



Agenda: Board of Trustees
September 5, 2024, at 4 pm
Community Room, Ladd Library

Literacy, Access, & Inclusion

Library Board President – Monica Challenger

- A. Call to Order
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
 - Minutes: August 1, 2024
- C. Public Comments and Communications
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
- F. Board Education: Summer Reading Challenge Recap – Kevin Delecki
- G. Library Board Committee Reports
 - Advocacy Committee – Elisabeth Hepworth, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - Building Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - Finance Committee – Chris Casey, Committee Chair
 - **Action:** Resolution Westside Library Construction Bid Award
 - Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - No Action
- H. Library Director's Report
- I. Old Business
- J. New Business
- K. Adjournment

The next Board of Trustees meeting is **October 3, 2024 at 4 pm**, in the Conference Room, Downtown Library.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Jessica Musil, Library Administrative Assistant, at 319.261.7323 or email musilj@crlibrary.org as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Cedar Rapids Public Library
Board of Trustees
August 1, 2024

Board members in attendance: [President] Monica Challenger, [Vice President] Jeremy Elges, Jade Hart, Chris Casey, Susie McDermott, Elisabeth Hepworth, Ana McClain (in person); Rafael Jacobo (via Zoom)

Board members unable to attend: Hassan Selim

Staff in attendance: Dara Schmidt, Amber McNamara, Jessica Musil, Kevin Delecki, Erin Horst (in person); Patrick Duggan (via Zoom)

Others: Charity Tyler, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation; Libby Slappey, President, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library

- A. Call to Order
 - Ms. Challenger called the meeting to order at 4 pm.
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
 - Minutes:
 - July 11, 2024
 - July 17, 2024

Ms. Casey moved to accept the consent agenda. Ms. Hepworth seconded. The action carried with unanimous approval.
- C. Public Comments and Communications
 - There being none, the meeting continued
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
 - Ms. Tyler reported. The Foundation has been working through process for the additional parcel's sale. In addition, they team sent an appeal for the Westside Library project in July, which has raised over \$55,000.
 - The Foundation recently hosted a special event for Chuck Cebuhar. He essentially founded the Library Foundation with the purpose to fund the 1985 library. He was honored by an anonymous donor to name a space for him at the new library. The reception honored Mr. Cebuhar, his contributions, and his work to mentor others. The event was special for his family and friends. Ms. Tyler found out that he died on Monday this week, days after the event on last Wednesday.
 - On Thursday, August 15, the Foundation will host a campaign donor reception. The next event is the Van Vechten Brunch in September; invitations will be mailed in two weeks.
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
 - Ms. Slappey reported and brought sample donations to show the different types of materials the Friends receive – a planner from 1947, which matches the 2024 calendar, and includes train schedules printed in the front.
 - Friends are finishing up the summer with two more market sales. They've consistently been making \$2,000 for each sale. The Friends continue to get large scale donations and use the Cherry Building space to accept these.
- F. Board Education: Fiscal Year Comparisons – Dara Schmidt
 - Typically, we report end of year numbers in October in the Annual Report, as we wait for finalized financial data. Now that information reporting is improved, we can view fiscal year comparisons easily. In addition, we've had almost clean data in FY23 to start making better comparisons between years.
 - Ms. Schmidt highlighted specific areas of the comparison report. The library has a significant increase in number of programs as well as attendees. In FY23, the programming team brought back the large-scale program teams since COVID caused us

to scale back. The team also increased their outreach efforts; for example, they do bi-weekly outreach to Cedar River and Johnson Steam Academy classrooms including materials for check-out and literacy activities and helping City View students with public speaking skills and more.

- Last year, circulation started to level off. However, the Materials team is looking for creative ways to bring materials to people. For example, during a high attendance event, they will pull specific related items for program attendees and over the summer, we created displays specifically with high popularity items. Data indicates that physical circulation has improved downtown after items were moved last year.
- Database use has also improved – video streaming increased during the pandemic and popularity has not waned. Digital circulation – both ebooks and digital audiobooks – increased. National conversation around digital equity is on the rise as libraries pay significantly more and key stakeholders are trying to shift the dynamic. Ms. McClain asked about the control of digital resource use. Each vendor has their own rules about how the resource can be used. Most of ours are based on zip code, and only those living in a Cedar Rapids zip code has access. Some libraries pay a higher platform fee to open up digital access to anyone.
- Physical visits continue to improve. We're not quite at pre-pandemic numbers though Ms. Schmidt doesn't believe it's realistic any more to compare data to pre-2020 data as people's habits are different.
- This data includes cardholder information, specifically highlighting active cards and total cards. An active card indicates the cardholder has used the card in the last year. Records are purged every three years though we stopped in the pandemic to not inadvertently cut off access. This process re-started this year to explain the reduction. In addition, we stopped offering library cards to Cedar Rapids Community School District students per the district's request. Ms. Schmidt noted that while actual cards decreased from FY23 to 24, the active cards increased. Ms. Hepworth appreciated the information on the card holder information. She's also grateful that even if we can't give students cards any more that we're still in the school districts. The library continues regular tours and ensure our storytimes and early outreach mirrors the school curriculum to improve kindergarten readiness.
- The remaining data also shows steady increases: PC uses and virtual visits, which are website visits; volunteer hours; meeting room use for both reservations and attendees.

G. Library Board Committee Reports

- Advocacy Committee – Elisabeth Hepworth, Committee Chair
 - The committee did not meet in July. Ms. Hepworth noted she is thrilled to serve as the new chair and be a champion for the library in this way.
- Finance Committee – Chris Casey, Committee Chair
 - There as no financial report for discussion as June information is not available yet. Ms. Casey looks forward to serving as the new chair.
- Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - Ms. McDermott shared the committee did not meet in July but they will continue to facilitate policy review in the next year as required by accreditation.
- Westside Project Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
 - Ms. Schmidt shared that the project continues to clear hurdles to move forward, such as accepting the land and transferring ownership to the City, the final plat was accepted, and the general contractor bid documents were released. At this time, groundbreaking is set in October and a final date will be announced as we finalize the City and County leadership schedules.

H. Library Director's Report

- Ms. Schmidt reported that the Westside Library's general contractor bid opportunity closes on August 14 and she expects to have a general contractor up in September. The board will vote on the lowest bidder before it goes to City Council. Ms. Schmidt continues

to build relationships with City leaders as the project unfolds. Most recently, Facilities Manager Jason Stancliffe has agreed to be our project manager to help facilitate needs from the City's side of operations as well as monitor contractors and their progress.

- I. Old Business
 - There being no old business, the meeting continued.
- J. New Business
 - There being no new business, the meeting continued.
- K. Adjournment
 - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 4 pm in the Community Room, Ladd Library

IOWA TODAY

GOVERNMENT NOTES

C.R. to seek bids for westside library

Also, I.C. accepting applications for deer bow hunt

By Marissa Payne, The Gazette

Cedar Rapids will be soliciting bids soon for a contractor to build the new, permanent westside library at 3700 20th Ave. SW.

