

REACH BETWEEN CREATING COMMUNITY



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READ LEARN CREATE

Read, Learn, Create, Connect

In 2023, Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) entered its second century of service to the community. We achieved some notable milestones and made significant progress in our efforts to empower individuals and communities by providing opportunities for all to read, learn, create and connect. This report recaps our most notable 2023 activities, including breaking ground for the construction of a new Brooklyn Branch, beginning the process of building new facilities in Beachwood and Parma Heights, and the launch of a new Integrated Library System (ILS) to enhance the borrowing experience for our more than 450,000 cardholders.

CCPL has earned a reputation as one of America's best library systems. We are known for our high level of activity, innovative programs and services that address the needs of our communities. In this report, you will find many examples of our impact and commitment to providing excellent library service.

Happy reading!

This Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is a summary of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the year ended December 31, 2023. The financial data in the PAFR is derived from the more detailed ACFR. Both reports are consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and guidelines established by the Government Accounting Standards Board. You can find both the PAFR and the ACFR online at cuyahogalibrary.org.

The data and listings in this report are accurate as of December 31, 2023.

Our Mission

To empower individuals and communities by providing opportunities for all to read, learn, create and connect.

Our Vision

We envision a thriving and inclusive Cuyahoga County where all residents benefit from and are inspired by Cuyahoga County Public Library's innovative resources, services and programs.



Our Strategic Plan

Goal 1:

Advance literacy and lifelong learning through innovative programs and services that meet the diverse needs and interests of our communities.

Goal 2:

Prioritize connections with our customers and our communities.

Goal 3:

Nurture a culture of inclusion and respect that empowers staff and equitably connects our communities to opportunity.



Scan to learn more about our strategic plan

About CCPL

In 1921, the State Legislature of Ohio passed a law that enabled the establishment of a county district library for any area not already served by a public library, subject to a vote of the people. At that time, public libraries had already been established in eight communities in the county – Cleveland, Cleveland Heights/University Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Lakewood, Rocky River, Shaker Heights and Westlake.

As residents began moving into outlying areas of Cuyahoga County and the need for library services in those areas became more evident, a referendum was placed on the November 7, 1922, general election ballot to authorize a county district library. The referendum passed by more than two to one, establishing Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL).

Today, CCPL has 27 branches that serve 47 communities. Among America’s metropolitan library systems, we are consistently one of the busiest per capita in terms of circulation, number of visitors, program attendance and other metrics typically used to evaluate public libraries. CCPL has become synonymous with innovation, recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in public library service.

Our Locations



Bay Village Branch

Maryann Penzvalto, Manager



Brook Park Branch

Gabriel Venditti, Manager



Gates Mills Branch

Maryanne Haller, Manager



North Olmsted Branch

Shayna Muckerheide, Manager



Parma-Powers Branch

Donna Meyers, Manager



Beachwood Branch

Amia Wheatley, Manager



Brooklyn Branch

Mary Schreiber, Manager



Independence Branch

Melanie Rapp-Weiss, Manager



North Royalton Branch

Becky Wendeln, Manager



Parma-Snow Branch

Stacey Boycik, Manager



Bedford Branch

Eboni Dickerson, Manager



Chagrin Falls Branch

Maryanne Haller, Manager



Maple Heights Branch

Deva Walker, Manager



Olmsted Falls Branch

Kalyn Kappelman, Manager



Richmond Heights Branch

Julie Liedtke, Manager



Berea Branch

Kalyn Kappelman, Manager



Fairview Park Branch

Jesse Sanders, Manager



Mayfield Branch

Julie Liedtke, Manager



Orange Branch

Ginaya Willoughby, Manager



Solon Branch

Darlene Davis, Manager



Brecksville Branch

Melanie Rapp-Weiss, Manager



Garfield Heights Branch

Anthony Furino, Manager



Middleburg Heights Branch

Ron Block, Manager



Parma Heights Branch

Krista Tokarz, Manager



South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch

Steve Haynie, Manager



Strongsville Branch

Megan Barrett, Manager



Warrensville Heights Branch

Ali Boyd, Manager





A message from our Chief Executive Officer

Two-thousand twenty-three was a very eventful year at Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL). I am so proud of all that we accomplished in support of our mission and vision.

In August, we launched an exciting new catalog experience for our customers. Our catalog is integral to our operations. It is how we manage our collection and how our customers find and request materials to borrow. This change was no small undertaking as staff had 20 years of experience using our previous catalog system. We also had to migrate an enormous amount of complex data, including 456,569 customer records, 217,000 bibliographic records and more than 1.3 million item records. I'm so proud of how our staff have risen to the challenge of the new system, which I believe will benefit CCPL and its customers for many years to come.

We opened new Innovation Centers at our Fairview Park and Warrensville Heights branches. CCPL now has Innovation Centers at six branches across the county (including Bay Village, Garfield Heights, Mayfield and Parma-Snow) where customers can access and learn how to use advanced software applications, emerging technologies and production equipment to create and collaborate. Additional Innovation Centers are planned for our Brooklyn and Solon branches in 2024.

