

# FY2023 FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

*your* Fairfax County Public  
**Library**  
Imagine • Discover • Connect



“If I was a book, I would like to be a library book, so I would be taken home by all different sorts of kids.”

– Cornelia Funke

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# MESSAGE FROM BRIAN ENGLER



As Chair of the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome you and thank you for reading our FY2023 annual report. FCPL is a large system with 23 branches serving almost 1.2 million people. Our library does a lot of great work, and this report is our opportunity to highlight that work and the impact we have had on Fairfax County throughout the past year.

In FY2022, the FCPL Board of Trustees adopted a policy eliminating fines on most library materials. This change was made to remove a barrier that had prevented people from using their local library. In FY2023, as we celebrate one year under our fine-free model, we are pleased to report that our system is experiencing no negative effects from this change. In fact, fewer items are being reported as lost than in previous years, meaning cardholders continue to return materials promptly for others to use.

I would be remiss if I did not mention another reason to celebrate—the newly renovated Lorton Library co-located with the Lorton Community Center! The beautiful, state-of-the-art library now open to the public is the result of hard work by so many people from the library staff and our community partners to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and residents of Lorton. As we continue to watch this new space thrive, we are reminded of the importance of libraries to our community and hope to continue

this success with our new Kingstowne Regional and Patrick Henry branches in coming years.

Whether it is the development of new policies, the building of new libraries, or the implementation of new initiatives, our 12-person board takes very seriously our responsibility to guide and support the library's mission and values. We will continue to ensure that our decisions reflect both library best practices and the needs of the people we serve. I am confident that I speak for all trustees in saying it is an honor to represent our community and to be able to always move FCPL forward.

On behalf of all the trustees, I would like to thank FCPL cardholders and library users for their continued support. I want also to express our deepest gratitude to library staff for their dedication to FCPL and the enthusiasm they bring to work every day. Each of you is a reminder that while a public library may be best known for its collection of books, it is the people that truly make it a place worth visiting.

Thank you,

**Brian Engler**  
Chair  
Library Board of Trustees

# MESSAGE FROM JESSICA HUDSON



Thank you for your support of Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL)! Public libraries are shining brightly and we have you, our users, to thank. With the COVID-19 pandemic slowly coming to an end and an increasing number of calls for book bans and challenges throughout our nation, it is the support of our cardholders and visitors that give us the energy to continue the ever-important work libraries do for the communities they serve.

On behalf of the entire FCPL staff, I would also like to take a moment to sincerely thank our Library Board of Trustees for their unwavering support throughout the past year. The staff are honored to be backed by a group of people dedicated to championing our mission. Staff would also like to thank the board for its development of the Friends & Advocates Network (FAN) committee, who help advocate for the library's budget both with county leadership and out in the community. It is through their hard work that the library was able to secure a one-time budget increase of \$300,000 for the collection in FY2024. This money will go a long way toward decreasing hold times for popular materials and enabling us to offer a better experience to everyone who utilizes our library.

FY2023 has been a year of growth for FCPL, most notably with the opening

of our renovated Lorton branch in October 2022. It gives us all great joy to see the public's response to the new co-located space and we look forward to working with our partners at the Lorton Community Center and the Lorton Community Action Center to offer a wider range of programming and services to the people who come through our doors.

Other areas of growth seen during the year include the expansion of our Library of Things collection, an increased dedication to digital equity and public health, and even more innovative programming. Keep reading to learn more about each of these milestones.

Looking toward the future, we are excited to introduce our new 2023-2027 Strategic Plan to guide the development of programs and initiatives for the next five years. The new plan continues the progress we have made with the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and introduces new areas of focus like diversity and inclusion as well as economic opportunity. You can learn more about our new plan by flipping to page 25.

These are just a few of the many exciting happenings FCPL has experienced in the past fiscal year. Read on to see more about what went on and what you have to look forward to from your local library in 2024 and beyond!

Thank you,

**Jessica A. Hudson**  
Director  
Fairfax County Public Library



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Lorton Reopening

After being closed for more than two years for construction, the newly renovated Lorton Library opened to the public on Oct. 10, 2022. The library is co-located with the Lorton Community Center, the Lorton Community Action Center and Lorton Park. The grand opening for the facility was held on Saturday, Oct. 15 with more than 1,400 community members in attendance.

In addition to the books and other materials available for checkout, the space consists of multiple meeting rooms and study spaces, a teen room with a gaming area and a colorful children’s section. With renovations, the total square-footage of the library increased from approximately 10,000 square-feet to 16,000 square-feet meaning a lot more room for library users to enjoy the vast array of library services.

Data shows that the community has responded positively to the new Lorton branch, with staff seeing an average of 57,218 visitors a month and registering 2,262 new library accounts between October 2022 and June 2023.

## Hours Adjustment and Staffing

Effective Aug. 14, 2022, Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) altered its operating hours for all branches to adjust for ongoing recruitment challenges. The new hours allowed for all branches to remain open on their scheduled days — Monday through Saturday for community branches and Sunday through Saturday for regional branches — while also requiring only one shift per day as we continued working to fill staffing vacancies.

Library leadership along with the FCPL human resources department worked aggressively to secure appointments for empty positions in an effort to comfortably return to normal operational hours. Within FY2023, this team conducted 61 total recruitments, including some that sought multiple candidates for certain positions. These recruitments resulted in 87 hires of both merit and non-merit employees. The department also internally promoted 26 staff members during this period.

Library leadership is confident in the return to normal operating hours which begins August 28, 2023.

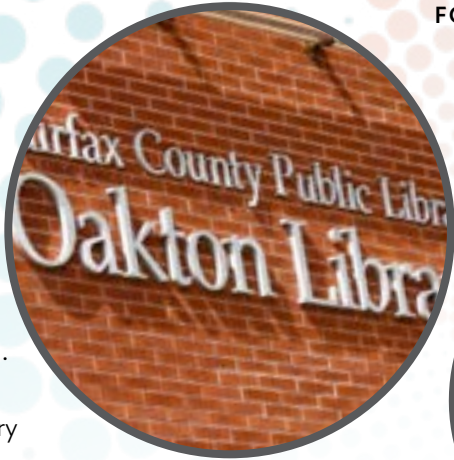


## Branch Anniversaries

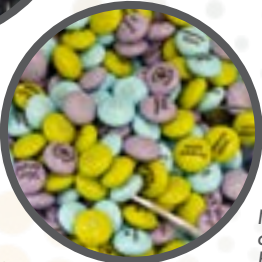
Throughout the past year, many FCPL branches hosted gatherings marking their respective anniversaries. These include:

- Oakton Library celebrating its 15th anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 24. Guests of the event included U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Supervisor Dalia Palchik and Virginia Sen. John Chapman “Chap” Petersen.
- Kings Park Library celebrating its 50th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 15. Highlights of the festivities included a speech from Fairfax County Supervisor James Walkinshaw, a musical performance by Rocknoceros and a variety of crafts, raffles and more.
- John Marshall Library celebrating its 60th anniversary on Saturday, April 22. The celebration included presentations about the library and the history of the Rose Hill community as well as a musical performance from Haywood Middle School students.
- Burke Centre Library celebrating its 15th anniversary on Saturday, June 24. Attendees were treated to a variety of activities including a medieval sword demonstration, face painting, a musical performance from a local recorder orchestra and a presentation from the Burke Historical Society.

