204 Library building visits
23,659 Wireless users
23,234 Patrons with library cards
20,100 Website visits
16,856 Questions answered
9,950 Computer users
1,305 New library cards
526 Bookmobile deliveries
406 Curbside pick-ups
148 Hotspot check-outs*

*providing thousands of hours of free internet use!

Children

The Youth Services Department offered a whopping 240 programs in 2023!

From programs that promoted early literacy, inspired creativity, or educated—we had something to offer the over 17,000 program participants in 2023!



Meet Ollie!

Ollie was one of 1,305 community members that received a new library card in 2023.

His mom says, "Ollie lovesssss going to the library!"

Be like Ollie—get your Library Card today!

Teens

982 teens attended over 50 teen programs in 2023, 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.

"I really appreciate you all at the library. Thankful for everything you do. My kids are happy to go every time. —Cesar B Chaidez



Out and About

One of our favorite Outreach Services is the permanent StoryWalk located at Lakeside Park. The StoryWalk is an innovative and delightful way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time.

In 2023, 8 brand new stories and 4 repeat favorites were used for the StoryWalk. Each story is accompanied by read-aloud audio component accessed via mobile device, available in both English and Spanish.



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

"Thank you so much for providing this service to area children. You do an awesome job and have for years (40 years that I know of!) —Kathy Hamilton

421 programs were offered for all ages
22,474 community members attended a library program this year



In the winter, teen volunteers decorated throughout the first floor of the library and helped put together the library's Holiday Literary Trees. The themed trees have become an annual tradition, attracting hundreds of visitors to the library.

(Right) Teens attended Teen Nights in June at Root Coffeehouse during the summer reading program. Teens were treated to a free drink ticket for each of the events at Root.

Community Engagement



(Above) Toni Zibert and Tori Glover make their weekly rounds with deliveries in PPL's Bookmobile. The Bookmobile made 523 deliveries in 2023 to homes, daycares, and assisted living facilities.

Block Party

On June 1st, the Library celebrated the official opening of our newly renovated Courtyard and the kickoff of our summer reading programs with a community Block Party.

It was an evening of excitement for the entire family with food, mini golf, art, bubbles, face-painting, live music, and more!

Over **700** community members attended this fun and free event!

“ Good for you! So fortunate to have a library that offers such outstanding programs and services. —Jane Yearout



You may have spotted us at...

Trunk-or-Treat with the
City of Pittsburgh
PSU Community Fair
Pittsburg Art Walk
Farmer's Market Kids' Days
Summer Story Time at Lincoln Park
PSU Homecoming Parade
City of Pittsburgh Christmas Parade
YMCA
PHS's ESOL class
USD 250 Kindergarten Round-Up
Root Coffeehouse
Earth Day Celebration
at Pritchett Pavilion

Library Courtyard Completed

The Library Courtyard Project was completed in 2023. This renovated space now provides a usable outdoor space for library programs, Wi-Fi usage, and a community gathering place.

The Courtyard was funded by the Pittsburgh Public Library Foundation. Outdoor furniture was purchased through a grant from the Leon V. & Dorothy M. Skubitz Foundation.

(Right) The new courtyard construction began in 2022.



Community Support

The library partnered with many community organizations and individuals to facilitate new programs and services for our patrons in 2023. We couldn't do it without you!

Education

7-11 Science Summer Programs
with Greenbush

Books & Badges
with Pittsburg Police Department

Early Foraging Program
with Jesse Gilmore of Wildcat Extension

Talking Heads Discussion Group
led by local community members

Land of Stories (aacimwahki)
with Darcie Schultz of Books & Burrow

Scam Alert Program
with Julie Smith of Wildcat Extension

Enrichment

A CreepyPasta Christmas
read by Khadija Ceesay, Gunner Mengarelli,
Morey Price, and Michael Fienen

Community Sing-Along
with J.T. Knoll

Irish Tales & Legends
with Maeve Cummings

Tricksters and Wise Women: How
Stories Travel the World
with Priscilla Howe

Book Madness Reading Program
organized by library staff

A Cup of Conversation
led by community members of interest

New in 2023

As part of the Library's long range planning process, several new services made their debut in 2023.

Meet Libby

by OverDrive



In May, the Pittsburgh Public Library joined the Sunflower Digital Consortium which features the popular **Libby App**. This new service quickly became a popular new service with library patrons!

"Love this App! I listened to a couple of great books on my last long car trip. I didn't expect to like reading on my phone but found I like it fine with Libby."
—Colleen Brooks

Health

Dementia Caregivers Support
with KU Alzheimer's Research Center

Grief Support Group
with Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice

Health Insurance Information
with SEK-CAP

Jr. Chef 6-Week Summer
Program for Kids
with K-State Extension

Social Services Assistance
with Community Health Center of SEK

Create Better Health
with K-State Extension

Hobbies

iCraft Monthly Programs
led by library staff

Modern Calligraphy
with Lucy Mwanzia

Scrabble Club
led by local community members

LEGO BuilderSpace
led by library staff

Professional Puppet Theater
with What If Puppets

and many, many more!

Device Advice Appointments

This new tech service debuted in January 2023. The library provided nearly **200** one-on-one sessions to patrons seeking assistance with their smart phones, tablets, or laptops.

Group Meeting Room

Located on the 2nd floor near the Computer Lab this area is available to anyone needing a space for informal meetings or group study.



The **PPL Foundation** was founded in 1999 to enhance the services of the Pittsburg Public Library. The PPLF is administered by the Foundation Board and funds are managed by the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas.

Foundation funding has provided both annual operation support and funded many library improvement projects, such as the Bookmobile and its carport, the new Courtyard, building upgrades, and more.



(Left) PPL Foundation Board members Diane James and Dawn McNay volunteer at the grand opening of the library's renovated Courtyard at the Community Block Party in June.



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 2023, 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.