The Cedar Rapids City Council is holding a public hearing at noon Tuesday to open bidding for the project. If approved, bidding will open at 11 a.m. Wednesday for the library building, which has an estimated cost of \$17.85 million, according to council documents.

The new library, anticipated to open in late 2026, will be within walking distance of the current Ladd Library, 3750 Williams Blvd. SW, a space the library has leased since 2013.

Nadine Sandberg donated \$2 million from her estate in 2020 to make the dream of a dedicated library on the west side of Cedar Rapids a reality.

More than 100,000 people visit the Ladd Library each year. With more space and resources, the library expects to see 300,000 visitors annually.

The new library will include:

- A square footage increase from 28,405 square feet at the Ladd Library to nearly 40,000 square feet.

- Increased space for children's learning, with zones for creative play, technology use and motor skill development.

- Ten study rooms, a large conference room and a conference center, all available for public use.

- Outdoor reading courtyards and library lawn for gatherings and programs.

- Additional and improved space for job seekers and library partners to provide services to the community.

- Increased accessibility for ease of use and connection to walking trails and sidewalks.

More information about the project, and how to support the Inspiring Big Dreams fundraising campaign, can be found at CRLibrary.org/bigdreams.

3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE SEPT. 10 SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Voters in the Cedar Rapids and North Linn school districts can submit absentee ballot requests for the Sept. 10 special election that is seeking renewal of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) in those districts.

The PPEL supports capital projects, including the purchase and improvement of grounds, building repairs, the purchase, construction and remodeling of buildings, rental of land and equipment, and major equipment purchases, including technology.

The PPEL is funded by property taxes levied and collected by the school district.



Renderings give a sense of the design of the planned westside Cedar Rapids Public Library, which will be built near the corner of Edgewood Road and 20th Avenue SW. (OPN Architects)



Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation director Hashim Taylor learns belly dancing in a class taught by SanDee Skelton on Jan. 31, 2022, at the Northwest Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids. Registration is now open for fall programs. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)



A deer crosses Prairie du Chien Road in rural Iowa City. Iowa City has opened applications for this year's urban bow hunt, which will run Sept. 21 through Jan. 10. (The Gazette)

The Cedar Rapids district is seeking renewal of a PPEL levy up to \$1.35 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. If approved by a simple majority of voters, the levy would not increase the district's property tax levy.

The Central City Community School District also will ask its voters to approve a Revenue Purpose Statement on Sept. 10. The statement describes how a school district will use sales tax funds, known as SAVE funds, for Secure an Advanced Vision for Education fund.

The proposed Central City statement states the school district can use sales tax revenue for property tax relief, technology, construction, purchase or lease of buildings, equipment or technology and playgrounds.

The Linn County Auditor's Office is accepting absentee ballot requests for the three elections

until 5 p.m. Aug. 26. Absentee ballots will be mailed to those requesting them beginning Aug. 21.

The form to request an absentee ballot is on the Linn County Auditor's Office website, linncountyiowa.gov/1780/Vote-by-Mail.

Beginning Aug. 21, voters can vote in-person at the Auditor's Office in the Linn County Public Service Center, 935 Second St. SW, Cedar Rapids. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Polls will be open Election Day, Sept. 10, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To find a polling location, visit linncountyelections.org/lookup.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR C.R. FALL PARKS & REC PROGRAMS

The Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation Department's fall program registration is underway.

Registrations are being taken online; by phone at (319) 286-5566; or in-person during regular business hours at the Northwest Recreation Center, 1340 11th St. NW, or the City Services Center, 500 15th Ave. SW.

Play CR, the recreation program guide for all ages and abilities, is available online at CRREC.org. All Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha and Robins residents received the guide in the mail last week. The guide starts on page 25 of Our CR, the city of Cedar Rapids' quarterly magazine.

The programs at the Northwest Recreation Center include adult and youth basketball, blastball, drop-in cards and pickleball, karate, therapeutic recreation and sports, volleyball and open gyms.

Some programs are for those age 55 and up. Also, trips and sports are offered for individuals with disabilities.

Popular fall events and programs are returning, including the Harvest Hayrack Nights at Ushers Ferry Historic Village and County Fair at Old MacDonald's Farm. There is golf at the city's three courses and mini golf at Mini Pines, as well as flag football, lacrosse, soccer and adult kickball.

Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation offers a low-income assistance program, RecAssist, for individuals and families with financial need.

The program offers a discount on swim passes and recreation programs to qualifying individuals. Learn more and apply at CityofCR.com/RecAssist.

CORRIDOR MPO ASKS FOR INPUT ON TRAIL, BIKEWAY NETWORK

The regional trail and bikeway network within the Corridor Metropolitan Organization's planning area is being refreshed with new wayfinding signage and trail branding.

The public is being asked to provide input in a survey available at survey.alchemer.com/s3/7932456/Corridor-MPO-Trails-Branding-and-Wayfinding-Survey. The survey, which closes Aug. 26, takes five to seven minutes to complete.

The will gauge how trail users feel about the existing trail names and which features or traits best represent the region from a branding perspective.

MARION POOL TO CLOSE AUG. 20

The Marion swimming pool will close for the season Aug. 20.

Beginning Aug. 19, hours will be reduced as staff go to college or high school. On Aug. 19-20, lap swim will be offered daily from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and open swim will occur from 1 to 5 p.m.

ROBERT A. LEE POOL MAINTENANCE DELAYED

Scheduled maintenance

on the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center pool has been delayed until Dec. 13 through Jan. 26, 2025.

Regular maintenance had been planned at the pool from Aug. 19 through Sept. 3. However, crews found issues with the pool's plumbing tied to the drainage system. The maintenance is being pushed back in an effort to obtain parts needed for the repair.

"We had hoped to close and complete preventive maintenance this month while City Park Pool still is open. However, delaying until December will provide additional time for staff to assess and plan the best approach for the plumbing issues discovered," Iowa City Director of Parks and Recreation Juli Seydell Johnson said.

The closure in December will allow for the locker rooms and pool deck to be resurfaced at the same as the pool closure.

IOWA CITY BOW HUNT APPLICATIONS OPEN

Iowa City's annual urban bow hunt for deer will run Sept. 21 through Jan. 10.

Applications from prospective bow hunters will be taken from now until Nov. 1. Hunt rules and application forms are on the city's website at www.icgov.org/Deer or at the Iowa City Police Department, 410 E. Washington St.

Private property owners interested in providing their land for hunters can submit a Private Property Hunting Permission form to the city.

City-owned properties open to this year's hunt are at 1150 Covered Wagon Dr., 2510 N. Dodge St., 2099 Bristol Dr., 101 McCollister Blvd. and the Sycamore Greenway south of Lehman Avenue.