In 2022, CCPL adopted a new Facilities Master Plan (FMP) to guide the next decade of facilities investments and ensure our branches continue to provide excellent service, equitable access and engaging experiences. The FMP included recommendations for major building renovation and replacement projects. We made progress on several of those projects in 2023. Most notably, construction began for a new, 25,000 square foot Brooklyn Branch on Memphis Avenue across from Brooklyn's beautiful new City Center. In addition to an Innovation Center, the new branch will include an interactive children's area, meeting rooms, study rooms, a drive-up window and a dedicated Pearson Vue testing center where customers can take the GED® test. The center will also offer certification and licensure exams for careers in a variety of industries. We anticipate a grand opening celebration in the fall of 2024. You will find more information about the new Brooklyn Branch and our other facilities projects on pages 28 and 29 of this report.

I want to thank the CCPL staff and our customers, as well as the Board of Trustees, Foundation Board members, Friends of the Library members, elected officials and community partners for a wonderful year. I look forward to another successful year in 2024.

Tracy R. Strobel
Chief Executive Officer

Our Leadership

Principal officers as of December 31, 2023.

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Greg Cordek
Chief Financial Officer/
Fiscal Officer



Monique Good
Chief Human
Resources Officer



Pam Jankowski
Chief Public
Services Officer



Kate McCreary
Chief Communications &
External Relations Officer



Jeff Mori
Chief Operations
Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Daniel Barden
Technical Services
Director



Enda Bracken
Branch Services Director
(East)



Holly Camino
Branch Services Director
(West)



Robert Dolan
Finance Director/
Deputy Fiscal Officer



Izoduwa Ebose-Holt
Human Resources
Director



Dr. Terry Echols
Adult Education
Services Director



Lane Edwards
Branch Services
Director (South)



James Haprian
Information Technology
Director



Jessy Kanelos
Development Director



Rebecca Ranallo
Literacy & Learning
Director



Rob Rua
Marketing Director



Message from our Board President

I have had the privilege to serve as the president of the Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) Board of Trustees in 2022 and 2023, and I am amazed by all we have accomplished in that time. We celebrated CCPL's 100th anniversary, eliminated daily overdue fines, adopted a new Facilities Master Plan to guide our capital improvements for the next decade, opened new Innovation Centers at the Warrensville Heights and Fairview Park branches, and broke ground for a new Brooklyn Branch. It has truly been a highlight of my public service career to serve as the Board president during this special time in the history of CCPL.

As a lifelong county resident, I feel a great sense of pride in our library system. Chief Executive Officer Tracy Strobel and the library staff do an amazing job of serving our communities and finding innovative new ways to meet their needs. A big part of the reason CCPL is regarded as a leader in public library service across the nation is that our staff are so service-oriented and forward-thinking. On behalf of the Board, I thank the entire staff for all of their hard work and dedication to excellent library service.

Although my tenure as president has come to end, I look forward to serving a second term on the Board of Trustees. We have much to look forward to in the years ahead. Construction of a new Brooklyn Branch is well underway, and a major renovation and addition to the Solon Branch is moving forward. Plans to replace the Beachwood and Parma Heights branches have also begun. We are entering our second century of service to the community with tremendous momentum.

I want to thank the residents of the 47 communities we serve, our Friends of the Library groups, donors, volunteers, elected officials, and the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation for their ongoing support. It has been an absolute joy to serve as Board president during this amazing time for our library system. I look forward to continuing my service on the Board for many years to come.



Dean DePiero
Board President

Our Board of Trustees

Governance

CCPL is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees authorized by the State of Ohio to establish policies and an annual budget. Board members represent the citizens' interests while promoting the highest level of library service to the community. Trustees are appointed to seven-year terms by Cuyahoga County government and the Court of Common Pleas. They are a volunteer board that serves without pay.

*Board of Trustees as of
December 31, 2023*

Dean E. DePiero President

Dean DePiero has served as Of Counsel for McDonald Hopkins since 2005 and is currently the Law Director for the City of Aurora and Assistant Law Director/Prosecutor for Broadview Heights. Mr. DePiero had also served as the Mayor of Parma and as an Ohio State Representative. He was appointed by the Cuyahoga County Executive with confirmation by the Cuyahoga County Council. His term expires in January 2031.



Allyn Davies (1) Vice President

Allyn Davies is the Co-Owner of The Merrymeeting Group. She also serves on the Cuyahoga County Library Foundation Board and Cleveland Central Catholic High School Advisory Board. She was reappointed by the Cuyahoga County Executive with confirmation by the Cuyahoga County Council. Her term expires in March 2029.



Maria L. Spangler Secretary

Maria Spangler is the Director of Community Engagement for The Sherwin-Williams Company. She was reappointed by the Court of Common Pleas. Her term expires May 2024.



Edward H. Blakemore (2) Trustee

Ed Blakemore is Assistant General Counsel at Rockwell Automation where he has primary responsibility for product liability, commercial and toxic tort litigation filed against the Fortune 500 company. He was reappointed for a seven-year term by the Cuyahoga County Executive with confirmation by Cuyahoga County Council. His term expires December 2026.



