



A place we share

Our libraries are vibrant centers of learning. Every day, children and teens, parents, job-seekers, elders and passionate readers are changed by the work of dedicated librarians. There is no other place in our community where every person can learn, connect, or puzzle through questions with the help of a knowledgeable human being.

Multnomah County Library is undergoing a transformation that will impact all of us. New and expanded libraries, full of light and hope, will bring us together to learn, explore ideas, and share experiences that will enrich our community for decades to come. Last year, gifts to The Library Foundation brought 102,000 books and 15 programs to more than 200,000 people. In the coming year, your support will make life-changing programs and enhancements to our library's buildings possible, creating a brighter future for children and adults across our community.

26,000 children and parents read together at home, with books available in 20 languages and cultures.

36,000 young children and parents attended storytimes in English, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Black and Indigenous Cultures.

9,000 low-income moms and young children received literacy education at free clinics.

6,000 newborns and parents went home from hospitals and clinics with education on the importance of reading to a child from birth.



Early Literacy

Librarians reached children and their families last year with tens of thousands of books in 20 languages and cultures, along with workshops for parents on early brain development and storytimes in six languages and cultures. Partnerships with Head Starts, low-income health clinics, hospitals, teen parent programs, and programs for immigrants and refugees enabled the library to reach families with a crucial message: reading together at home will have lifelong benefits for your child.

Seeing families like our own in books

Cadence is 18 months old and already, she loves books. She carries them everywhere she goes and can't get enough of her favorites, including *Whose Toes Are Those?* by Jabari Asim. That makes her mom, Samaiyah, very happy. She wanted to raise a reader. She added books to her baby gift registry and started reading to Cadence as soon as she was born. Now that Cadence is a toddler, they read together during quiet times of the day and before bedtime every night. They take books in the car, to the park, and on errands.

Reading has always been important to Samaiyah and her family. She grew up going to the North Portland Library and participating in the Summer Reading program. "My grandmother always instilled in us that your reading is your power, your individuality, your success, your progression," she says. "It's the gatekeeper to everything in life."

Every week, Samaiyah and Cadence get a new supply of books delivered to their home, and a handy bag to carry them in, thanks to the library's Every Child A Reader program. Librarians partner with local nonprofits and health educators to bring tens of thousands of books into the homes of young children throughout the year. "The best part of swapping out those books is that she's continuously engaged," she says. "She always likes to see and read about new things."

Cadence's bookbag is filled with books that feature Black characters and characters of color. Samaiyah believes it's powerful for her daughter to see characters who look like her in books. She really appreciates the program's ability to customize selections for each child.

On a recent afternoon, Cadence is full of energy. She is running around the lobby of her apartment building in a colorful sundress, exploring every corner and trying to dash outside whenever a door opens. But as soon as her mom opens a book, she settles in and helps turn the pages. "Come sit next to Mama," Samaiyah says. "We're going to read."

Student Success

Last year, tens of thousands of children and teens participated in library programs that build the foundation for academic success. Librarians delivered books and talked with children and parents about library services at free lunch sites, housing developments, public parks and school parking lots across our community. The goal: keeping kids learning and reading despite the academic setbacks created by the pandemic.

Making reading fun all summer long

Last summer, Thaid and his brother read at least 50 pages a day, nearly finishing the entire Percy Jackson series. They both love to read, and the library gave them an extra incentive: cool prizes for reading all summer long, including this year's Summer Reading T-shirt, given to kids who finish the program.

One of the largest Summer Reading programs in the nation, Multnomah County Library engaged more than 100,000 children last summer with activities and rewards that inspire reading. At a time when many students have experienced significant setbacks in reading achievement, the program is playing a vital role in boosting literacy skills and building a love for books.

Thaid and Dex are definitely not reluctant readers. They zipped through books and prizes on weekly trips to the library with their mom, Danielle. "We've always been big fans of the library," she says. "The Summer Reading program makes reading feel more exciting." She started taking Thaid, 11, Dex, 10, and their older brother, Art, 13, to the library for storytimes every Saturday when they were babies. The younger boys still go to the library regularly to read, play games, and look for books to check out. Art likes to hang out in the teen space with his friends and Danielle studies for her college classes.