The urban bow hunt is a part of the city's deer management program, which includes annual bow hunts through 2029, with the possibility of a sharpshoot in 2026, pending approval by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Government Notes is published Mondays and contains updates from area governmental bodies. Gazette reporters Marissa Payne, Grace King and Megan Woolard contributed.

THE GAZETTE

(USPS 95-680)

Established January 10, 1883, and published daily at 116 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401. Periodicals postage paid at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and additional mailing offices.

The Gazette is a publication of Gazette

Communications Inc., a Follie company.

Subscription rates by carrier \$9 per week; \$491.50 per year, 7-day delivery. Out-of-state delivery \$653.60 per year, 7-day delivery.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Gazette, 116 Third St. SE, Cedar

Rapids, IA 52401.

Subscription Service: (319) 398-8333 or 1-(800) 397-8333. General number: (319) 398-8211.



2022 EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY OF THE YEAR



Business Breakfast Series

Presented by The Gazette

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A GLOBAL TECH OUTAGE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 • 8 A.M.
GEONETRIC BUILDING

TICKETS \$5 — INCLUDES COFFEE AND A LIGHT BREAKFAST
thegazette.com/businessbreakfast



Sponsored by

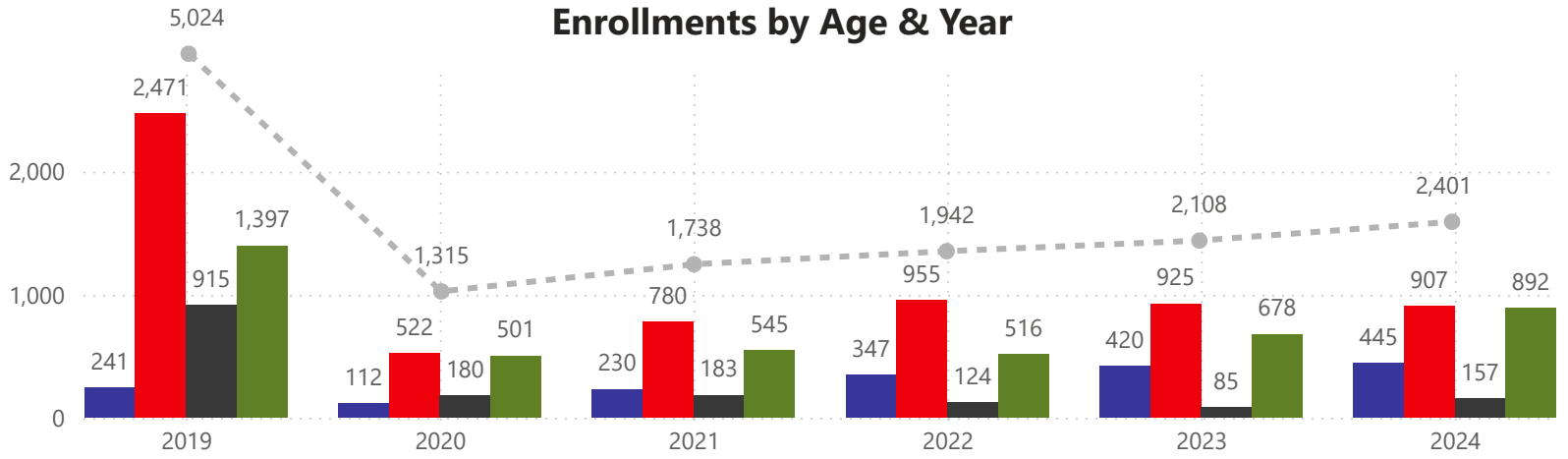


We open conversations.

