

2023

Winnipeg Public Library

Annual Report

“Our mission is to enrich the lives of all Winnipeg citizens and their communities by providing high quality, responsive, and innovative library services”

winnipeg.ca/library

Winnipeg Public Library branches are located in Treaty One Territory, the home and traditional lands of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), and Dakota peoples, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our drinking water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, in Treaty Three Territory.

20 public libraries
128,453 library cardholders
128,802 questions answered
3,285 programs offered
1,782,913 in-person visits
123,695 computer bookings
70,346 program attendance
11,303,760 e-visits
4,764,196 items borrowed
(includes ebooks/eLibrary)
1,521,243 eLibrary downloads

The Story Seeds: Cultivating Wellness and Depth through Indigenous Plant Traditions exhibit was curated by Vanda Fleury, a Métis artist and researcher, in partnership with the City of Winnipeg Archives and the Winnipeg Public Library. The exhibit toured library branches throughout 2023.



January 13
Osani Balkaran and Sean McLachlan began their terms as the first ever Makers-in-Residence at the library. The Makers-in-Residence program operates out of the Millennium Library and offers weekly drop-in activities with the Makers, as well as workshops throughout the term.



February
2023 was also the end to the massive carpet and lighting renovations at Millennium. The entire building had carpet and lighting replaced while maintaining services; including a much improved new layout for Information Services (computer area and new desk).



April
1x1 Architecture was brought on to begin a review of the West Kildonan Library. Improvements are required so the library can continue to meet the community's needs into the future.



May
Community Connections, the information hub located in the lobby of Millennium Library, reopened.

St. John's Library partnered with the community-led North End Connect project to provide free used computers and free digital literacy classes to North End residents. Over 200 community members picked up computers at the library and 18 computer classes were offered.

Winnipeg Public Library Board

In 2023, the Library Board continued to support initiatives such as:

- The Community Safety Host program
- Providing consumable supplies for the Community Connections hub to help welcome visitors
- The Writer-in-Residence program

The Board sponsored Winnipeg Public Library's World Storytelling program series. In 2023, the series expanded to include stories from:

- South Asia (Mandarin, Tagalog)
- India (Punjabi)
- Swampy Cree
- Jamaica
- Ukraine

Advocating and connecting with community members is important. On March 16, 2023, the Board attended the Executive Policy Committee to advocate for funding for Winnipeg Public Library. The Board had meetings with the Manitoba Library Association and the South Central Regional Library. Discussions included various library issues such as censorship and material challenges.

The Library Board thanks the five Library Advisory Committees for their continued work and support.



June 12

TD Summer Reading Club launched. Over the summer, 16,547 children received reading kits. 287 programs were offered with 5,999 attendees.



July

The Bill and Helen Norrie Library, located at 15 Poseidon Bay, was recognized with a 2023 Canadian Green Building Award in the Institutional (Small) Category, presented by Sustainable Architecture & Building (SAB) Magazine.



July 30

Library Day at the Ballpark with the Winnipeg Goldeyes. This was one of many community events in 2023. Library staff provided 250 offsite presentations, information tables, or programs in 2023, connecting with 12,113 people.



October 2

Susie Maloney started as the Winnipeg Public Library's 34th Writer-in-Residence for 2023-2024. The Writer-in-Residence program provides one-on-one mentorship and public workshops to hundreds of emerging writers of all genres.

Donors & Grants

The Library wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their generous contributions in 2023:

- Friends of Winnipeg Public Library
- In Memory of Jocelyn Chorney
 - Alfred Chorney
- In Memory of Bonnie Shakespeare
 - C. Mitchell
- In Memory of Garry Leclerc
 - Candace Kosack
 - Courtney Rae Jones
- In Memory of Ruth Wysocki
- In Memory of Helen Sterzer
 - Marcus Sterzer
- In Memory of Baba Ruth, *a natural storyteller*
 - Micaela Mandelbaum
- In Memory of Monique Attwood
 - Peter Attwood
- In Memory of Helen Abell
 - Robert W. Little
- Celia Rodd and Atul Sharma
- Bettina Nyman
- Dustin Burlet
- Heather Graham
- Linda Moore
- Leslie Ross-Stewart
- Dora Dueck
- Nicole Denboer
- Olga Synova
- Phi Van Nguyen
- RPC-5 Productions Inc.
- Shashikant Seshia
- Terry Muzychuk
- The Lillian A Smith Family Foundation
- Trish Allison-Simms
- Tyler Stilwell

Friends of Winnipeg Public Library

The Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library (FWPL) were delighted to make a \$16,651.22 donation this year to support programs and special projects of the Winnipeg Public Library (WPL). This includes grants from the CIBC Foundation and the Winnipeg Foundation, Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) Program (through the Westwood Collegiate YIP committee).

This donation lent financial support to the 2023-2024 Writer-in-Residence program, along with funding for various Youth Services programs held in 2023 & 2024. This brings our total contribution to WPL since 2000 to over \$371,000.

For the first time since 2019, the Friends were able to hold a Big Book Sale (in October) at Grant Park High School. Kevin Oliver, board director, and his incredible book sale committee worked diligently to ensure the sale was a great success! Over \$20,000 was raised to support all the Winnipeg Public Library branches.

It was so wonderful to see people coming back to support. The long lineup of patrons at the Saturday morning opening, thrilled to be back, was a welcome sight.

Shout-out to the 69 volunteers, who helped out during the sale (from set-up on Friday night to clean up on Sunday).

In 2024 we are changing things up and our 2024 Big Book Sale, under the leadership of board director, Laurie Sodomlak, will be held at the St. James Civic Centre in early April. We are excited to see how successful this sale will be at this new location and time of year.

Thank you to all our members, donors, volunteers and our Board of Directors whose valuable contributions make it possible for us to maintain our commitment to fostering literacy and community connections in our city.

Learn more about the Friends at friendswpl.ca.

Rita Burgess,
President



Financial Overview

| Revenues | 2023 | % | Expenditures | 2023 | % |
|--|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| City of Winnipeg | \$31,553,729 | 92.6% | Salaries & benefits | \$18,068,269 | 53.0% |
| Province of Manitoba | \$2,063,901 | 6.1% | Building maintenance | \$8,707,648 | 25.6% |
| Government of Canada | \$32,150 | 0.1% | Library materials | \$2,784,462 | 8.2% |
| Library - generated | \$239,010 | 0.7% | Supplies & services | \$4,511,537 | 13.2% |
| Library trust/ book sales/donations | \$183,126 | 0.5% | Total Expenditures | \$34,071,916 | 100% |
| Total Revenues | \$34,071,916 | 100% | | | |