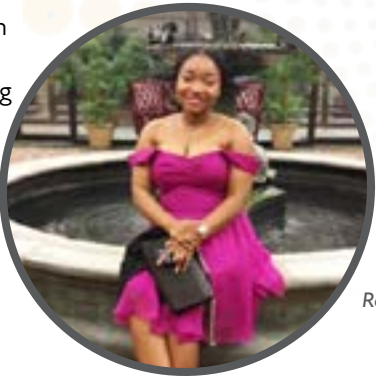
FCPL’s Access Services branch also marked its 50th anniversary within the year. A celebration, planned for Friday, Oct. 14, was cancelled due to the passing of Branch Manager Rose Asuquo. As the Access Services Manager, Rose had a deep passion for accessibility-related work and played a major role in facilitating the growth the branch experienced in its 50 years. She is greatly missed. A tribute walk marking one year from her passing is planned for Rose in October 2023.



Fairfax County Supervisor James Walkinshaw speaks at Kings Park Library’s 50th anniversary.



M&M’s to commemorate Burke Centre Library’s 15th anniversary



Rose Asuquo

## Customer Satisfaction Survey

In March, FCPL conducted a customer satisfaction survey to gauge community members thoughts on the library as whole, as well as programming, collection and other aspects of service. The survey was available online and in branches for three weeks. A total of 12,518 people completed the survey during this period, making it the most successful survey FCPL has performed to date.







# INVESTING IN LIBRARY LEADERS

## Staff Day

More than 400 Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) staff members, along with colleagues from Mary Riley Styles Library in the City of Falls Church, came together on Friday, April 21 at the Fairfax County Government Center to participate in a day of professional development. This event began with breakfast followed by a keynote address from Dr. Paul White, author of the *5 Languages of Appreciation in The Workplace*. After the keynote, the day was divided into four sessions, each offering staff multiple class options to attend.

In total there were 34 different classes offered throughout the day. The programs included opportunities to learn more about the library’s array of services like the Library of Things, 3D printing and Access Services; informational sessions about county initiatives and agencies like the LiveWell program, retirement, the Animal Shelter and Collective Bargaining; and skill development presentations on topics including active listening, communication, personal safety, customer service and more.



Sylvia Enriquez accepts her award at the 2022 VLA Banquet.

## GARE Survey

To help their goal of achieving racial and social equity in the community, several agencies in Fairfax County asked employees to complete a survey to tracking equity efforts within county agencies. The survey, developed by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) sought to establish a baseline from which the agencies could track employee understanding of racial and social equity as well as their understanding of how the county and the library is working to address disparities. The survey was anonymous and took place between Feb. 8 and March 1. For the library, 412 staff members participated in the study, which found a majority of FCPL staff strongly support engaging in racial equity work, as well as have a desire for internal systems to guide and coordinate racial equity efforts.

## VLA Winners

This year, the Virginia Library Association honored two FCPL staff members at its 2022 Annual Conference in Norfolk, VA. Wilma Andrade and Sylvia Enriquez were among 11 people recognized for their contributions to their communities. Wilma, a library information assistant at our Reston Regional branch won the Librarian of Color Forum Award, while Sylvia, a youth selection and Spanish language information assistant at Technical Operations, received the Outstanding Professional Associates Award. Congratulations to both!

## Staff Excellence Winners

In April, the FCPL Library Board of Trustees honored several staff members with its annual Staff Excellence Awards. Library users may nominate any staff member for this award, after which a board committee reviews the nominations and makes final selections.

This year, 12 winners and one honorable mention were selected out of 90 total nominations. The winners include:

- **Laura Bumgarner** – circulation manager at Lorton Library
- **Lee Conselatore** – reader’s advisor at Access Services
- **Sarah Garcia** – branch manager at Woodrow Wilson Library
- **Keri Gould** – youth services manager at John Marshall Library
- **Kathleen McCarthy** – youth services information assistant at Herndon Fortnightly Library
- **Matthew Moffett** – assistant branch manager at Burke Centre Library
- **Azar Momeni** – circulation manager at Oakton Library
- **Catherine Noonan** – branch manager at Martha Washington Library
- **Sharon Okrend** – librarian at City of Fairfax Regional Library
- **Sahadev Poudel** – information assistant and tech lab coordinator at Herndon Fortnightly Library
- **Ghazala Shah** – assistant circulation manager at Chantilly Regional Library
- **Allen Zapata** – youth services assistant at George Mason Regional Library

## HONORABLE MENTION

- **Entire staff of Patrick Henry Library**



Staff Excellence Awardees

FLF Scholarships Awardees



## Foundation Scholarship Winners

For many years, the Fairfax Library Foundation helped library staff and volunteers achieve dreams of higher academics through their scholarship program. Throughout its history, the Foundation has awarded approximately \$403,473 in total scholarships. This year, they awarded \$51,029 in scholarships to 27 recipients, who include:

### UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Jocelyn Bliton**
- **Sophia Brown**
- **Alice Cao-Dao**
- **Katlyn Calustro** (Pohick Friends’ Scholarship)
- **Bhargav Garre Venkata**
- **Calla Inman**
- **Akale Kinfe** (Myra “Micky” Shullman New American Initiative Scholarship)
- **Zayan Meah** (Christine Chambers-Chun Undergraduate Scholarship)
- **Liyanna Mohammed**
- **Charan Narra** (Pohick Friends’ Joan and Richard Vaaler Scholarship)
- **Susan Pirnat** (Burke Centre Friends’ Scholarship)
- **Kaitlyn Purvis**
- **Lor Ridgway** (Pohick Friends’ Scholarship)

- **Mia Simmons**
- **Niamh Sosa**
- **Danny Tran**
- **Lauren Tucker**

### GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Raven Anderson**
- **Vijaya Gollamudi**
- **Becky Gray Kurylo**
- **Madelyn Mikovits**
- **Laura Odegard**
- **Sahadev Poudel**