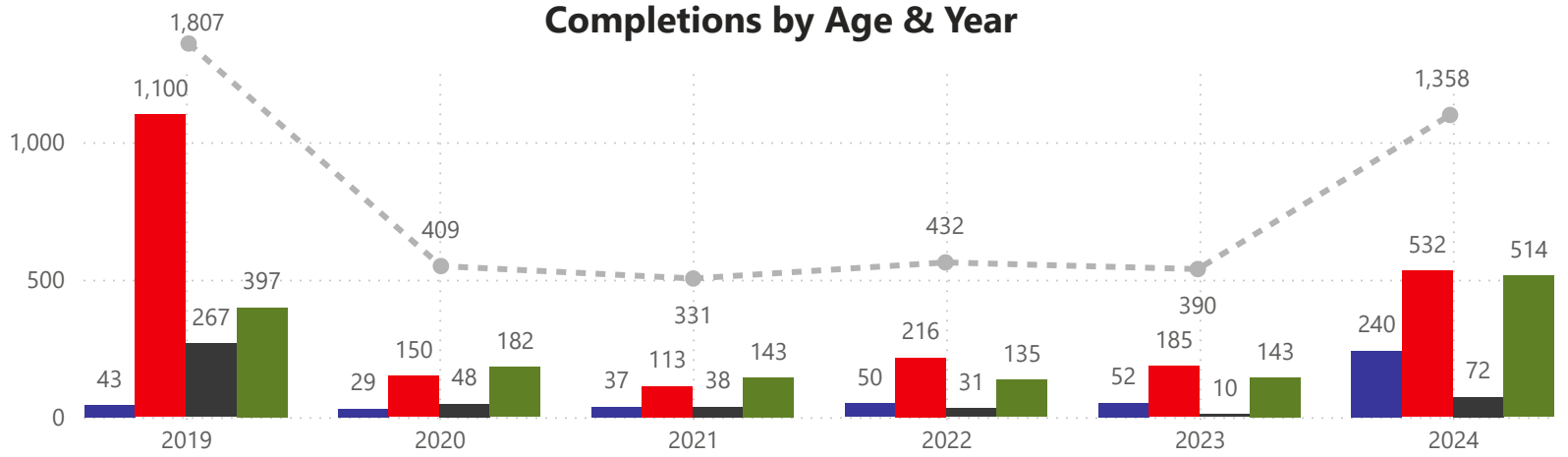


Program Participants

Enrollments by Age & Year

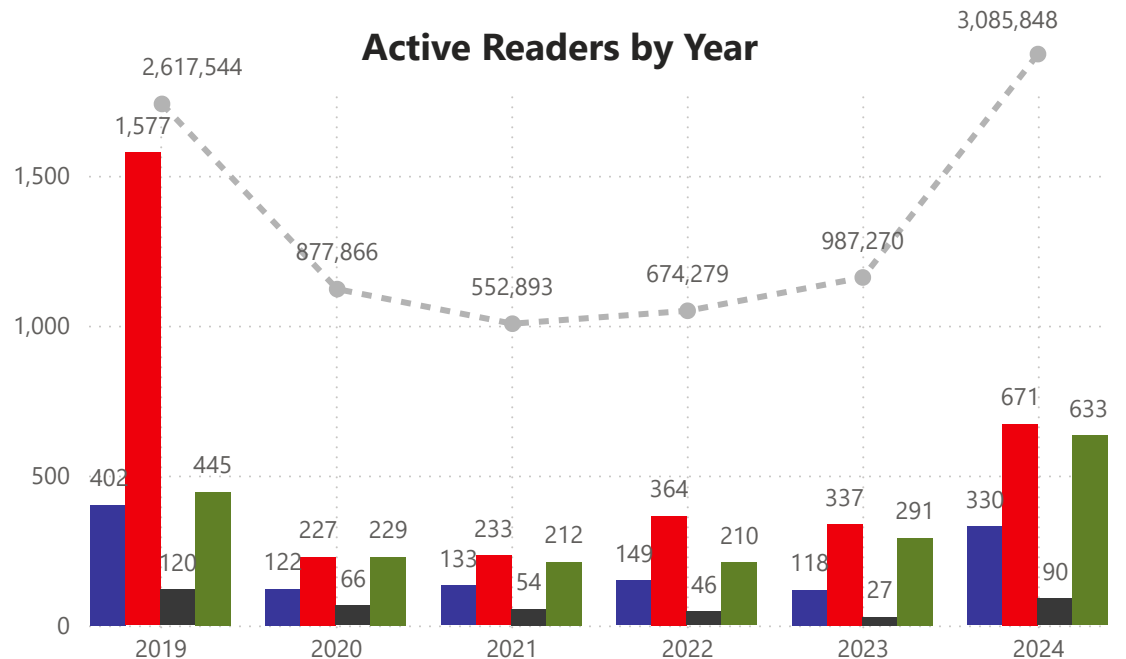


Completions by Age & Year



Age Group ● 0-5 ● 6-12 ● 13-18 ● 19+

Active Readers by Year



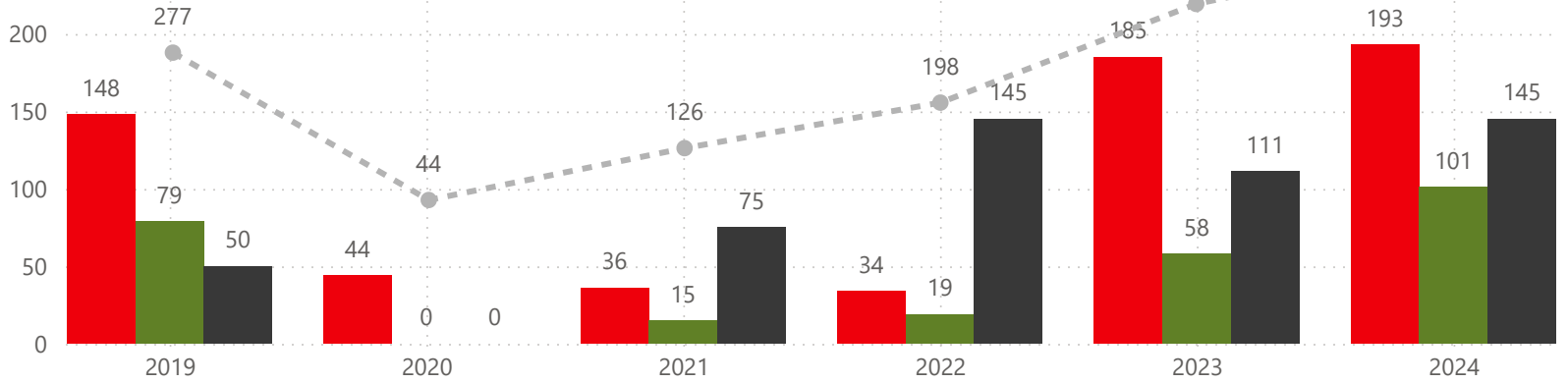
Age Group ● 0-5 ● 6-12 ● 13-18 ● 19+

Minutes Read by Year

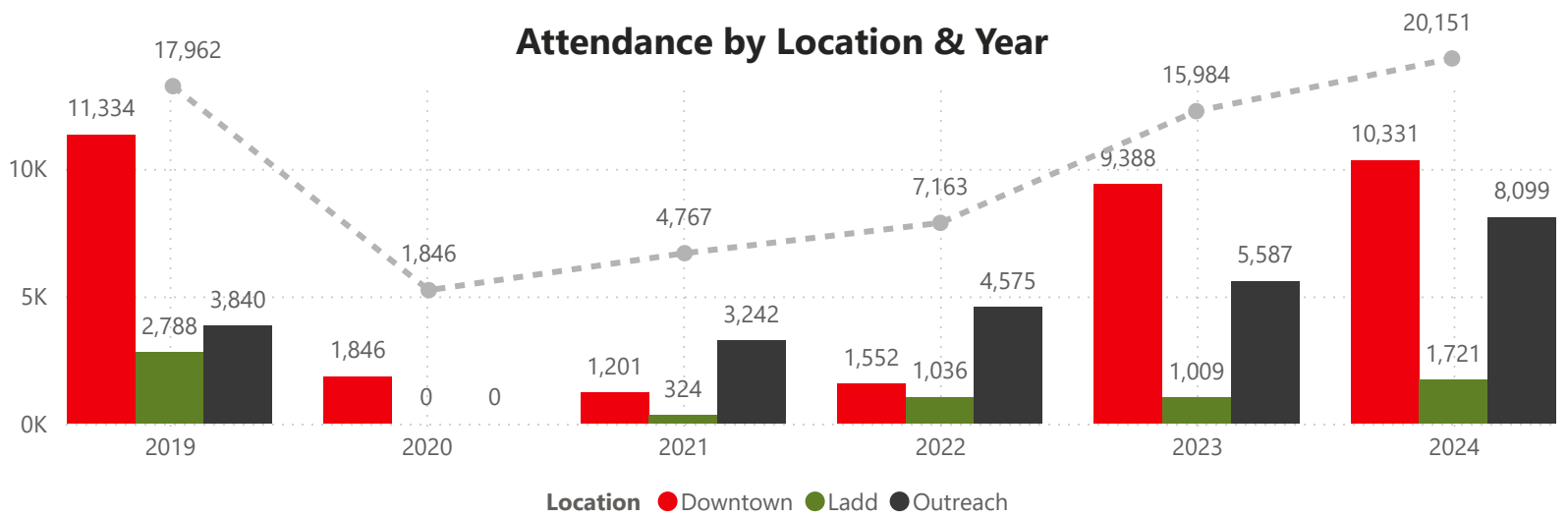
Year	Total Minutes
2019	2,617,544
2020	877,866
2021	552,893
2022	674,279
2023	987,270
2024	3,085,848