"We don't have to have an agenda at the library," she says. "There are few places you can take your kids for free. The library is not just about hanging out. It teaches a kid something that stimulates their mind. To me, that's magical."

The library has inspired Danielle's boys to create their own comics. They have stacks of them at home. Thaid also gets ideas for video animation at the library. "I love going to the library," he says. "If I want to read comic books or chapter books, they're there. All the books I want to read are there."

115,000 K-12 students had access to library cards through Library Connect.

104,000 young readers and teens participated in the library's Summer Reading program.

30,000 books and e-books in 20+ languages and cultures reached tens of thousands of students through outreach programs and library collections.

375 summer sites, including childcare centers, parks, and lunch sites serving vulnerable children, received books and reading incentives delivered by library staff and volunteers.



STEAM Learning

Science. Technology. Engineering. Art. Math. Our libraries bring STEAM education to children and teens across our community. The Rockwood Makerspace ensures families have access to free learning experiences that might not be available to them elsewhere and take-home science kits can be checked out at neighborhood libraries.

Making space for creativity and connections

Adrien used to be perfectly happy playing video games at home, by himself, for hours. He's a smart, solitary kid who has always liked electronics and taking things apart. But his mom, Jessica, worried that he wasn't getting out enough. That is, until he started going to the makerspace at the Rockwood Library. Now Adrien goes there as much as he can. He's learning about design, technology and 3D printing. And he is making friends. Jessica is thrilled that the makerspace has helped him come out of his room and out of his shell.

"If I could dream up a space for my son, it would be this place," Jessica says. "He feels safe and there are kids that share his interests. He can become more independent. It's his happy place. He was kind of nervous at first, but now he asks to go every week."

The Rockwood Makerspace is designed to engage middle and high school students, setting students like Adrien up for academic and career success with the latest tools, technology and experienced mentors. Rockwood Library has Multnomah County Library's only STEAM lab today, but makerspaces are coming to each of our eight new and expanded libraries, reaching thousands more kids like Adrien.

On a late summer afternoon, Adrien is one of a dozen students filling the Rockwood Makerspace with energy and ideas. He comes out with a bag full of work, proud to show his mom. Over the summer, he built an electronic spider that moves on a soldering board and followed online instructions to produce accessories for the family's car on a 3-D printer. "I like doing experiments and creating stuff," he says. "It's really cool."

Jessica knows that working alongside other kids and developing interests, like software engineering or product design, could turn into a career and strengthen Adrien's future. "To know he's exploring and making connections in a safe space in the library makes me happy."

19,300 youth accessed educational materials that engaged children in STEAM learning.

6,500 activity kits featuring hands-on lessons in renewable energy and circuitry, along with instructions in five languages, went home with young learners.

1,600 participants engaged in workshops for teens and STEAM learning at Rockwood Library Makerspace.

More than **75%** of youth said they felt more confident and interested in science after participating in the library's STEAM programs.

Beyond Library Walls

Multnomah County Library is an anchor for many, helping us find a way forward in difficult times. Many library programs take place outside of library walls — from book deliveries to thousands of elderly and homebound individuals to outreach programs for children and families at local parks, community centers, health clinics, school parking lots, immigrant and refugee organizations, and free lunch sites. At every stage of life, our library is a trusted resource.

Delivering a lifeline of books

Joey learned to read at age 3, and she's still a prolific reader at 94. Throughout her life, books and libraries have connected her with the world — even after she could no longer browse the shelves. That's when the Library's Outreach Services team stepped in, delivering 40-50 books at a time to her at home. She meets them at her door, often with homemade cookies and always with a warm smile.

The team delivers tens of thousands of books each year to older adults like Joey, making personal connections along the way. The visits and the books mean a lot to Joey, who uses a walker, has limited vision, and doesn't drive anymore. "I'm so grateful for the library," she says. "It's a lifeline for me. Without books, I would be bereft."