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

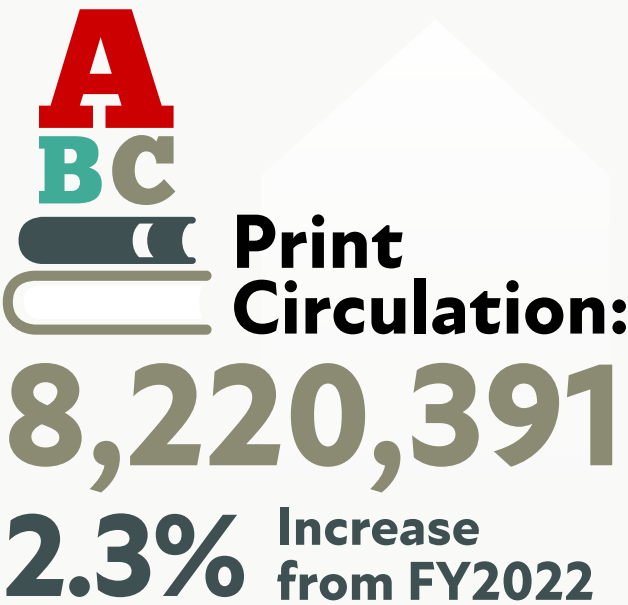
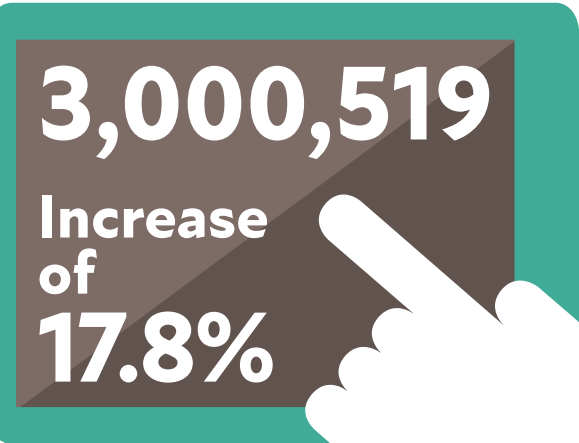
- **Logan Counard**
- **Erin Guyer**
- **Shelley Levinson**
- **Bethany Korenic**
- **Caroline Tirona**

# STATISTICS

Total FY2023 Circulation:



E-Circulation:



Connections:



Total WiFi Sessions:  
373,882



Total Website Visits:

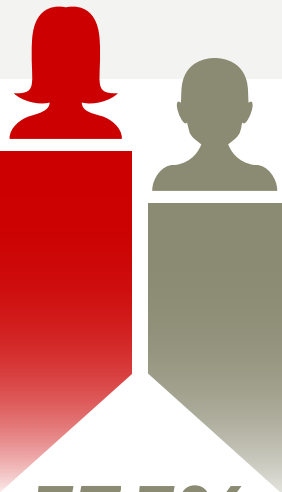
1,737,591

Total Visits (including Curbside):

2,805,516

Increase from FY2022

14%



57.5%

New Accounts Registered:  
81,694

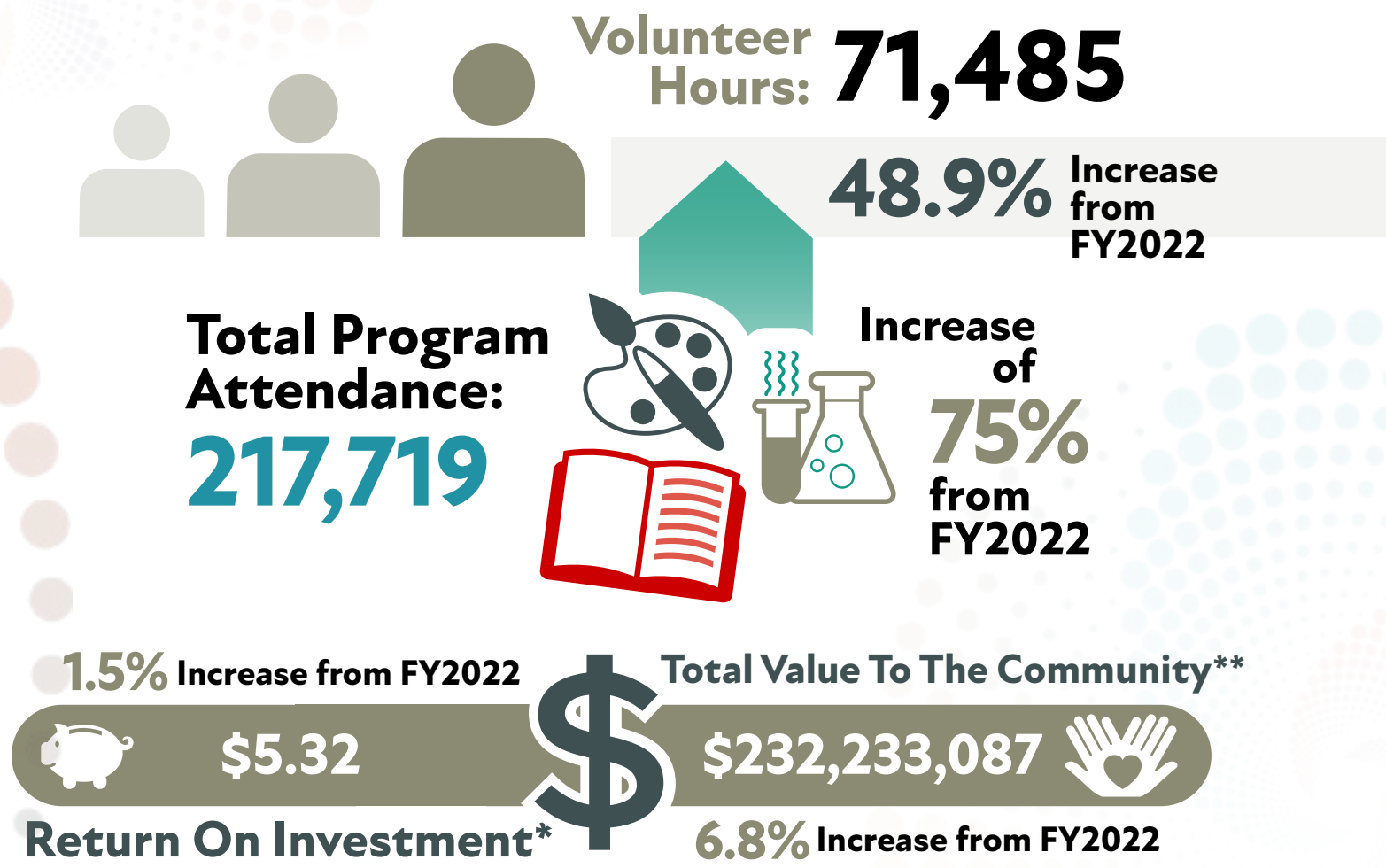
Increase from FY2022



Cardholders:  
578,035



# FCPL 2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN



\*\*Value is defined as the estimated cost per use (or per hour of use, depending on the resource) of selected library services and resources. Drawing data from nine library institutions including the American Library Association, FCPL uses the average values of 19 different resources and services to help determine these figures.

For example, if the average estimate value per attendee of Adult Programs is \$15 and FCPL recorded 33,873 attendees of Adult Programs throughout the year, the value of FCPL's Adult Programming would come out to \$508,095.

