

AGENDA
Board of Library Commissioners
of the City of Grand Rapids
October 29, 2024 – 5:15 pm
111 Library Street NE – Board Room

“Inspiring opportunity, connection, and innovation.”

1. Roll Call
- A, E 2. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on September 24, 2024
3. Board Comments
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Legislative
 - b. Policy
 - c. Board Retreat
- E 5. Staff & Foundation Reports
 - a. Library Director's Report
 - i. GRCM Collaboration
 - E b. Financial Report
 - c. Foundation Update
6. Old Business
 - a. Discussion of Board Replacement of Resigning Member
- E 7. New Business
 - a. Summer Reading Program Evaluation
- E 8. Information Items
 - E a. Media Index
 - E b. Staffing Report
 - E c. Statistical Report for September 2024
9. Grand Rapids Employees Independent Union
10. Agenda Items for the Regular Board Meeting on November 19, 2024
11. Public Comments
12. Adjournment

**Board of Library Commissioners
of the City of Grand Rapids**

Regular Meeting Agenda Calendar

January

- Election of Board Officers (A)
- Review of Committee Assignments
- Foundation Board Appointment by Board President
- BoLC Policy Manual Approval (A)
- Attendance Record from Previous Year (E)
- Voluntary Commitment to Serve (E)

February

- ALA Midwinter Conference Report
- Budget Information Review (E)

March

- Director Evaluation Documents (E)
- Budget Approval (A)

April

- Director Evaluation (*)

May

June

July

- ALA Annual Conference Reports

August

- Year End Reports (E)

September

October

- Summer Reading Program Evaluation (E)

November

- Policy Review Committee Update
- Nominating Committee Appointment

December

- Approval of Meeting Schedule (A)
- Closing Calendar (A)
- BoLC Policy Manual Updates (E)

Committee Meeting Calendar

January

- GRPL Foundation Representatives

February

March

April

- GRPL Foundation Representatives

May

June

July

August

- GRPL Foundation Representatives

September

October

- Budget Review Committee
- Policy Review Committee

November

December

- GRPL Foundation Representatives
- Nominating Committee for Board Officers



MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

September 24, 2024 | 5:15 pm
111 Library St NE | Board Room

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

1. ROLL CALL

- Board Members Present: Rachel Anderson, Kelly Boston (arrived at 5:18 pm), Kathryn Dilley, Sheila García Mazari, Kevin Peterson, Lauren Woolsey
- Board Members Absent:
- Administration Present: Robert Adcock, Megan Biggins, John Bosma, Natalie Drew, Lindsay Laplow, John McNaughton, Ann Neff-Rohs, Jen Vander Heide, Patrick Beatty
- Staff Present: Erin Hart
- Public Present: Steven Assarian, GREIU; Jax Johnson; Dan Poortenga, GRPLF; Brandee Ritsema, Rapidian/Documenters

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON JULY 30, 2024

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey, supported by Commissioner García Mazari, that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of July 30, 2024.

No comments.

ACTION: AYES 6 – 0

Motion passed.

3. BOARD COMMENTS

Anderson asks about library cards with patron photos. She explains that Michigan voting law recently changed and local government photo IDs can serve as IDs to vote. Anderson adds that this is a recent development and is now updated to any civil personal ID such as school and library cards. The board agrees that this could be looked into before the next big election. Woolsey suggests that we can offer these to patrons if they request. Peterson adds that there are some local funds for photo IDs that may be interested in supporting this. McNaughton says it is very interesting news and that he will look into it.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Legislative

No comments.

b. Policy

No comments.

c. Board Retreat

No comments.

5. STAFF & FOUNDATION REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

McNaughton starts by welcoming GRPL's new Deputy Director Jen Vander Heide. Vander Heide comments that it's a pleasure to be back at GRPL. She explains that she started working at GRPL in 2014 as a Library Assistant II in the Adult Reference Department, in 2016-2020 she oversaw Customer Service for all 8 locations, and in 2020-2024 she was the Librarian IV who oversaw Collection Service and Customer Service where she worked on large scale projects, budget management, and patron-facing coordination with technological systems. Her wife was awarded a prestigious position in Germany, which gave Vander Heide the opportunity to see what is happening internationally in libraries. She concludes that she is delighted to be back at GRPL leading operations and moving the organization forward in an impactful way. The board welcomes Vander Heide.

McNaughton says the open board position seat was posted yesterday.

i. GRCM Collaboration

McNaughton and Vander Heide have been meeting with Grand Rapids Children's Museum's (GRCM) CEO Maggie Lancaster. GRCM hired a new Fundraising Consultant, Kristin Gootjes, to do a feasibility study. Recently, they met with some donors and are now waiting for an updated timeline. McNaughton adds that we will send a draft of a job description of a Project Manager to GRCM so they can get it posted. McNaughton concludes that we are putting together a renovation committee consisting of GRPL board members and staff to examine what we'd like in this building and for the new building, as we want to hear all voices.

Boston asks about the previous renovation plans that were made. McNaughton says some people weren't happy with it so we're going to look at crafting new plans. Woolsey asks if staff have already given feedback on what they'd like. McNaughton answers yes. Boston asks if Vander Heide is going to be involved. McNaughton answers yes.

Anderson commends the Ottawa Hills Branch staff for vocalizing their work within the report. She asks if staff would like to come to a board meeting to talk about their branch. McNaughton offers to have them come in at the start of the new year. Boston asks if we could give each branch a month to report out so they know when they are expected to be present. McNaughton answers yes.

Boston comments on the interstitial ads and asks if we have done these before. McNaughton says Director of Marketing & Communications Katie Zychowski has planned and executed this, and it is very new. Boston comments that she's happy to see new advertising since only 17% of City residents used their library cards last fiscal year.

Woolsey commends the Collection Services Department for breaking their record 2 months into the year.

B. Financial Report

Adcock comments that the funds have hit as of September.

Boston comments that digital content use during FY24 is almost 50/50 with print and asked if the budget line is for both digital and print. McNaughton answers yes. Boston asks what the breakdown is. McNaughton said he will send this to the whole board.

Anderson comments that she would like to also hear about the increases in prices to digital items. McNaughton says this has been a challenge and he will create a mini-report for the board. Anderson adds that the whole board would like to hear about the lending model and how it works. Neff-Rohs says we were a little higher in digital than physical materials due to demand being higher. Woolsey comments that she appreciated the report Neff-Rohs sent.