Programs

of Programs by Location & Year

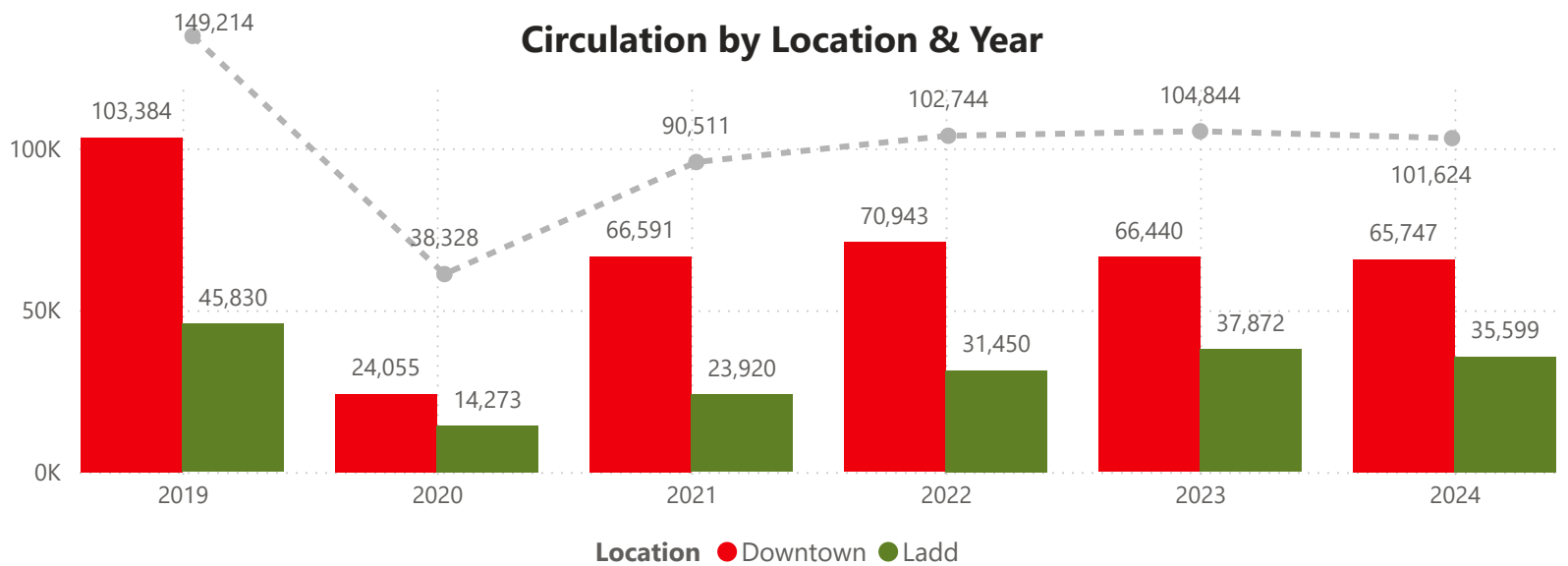


Attendance by Location & Year



Materials Circulation

Circulation by Location & Year



To: Chris Casey, Finance Committee Chair
From: Dara Schmidt
Date: 8/29/2024
Subject: September Meeting Financial Report

July Financials

Due to reporting changes for FY25 that would interfere with end of year close out, City Finance was unable to run July reports due. The new reports should be available by mid-week next week, and if ready will be included in the September packet. If not, updates will be provided next month with the August reports and memo.

FY24 Closeout – Preliminary Unaudited Reports

Library Operations - 151

Revenues excluding transfers are 98% received or \$14,557 less than the budgeted \$804K.

Expenditures are 100% spent or \$14.9K remaining out of \$7.76M budget.

Due to this, expense budget remaining is currently \$14,895, leaving Library with \$338 surplus.

Westside Library Construction

- Bid documents were issued on July 24, 2024
- A Public Hearing was held on August 13, 2024
- The bids were received and opened on August 14, 2024, at 11 am
- The estimated cost for the project was \$17,850,000.00
- Project completion is set for September 30, 2026

Bid Opening Date: August 14, 2024 (8 Bids Received)

*All bids shown include Alternate 2

Garling Construction	\$15,525,000.00
City Construction Newco, LLC	\$15,672,000.00
Rinderknecht Associates, Inc.	\$15,771,300.00
Bi-State Contracting, Inc.	\$16,010,925.00
Peak Construction Group, Inc.	\$16,078,000.00
Tricon General Construction, Inc.	\$15,928,000.00
Larson Construction Co., Inc.	\$16,494,000.00
Portzen Construction, Inc.	\$17,237,000.00

Recommending award to low bidder, Garling Construction.



Resolution Supporting Document

Description of Agenda Item: Purchases, contracts and agreements
 Resolution awarding the base bid and alternate 2 and approving contract in the amount of \$15,525,000, bonds and insurance of Garling Construction for the Westside Library project.
 CIP/DID #PUR0624-324; 316200

Council Priority: Strengthen and Stabilize Neighborhoods
EnvisionCR Goal: GrowCR Goal 3: Connect growing areas to existing neighborhoods.

Background:

This project is to construct a new Westside Library for the Facilities Maintenance Services Division. A public hearing was held on August 13, 2024 for the Westside Library project.

Purchasing Services publicly opened the bids on August 14, 2024 at 11:00am CDT. Bids were received from eight Contractors. The Facilities Maintenance Services Division recommends award to Garling Construction as the overall lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

A contract will be issued to Garling Construction. The project is due to be completed by September 30, 2026.

Bid Results:

Company Name	Location	Price
Garling Construction	Belle Plaine, IA	
Base Bid		\$15,336,000
Alternate 1		-\$100,000
Alternate 2		\$189,000
City Construction Newco, Inc.	Iowa City, IA	
Base Bid		\$15,485,200
Alternate 1		-\$85,000
Alternate 2		\$187,519
Rinderknecht Associates	Cedar Rapids, IA	
Base Bid		\$15,587,000
Alternate 1		-\$78,000
Alternate 2		\$184,300
Bi-State Contracting, Inc.	West Burlington, IA	
Base Bid		\$15,827,585
Alternate 1		-\$123,000
Alternate 2		\$183,340
Peak Construction Group, Inc.	North Liberty, IA	
Base Bid		\$15,890,000
Alternate 1		-\$110,000
Alternate 2		\$188,000
Tricon General Construction, Inc.	Cedar Rapids, IA	

Base Bid		\$15,748,000
Alternate 1		-\$76,000
Alternate 2		\$180,000
Larson Construction Co., Inc.	Independence, IA	
Base Bid		\$16,299,000
Alternate 1		-\$40,000
Alternate 2		\$195,000
Portzen Construction, Inc.	Dubuque, IA	
Base Bid		\$17,050,000
Alternate 1		-\$75,000
Alternate 2		\$187,000

QA Questionnaire was received and accepted for this project.

Action/Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager and the City Clerk to execute the Contract as described herein.