William J. Leonard Trustee

William Leonard, currently retired, has spent the better part of the last 45 years as CFO at Great Lakes Construction and subsequently at Union Risk Advisors (Oswald Companies). He currently serves on the board of St. Edward High School, and is also a member of the Velosano Steering Committee (Cleveland Clinic cancer research). He was reappointed for a seven-year term by the Court of Common Pleas to the CCPL Board. His term expires November 2028.



Patricia A. Shlonsky Trustee

Patty Shlonsky is Partner-in-Charge of UB Greensfelder's Cleveland office and serves on the Firm's governing board. She was reappointed for a seven-year term by the Cuyahoga County Executive with confirmation by Cuyahoga County Council. Her term expires January 2027.



Amira Thomas (3) Trustee

Amira Thomas is the Founder of Learning As You Grow, an organization that provides mentoring programs for young female scholars, and wrap around services for underprivileged communities. She graduated from Cleveland State University where she received her bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in education. Ms. Thomas was appointed by the Court of Common Pleas. Her term expires October 2025.

(1) As of January 23, 2024, Allyn Davies was elected President, (2) Edward H. Blakemore was elected Vice President, (3) Amira Thomas was elected Secretary



At CCPL, we strive to provide a collection of diverse materials that informs, entertains and inspires; and we delight in helping our customers discover new favorites, whether it is through daily interactions or online reading recommendation services like Read Intuit and our Bookish email newsletter. In 2023, we implemented a new and improved library catalog experience that features a powerful search engine, making it easier than ever for our customers to discover physical and digital materials from our world class collection. It also offers exciting customization features and value-added content like reading recommendations, read-alikes, reviews and ratings. Other features allow our customers to find and register for Library programs and access our premium electronic resources without leaving the catalog.



Growth

in Digital Content

Circulation of digital materials continued its upward trend last year. Customers borrowed a record high 3.4 million eBook and audiobook titles through our OverDrive/Libby collection.



3,839,143 (+8.58%)
CIRCULATION –
ALL DIGITAL CONTENT

1,950,521 (+2.66%)
OVERDRIVE/LIBBY
EBOOKS BORROWED

1,535,323 (+21.60%)
OVERDRIVE/LIBBY
AUDIOBOOKS BORROWED

37,418 (+2.18%)
HOOPLA STREAMING MUSIC
ALBUMS BORROWED

28,000 (-2.70%)
HOOPLA DIGITAL
COMICS BORROWED

1,238 (+55.98%)
HOOPLA BINGE
PASSES BORROWED

34,249 (-5.26%)
HOOPLA STREAMING
VIDEO TITLES BORROWED

102,701 (+6.51%)
KANOPY STREAMING
VIDEOS BORROWED

124,581 (-16.95%)
FLIPSTER DIGITAL MAGAZINES

24,392 (+1.69%)
HOOPLA STREAMING
MOVIES BORROWED



Authors, Authors, Authors!

When it comes to offering readers opportunities to meet their favorite authors, CCPL has few peers. A decade ago, many publicists couldn't even pronounce Cuyahoga, let alone locate it on a map. Now we are one of the preeminent destinations in the U.S. for authors to visit and meet their fans. Last year we hosted a diverse array of more than 120 authors, including dozens of *New York Times* bestsellers, award-winners, an internationally famous chef and even a couple of movie stars.

123

AUTHOR EVENTS AT CCPL

9,952

AUTHOR EVENT ATTENDEES

LEARN

At CCPL, one of our strategic goals is to advance literacy and lifelong learning through innovative programs and services that meet the diverse needs and interests of our communities. From yoga storytimes to laser engraving, we strive to deliver programs that inform, delight and inspire.

13,765

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

287,339

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Adult Education

CCPL supports the region’s economic development by offering non-traditional pathways to educational attainment for adults. Through Aspire Greater Cleveland, we are helping new Americans learn English, prepare for the U.S. Citizenship Test and more.



844

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES CLASSES, FY23

177

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN U.S. CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

30

ESOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN RISE UP CUSTOMER SERVICE & SALES CERTIFICATION CLASSES TRAINING

446

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA PREP CLASSES (INCLUDING 240 INCARCERATED STUDENTS), FY23

Early Childhood Literacy

Through our Baby Club program, which is made possible through the support of Ohio's 529 Plan, CollegeAdvantage, we empower parents and help them build their child's brain through simple, research-based activities that build language and literacy skills. Club members also benefit from connecting with local support services like Help Me Grow and Ohio Afterschool Childhood Enrichment.