C. Foundation Update

Poortenga comments that the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation (GRPLF) board met in August and approved all submitted grant requests, totalling over \$69,000 to support Black History month, One Book One City for Kids, Dyer Ives, and History Center projects. He adds that GRPLF is appreciative to library staff for the effort they put forward in the grant requests submitted.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Board Replacement of Resigning Member

Anderson comments that we are sadly down a member. She notes that we are accepting applications for a large window of time, until November 1. McNaughton adds that we are hoping to attract someone with community knowledge.

Peterson speaks about a skills matrix for board members to identify the skills that are currently represented within the board to show where we could add areas of experience that we can recruit. Anderson asks if Peterson can put something together and send it over to the board within the next week or two so they can talk about it at the October regular board meeting.

Anderson says the goal is to narrow down the candidate pool at the November regular board meeting, and conduct interviews at the December regular meeting. Woolsey asks if we're meeting before the December regular meeting. McNaughton says the December agenda is usually light, so we may not need to. Anderson adds that the regular meeting is scheduled for December 17.

García Mazari asks if she should also do the skills analysis. Peterson answers yes.

Anderson asks the board if the proposed timeline works. The board answers yes.

Dilley asks if the skills matrix will come with the next board packet. Peterson answers that it will be sent as a google doc or spreadsheet, and the board members can see live updates. He adds that he is happy to plug things in for other board members too.

Woolsey asks if we can add the timeline dates to the website after the October regular board meeting so applicants know what to expect. McNaughton says yes.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Year End Reports

McNaughton comments that if anyone has questions, they are welcome to ask. Anderson explains what reports are included.

Woolsey asks whether the new Patron Responsibilities Policy is working well in regard to the Safety Report. Bosma says yes, it has been helpful and he is looking forward to the revision process through the next year as we reassess and get more feedback from staff.

Peterson asks whether the incident spike between 1:00 - 5:00 pm correlated with an increase in visitors or whether it is out of proportion for how many visitors are in the building at one time in regard to the Safety Report. Bosma answers that the incident spike was between 4:00 - 5:00 pm last year, this year is a bit more broad. He adds that an increase in anxiety with some challenging behaviors has been noticed in the evening when patrons are making plans for the rest of the day. He concludes that the total number of guests are spiking as well as the incidents.

Anderson asks if the monitoring logs are for adult and youth patrons in regard to the Safety Report. Bosma answers yes. Anderson asks about the ratio of bans between youth and adult patrons. Bosma answers that they are mostly adults. He adds that if we need to ban youth, durations are significantly shorter.

McNaughton thanks the team for such wonderful reports and adds that he is very proud of the work they have done.

García Mazari asks if we can separate out the breakdown within the HR report for administrative staff. McNaughton answers yes.

B. Media Index

No comments.

C. Staffing Report

No comments.

D. Statistical Report for July & August 2024

No comments.

9. GRAND RAPIDS EMPLOYEES INDEPENDENT UNION

No comments.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 29, 2024

- Summer Reading Challenge has been permanently moved to October.
- Continuation of the new board member discussion.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Johnson comments that they love the Dungeons and Dragons for Teens program.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Commissioner Woolsey that the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.



Our Mission
Inspiring opportunity, connection, and innovation.

Our Vision
The Grand Rapids Public Library is key to a dynamic, creative, livable city where people come together to learn and be heard.

Strategic Framework Project Updates

SEPTEMBER 2024

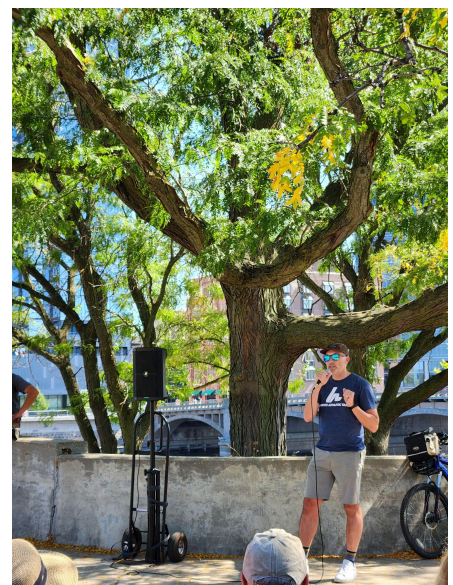
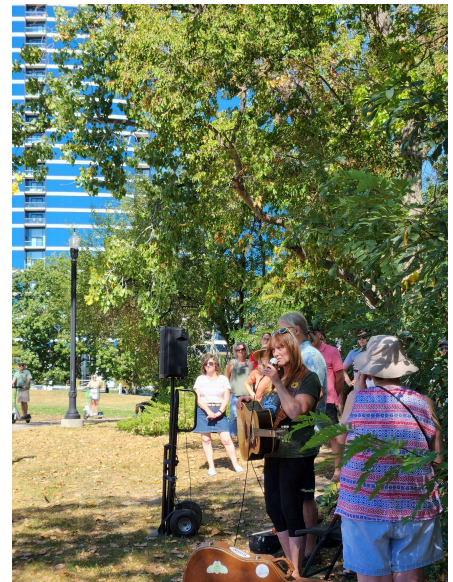
LOOKING OUTWARD

Understanding Our Community

- GRPL staff attended the following outreach events where we shared library resources and events, offered library card sign-ups, and promoted the Library with giveaways:
 - GRCC Student Health & Wellness Fair
 - Southeast Area Farmers Market
 - Eastown Street Fair
 - Grace CRC Back to School Carnival
 - Dwelling Place Family Festival
 - Fiesta Mexicana
 - Midtown Grooves
 - Grand Rapids African American Arts & Music Festival

- GRPL's first ever Community Resource Fair received wonderful feedback from patrons, partners, and staff. There were 24 local organizations in attendance and more than 145 patrons who participated in the event, which took place throughout the Main Library's Lower Level. Many patrons, partners, and staff indicated they would love to see this event happen on a regular basis and appreciated the opportunity to connect with the community in this way. Staff expressed several times how exciting it was to have the event take place on GRPL's public floors. Partner organizations also indicated that they loved being able to talk with other organizations to fill in gaps in services for their clients and were even able to work together during the fair to connect patrons to one another. Among the comments received:
 - *"The event was wonderful!"*
 - *"It's amazing how many organizations were able to participate."*
 - *"This fair was fantastic! I didn't even know some of these resources were available in our community."*