Alternative Recommendation:

Time Sensitivity: Medium

Resolution Date: September 10, 2024

Budget Information: 316200

Local Preference Policy: No

Explanation: Public Improvement Project

Recommended by Council Committee: No

Explanation: NA

Cedar Rapids Public Library Board of Trustees Resolution
Westside Library Construction Bid Award

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2024 the City Council adopted a motion that directed the City to post Notice to Bidders and publish notice of a public hearing on the plans, specifications, form of contract and cost estimate for the Westside Library public improvement project (Contract No. PUR0624-324; 316200) for the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, said Notice to Bidders was posted according to law and the Notice of a Public Hearing was published in the Cedar Rapids Gazette on July 27, 2024 pursuant to which a public hearing was held on August 13, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the following bids were received, opened and announced on August 14, 2024 by the City Purchasing Manager, or designee, and said officer has now reported the bids thereon to the City Council at its next meeting on August 27, 2024; and

Company Name	Location	Price
Garling Construction Base Bid Alternate 1 Alternate 2	Belle Plaine, IA	\$15,336,000 -\$100,000 \$189,000
City Construction Newco, Inc. Base Bid Alternate 1 Alternate 2	Iowa City, IA	\$15,485,200 -\$85,000 \$187,519
Rinderknecht Associates Base Bid Alternate 1 Alternate 2	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$15,587,000 -\$78,000 \$184,300
Bi-State Contracting, Inc. Base Bid Alternate 1 Alternate 2	West Burlington, IA	\$15,827,585 -\$123,000 \$183,340
Peak Construction Group, Inc. Base Bid Alternate 1 Alternate 2	North Liberty, IA	\$15,890,000 -\$110,000 \$188,000
Tricon General Construction, Inc. Base Bid Alternate 1 Alternate 2	Cedar Rapids, IA	\$15,748,000 -\$76,000 \$180,000
Larson Construction Co., Inc. Base Bid Alternate 1 Alternate 2	Independence, IA	\$16,299,000 -\$40,000 \$195,000
Portzen Construction, Inc. Base Bid Alternate 1 Alternate 2	Dubuque, IA	\$17,050,000 -\$75,000 \$187,000

WHEREAS, the Facilities Maintenance Services division and Library Director recommend award of the base bid and alternate 2 to Garling Construction as the Contractor with the lowest responsive and responsible bid; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, as follows:

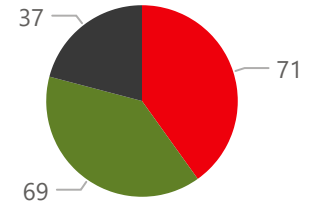
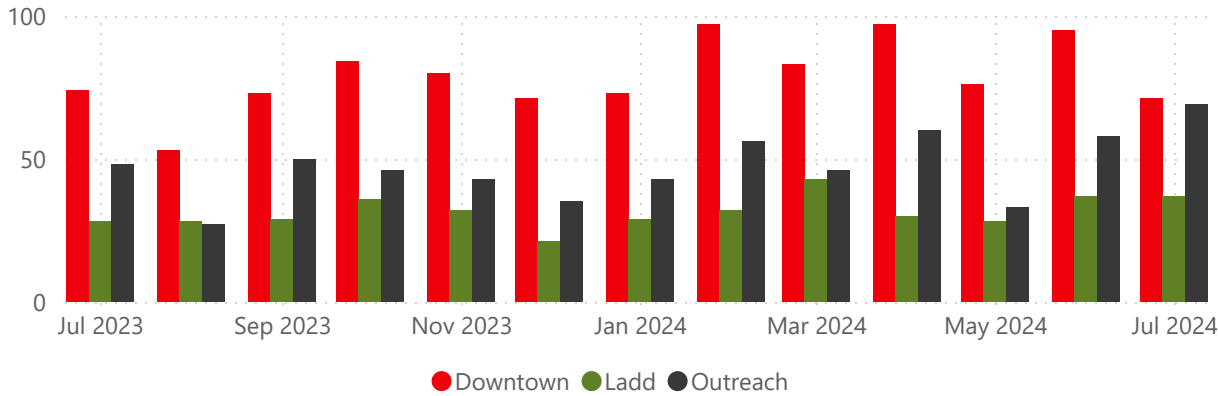
1. The recitals contained hereinabove are found to be true and correct.
2. The previous delegation to the City Purchasing Manager, or designee, to receive, open and publicly announce the bids, and report the results thereof to the City Council at its next meeting is hereby ratified and approved;
3. Garling Construction is the lowest responsive, responsible bidder on said work and the City Purchasing Manager, or designee, has recommended that the City accept its Bid and award the contract to it;
4. Subject to approval of the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer and registration with the Department of Labor, the Bid of Garling Construction is hereby accepted, and the contract for this public improvement is hereby awarded to Garling Construction;
5. The Library Director, City Manager, and City Clerk are hereby directed to sign and execute a contract with said contractor for the construction of the above-described public improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon execution by the Library Director, City Manager, and City Clerk, said contract is approved, subject to approval of the bond and insurance by the City of Cedar Rapids Risk Manager and filing of the same with the City of Cedar Rapids Finance Director.

Passed this day 5th day of September 2024.

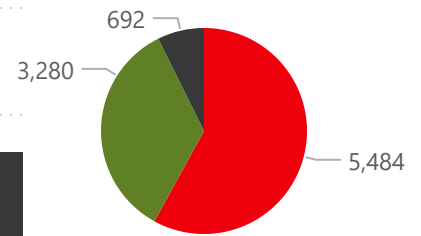
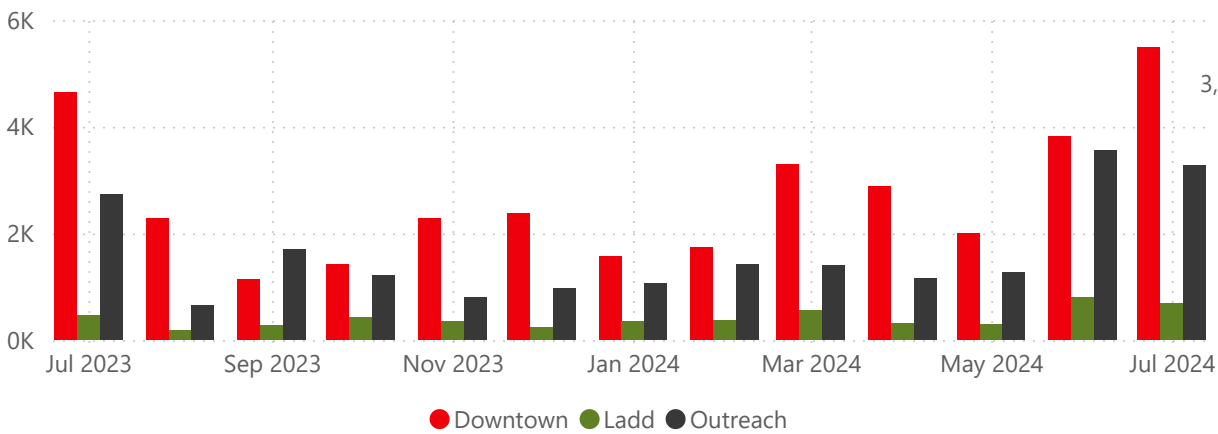
Monica Challenger
President

Programs



177

of Programs



9,456

of Attendees

The Programming department spent August winding down the Summer Reading Challenge and preparing for the start of the new school year. Summer ended very successfully, and plans are already underway to improve even more next year. This fall, the library is beginning a new reading program for young children, called 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, encouraging families to read to their young children regularly. Preschool and grade-school outreach is planned and ready to launch, and dozens of fantastic programs are planned for our patrons of all ages.