\*Return on Investment, or ROI, is defined as the relationship between the total economic return of a venture and the total investment put into that venture. In the case of Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL), this is calculated by taking the total dollar value of a collection of library services and resources and dividing it by FCPL's total cost to residents. For FY2023, that number is \$5.32. In other words, for every dollar invested in library services by Fairfax County, they get \$5.32 back.

## MISSION

We build community and promote literacies through programming, community spaces, technologies and collections of educational and recreational resources.

## VISION

FCPL is the essential (re)source to inform, engage and inspire our community.

## VALUES

We are anchored by the following values which guide us in our vision and the fulfillment of our mission:

- **COLLABORATIVE** ☺  
We build meaningful relationships.
- **INNOVATIVE** ☺  
We embrace and encourage innovation and creativity.
- **SERVICE ORIENTED** ☺  
We provide excellent service in every transaction.
- **ADAPTABLE** ☺  
We anticipate and embrace change.
- **COMMUNITY FOCUSED** ☺  
We reflect and celebrate our community.
- **LEARNING FOCUSED** ☺  
We promote educational and personal growth.
- **POSITIVE** ☺  
We express a genuine attitude of enthusiasm.

## GOALS

- Expand access to library services.  
**Strategic Focus: Access**
- Foster an environment of innovation.  
**Strategic Focus: Innovation**
- Design events and services that engage our diverse and dynamic community.  
**Strategic Focus: Civic Engagement**
- Integrate technology that will enhance and expand the library experience.  
**Strategic Focus: Technology**
- Provide literacy services and materials across age ranges.  
**Strategic Focus: Literacy**

☺ Indicates Core value. ☺ Indicates Aspirational value.

# ACCESS

## Library of Things

The Library of Things is a collection of items available for checkout at Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) branches that goes beyond what is thought of as traditional library materials. Formally known as Realia, the current collection includes artwork, book discussion and hands-on history kits, nature backpacks, Conserve Kits and thermal cameras.

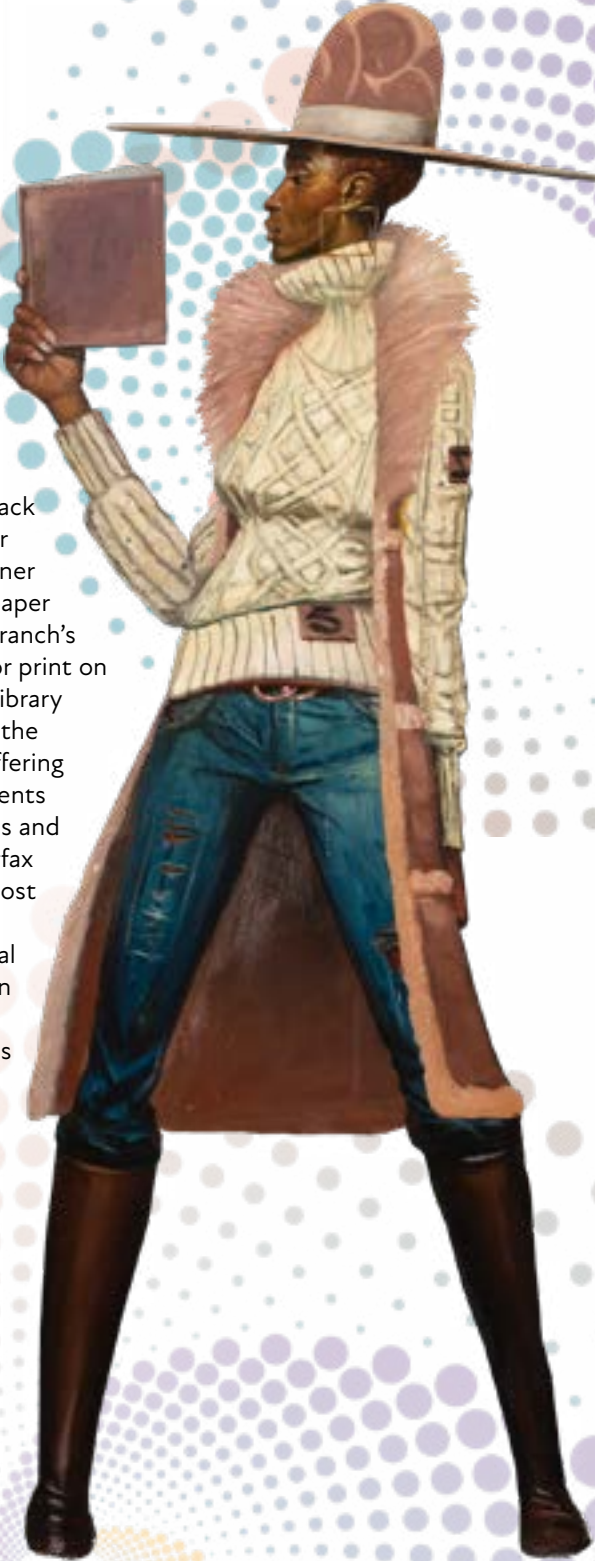


In FY2023, the Library of Things grew substantially, increasing library users' access to the collection by both including new sets of items as well as expanding existing collections to more branches. New items introduced to the collection include binoculars (September 2022), board games (November 2022) and interactive learning tablets (January 2023). FCPL also expanded its collection of Connect Kits, which include Chromebook computers and Wi-Fi hotspots. Formerly only available at four branches, Connect Kits can now be checked out at all 22 full service libraries.

## Summer Reading Adventure

Beginning June 16, 2023, Fairfax residents of all ages were invited to participate in FCPL's annual Summer Reading Adventure. The year's theme was All Together Now, celebrating unity, friendship and kindness, and the summer reading fun continued through Aug. 18, 2023. As with previous years, finishers receive coupons redeemable for treats and activities, including a sheet of coupons from the Fairfax County Park Authority.

To make the Adventure accessible to as many people as possible, FCPL once again offered multiple ways to participate. Readers were able to track their reading time either online through our partner Beanstack or by using paper logs, available at each branch's information desk and for print on the FCPL website. The library also sought to increase the Adventure's reach by offering many theme-related events across multiple branches and partnering with the Fairfax Library Foundation to host the first ever Children's Summer Reading Festival on June 10 at our Lorton branch. Thank you to the many Friends groups who financially support the Summer Reading Adventure. Flip forward to page 28 to see more about how the Friends impact our libraries.



Expand access to library services.

## FCPL STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



ACCESS



INNOVATION



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY



LITERACY

## EBook of the Month

Experiencing great success in providing access to top digital titles since its inception in January of 2021, FCPL continued to invest in its eBook of the Month program in FY2023. The program, led by our collections team, hand-selects a digital title each month that is available to cardholders for unlimited use, no holds or waiting required. During this fiscal year, FCPL cardholders have checked out the eBook of the Month 18,028 times.

This year's most popular titles include:

- June 2023's eBook **Pretty Guilty Women** by Gina LaManna. With 3,058 checkouts, this title is our most popular eBook of the Month of all time!
- August 2022's eBook **And Then There Were None** by Agatha Christie.
- April 2023's eBook **Gallows Court** by Martin Edwards.