- Following the success of last year's Grand River Walk, Adult Services Department Library Assistant II Nathan Mabie organized a second walking tour of the Grand River. This year's speakers were representatives from the Michigan DNR, Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation, and the Grand River Watershed Arts and Music Council. The event saw 70 community members in attendance. Attendees met at the fish ladder and continued along the river while learning about its ecosystem, fishery, and water protection efforts. Over two-thirds of those who completed the event survey indicated that they had never attended a GRPL event before. Comments included:
 - *"I appreciate the chance to learn more about and connect with the city and what's going on in and around the river!"*
 - *"Loved the variety of speakers. Had never been to Fish Ladder before today. So very nice walking and learning."*
 - *"This is the only library event I've ever attended. I came because the environmental topics interested me. I also like being out in the community instead of being in a library."*
 - *"Awesome knowledgeable speakers. I learned a lot and hope they do it again next year."*



Strategic Framework Project Updates

- On September 14th, the library was host to our first ever live polka session for the event Polka 101 at the Library. We had a turnout of 80 people where patrons learned polka's dance steps and techniques thanks to our teacher from the Malbork Dance Group, a local polka dance troupe, and heard live polka from the Stan Mroz Jr. Band. Patron responses included:
 - *"It was very fun and I learned something new! 5 Stars"*
 - *"The teacher was amazing. There was a lot of smiling in the people dancing. A lot of laughing."*
 - *"Awesome and enthusiastic volunteers! Easy and fun. Friendly community."*
 - *"Staff are fully committed. Excellent."*



- We continued the popular Michigan Author Series in September. Michigan chef and cookbook author Abra Berens visited the library and shared her experience with farming and cooking seasonal produce in Michigan. The author talk was followed by a book signing and Abra signed and visited with many patrons. The event was attended by 52 people and many shared enthusiastic praise about the event.
- In September, we resumed offering Basic Computer Classes at the Main Library after a summer hiatus. Patrons regularly request these classes and express interest in more advanced computer classes. Advanced classes will continue in October and November.
- Programming returned to the Ottawa Hills Branch in September and was well received by the local community. Programs were created and implemented based directly on feedback from patrons, including Community Game Night, Popular Pages Book Club, Family Storytime, and Meet Me at the Library. Library users of all ages spent leisure time at the branch, engaged with library resources, and made new connections with community members.
- The Van Belkum Branch recently hosted a successful pop-up playgroup in partnership with Grand Rapids Community College Play and Learn. This event attracted several new patrons to our library who left feeling engaged and enthusiastic about participating in the storytimes offered by GRPL. Bright Beginnings has also expressed interest in hosting a potential pop-up playgroup at the Van Belkum Branch.
- September was also our first session of the school year for the LEGO Robotics program (formerly known as Mindstorm Saturdays). In this program, kids build and code their own robots using LEGO's Spike Prime systems, and they get help from high school students from the Forest Hills COMETS Robotics Team. This program previously used LEGO's Mindstorms platforms; it has now been upgraded to Spike Prime, and we purchased brand-new equipment that uses that



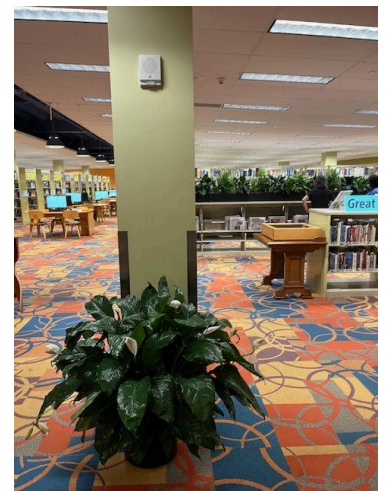
Strategic Framework Project Updates

platform. The new equipment worked excellently and is more user-friendly than the old system. We had 14 kids in attendance in September, and they built robots that danced, rode bikes, picked up objects, and more.

- After the success of the Dungeons & Dragons for Teens program the past two summers, we have expanded the program to occur monthly during the school year at the Main Library. The first session in September had 15 teens in attendance, and the teens had a blast. We expect attendance numbers to continue to be this high in coming months. A “More Dungeons, More Dragons” book display in the teen area at the Main Library also received high circulation in September. There are few opportunities for young people to play Dungeons & Dragons in Grand Rapids, especially with others their age.
- In September, the Business Librarian participated in a panel on grantseeking for the 2024 Health Equity Conference. The Health Equity Conference is a collaboration between the GVSU Public Health Department and Kent County Health Connect, a partnership for health policy in our region. The Business Librarian highlighted the library’s services for nonprofits, particularly our robust grantseeking resources, to help our community partners make changes they want to see in the community.

CREATING INSPIRING SPACES & EXPERIENCES

- Adult Services brought color and life to the lower level of the Main Library with a variety of plants. 146 plants were purchased and will be maintained through an outside vendor. They can be seen across shelves, in front of columns, and brightening up corners. Soon they will also adorn the west walls in sconces. The plants demonstrate to our patrons that we want our space to be welcoming and inviting. The Adult Services Department believes that the nicer a space is, the better it will be treated by those who use it. Staff have said that the plants also make for a calmer workspace, and they continue to receive compliments on the plants from our colleagues and the community.



- A core team of staff including Circulation Operations Manager Andrea Hiler, Branch Managers Erin

Strategic Framework Project Updates

Keener and Courtnei Moyses, Graphic Designer Hannah Snow, and Director of Marketing & Communications Katie Zychowski are in the final stages of gathering input related to specific service points across the system. Their efforts have resulted in compiled data sets about Hold Shelves, Check Out Stations, Internal Book Drops, and more. We are beginning to sketch design solutions for each service point to aid in patrons' wayfinding and understanding. In addition to our onsite efforts, we are visiting offsite locations to gather inspiration.

- The Communications Department continues to apply the new brand across the system. Recently, external book drops were rebranded at the Main Library, the West Side Branch, and the Ottawa Hills Branch to include more information about how patrons can use the book drops by adding "Library Returns" to each unit.



- The Communications Department also continues to apply large-scale branded elements to the exterior of our buildings in order to bring visibility and awareness to our system. The most recent application happened at the Madison Square Branch.

TRANSFORMING OUR CULTURE

- The Planning Committee including Deputy Director Jen Vander Heide, Library Analyst Rebecca Near, Platform Administrator Tim Gloege, Director of Human Resources Natalie Drew, and Director of Marketing & Communications Katie Zychowski continue to refine our Major Project planning system. We're creating new tools and facilitation plans which will lead to FY26 Major Project selection.