1,565

BABY CLUB ATTENDEES
(CHILDREN)

1,647

BABY CLUB ATTENDEES
(ADULTS)

147

FAMILIES ENROLLED IN K-CLUB

99%

PERCENTAGE OF K-CLUB GRADUATES
SCORED AS "ON TRACK" ACCORDING
TO THE OHIO DEPT OF EDUCATION'S
KINDERGARTEN READINESS
GUIDELINES

9.2

(OUT OF 10) AVERAGE RATING
OF K-CLUB'S
EFFECTIVENESS
BY SURVEYED
PARENTS



Kindergarten Readiness

Our kindergarten readiness programs help level the playing field for families whose children have not had the benefit of classroom-style preschool, daycare or Head Start programs. Through Kindergarten Club (K-Club), children entering kindergarten learn valuable skills for a successful transition to the classroom, such as following directions, letter and number recognition, and taking turns. Participants are evaluated pre- and post- program using a scoring system based on the Ohio Department of Education Kindergarten Readiness Guidelines. Based on those guidelines, 52 percent of participants demonstrated deficiencies upon entering K-Club. After participating in the program, 99 percent of participants were scored as "on track" and prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

We piloted a new Preschool Club program at the Garfield Heights and South Euclid-Lyndhurst branches for 3 and 4-year-olds. The program was designed to help children gain critical skills for the classroom like taking turns, following directions and recognition of patterns, colors, shapes and sizes. The cost of childcare can be prohibitive for many families in our communities. Preschool Club helps address this issue in communities where the need is greatest.

71

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL
CLUB PILOT PROGRAM

54%

PRESCHOOL CLUB FAMILIES
WITH HOUSEHOLD INCOME
OF \$49,000 OR LESS

+10.87

AVERAGE KINDERGARTEN
READINESS SCORE INCREASE
AMONG PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Grade Level Reading Support

Our 1-2-3 BOOST and 1-2-3 READ grade level reading programs help developing readers in grades K-3 improve their reading skills and comprehension. We work with local school districts to identify students who are struggling and provide them with free reading support at seven CCPL branches after school. In addition to reading support, students participate in activities designed to teach the core components of the science of reading - phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. More than nine out of ten parents reported that their child improved their reading skills after participating in these programs.

2,052

1-2-3 READ (GRADES 1-3)
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

98.27%

STUDENTS WHO MADE PROGRESS TOWARD
GRADE LEVEL READING

485

1-2-3 BOOST (KINDERGARTEN)
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

90.50%

STUDENTS WHO MADE PROGRESS
TOWARD GRADE LEVEL READING



Supporting Student Success

Our afterschool Student Success Centers program, which is offered at twelve branches, continues to help students improve their grades and subject comprehension, while our Kids Café and Summer Lunch programs helped ensure K-12 students had access to nutritious meals and snacks during out-of-school time.

96.22%

PERCENTAGE OF SURVEYED PARENTS THAT STATED STUDENT SUCCESS
CENTERS HELPED THEIR CHILD BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR HOMEWORK

9,956

TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENT
SUCCESS CENTER SESSIONS

25,217

MEALS SERVED AFTER SCHOOL
THROUGH THE KIDS CAFÉ PROGRAM



5,566

SUMMER LUNCHES SERVED



In 2023, CCPL made great strides toward achieving its goal of advancing literacy and lifelong learning through innovative programs and services that meet the diverse needs and interests of our communities. We opened new Innovation Centers at our Fairview Park and Warrensville Heights branches that provide users free access to design software, emerging technologies and production equipment. Designed to contribute to the region’s economic growth and support local entrepreneurs, Innovation Centers also serve as learning spaces where adult learners gain new skills and explore their creativity.

CCPL currently offers Innovation Centers at six branches: Bay Village, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, Mayfield, Parma-Snow and Warrensville Heights. New Innovation Centers are planned for the Brooklyn and Solon branches in 2024.



Learn more about CCPL
Innovation Centers

INNOVATION CENTERS (ALL LOCATIONS)

7,133
 USER SESSIONS

1,470
 NEW USERS

275
 ORIENTATION CLASSES



184

WRITING PROGRAMS

2,020

PROGRAM ATTENDEES

The William N. Skirball Writers' Center

The William N. Skirball Writers' Center, located in the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch, welcomed Brandi Larsen as CCPL's new writer in residence. Larsen is a former publishing executive, Emmy-nominated journalist and author who focuses on building a more inclusive publishing landscape. As writer in residence, she leads workshops and offers office hours to support local writers in their journeys toward publication.

The Writers' Center offers a variety of writing workshops for all ages and levels of experience, as well as private writing rooms, laptops and a special collection of materials on the art of writing.



The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Memory Lab

Users of the Memory Lab located at the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch learn how to convert analog technologies such as video cassettes, photographs, vinyl records and 8mm film into digital formats. In 2023, more than 200 customers completed orientation and become new users. CCPL plans to expand the Lab's offerings to include additional maker equipment in 2024.

265

USER SESSIONS

34

ORIENTATION CLASSES

203

NEW USERS

Recording Studios

CCPL offers recording studios in four branches (Garfield Heights, Strongsville, South Euclid-Lyndhurst and Warrensville Heights) across the county. Users learn how to use the studios' equipment and software to create their own audio tracks and green screen videos.

380

NEW USERS

90

ORIENTATION CLASSES

413

USER SESSIONS



CCPL continues to advance its strategic goal of prioritizing connections with its customers and communities by providing critical social infrastructure and collaborating with local organizations to deliver information services related to e-government, transportation, housing and food assistance. Our branches drew more than 3.6 million visitors to borrow materials, attend programs and benefit from free amenities such as public meeting rooms, study rooms, multi-function printers and technology access.