## One Year Fine-Free

In January 2023, FCPL marked one year under its fine-free service model. This model ended the practice of charging overdue fines on most library materials with the goal to increase equity and access, as analysis showed fines largely affected young people and those living in lower-income areas of the county. Data collected from January 2022 through December 2022 shows this model seems to have had a mostly neutral effect on the library, with no evidence appearing to suggest going fine-free has negatively affected physical library visits or circulation. Alternatively, data did show that the number of items considered lost and sent to a company for recovery decreased by more than 50%, suggesting that the fine-free model did not result in people keeping items overdue for longer periods.



# INNOVATION

## Maker Labs

Three Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) branches are home to spaces dedicated to exploring technology, embracing creativity and innovation, and learning new skills. Known as Maker Labs, these spaces house a variety of equipment such as 3D printers, sewing machines and various other technologies that library visitors can explore both on their own and through a host of classes and activities held in the labs. Currently, Maker Labs are open at our Sherwood Regional branch, Pohick Regional branch and Herndon Fortnightly branch, which opened its Maker Lab in March 2023.

Children explore toys available at the Herndon Fortnightly Maker Lab.



## Launchpads

In January 2023, FCPL introduced Launchpads to its Library of Things collection. Available at every FCPL branch except Access Services and the Virginia Room, these durable, kid-friendly tablets come pre-loaded with interactive and educational apps, stories and videos designed to help children learn about a particular topic or theme. Launchpads do not require the use of the Internet, meaning children can easily use them whenever and wherever they want.

Each branch has a total of 36 Launchpads available for checkout. The Launchpads are divided into three separate categories or “academies”: Pre-K, Reading and STEAM.

Tablets in the Pre-K Academy feature paths focused on the developmental skills including motor and cognitive, math and science, language and literacy, social and emotional, and music and creativity.

Tablets in the Reading Academy are a part of a guided reading system that helps children master verbal, reading and writing skills, broken down into five proficiency levels from pre-emerging to independent.

Tablets in the STEAM Academy utilize science, technology, engineering, art and math concepts to promote problem solving and critical thinking skills through topics like music, space, nature and much more.

More information about the Launchpads and the academies can be found at [bit.ly/FCPL\\_Launchpads](https://bit.ly/FCPL_Launchpads).



Foster an environment of innovation.

## FCPL STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



ACCESS



INNOVATION



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY



LITERACY

## Innovative Programming

One area where FCPL’s innovation truly shines is through its programming. Throughout the year, FCPL staff at both the system and branch levels have produced engaging demonstrations, activities, presentations and more designed not only to entertain library users but also to educate them on a variety of different topics.

One such program was the Teen Chopped Challenge, introduced in August 2022 as a part of FCPL’s Summer Reading Adventure. Inspired by the televised cooking show “Chopped,” the Teen Chopped Challenge tasked local teens with creating recipes using three mystery ingredients. A limited number of kits including the mystery ingredients — a can of garbanzo beans, 1 cup of diced peaches and 4 soft flour tacos — were available for pick up at select branches. During the inaugural Challenge, a total of 61 kits were picked up, resulting in creative and fun recipes submitted.

Innovative programming wasn’t just limited to teens. Adult library visitors were invited to connect, balance, renew and refresh with two wellness retreats during the year. The first of these retreats occurred in the fall of 2022 at our Dolley Madison branch, with certified qigong teacher Nevil Turk leading, while the second was held in spring 2023 at our Burke Centre branch and featured yoga led by therapist Asya Haikin. The retreats, which were co-sponsored by the Fairfax Library Foundation, lasted three-and-a-half hours.

Beginning in December 2022, FCPL partnered with ArtsFairfax for their Artist in Residency program to host local ceramics artist Suzy Scollon for another new program, this time at our John

Marshall branch. Throughout the year, Ms. Scollon has hosted four multi-week tile work series wherein participants were asked to depict stories through carving clay tiles. Participants were put into pairs and created tiles based on a tale from their partner’s life. Ms. Scollon guided attendees through idea development and demonstrated different techniques for translating those ideas to clay. At the end of the series, participants presented their finished tiles and the stories they represent to their fellow attendees. The program is set continue through November 2023.



A participant sketches her tile work design onto clay.



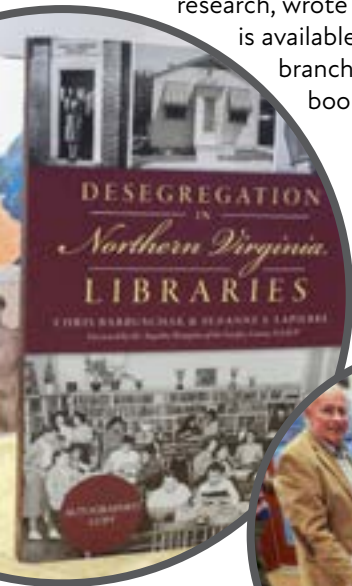


# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

## Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries

Continuing their work from fall 2021, Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) staff members Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne LaPierre expanded upon their research into the desegregation of libraries in Northern Virginia and compiled their findings into a book published by Arcadia Publishing on Jan. 9, 2023. The book, aptly titled *Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries*, tells the stories of Black Virginians and civil rights activists who championed the integration of public libraries in Fairfax and surrounding counties. The research for the book began with a request from FCPL’s Board of Trustees for information regarding how Black residents accessed libraries during segregation.

Dr. Sujatha Hampton, member of the Library Board of Trustees and whose initial question initiated the research, wrote the forward for the book which is available to check out from many FCPL branches, as well as for sale online, at local bookstores and in FCPL’s Virginia Room.



Suzanne LaPierre and Chris Barbuschak sign a copy of their book for Library Board of Trustees Chair Brian Engler.



## Read and Feed Expansion

For the second year in a row, FCPL held its annual “Read and Feed” food drive in April 2023. The program replaces the previous food drive “Food for Fines,” which the library hosted for many years prior to eliminating most fines in 2022. In previous years, the library partnered solely with Food for Others to distribute donations to community members most in need. This year, in addition to continuing our support of Food for Others, FCPL opted to expand its reach by supporting five additional organizations: Lorton Community Action Center, United Community, St. Anne’s Food Pantry, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and Community of Faith Food Pantry.

In total, FCPL donated more than 3,200 pounds of food during the second annual “Read and Feed” drive.

## Knitting For Charity

In fall 2022, FCPL’s adult programming staff launched the “Knitting For Charity” program. The goal of the program was to encourage experienced knitters and crocheters to make adult winter hats to help those in need. Collected hats would then be donated to Shelter House, a community-based nonprofit organization that provides crisis intervention, safe housing and support services to families experiencing homelessness and victims of domestic violence. To encourage participation, the library provided a limited supply of yarn to five branches that interested participants could collect and use to make their hats.