I helped a father of six who had come into the library to print off his paystubs. He also wanted to make library cards for all his children. I got them set up with accounts and off they went to find their books. When it was time to leave, they all approached the front desk. I asked the children if they would like to learn how to use the self-checkout because it was pretty cool in my opinion; or if they preferred for me to check their books out. I also figured it would be more entertaining for them because what kid doesn't like to push a button? They all agreed to a tutorial and I had them try out the touch screen. They delighted in the books "magically" showing up on the screen after setting them on the RFID scanning pad. I explained how the stickers in the backs of the books were sending radio signals to the pad then they all quickly looked for the RFID stickers. One of their older siblings had missed all of this and came to see what we were doing. I asked the kids if they would like to teach them how to use self-checkout. They jumped at the opportunity to show what they had just learned and beamed with joy and grinning faces as they succeeded in showing off this magical wonder. The dad was impressed by the extra help and attention and thanked me for making the experience fun for all of them. The youngest of the children asked me as they were leaving if they could come back and do this again, to which I replied "Of course! I can't wait to see you all again!" They smiled and waved as they left and said they were excited to come back to the library. - Elysha Holley, Patron Services Specialist

Borrowing & Collections

21,955

Databases

18,557

Digital

48,456

Physical

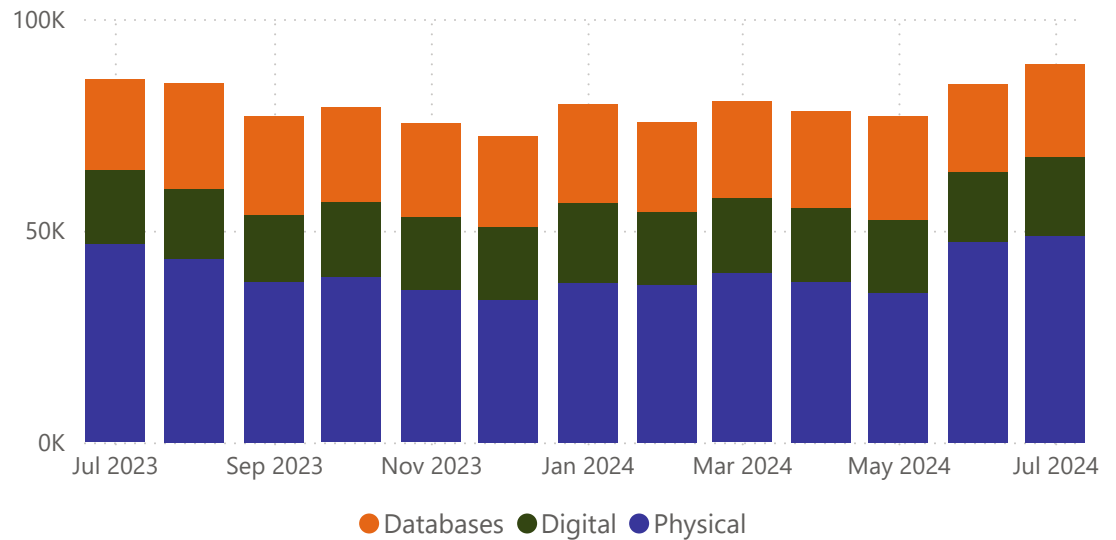
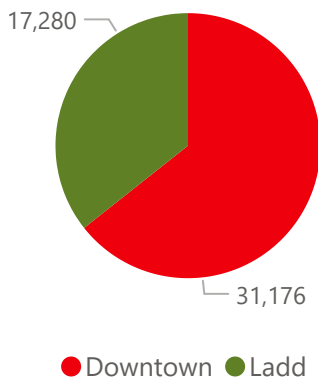
345

Technology

89,313

Total

Physical Circulation, by Location



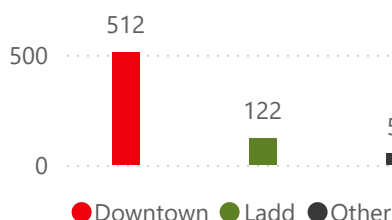
The Materials team is busy with fall new releases. Our summer QuickPick collection was wildly popular, so we'll plan to increase the selection of QuickPicks as we go through the season. Major authors often have September and October releases and QuickPicks can relieve long holds lists for these popular items. Our new collection of Tonie boxes and characters have been very well received, almost all of them were immediately checked out. The team will evaluate how they hold up under circulation before expanding but patron interest is very promising. The selection continues to expand, so there's opportunity for growth. The characters are the most popular part of the collection and cost less than a picture book, so it's an economical option for children's audio.

Volunteers

685

Total Hours

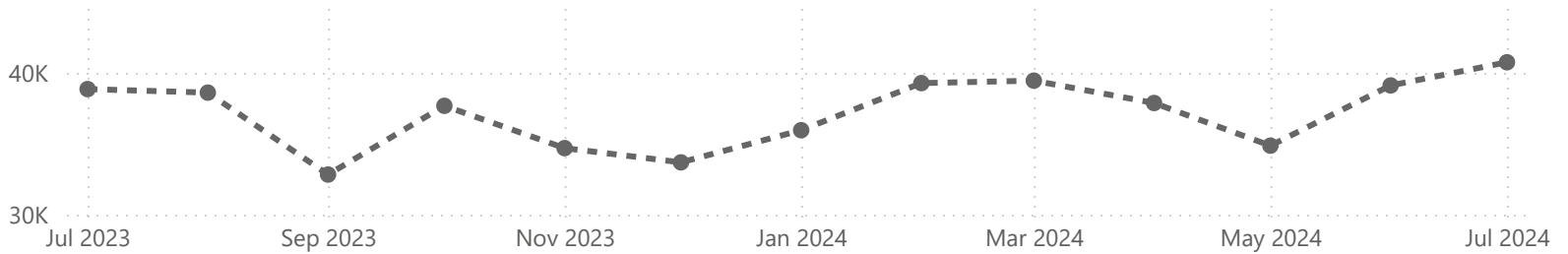
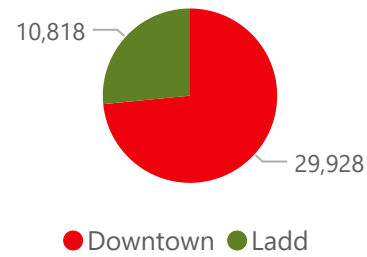
Volunteer Hours



Since the start of the pandemic, the Volunteer Services team has expanded its network to connect with other volunteer engagement leaders in libraries across the county. Each week, we participate in a group call with library leaders from communities of all sizes in the US and Canada. In this networking group, we learn from our peers about successful programs, discover lessons learned, and share stories from our library. We have also given formal presentations to the group on our onboarding and training processes. This group, led by Wendy Johnson from The Indianapolis Public Library, has been of support to us in launching our new Books By Delivery program, developing COVID safety training for returning volunteers, and expanding our online volunteer orientation. Volunteer Hours in July 2024: 438.