Strategic Framework Project Updates

- Representatives from Data Axle were welcomed to the Main Library to train staff on the Reference Solutions database. The hour-long training was a welcome refresher for some staff and an introduction to others. The goal of database training is to make staff more knowledgeable as well as more comfortable sharing these resources with patrons.
-

Financial Summary through September 2024

Operating Fund 2710

Revenues

- The library received their annual property tax revenues (lines 1 and 3) in September. Actual property tax revenue received came in approximately 0.4% above budget projections. All other revenue line items are tracking at expected levels through two three months of FY25.

Expenditures

- Compensation is tracking within 1% of budget projections for the fiscal year. All operating expenditures are tracking within their expected levels through three months of FY25.

Capital Fund 2711

Revenues

- No revenue activity occurred in August for this fund.

Expenditures

- Any notable spending activity has yet to occur for FY25 in this fund.

Grand Rapids Public Library
Revenue and Expense Statement
Operating Fund
Month Ended September 2024

Description	BOARD APPROVED BUDGET FY 2025	Actual FY 2025 through 3 months	Expenditure % of Budget	For Month Ended September FY24 25% of Year	FY 2023 Actual Final
1 Real property tax	12,881,888	12,901,910		12,095,831	11,122,698
2 Taxes-Assessments Canceled	(18,500)	-		(4,554)	(25,760)
3 Personal property taxes	889,899	927,055		881,088	869,161
4 Personal property tax loss Reimbursement	106,353	-		-	228,947
5 Industrial/commercial facilities	14,843	14,069		14,769	13,487
6 Payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT)	65,661	4,606		9,624	65,689
7 Interest/Penalties on delinquent taxes	29,500	8,533		8,479	32,462
8 Tax Capture Rebates	130,000	10,283		19,919	201,627
Total Tax Revenues	14,099,644	13,866,456		13,025,155	12,508,311
9 Interest on investments	294,843	29,065		21,787	118,444
10 Penal Fines	290,000	313,502		285,965	285,803
11 State Aid to Libraries	120,000	102,857		101,566	100,150
12 Misc service fees, contributions, room rent, parking	60,000	15,272		12,084	69,013
13 Library book fines	35,000	16,768		9,395	31,360
Total Other Revenues	799,843	477,464		430,797	604,770
Total Revenues	14,899,487	14,343,919	96.3%	13,455,952	13,113,081
14 Retiree Health Care	114,950	27,457	23.9%	27,425	116,123
15 Full Time Employees	4,484,446	1,183,799	26.4%	1,133,653	4,109,914
16 Part Time Employees	2,305,881	544,273	23.6%	483,917	1,787,819
17 Shift Differential	45,000	4,861	10.8%	4,496	45,068
18 Over Time @ 1.5	35,000	13,007	37.2%	9,249	43,851
19 Acting Assignment	1,000	-	0.0%	-	-
20 Unemployment Comp	6,500	1,557	24.0%	1,484	5,404
21 Employers Social Security	519,857	130,815	25.2%	121,350	440,711
22 Hospitalization Insurance	806,200	208,235	25.8%	216,380	662,308
23 Retirement Fund Contribution	1,018,435	248,160	24.4%	240,245	871,839
24 Vacancy & Turnover Lapse	(50,000)	-	-	-	-
Total Compensation	9,287,269	2,362,165	25.4%	2,238,198	8,083,036
25 Supplies	130,000	52,551	40.4%	21,510	107,933
26 Postage	9,000	4,847	53.9%	2,137	7,369
27 Contractual Services	544,600	63,541	11.7%	48,607	523,397
28 Contractual Services - Training	45,250	3,000	6.6%	74,050	40,857
29 Professional Development	55,000	4,248	7.7%	12,156	61,891
30 Conferences and Travel	40,000	4,445	11.1%	5,953	34,288
31 Local Business Expense	10,000	3,697	37.0%	1,694	12,092
32 Bank Fees	2,000	239	11.9%	173	2,275
33 Memberships	35,000	6,496	18.6%	9,966	27,154
34 Community Promotion	200,000	15,730	7.9%	10,879	80,841
35 Printing and Publishing	111,200	8,743	7.9%	19,258	49,702
36 Advertising	62,000	7,374	11.9%	20	47,640
37 Liability Insurance	115,458	28,865	25.0%	27,113	92,950
38 Property Insurance	60,105	63,781	106.1%	47,224	49,496
39 Electricity	336,750	72,749	21.6%	68,308	305,095
40 Water	35,300	13,596	38.5%	10,105	23,232
41 Natural Gas	112,450	9,658	8.6%	9,231	119,574
42 Telephone	40,000	7,708	19.3%	12,358	20,489
43 Internet Services	130,250	13,011	10.0%	13,850	818
44 Software	4,500	-	0.0%	-	24,042
45 Software Maintenance Fees	324,618	19,062	5.9%	9,779	28,451
46 Maintenance Repair	444,500	122,930	27.7%	101,917	416,392
47 Equipment Rentals or Lease	48,634	11,681	24.0%	14,860	62,801
48 Mileage reimbursement	10,000	771	7.7%	1,047	8,459
49 Tuition reimbursement	10,000	-	0.0%	-	3,500
50 Refuse Collection	17,000	2,817	16.6%	2,277	24,472
51 Asset Management Allocation	150,000	150,000	0.0%	-	1,500,000
52 Books/Other Materials	1,730,000	413,000	23.9%	345,579	1,571,513
53 Furniture	35,000	11,792	33.7%	-	150,722
54 Equipment	52,600	-	0.0%	-	100,169
55 Computer Equipment	144,000	50,018	0.0%	-	50,781
56 Vehicles	-	-	0.0%	-	-
57 Operating Transfers Out (City Mgmt fee)	510,734	128,100	25.1%	108,069	355,824
Total Operating Expenditures	5,555,949	1,294,447	23.3%	978,120	5,904,216
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	14,843,218	3,656,612	24.6%	3,216,318	13,987,252
TOTAL REVENUE	14,899,487	14,343,919	96.3%	13,455,952	13,113,081
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	56,269	10,687,308		10,239,634	(874,171)

Grand Rapids Public Library

Revenue and Expense Statement

Capital Fund

Month Ended September 2024

	BOARD APPROVED BUDGET FY 2025	Actual FY 2025 through 3 months	Expenditure % of Budget	For Month Ended September FY24 25% of Year	FY 2023 Actual Final
1 Operating Fund Transfer In	150,000	150,000		-	1,500,000
2 Interest on Investments	60,659	-		4,606	90,475
Total Revenues	210,659	150,000		4,606	1,590,475
3 Building Additions/Improvements	46,000	3,901		243,966	1,664,881
Total Asset Management Expenditures	46,000	3,901	8.5%	243,966	1,664,881
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	46,000	3,901	8.5%	243,966	1,664,881
TOTAL REVENUE	210,659	150,000	71.2%	4,606	1,590,475
Fund 2711 SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	164,659	146,100		(239,360)	(74,406)