31,216
STUDY ROOM BOOKINGS

10,883
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM BOOKINGS

1,372
VIRTUAL MEETINGS HOSTED

CONNECT



3,649,444
(+21.71%) CUSTOMER VISITS



Bridging the Digital Divide

CCPL provides critical social infrastructure. Its branches are vital hubs where county residents can connect to the internet and learn technology skills at no cost. Participants in CCPL's free computer classes now have the option to enroll in the Northstar Digital Literacy project, a certification program that provides an important credential for employment, as even entry-level jobs increasingly require basic computer skills.

CCPL's Digital Navigators are trusted guides who help county residents find affordable home internet service and devices, learn how to use critical online resources like email, internet browsers and apps.

Civic Engagement

On July 20, CCPL collaborated with Ideastream Public Media to host The Sound of Ideas Community Tour in the Sari Feldman Auditorium at the Parma-Snow Branch. The event, convened by Ideastream executive editor Mike McIntyre, provided residents with a unique opportunity to hear experts from both sides discuss State Issue 1, and to weigh in with questions and comments throughout the conversation.



400

COUNTY RESIDENTS REGISTERED FOR THE SOI COMMUNITY TOUR EVENT

850,981
WI-FI SESSIONS

674,768
PUBLIC COMPUTER SESSIONS



262
FREE COMPUTER CLASSES
HOSTED (IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL)

3,214,440
PAGES PRINTED ON PUBLIC COPIERS

2,281
COMPUTER CLASS PARTICIPANTS
(IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL)