Visits

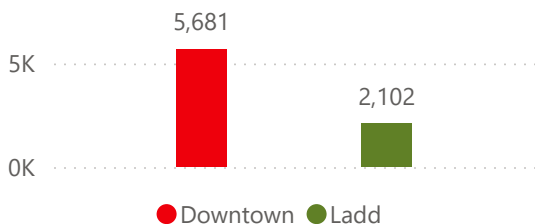
40,746
Physical Visits



In September, the Public Service Leadership Team went through the City’s Organizational Health training sessions. The team learned about unique working styles and celebrated many successes attributed to the work of the team and department as a whole. One standout story from this past month was from Patron Service Specialist Tricia Semple. On a Saturday, an individual came into the library in crisis from an issue outside the library. Tricia used her training to handle a difficult situation, which resulted in providing a safe space for the patron as well as accessing resources supporting the patron. While this was a difficult situation, Tricia did a phenomenal job of using her skills to make the situation as successful as possible.

Technology Access

PC Uses

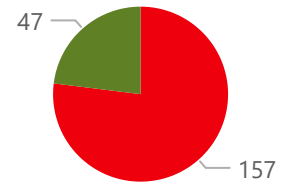
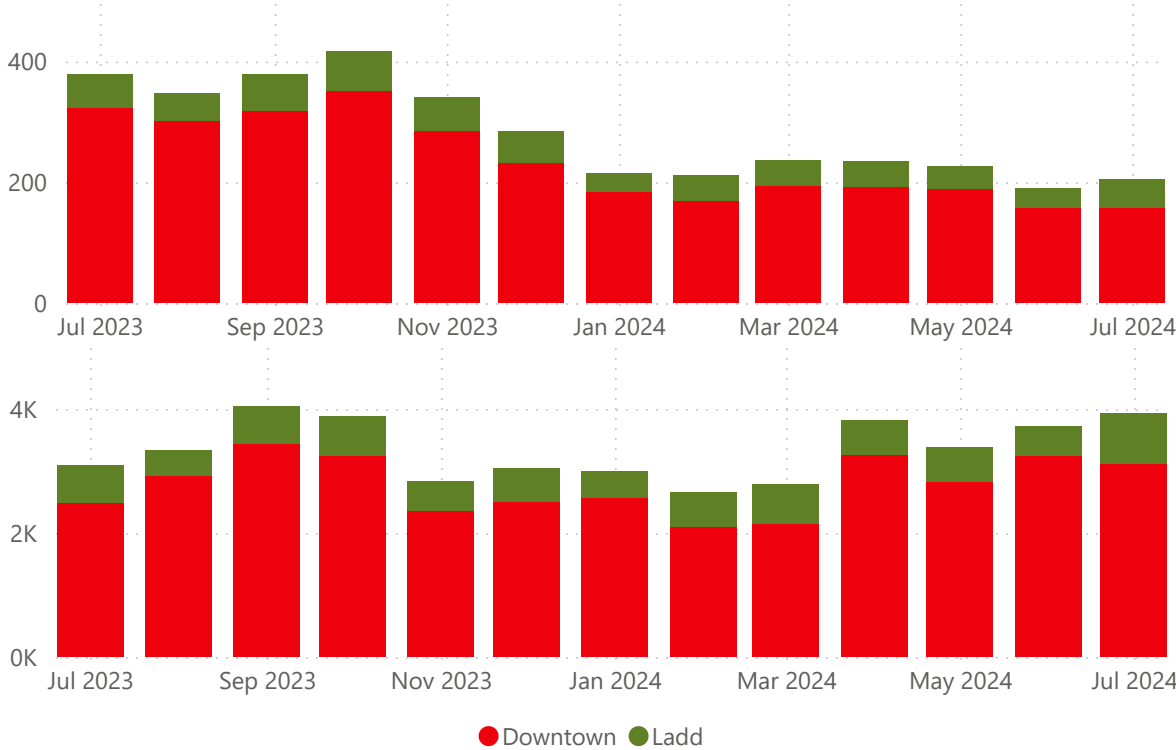


19,734
Virtual Visits

9,825
WiFi Sessions

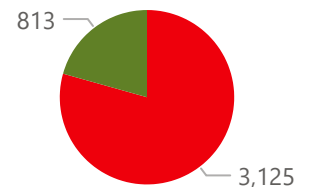
The Technology Solutions team is continuing installation of the new storage server. This is the backup for our internally hosted services and storage in the event of a data loss. Major systems have already been migrated from the previous server. The team will also begin working to update some battery backup hardware at the Ladd location. This is necessary to keep the systems running in case of a power failure and the purchase can be used in the new Westside location in the future.

Meeting Room Use



204

of Reservations



3,938

of Users

For the month of July, there were 204 reservations serving almost 4,000 individuals. Events included the usual baby showers and birthdays with additional celebrations including an Indian Classical Dance performance and string recitals for children and high school graduates. As the school years transitioned, we saw homeschool groups, Tanager's Freedom School, tutoring, college admissions counselor retreats, and visiting educators through the libraries. Library staff supported Hoover School's ESL Classes; HACAP Connections in the Opportunity Center; and Downtown, the Change Group found renewed momentum and the American Red Cross held a blood drive.

Community Relations has been reflecting on the work over the summer to understand how our marketing and communication efforts have been effective and where we can continue to improve. The results from summer have been very positive, and some of our major changes have paid off in a big way. We are already looking forward to planning for next year and the other reading challenges along the way. We just completed the Fall OPEN+ magazine, and are working on our plans for the Annual Report. September is a big month as we celebrate National Library Card Sign Up Month. We will share the message of the value of your library card throughout the month of September, and encouraging everyone else to do so as well. We will also participate in Welcoming Week, which will provide a great opportunity to talk about the plans for the Welcome Center at the new Westside Library.

We had friends visiting from Germany a couple of weeks ago, with their 11-year-old son. They are Americans and speak English at home with their son, and he learned to read in English first - and he's a voracious book worm. Last year when they visited, we came to the library, and he said it was a highlight of his trip, so it was the first thing on their agenda this year when they came back. We visited the library during the Ren Faire, and he had a great time learning to sword fight and exploring all the activities - but his favorite thing was having access to so many books. He was blown away, and they cleaned the Friends book shop in the Commons out of middle grade fiction. His mom explained that the public libraries they visit in Germany have few books in English, the language he prefers to read in, and also are more prone to be "hush!" environments than open for exploration by children. It was lovely to see a kid experiencing the joy of finding stories and to see his eyes light up when he realized just how many stories were waiting for him to dive into. - Alison Gowans, Content Writer