The program ran from Sept. 12 until Nov. 18 and in that time, library staff collected more than 700 items for donation. As a result of this success, staff plans to make the program an annual event.



Design events and services that engage our diverse and dynamic community.

## FCPL STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



ACCESS



INNOVATION



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY



LITERACY

## Public Health Initiatives

As hubs where community members gather and seek out information, libraries are uniquely situated to support government public health initiatives. Throughout FY2023, FCPL has assisted county and state agencies in promoting these initiatives in many ways.

As with the previous fiscal year, FCPL continued to serve as a distribution site for COVID-19 testing kits in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Fairfax County Health Department. In December 2022, FCPL received an additional allotment of tests to be distributed at the Richard Byrd branch and the Centreville Regional branch, which had distributed the most kits up to that point among all our branches. Tests were distributed through January 2023, when the program came to an end.

In June 2023, Fairfax County called upon 22 FCPL branches to act as a designated County Cooling Centers throughout the summer months. As a cooling center, the participating branches have been equipped with kits including items that could be of use to people in the case of extreme heat. The kits include bottled water, bus passes, insect repellant, sunscreen and body wipes and are made available to library visitors when an extreme heat alert is declared.

Finally, in response to the growing number of opioid overdoses seen in Fairfax County since 2019, FCPL partnered with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board to offer optional REVIVE! training to any library staff members who desired to learn how to assist in the case of opioid overdoses. The training provided

staff with knowledge on what to do and not do in an overdose situation, how to administer naloxone and what to do after administration. Two virtual training sessions occurred in March 2023, with a total of 98 FCPL staff members completing the training and each branch having at least one trained person among their staff. Each person who completed the training received a dose of naloxone to be kept in branch first aid kits. All full libraries now have naloxone available.

Example of items available in Cooling Center kits



Narcan location label at Pohick Regional Library





# TECHNOLOGY

## Digital Equity

In alignment with the increasing national interest in promoting digital equity and ensuring universal access to the internet and other informational technology, Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) has implemented many services and resources aimed at closing the digital divide in our community.

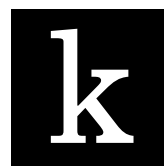
One of the biggest ways the library is addressing the digital equity is by offering increased Wi-Fi coverage to those visiting our branches. Outdoor Wi-Fi is accessible from the parking lots of 20 of our 23 branches from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, while all branches provide free indoor Wi-Fi during operating hours. Each month, approximately 20,000 unique devices connect to FCPL's Wi-Fi with users downloading an average of 700 GB of data a day.

FCPL has also increased access to informational technology by adding Connect Kits to its collection. Beginning in 2021, the library began offering these kits, containing a Chromebooks and mobile hotspot, to cardholders for checkout. In late 2022, thanks to a grant from the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), the library was able to expand its collection to 75 such kits available at 22 branches. With demand for Connect Kits remaining high, FCPL is exploring avenues to continue expanding this collection.

**connectkit**

## Kanopy

FCPL introduced Kanopy, an online streaming service available to library cardholders, in February 2022. Initially funded through an American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 grant as well as the library's materials budget, the service garnered many fans among library users who could utilize it to enjoy critically acclaimed films and documentaries as well as quality children's programming through Kanopy Kids! Seeing this popularity, FCPL decided to continue offering Kanopy and Kanopy Kids to its cardholders. Now fully funded through library's budget, Kanopy is also accessible to cardholders through the Libby app.



Integrate technology that will enhance and expand the library experience.

## FCPL STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



ACCESS



INNOVATION



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY



LITERACY

## 3D Printing

FCPL began offering 3D printing services in 2018 when it purchased machines for four of its branches. In recent years, the service has expanded and as of FY2023, the library now has 3D printers at 13 branches for visitors to use. Any FCPL cardholder can submit a design for print, as long as it falls within the library's terms of use. Designs take an average of seven to ten days to complete.

As with most things at the library, we want our 3D printers to provide education opportunities for our visitors. FCPL utilizes JellyBOX 3D printers which feature a completely see-through construction to allow library visitors to see the inner workings of the printer as a job is in progress. Several branches also offer classes on how to use the printers as well as various online programs available to create designs and are free of charge at this time.



A young library visitor watches the 3D printer complete a job at Herndon Fortnightly Library.

## New Self-Checkouts

In June 2023, all FCPL branches received new self-checkout machines, replacing the old machines which were installed in 2015. Made by library technology company Bibliotheca, the new machines are based on newer, faster hardware and have a wider range of configuration options, including those for audio or visual alerts and marketing content. These user-friendly machines are increasingly popular among cardholders, with more than 87% of all FCPL in-person checkouts are completed through the self-checks.



New self-checkout machines



# LITERACY

## Author Events

In December 2022, Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) drew a large crowd for a virtual presentation from author, historian and activist Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. Author of *How To Be An Anti-Racist*, Dr. Kendi presented on anti-racism and how having meaningful conversations about race and racism can lead us towards new ways of thinking. The presentation, which was facilitated by Dr. Mark C. Hopson of Chapman University, also featured an opportunity for participants to ask Dr. Kendi questions.

For another popular program among the community, FCPL, in partnership with The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, welcomed Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and bestselling author Nikole Hannah-Jones, creator of The 1619 Project. Hosted in February 2023 in honor of Black History Month, Hannah-Jones presented to a crowd of more than 275 people in conversation with Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer of Fairfax County. She discussed what inspired her work and answered questions submitted by attendees.

In addition to Jones, FCPL hosted multiple other authors for in-person programming during the year. In May 2023, Joshilyn Jackson, New York Times' bestselling author of *With My Little Eye*, met attendees at the Pohick Regional branch for a presentation with fellow writer Lydia Netzer, author of *Shine, Shine, Shine*. In June 2023, author Sadeqa Johnson also visited the Pohick Regional branch, where she talked with attendees about writing her latest book, *The House of Eve*.

Virtual presentations also remained popular with our library users in FY2023. Authors who hosted virtual programs throughout the year include beloved children's writers Laura Numeroff, author of *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie*, and Rosemary Wells, author of the *Max & Ruby* series, who held virtual readings of their



Nikole Hannah-Jones speaks with Karla Bruce.

books for the library's youngest readers in February 2023 and May 2023 respectively. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Fred Kaplan, author of *Dark Territory: The Secret History of Cyber War*, also hosted a virtual program for the library in June 2023, where he talked about the past five presidents and the effect their administrations have had on the future of American global relations.

## Indie Author Day

Each year, FCPL and other library systems and bookstores around the country celebrate self-published, or independent, authors through Indie Author Day. After two years of virtual celebrations due to COVID-19, Indie Author Day was back in person on Nov. 5, 2022. For this year's celebration, eight of our branches hosted meet-and-greet fairs where library visitors could interact with local authors and learn about their writing. In additions to the author fairs, the library also hosted programs designed to help aspiring authors including a virtual program with Washington Post columnist Bob Levey and a personal storytelling workshop with award-winning storyteller Terry Wolfisch Cole.