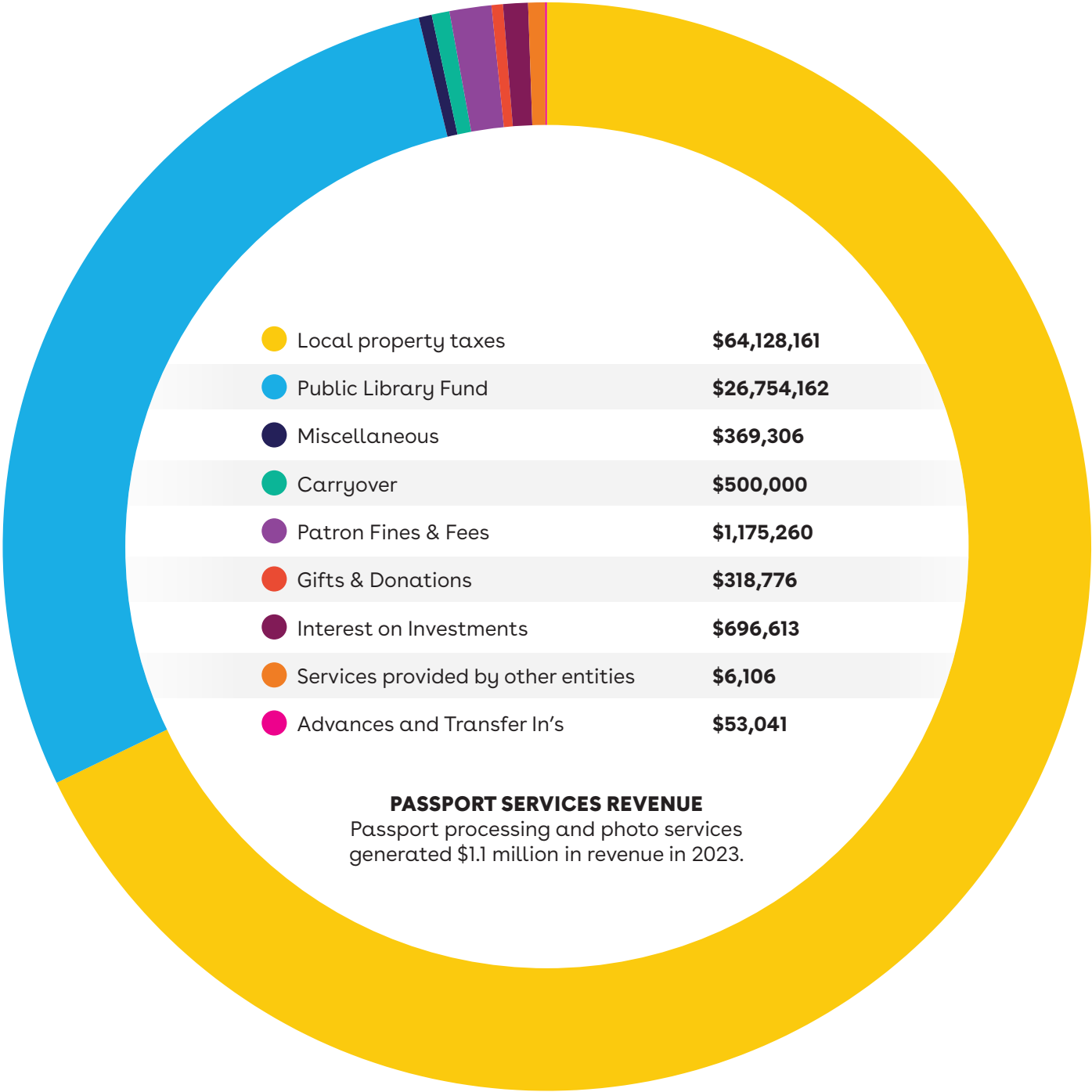
785
RESIDENTS SERVED BY CCPL'S
DIGITAL NAVIGATORS

68
STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED NORTHSTAR
DIGITAL LITERACY CERTIFICATION

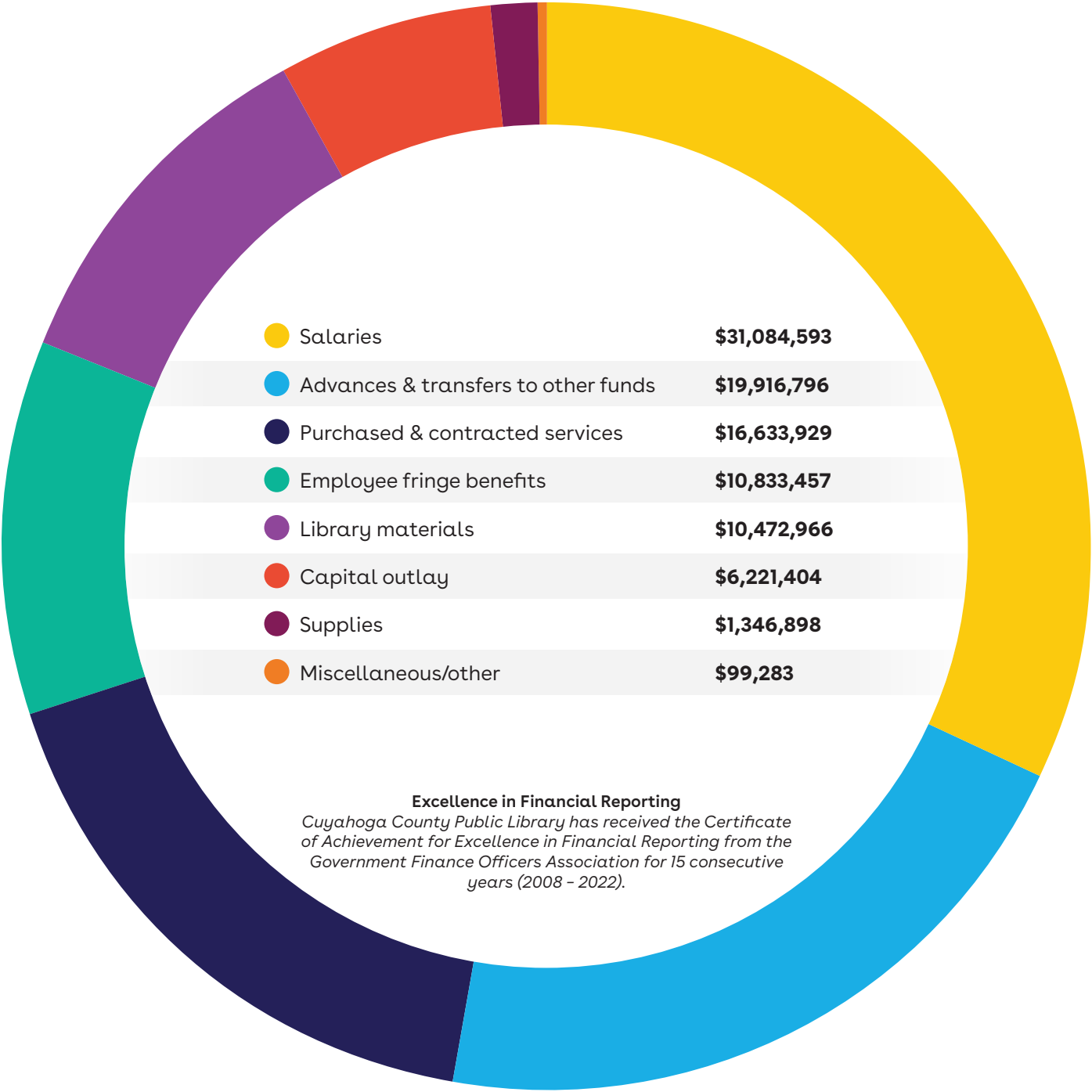
345
RESIDENTS REFERRED
TO THE AFFORDABLE
CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM



General Revenue Fund



General Fund Expenditures



Our Facilities Master Plan

CCPL’s branches serve as vital community hubs where customers of all ages benefit from access to books, broadband internet, community meeting spaces, thousands of programs and classes for all ages and much more. We are committed to providing vibrant, flexible libraries that enrich our customers’ lives and further advance our mission, vision and strategic objectives.

Our Facilities Master Plan (FMP) lays out a roadmap for 10 years of capital improvements. It is a comprehensive plan that considers every CCPL location and provides recommendations to ensure all of our facilities are well maintained. The FMP also includes recommendations for strategic renovations and replacement projects. Several of those projects are underway.



