**Winnipeg Public Library 2016 Annual Report**

For 111 years, Winnipeg Public Library (WPL) has created opportunity for leisure, learning, and connecting. Through 20 library branches and an extensive online eLibrary, WPL delivers excellence in service, access to technology and resources to build resilient communities. Strong partnerships, creative staff and investment in library facilities will ensure a strong, vibrant public library for years to come.

Winnipeg Public Library by the numbers in 2016:

* 20 public libraries and 4 Check it Out mobile programs
* 301,257 cardholders
* 2,990,003 in-person visits in 2016
* 5,121,266 items borrowed including eBook and eLibrary downloads
* 4.266 programs offered
* 106,221 in program attendance. WPL’s delivery of cultural, technology, and literacy-based programs reached an all-time high in 2016.
* 176,058 questions were answered
* 438,244 computer bookings
* 618,196 eLibrary downloads
* 14,367,092 eVisits (website, catalogue sessions and social media)

The following are some of the highlights of 2016.

The **Book Bike** launched to carry books and information about library services to the streets. Visits to Central Park, the downtown Farmer’s Market, St. Boniface and ManyFest were just some of the sites where this “Dickie-Dee of Literacy” visited to promote library membership and reading.

Public open houses were held to view plans for **renovations to St. Vital Library,** and for the construction of a **new Transcona Library**. Both projects will begin work in 2017.

Construction began on the new 8,000 square foot **Windsor Park Library**, adjacent to the Bonivital Pool. The new library will feature a universally accessible design, ample study and leisure reading space, and an interior art installation in partnership with the Winnipeg Arts Council.

The first annual **Take Your Child to the Library Day** drew almost 5,000 people to the library with concerts, puppet shows, and literacy games. A new library card was launched promoting talk, sing, read, write and play, the foundational activities to develop early literacy.

Registration in the **TD Summer Reading Club** hit record numbers - 10,966 children, a 36% increase over 2015. Children tracked and reported 62,640 days of reading. Free programs encouraged learning through reading and STEM skills – 189 programs were offered with attendance of 4330 people. Free reading kits were provided to 1550 student **participants in the CSI (Community School Investigator)** program run by Boys & Girls Club of Winnipeg. The kits encouraged reading and included a guide to the many free summer programs at the library. Library staff also brought literacy-based games and activities to select sites.

The **Teen Summer Reading Club doubled** participation over the last four years with 717 youth registered.

WPL installed interactive Family Literacy Playgrounds at three libraries as part of an ongoing program to enhance learning in the pre-school years. These accessible installations provide children and caregivers with an opportunity to play and learn together.

WPL walked in the **Pride Parade** for the first time. Library staff created playful ‘picket signs’ promoting diversity, and handed out hundreds of bookmarks along the parade route with recommended LGBTTQ titles available at the library.

Millennium Library hosted the acclaimed international travelling exhibit Anne Frank – A History for Today, the first time the exhibit has travelled to Manitoba. Library staff was trained by Anne Frank House to lead guided tours. Over 700 visitors signed the guest book, and hundreds more took self-guided tours.

An online Indigenous Services Info Guide was launched highlighting important resources and research on treaties, Indigenous languages, and impacts of residential schools – as well as a guide to Indigenous business, writing, and media.

For the first time, WPL took part in Nuit Blanche with a light and music-filled venue at Millennium Library Park that included a library lounge and story time for adults. A second venue at St. Boniface Library included Metis stories told in French and English.

A Smartlocker was installed at Osborne Library. This self-service locker system improves accessibility by allowing customers to pick up their holds outside branch hours.

**WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

A goal of the Winnipeg Public Library Board and Library Advisory Committees was to raise public awareness of the rich programming and substantial collections in the Winnipeg Public Library. With the help and support of library staff, we participated in festivals and community events where many people asked questions and shared stories about how libraries have influenced their lives. We supported events such as BookFest and the Board hosted the sixth annual Books2Eat festival where hundreds of people had a chance to express their literary creativity with food. The Board actively engaged in planning for the continuing redevelopment of Winnipeg’s Libraries and is preparing for the release of *More an Books: History of the Winnipeg Public Library* in 2017. ~ Joan Blakley, Chair

**FRIENDS OF THE WPL**

Since 2000, FWPL has contributed over $178,000 to support Winnipeg Public Library programs and projects, including $25,750 in 2016 towards projects such as puppy reading stools to replace the much- loved and worn out animal ottomans. We extend our appreciation to those who made donations, had a fun time at Books & Brunch, treated themselves to gifts from the Best of Friends Gift Shop, and bought books from our Gift Shop book cart or at the Fall Book Sale. Of course, none of these funds would have been available if it weren’t for the commitment and dedication of over 70 volunteers. Considering how small our organization is, I think this is a big accomplishment. Check us out at *friendswpl.ca*! ~ Kathy Blight, President

**WINNIPEG LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

The Foundation is grateful to the many supporters who have made this last year a success. Our Centennial Renewal campaigns for the Cornish and St. John’s Libraries  
are wrapping up. Future projects include funding for equipment for the collaborative learning makerspace at Millennium Library and “green wall” vertical gardens at two branches. For more information on the Foundation and how to donate, visit us at *winnipeglibraryfoundation.ca* or call 204-989-2060. ~ Carole Marshall, Executive Director

**Financial Overview**

**Revenue 2016**

CITY OF WINNIPEG $27,405,533  
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA $2,010,118  
LIBRARY – GENERATED $830,308  
LIBRARY TRUST/BOOK SALES $241,373  
**TOTAL $30,487,332**

Expenditures 2016

SALARIES AND BENEFITS $16,675,438  
BUILDING MAINTENANCE $7,651,251  
\*LIBRARY MATERIALS $3,282,121  
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES $2,878,522  
**TOTAL $30,487,332**

\*Library materials includes expenditures from book sale funds, trusts accounts, and grants

**Donors and Grants**

The Library wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their generous contributions in 2016.

Beverley Auerbach

Jennifer Beirnes

Margaret Bonham

Vicki Brown

Tom Dercola  
Miriam Fenster  
Paul & Patti Fieberg  
Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

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Jacqueline Godard  
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Pearl V. L. Greenaway  
In Memory of Mekkin Ireland  
Heather Kay  
Shoshana Kraut  
Lori Legeas  
Howard Mandshein  
Estate of Allen McNeill  
Irene Minuk  
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The Winnipeg Foundation

* Community Grants
* Literacy for Life Fund
* Margaret M. Webster Memorial Fund
* Nancy Turniff and Jeanne Allen Fund
* On the Same Page
* Robert Clague Memorial Fund

John Donald Watts  
Winnipeg Library Foundation

Winnipeg Public Library Board