Expand access to library services.

## FCPL STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



ACCESS



INNOVATION



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



TECHNOLOGY



LITERACY

## Fall for the Book Partnership

For 24 years, FCPL has partnered with independent nonprofit literary arts organization Fall for the Book (FFTB) to promote literacy in our community by connecting readers and authors. On April 16, 2023, the library sponsored an event featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks, held to celebrate FFTB's 25th anniversary. Brooks, whose books include *March* and *People of the Book*, spoke before a capacity crowd at the Sherwood Community Center. She talked about her latest book, *Horse*, as well as her writing process and the impressive lengths she goes to collect research for her stories. The event was preceded by a VIP reception and followed by a Q&A session and book signing.

Each October, the FFTB team also organizes a week-long festival featuring numerous author talks and workshops. During the 2022 festival, FCPL branches played host to five of the festival's events. These include:

- "Breaking the Publishing Mold" with Jane Turner Censer, author of *The Princess of Albemarle: Amélie Rives, Author and Celebrity at the Fin de Siècle* at the Kings Park branch
- "American Women's Fight for Equality" with Elisabeth Griffith, author of *Formidable: American Women and the Fight for Equality: 1920-2020* at the Richard Byrd branch
- A presentation from Laurie Loewenstein, author of *Funeral Train: A Dust Bowl Mystery* at the Pohick Regional branch

Author Geraldine Brooks poses for a photo with members of the Library Board of Trustees.

- A presentation from Stacie Murphy, author of *The Unquiet Dead* at the City of Fairfax Regional branch
- "Project Superhero: From Awesome Aliens to Flying Cats!" with John Gallagher, author of the *Max Meow* series at the Burke Centre branch

## Poetic Musings

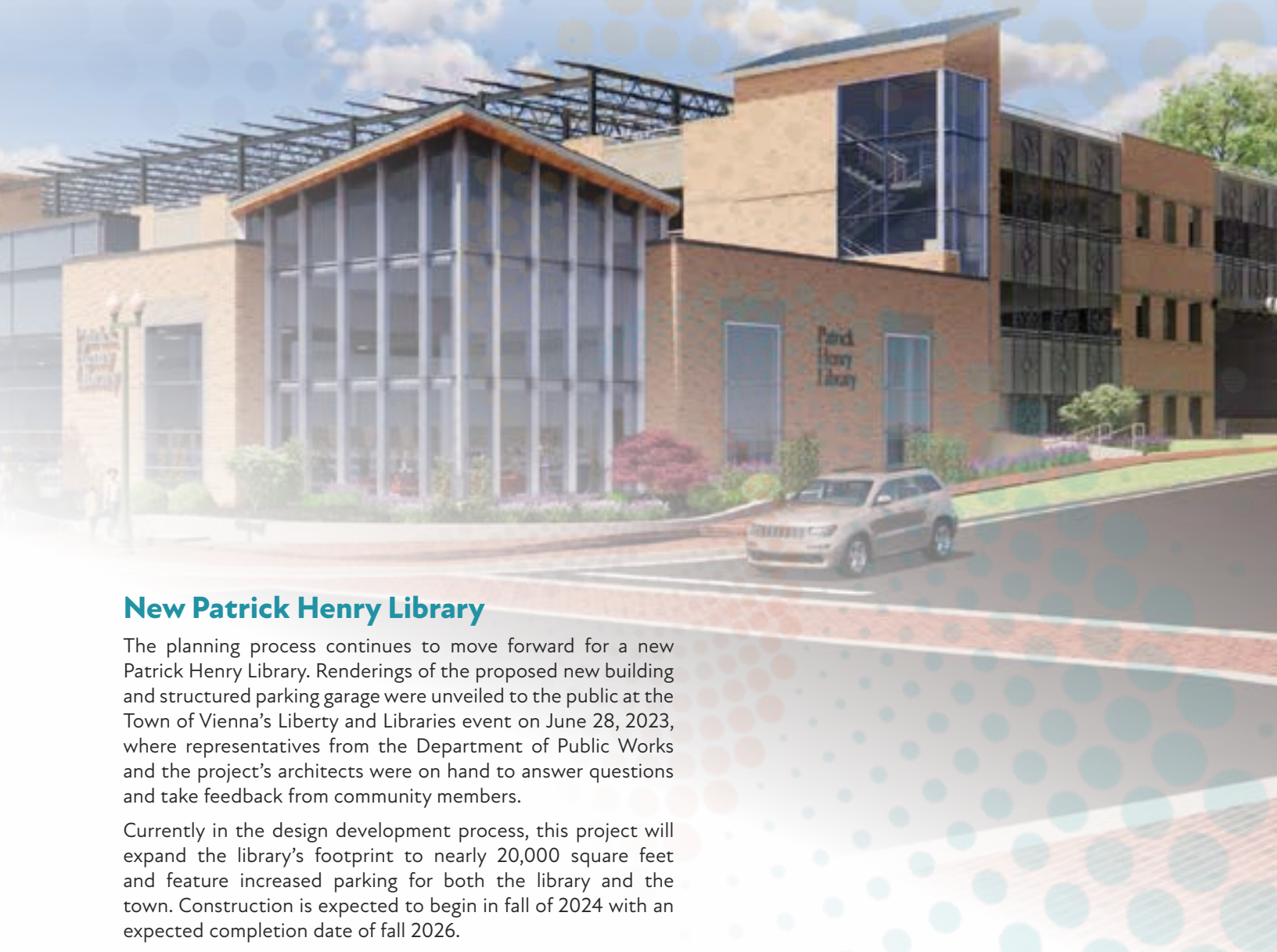
In honor of National Poetry Month, FCPL hosted their annual poetry contest from April until May 7, 2023. Entitled Poetic Musings, this year's contest invited adults and teens who live, work or study in Fairfax County to submit a poem in one of three different styles: ode, rhymed or free verse. To help interested participants learn more about each type of poetry, the library held three virtual and one in-person workshop led by local poets throughout the month of March.

In total, community members submitted 66 poems to the contest, of which 10 winners were chosen. The winning poets were celebrated at the library's Poetic Musings Celebration on June 29 at the Burke Centre branch. The 2022-2024 Fairfax Poet Laureate Danielle Badra served as the keynote speaker for the event. The winning poems can be viewed at [bit.ly/FCPL\\_Poetic](https://bit.ly/FCPL_Poetic).





# ON THE HORIZON



## New Patrick Henry Library

The planning process continues to move forward for a new Patrick Henry Library. Renderings of the proposed new building and structured parking garage were unveiled to the public at the Town of Vienna’s Liberty and Libraries event on June 28, 2023, where representatives from the Department of Public Works and the project’s architects were on hand to answer questions and take feedback from community members.

Currently in the design development process, this project will expand the library’s footprint to nearly 20,000 square feet and feature increased parking for both the library and the town. Construction is expected to begin in fall of 2024 with an expected completion date of fall 2026.