Total Revenues	14,899,487	14,343,919	96.3%	13,455,952
Total Expenditures	14,843,218	3,656,612	24.6%	3,216,318
Fund 2710 SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	56,269	10,687,308		10,239,634

TOTAL BOTH FUNDS:

Total Revenues	15,110,146	14,493,919	95.9%	13,460,558
Total Expenditures	14,889,218	3,660,512	24.6%	3,460,283
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	220,928	10,833,407		10,000,274

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Report for the Board of Library Commissioners



The Basics

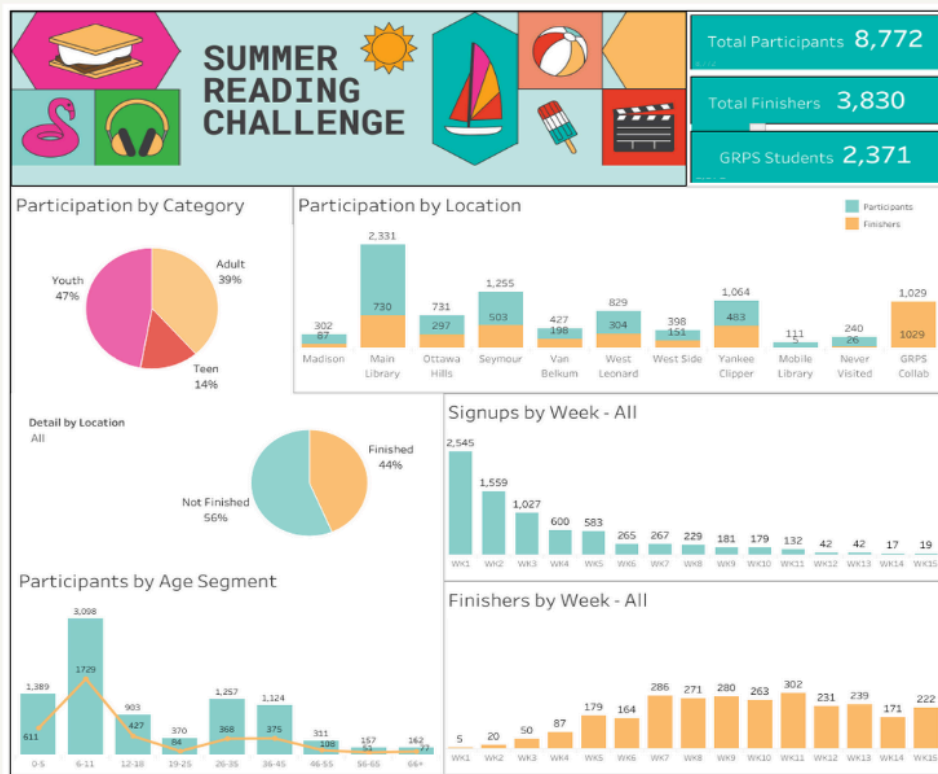


- We designed SRC 2024 with a similar format to last year. Patrons completed a passport booklet by choosing 12 different challenges from anywhere in the passport.
- In response to patron feedback, we added a U-Pick category to offer challenges for patrons wanting to read a certain number of books, or to read every day.
- The grand prize for kids and teens was picking out a book to keep from a wide selection of age-appropriate titles. Graphic novels were by far and away the most popular!
- The grand prize for adults was a GRPL-branded lunch cooler. We also offered a selection of halfway prizes for youth and adults got to choose a koozie from 3 fun designs

The Final Numbers

Both youth and adult participation increased from 2023!

- **3,381 Adults registered and 1,061 finished** → compared to 3,233 registrants and 900 finishers in 2023
- **5,390 Youth registered and 2,767 finished** → compared to 4,076 registrants and 1,507 finishers in 2023



Measurable Goals and Outcomes

ALL AGES

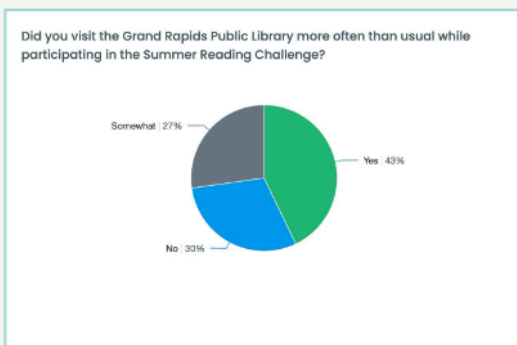
Goal

Increase percentage of participants who said that due to SRC they use the library more and they know more about library resources and services.

[including Yes and Somewhat answers]

Outcome

- 2023 Survey – 73% and 67% respectively
- 2024 Survey – 70% for both questions



Measurable Goals and Outcomes

ADULTS

Goal and Outcome

Increase participation among patrons age 46+ by 5%. **Outcome:** We did not reach this goal. Compared to 2023, there were ten fewer participants aged 46+ for a total of 630.



Goal and Outcome

Increase participation among patrons age 19-25 by 5%. **Outcome:** Participation among this age group increased by 5%, totalling 370 participants compared to 2023's 352.

Measurable Goals and Outcomes

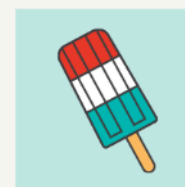
YOUTH

Goal and Outcome

Increase teen participation by 5%. **Outcome:** Teen participation, including GRPS summer school students, increased significantly! We aimed for a 5% increase, but teen participation increased by 67%, from 750 in 2023 to 1252 in 2024.

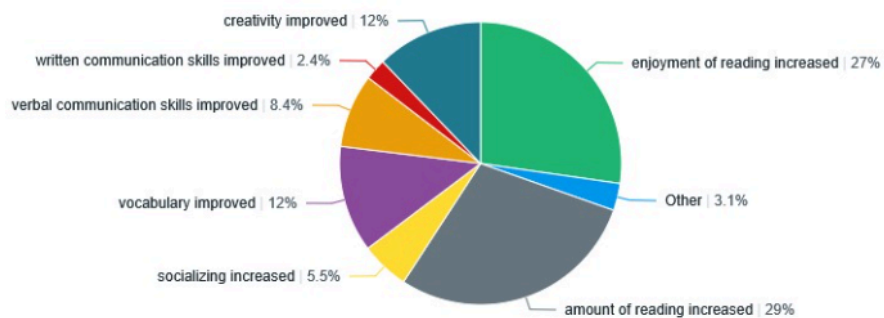
Goal and Outcome

Measure racial diversity by comparing zip codes of participants from 2023 to 2024 **Outcome:** We have now determined this is not an accurate measurement of racial diversity due to zip codes including a wide range of demographics.