She has fond memories of the first book she learned to read and the older brother who gave it to her. It had a cover made of blue cloth with white polka dots. A popular poem was inside. She recalls how the book opened: "Little Orphan Annie's come to our house to stay." "I loved that poem. He would read it to me, and I would read it along with him," she says.

Growing up in small towns during the Depression, there was not much to read at home other than the Bible and occasional books from her brothers. Her teachers saw how much she liked to read and would bring books for her but the library became her haven. She continued to read and visit the library throughout her life. She still reads at a fast pace. Thanks to outreach deliveries, she is able to read 40 - 50 books between the team's visits.

"If I couldn't have access to books," she says, "I don't know what I would do."



Transforming Our Libraries

A brighter future for our community depends on access to the latest tools, technology and learning experiences.

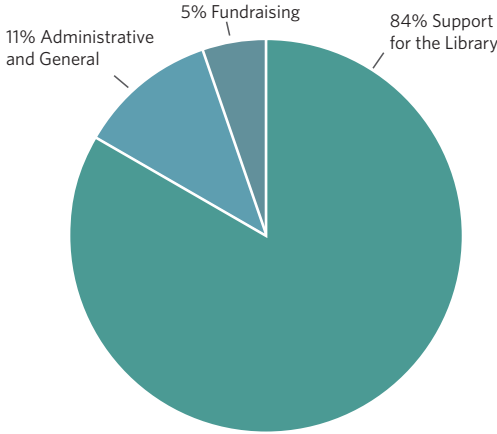
The work to transform our library system is well underway, including an expansive modern new library for East County that will be close, in size, to our Central Library. Eight of our libraries are being built or expanded and our 11 other libraries are being renovated. These projects will increase our library system's space by nearly 60%, enhance the availability of tools and technology, and open the door to meaningful learning experiences that our libraries cannot offer today.

These eight new and expanded libraries will transform neighborhoods with innovative, culturally relevant resources and services, from interactive early learning spaces and makerspaces to job resource centers and technology labs. The Library Foundation's supporters will enable the library to create engaging learning spaces for young children, dedicated study areas for school age children and teens, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) learning labs, and outdoor environments for children that take in natural surroundings.