Download the Facilities Master Plan 2023-2032

Brooklyn Branch

In 2023, construction began for a new, 25,000-square-foot Brooklyn Branch on Memphis Avenue across from Brooklyn’s beautiful new City Center. In addition to an Innovation Center, the new branch will include a full-body play children’s area, meeting rooms, study rooms, a drive-up window and a dedicated Pearson Vue testing center where customers can take certification and licensure exams for careers in a variety of industries. We anticipate a grand opening in the fall of 2024.



North Olmsted Branch

The teen area in the North Olmsted Branch received a much-needed renovation. Located across from North Olmsted High School, the branch is a popular after school destination for students. The renovated space is better able to accommodate afterschool activity and meet students’ needs.

Beachwood Branch

Preliminary design of a new Beachwood Branch is underway. The new branch will be located at the site of our existing branch on Shaker Boulevard. It is CCPL’s intention to build an approximately 30,000-square-foot facility that includes an auditorium space similar to the Sari Feldman Auditorium located in the Parma-Snow Branch. We plan to break ground on this project in 2025.



Parma Heights Branch

Plans are moving forward to replace the existing Parma Heights Branch with a new, approximately 21,000-square-foot facility which will be built in Greenbriar Commons, not far from our existing location. The new building will include an Innovation Center and the central offices for our Aspire Greater Cleveland adult education services staff. The plan also includes an onsite early learning center operated by The Centers, that will serve as a learning lab for adults pursuing careers in early childhood education (ECE).

The early learning center will be the second in the CCPL system (the early learning center currently located in our Maple Heights Branch is also operated by The Centers), but the learning lab will be a first. Students seeking an Associate of Applied Science degree in ECE through Tri-C will receive practical experience by working on-site.

We see the Parma Heights Branch project as an opportunity to help address one of the biggest problems facing the county’s childcare centers – lack of a skilled workforce. Our hope is the program will expand the pool of qualified childcare workers while offering opportunities for good paying jobs.



Solon Branch

Our Solon Branch is in the final phase of design for renovation and addition in a joint project with the City of Solon. The project will add approximately 3,000 square feet of new space and include five new study rooms and an Innovation Center designed to support careers in smart manufacturing. We anticipate completing the project by the end of 2024.

Our Friends

CCPL benefits from the support of 25 Friends of the Library groups who volunteer their time and energy to raise funds in support of library programs and equipment needs. We thank all of our Friends of the Library groups for their ongoing support.

\$44,734
RAISED BY CCPL FRIENDS
OF THE LIBRARY

236
LIBRARY PROGRAMS
MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH
FRIENDS SUPPORT

- Friends of the Bay Village Library
- Friends of Beachwood Library, Inc.
- Friends of the Berea Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library
- Brecksville Broadview Heights. Friends of the Library
- Brook Park Library Friends
- Friends of Brooklyn Library
- The Friends of the Chagrin Falls Library, Inc.
- The Friends of the Fairview Park Library, Inc.
- The Friends of the Garfield Heights Library
- The Friends of the Gates Mills Public Library, Inc.
- Friends of Independence Library
- Friends of the Maple Heights Library
- Friends of the Mayfield Library, Inc.
- The Friends of the Library of Middleburg Heights, Inc.
- The Friends of the North Olmsted Library
- Friends of the North Royalton Library
- Friends of the Olmsted Falls Library
- The Friends of the Orange Branch Library
- Friends of the Parma Libraries
- The Friends of Parma Heights Library, Inc.
- Friends of the Solon Library
- The Friends of the South Euclid Lyndhurst Library
- Friends of the Southeast Library (Bedford)
- Friends of the Strongsville Library
- Friends of the Warrensville Community Library, Inc.

Volunteers

Many our programs and services would not be possible without the support of volunteers who give their time to distribute food items at our Mobile Pantry events, assist struggling readers, support STEAM programs and help make our fundraising events successful. We appreciate the individuals and groups who volunteered their support in 2023.

3,111
VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS



Mobile Pantry @ CCPL

In 2023, CCPL collaborated with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to host monthly mobile pantry food distribution events at nine branches throughout the year. These events provided county residents in need with fresh produce and shelf stable food items. Many of the residents served by the mobile pantry are seniors on fixed incomes. Nearly half of residents served (46.47%) reported having minor children in their households.

256,023
MEALS PROVIDED



Our Foundation

Established in 2002, the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation exists to raise financial resources in support of the Library’s mission and to elevate awareness of the Library’s critical role in the community. To date, the CCPL Foundation has granted more than 1 million dollars in support of critical library operations, innovative programming and capital investments.

Members

- Janet AuWerter
- Brett P. Barragate
- Caroline Borrow, PhD
- Helen Rankin Butler
- Quo Vadis Cobb
- Allyn Davies, Secretary
- Bob DiBiasio
- Eric Dicken
- Lori Ann Franklin
- Tamara M. Hagerty
- Jennifer Hartford
- Ron Konstantinovsky
- Bridget Martin
- Lisa Cynamon Mayers
- Shaun Ng
- Anthony Panzica
- Anne-Marie Petros
- M. Neal Rains, Chair
- William I. Russo, CFP®, Treasurer
- George Sample
- Carter Samuelraj
- Caroline Selman
- Lorie Hollington Smith
- Tracy Strobel, President
- April Walker



2023 Activity

\$445,724

CONTRIBUTED TO THE ANNUAL FUND



Top Grants

Free isn’t free. Many of CCPL’s most impactful programs are made possible through grant funds awarded by the CCPL Foundation.