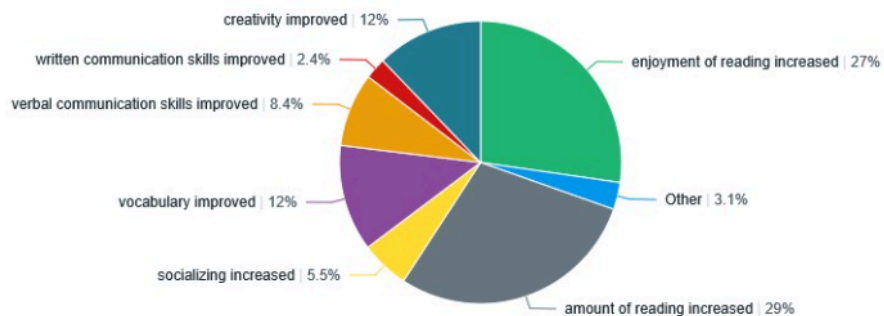
Positive SRC Impacts on Youth

Select any that apply. After participating in the Summer Reading Challenge, I feel that my child's:



Positive SRC Impacts on Youth

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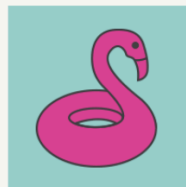
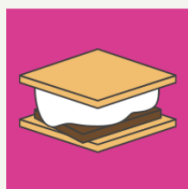
More Feedback and Numbers



Around 50% of adults participated along with their children. We have created a truly intergenerational challenge!

The highest finisher rate (47.5%) was among patrons ages 65+, despite low registering numbers overall

92% of respondents rated the program good or excellent on an emailed survey



For 27% of kids, it was their family's first time participating in SRC

GRPS Summer School Partnership Success



This year, the SRC team accomplished a long-held goal of registering every summer school student for SRC. 1,029 scholars signed up and finished SRC!



- We provided passports and activity kits to each of the 5 summer school sites in June.
- The students participated in SRC in their classes, often doing challenges all together with the teacher.
- At the end of the summer school session, students were able to choose their finisher prizes at a GRPL-run "book fair" at their schools.

Family Patron Quotes

"We are still thrilled that everyone not only picked a book prize but one that fell in their interest (and had options). Thank you so much for making reading exciting!"

"We loved that the reading challenge is very much a "choose your own adventure"! My daughter has strong goal-directed persistence and she loved checking the various reading activities off the list to get her prize!"

Feedback from an 8-year-old: "It was great to get my own book as a prize. I can use that book again for next year's challenge. Read a book to get a book.... Perfect!"

"I liked the formatting and overall idea. The rewards were awesome and the prompts were very unique and fun to complete over the summer."

Adult Patron Quotes

"I enjoyed the different genres that were required and read outside of my usual picks. Even after I completed the requirements, I continued to read to check all the boxes. We senior citizens need to have goals to keep us interested and to spice up our lives even if they are limited, so this helped."

"This Summer Reading Challenge gave me and my friend something to look forward to at the beginning of summer. It was also nice to read books we have shared and enjoyed in the past. Revisiting places in our minds long forgotten. Thank you so much."

"We love this challenge as adults. It's something we do together as a couple. Thank you for giving us this wonderful way to engage with culture, each other, and our larger community. This program is a treasure."

Summer Events

We held events for all age groups. All GRPL locations except one hosted at least one SRC event.

For Kids

- Mad Science Mayhem
- Comedy Magic with Cameron Zvara
- Wildlife Experience with Blandford Nature Center



Children use baking soda and vinegar to make a plastic bag explode at Mad Science Mayhem at the West Side Branch.



Magician Cameron Zvara asks for volunteers at his Comedy Magic show at LINC Up (across from Madison Square Branch).

For Tweens and Teens

- Dungeons & Dragons Workshop
- Improv Comedy with the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre



A teen waits to see what will happen next in the adventure during Dungeons & Dragons.

Summer Events

For Adults

Author Talk with Emily St. John Mandel



Author Emily St. John Mandel greets attendees at the Author Talk.

Introduction to Series:
Fiction Writing, Songwriting, Line Dancing, Hip Hop Dancing, Smartphone Photography, and Podcasting



Switchback Gear Exchange's Ryan leads the basics of bike maintenance at the bike workshop at Van Belkum Branch.

For All Ages

Bike Workshop with Switchback
Three Summer Reading Celebrations at parks across the City



Attendees enjoy a storytime with Wimee at the Summer Reading Celebration at Mulick Park.

Grand Rapids Public Library Sept– Oct 2024 Media Index

Media Mentions by Topic

Programs	6	Digital Media	11
General	4	Television	0
GR History Center	0	Radio	0
Staff/Board	0	Print publications	0
GRPL Foundation	0		
Outreach	1		
		Total number of mentions:	11

Key Articles and Interviews

- [Morning Buzz: September 3 - FOX 17](#)
- [GRPL hosting family-friendly game nights | wzzm13.com](#)
- [Are you ready for game night? **Grand Rapids Public Library** is ready for you! - FOX 17](#)
- [Eastown Streetfair returns Saturday with more for kids - WOODTV.com](#)
- [Margaritas, Mexicana and monster trucks: What to do in West Michigan this weekend](#)
- [Fiestas, festivals and fun: A guide to Hispanic Heritage Month events in West Michigan](#)
- [Morning Buzz: September 18 - FOX 17](#)
- [Book club for kids helps raise awareness of social justice issues - School News Network](#)
- [West Michigan Celebrates Hispanic Heritage - **Grand Rapids Magazine**](#)
- [3 things to do with your **Grand Rapids library** card - Gander Newsroom](#)
- [Former **Poet Laureate**, Marcel Fable Price, releases "New American Monarch" - FOX 17](#)

Social Media Comments

Partner Picks - Videos

- Trust in David! (GRFS Partner Pick)
- Amazing 🗡️🔥🗡️🔥🗡️ (GRFS Partner Pick)
- Thank you David!! (GRFS Partner Pick)
- This a comprehensive film school if there ever was one. And it's FREE. Thank you David! (GRFS Partner Pick)
- THE David Blakeslee has spoken. (GRFS Partner Pick)
- I love this a lot (AAPI Artist Partner Pick)