Financials

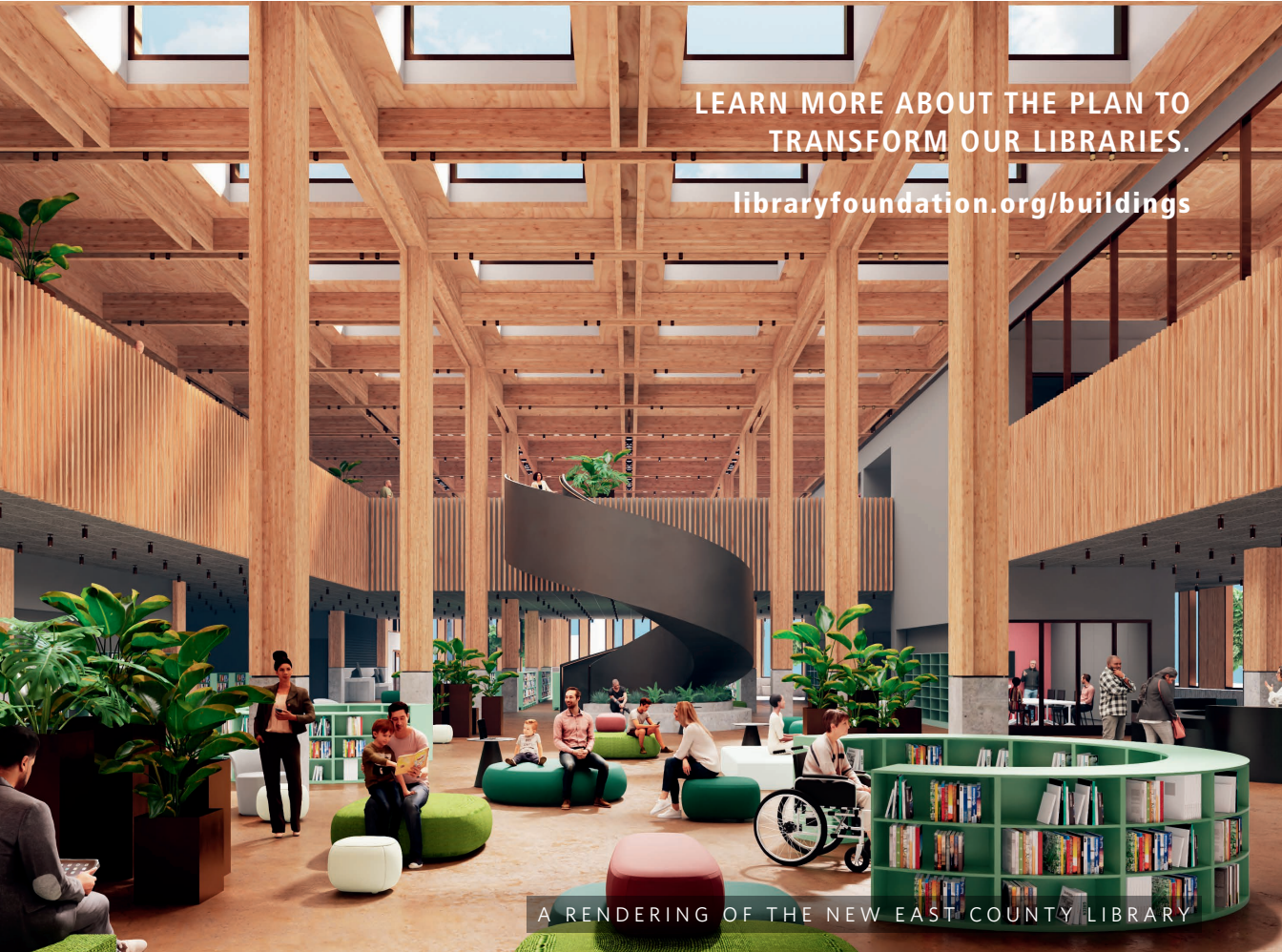
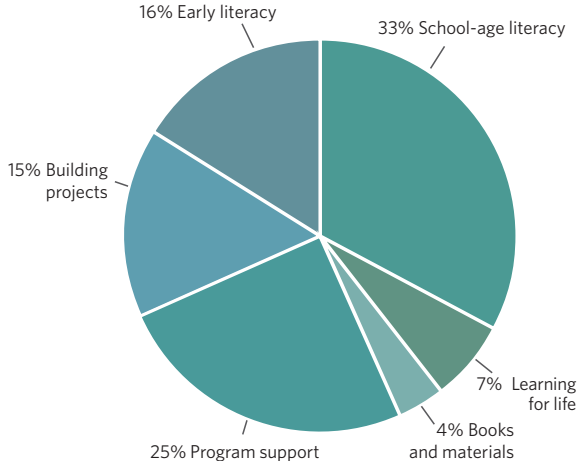
Expenses

Fundraising costs were 3% of dollars raised and 5% of dollars spent.



Support for the Library

\$2.3 million from The Library Foundation



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PLAN TO TRANSFORM OUR LIBRARIES.
libraryfoundation.org/buildings

A RENDERING OF THE NEW EAST COUNTY LIBRARY

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Revenues, gains and other support

Contributions and grants	4,406,265
In-kind contributions	341,946
Investment return	1,551,826
Change in value, charitable trusts	21,428
Other	176
Total revenues, gains and other support	6,321,641

Expenses

Direct support for Multnomah County Library	
Early literacy	364,120
School-age literacy	752,626
Learning for life	158,125
Building projects	360,000
Books and materials	84,325
Other	4,721
Total cash and in-kind support	1,723,917
Program support for Multnomah County Library	576,037
Total support for Multnomah County Library	2,299,954
Administrative and general	308,659
Fundraising	144,110
Total expenses	2,752,723
Change in net assets	3,568,918
Net assets, beginning of year	21,973,835
Net assets, end of year	25,542,753

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