\$75,000

Sari Feldman Auditorium Updates

In 2023, the Sari Feldman Auditorium (pictured left) located in the Parma-Snow Branch hosted 124 events. Opened a decade ago, the Auditorium is in need of equipment and technology updates to keep the space accessible and inclusive. Thanks in part to CCPL Foundation support, the Auditorium will be outfitted with a new projection screen, speakers and livestream capability. The updated space will be ready for use by the public in spring 2024.

\$53,946

Summer Learning Programs

CCPL Foundation support enabled the expansion of summer programs that keep students engaged and learning so they can build on what they learned during the school year. Grant dollars enabled the expansion of Summer Fun for Everyone STEAM programs, the extension of the 1·2·3 READ program, and participation incentives that helped increase engagement in the annual summer reading program.



\$10,000

Digital Health Literacy

In collaboration with the Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Coalition, and supported with funding from CCPL’s Foundation, the Library developed a digital health literacy curriculum utilized by the CCPL Digital Navigators to assist local seniors with access to online resources like Cleveland Clinic’s MyChart, virtual doctor visits and telehealth services.





The William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series



For 20 seasons, the William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series has presented a diverse representation of the literary world, from Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winners to up-and-coming novelists, award-winning journalists, noted historians and even a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer. Writers Center Stage started out as an effort to foster Greater Cleveland’s reading community and add to the region’s cultural offerings. It has also become an important part of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation’s efforts to raise funds in support of critical library programs that address the greatest needs of our community.

107
WRITERS CENTER STAGE EVENTS
OVER 20 SEASONS

129
WRITERS HAVE BEEN
OUR GUESTS SO FAR

2,826
WRITERS CENTER STAGE 2023 ATTENDEES (IN-PERSON)

\$132,807
FUNDS RAISED

417
VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

Reading the Green

GOLF OUTING

The Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation hosted the 19th Reading the Green Golf Outing fundraiser at the beautiful Lakewood Country Club on July 10, 2023. This annual event directly supports Library programs such as reading tutoring for children, after-school homework help, workforce development programs for job seekers and technology training for the digitally disadvantaged.

0
HOLES IN ONE

\$104,287
FUNDS RAISED

Testimonials

"Thank God for Kindergarten Club. We so appreciate all you have done for Lina and all the Kindergarten Club children."

[Slavi](#)

"It has been a busy week, so I forgot to thank @CuyahogaLib for all the assistance with getting our new #passports which we received last Monday. The #librarian was trained to make the process easy!"

[@sos_jr](#)

"Thank you for all you do for others."

[Natalie Lynn Travis](#)

"Congratulations to Tracy Strobel for her leadership of the Cuyahoga County Public Library and service to our community."

[@Marnecheck](#)

"We are so lucky to have an excellent library system in CC!"

[Noelle Tsevdos](#)

We are excited to be working with our community partner, @cuyahogalib doing research for upcoming workshops in their system's Innovation Centers! The CCPL Innovation Centers are FREE to use if you're a cardholder.

[@zygotepress](#)

We have such a love for our local libraries ❤️

[Clewithkids](#)

Thank you, Matt of @CuyahogaLib for providing a wonderful orientation to the Bay branch's Innovation Center for the @BaySchoolsOH K-12 library/media staff! We can't wait to test our skills on your amazing equipment!

[@iReyn](#)

I'm still walking on air after a fantastic event at the @CuyahogaLib with @rsblock. The library staff was so welcoming, the audience was AMAZING. This gives me motivation to finish book three just so I can (hopefully!) get invited back to #Cleveland!

[@juliecardalt](#)

We're lucky to live in a community with an AMAZING public library right here in Garfield Heights:

★ Baby Club

★ Kindergarten Club

★ Mobile Food Pantry

@CuyahogaLib #EarlyLiteracy

#GarfieldHeights

[@BrillianceOhio](#)

Thank you to everyone who packed the theater to max capacity at the @CuyahogaLib in Parma, OH tonight, and to the Cuyahoga County Public Library staff for hosting such a fun event!

[@JackCarrUSA](#)

@CuyahogaLib THE greatest resource for our community!! There is virtually nothing you can't find here. #libraries #books #morethanbooks

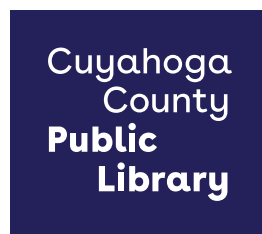
#grateful ❤️

[@galegreenoak](#)

Thank You!

We are grateful for the continued support of Cuyahoga County residents, as well as the many Friends of the Library group members, staff, trustees, Foundation board members, donors, volunteers and community partners who contributed to our success in 2023. As we enter our second century of library service, we are inspired by your belief in the power of libraries to change lives and transform communities.





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