- Kim!!!! you are the best!!!! (AAPI Artist Partner Pick)
- HI KIM!!!!!!!!!!!!!! thanks for the recs ❤️(AAPI Artist Partner Pick)
- Yay!!!! Great recs @thaikim (AAPI Artist Partner Pick)

Events & Initiatives

- I'm interested in the adult book club. Can you tell me what the books are for October and November?
(Social Justice Begins with ME)
- I love the library (Music in the Stacks)
- Yes, please what are the books that may be included in these events... Very interested thank you
(Social Justice Begins with ME)
- What are the book titles that the adults and children will be reading for the October 19 event?
(Social Justice Begins with ME)
- Once again, shout out to Grand Rapids Public Library for partnering with E'lla's Art Gallery LLC once again. Tonight's "Cookie's and Canvas" party was nothing but fun and we can't wait for the next (sold out) event in October.
- Thank you @grandrapidspubliclibrary saugatuckbrewingco and the Grand Rapids
- Library Foundation for the invitation to read at tonight's Adult Story time, honoring Latinx authors and experiences.
- Why would the library be involved in this at all? Adults can check out their own books and read them. They are not children. (Adult Storytime)
- So much love for this team and the library for letting us be LOUD. (Music in the Stacks)

General

- Love!! GRPL! The new logo, the programs and especially the librarians!
- Thank you GRPL! It truly is shocking how far people will go to ban books they don't like. Orgs like GRPL speaking out makes me feel a little less afraid. ❤️(MI Right to Read)
- Thank you GRPL (MI Right to Read)
- Hello! I just saw your post about the attempts to ban LBGT+ and BIPOC books. Is there a specific way we can support the library in this fight? (MI Right to Read)
- Thank you! Books should never be banned, and art should never be censored. I'm an author, and I appreciate your efforts. (MI Right to Read)
- If you don't want to read something don't. Don't deny someone else the ability to read what they want. Keep our libraries politically free. (MI Right to Read)

- Yeah baby! Proud to have my GRPL stand up for what is right (MI Right to Read)
- Moment of appreciation for the librarian who assembled this stack with the light cutting through the shadows 🙌🙌🙌 (MI Right to Read)



STAFFING REPORT

September October 2024

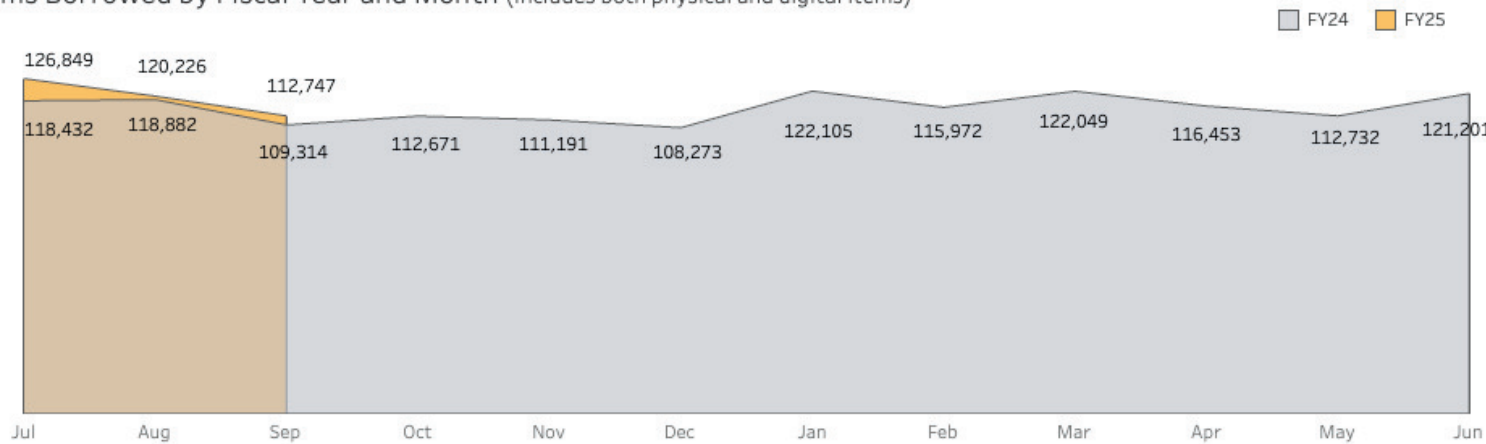
NEW HIRES				STAFF		
EFFECTIVE	POSITION	LOCATION	ANNIVERSARIES	POSITION	TIME	
9/16/2024	Library Assistant II	South Region	Tim Pendergast	Library Assistant II	37 years	
			Martha Bloem	Library Assistant II	37 years	
			Angela Black	Library Assistant II	18 years	
			Gerry Paniwozik	Facilities Assistant	13 years	
			Sabrina Slenk	Resource Navigator	7 years	
DEPARTURES				Ana Drown	Branch Manager	4 years
9/14/2024	Library Assistant II	South Region	Mary Smyrniotis	Library Assistant II	3 years	
9/28/2024	Library Page	South Region	Dana Meaux	Library Assistant II	3 years	
10/4/2024	Library Systems Administrator	Main Library	Emily Moss	Library Assistant II	2 years	
OPEN POSITIONS						
Library Page (2)	Library Assistant II (3)	Library Systems Administrator (1)				
Library Help Desk Technician (1)	Librarian IV (1)					
TOTAL TURNOVER FY25*			MONTHLY TURNOVER* September 7 - October 4, 2024			
All staff	3.13%	5 people	All staff	1.88%	3 people	
Part-time staff	1.88%	3 people	Part-time staff	1.25%	2 people	
Full-time staff	1.25%	2 people	Full-time staff	0.63%	1 person	

*Does not include retirements

September 2024

STATISTICAL REPORT

Items Borrowed by Fiscal Year and Month (includes both physical and digital items)



43,081

Library Visits
2025 FYTD: 134,594 **↑11%**
2024 FYTD: 121,034

896

New Cardholders
2025 FYTD: 2,944 **↑3%**
2024 FYTD: 2,863

112,747

Total Items Borrowed
2025 FYTD: 359,822 **↑4%**
2024 FYTD: 346,628

60,899

Physical Items Borrowed
2025 FYTD: 199,850 **↓1%**
2024 FYTD: 202,045

51,848

Digital Items Borrowed
2025 FYTD: 159,972 **↑11%**
2024 FYTD: 144,583

88 Library Programs

1,678 program attendance

10 Outreach Events

1,167 outreach attendance

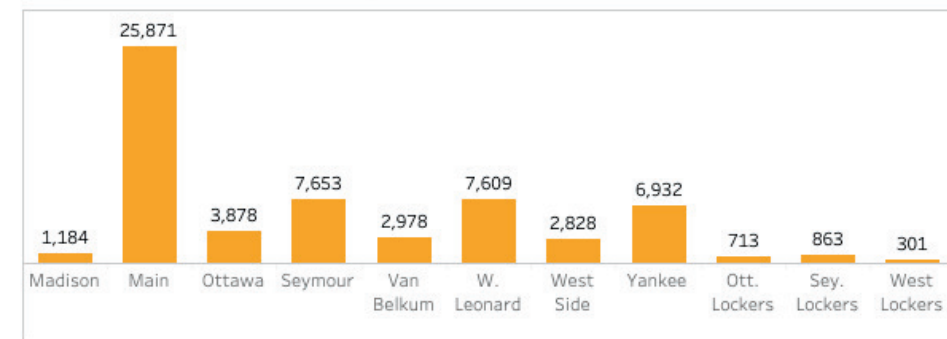
9 Classes

10 School Visits / Tours

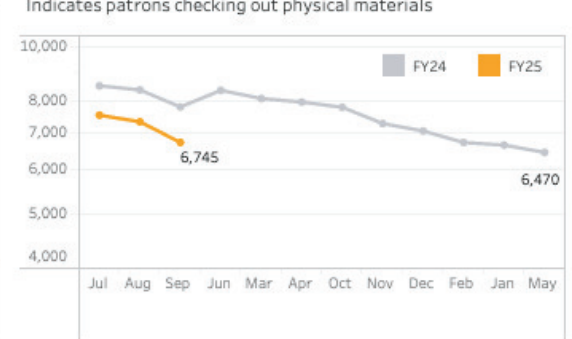
17 1-on-1 Tech Help

4 Business Consultations

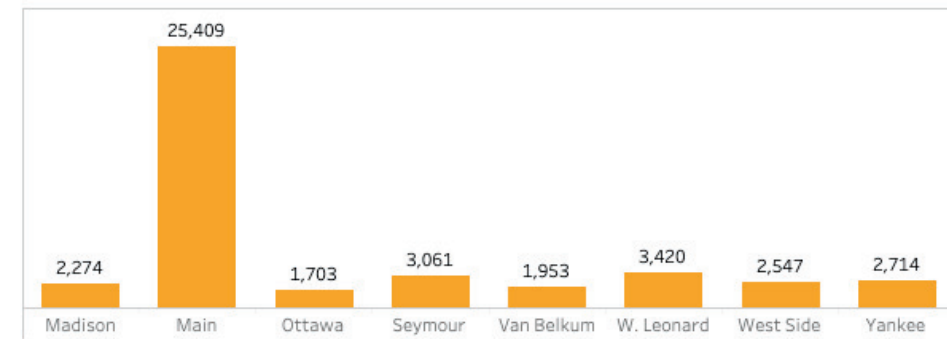
Physical Items Borrowed by Branch



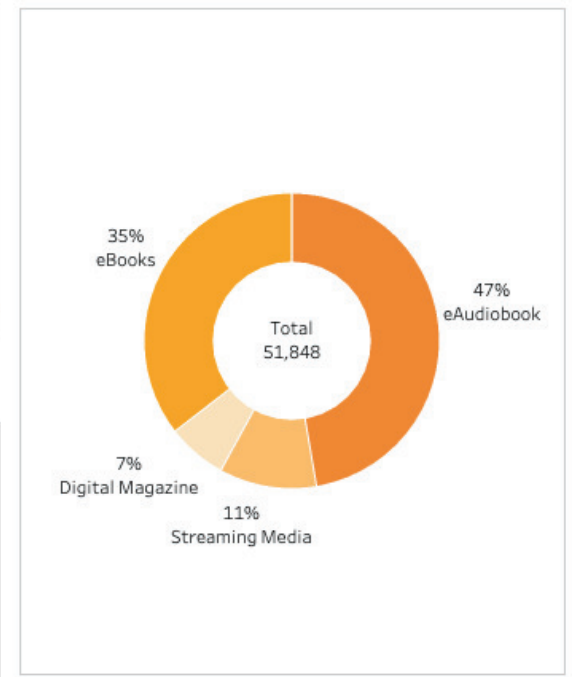
Unique Borrowers by Month



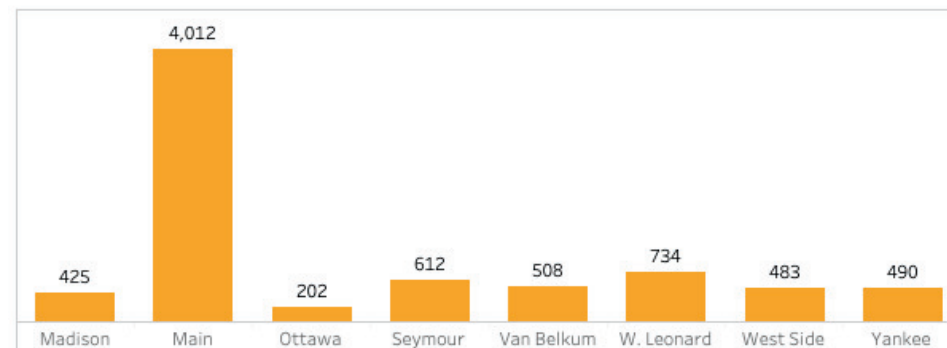
Library Visits by Branch



Digital Usage by Format



Public Computer Use by Branch



10,075

Database Page Views

176

Email Reference Questions Answered

7,466

Public Computer Sessions

Social Media

3,991 interactions
36,968 followers
569,484 impressions

9,317

Digital Archival Items Viewed

13,605

Physical Holds Fulfilled

72

WiFi Hotspot Checkouts

Community Connections

A selection of organizations that GRPL staff connected with this month:

- Arbor Circle Street Outreach
- AYA Youth Collective
- Catherine's Health Center
- Degage
- Eastown Community Assoc.
- GR African Amer. Arts & Music Festival
- Grand Rapids Community College
- Grand Rapids Children's Museum
- Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Legal Aid of Western Michigan
- Mel Trotter
- Midtown Neighborhood Assoc.
- Our Kitchen Table
- Red Project
- ReThinking Libraries

Popular Titles this Month