Proposed design of new Patrick Henry Library

# 2023-2027 FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

Franconia Governmental and Kingstowne Regional Library groundbreaking ceremony

## Strategic Plan 2023-2027

At its December 2022 meeting, the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) Board of Trustees approved the library’s 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The plan, which went into effect in July 2023, continues FCPL’s efforts as outlined in their 2018-2022 plan as well as introduces new measures focusing on digital equity, intellectual freedom and workplace development.

## New Kingstowne Regional Library

On March 9, 2023, Fairfax County held the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Franconia Governmental Center and Kingstowne Regional Library, officially starting the construction process on a project that has been decades in the making.

Like Lorton Library, the new facility features a library co-located with other country services including a police station, the Franconia District Supervisor’s office, an Active Adult Center, a childcare center and more. With the construction of the facility, the Kingstowne Library will move from its current leased location in the Landsdowne Center shopping center. The new space will increase the total area of the library to approximately 30,000 square feet, upgrading it from a community library to a regional library. The expected completion date is set for 2025.





# FAIRFAX LIBRARY FOUNDATION



## Support for the Fairfax Library Foundation means support for our libraries.

Since 1994, the Fairfax Library Foundation has existed solely with the mission of enhancing the programs and services of Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL). The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable and educational organization which offers supplementary support for the library to impact the lives of FCPL users more positively by providing vital funds for literacy programs and educational opportunities. With your support, our beloved library system continues to provide impactful and engaging programming and diverse literary resources.

This year, the Foundation’s prime focus was on early literacy. In addition to their keystone Ready to Read and 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten programs, major funding from the Foundation allowed FCPL’s early literacy team to provide an impressive 1,265 storytimes to more than 29,600 participants last year and distribute 20,220 picture books to children from low-income households. None of this would have been possible without the support from corporate and individual donors.

As always, in addition to its support of early literacy programs, the Foundation also remains dedicated to their affiliation with the enormously popular Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, scholarships, and their continued commitment to expanding the library’s collection.

Community members enjoy the Children’s Summer Reading Festival at Lorton Library.

## Children’s Summer Reading Festival

The Foundation was excited to debut a brand-new event in 2023. The Children’s Summer Reading Festival is a celebration specifically designed to encourage young readers to continue their school-year enthusiasm for reading straight into summer vacation. These two events, held at Lorton Library and Chantilly Regional Library, focused on nurturing the love of reading for the county’s youngest residents.

The weather was picture-perfect at the Lorton event, as more than 1,200 attendees enjoyed free activities such as games and crafts, live storybook characters, a bounce house, a mini zoo, snacks, facepainting, a DJ, a caricature artist, balloon sculptor and a photobooth.

During the first festival, 240 children signed up for FCPL’s annual summer reading program and more than 600 festival tote bags were distributed with sponsor materials inside.

The festival was made possible with the generous support of 13 sponsors, including Bookmark- and Storytime-Level Sponsors Cox Communications, Friends of Pohick Regional Library, Friends of the Burke Centre Library, Friends of Richard Byrd Library, Friends of the Kingstowne Library, Friends of the Centreville Regional Library and Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library. More than two dozen library staff, teen volunteers, and Foundation board members and staff were on hand to ensure everything went smoothly, even with the tremendous turnout.



Cinema in the Community event on Aug. 12, 2023

## Cinema in the Community

For the fourth consecutive summer, hundreds of attendees gathered beneath the stars on the lawn at Chantilly Regional Library to enjoy a free outdoor movie on a 40-ft. screen. This year’s program elicited even more audience participation as the movie selection was the sing-along edition of Disney’s animated sensation, “Frozen.”



## Foundation Store

Another way to support FCPL is by shopping at the Foundation’s online store. Popular library-themed gifts, including stickers, mugs and magnets can be purchased from the site. But the signature item is most certainly the set of four colorful abstract animal tote bags designed by local artist Catherine Macorol, author and illustrator of *A is for Axolotl: An Unusual Animal ABC*. These and more limited-edition items can be purchased at the Foundation’s website at [fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org/store](https://fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org/store).

## FOUNDATION DATA POINTS

▪ Number of FY 23 Donors:	775	
▪ Number of Legacy Donors:	56	
▪ Number of Consecutive Donors that gave FY 19 - FY 23:	111	
▪ Amount given by consecutive donors in FY 23:	\$63,795.05	
▪ Average donation by consecutive donors in FY 23:	\$574.73	
▪ Amount Raised in FY 23 (excluding endowment distribution):	\$238,414.38	
▪ Amount Raised in FY 23 (including endowment distribution):	\$425,204.69	
▪ Fairfax County Tax Appeal:	\$11,682.04	(increase of 56.8% since FY 19)
▪ Indirect Appeal:	\$37,026.39	(decrease of 14.4%)
▪ Sales of Product:	\$7,079.38	(increase of 55.2%)



# THANK YOU



The Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees extends its sincerest thanks to library cardholders and visitors their support this past year. FY2023 has been full of many wonderful happenings and exciting changes. From the opening of our renovated Lorton branch to the continued expansion of our many resources and services to better serve the people of Fairfax County, we could not be prouder of the direction we are heading and the path we took to get here.

We also would like to thank the entire FCPL staff for their continued hard work and dedication. The staff are the heart of our libraries, and it shows in the various programs and initiatives they implemented to provide the best possible experience for everyone who walks through our doors.

Many thanks also to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for its commitment to our mission, values and strategic plan. We especially thank them for their approval of a one-time \$300,000 budget increase to the library’s collection budget to be used in FY2024.

**Friends Indeed!**

The FCPL Board of Trustees would also like to thank the Friends of the Library groups for their continued support of library staff and programs. Throughout the past fiscal year, our Friends groups have sponsored many programs and projects both at our branches and system-wide, including:

- The Friends of Burke Centre Library who provided roughly \$48,200 in branch furnishings, equipment and events and to support programming, the Summer Reading Adventure, and the Fairfax Library Foundation.
- The Friends of Centreville Regional Library who gave \$4,200 to support the Summer Reading Adventure and branch initiatives.

- The Friends of City of Fairfax Regional Library who donated roughly \$20,000 in programming and collection support, as well as support to the Fairfax Library Foundation.
- The Friends of Dolley Madison Library who provided approximately \$1,700 in toys for the youth services department as well as to support branch events.
- The Friends of George Mason Regional Library who donated \$55,000 to support collection development and the Summer Reading Adventure.
- The Friends of Herndon Fortnightly Library who provided \$3,500 to fund branch furnishings and events.
- The Friends of Kings Park Library who gave \$10,500 for the Summer Reading Adventure, programming, branch furnishing and events, and collection development.
- The Friends of Oakton Library who donated roughly \$6,000 to purchase new equipment for the branch including Chromebooks and a 3D printer.
- The Friends of Pohick Regional Library who gave more than \$17,000 in support of the Summer Reading Adventure, the Fairfax Library Foundation, branch furnishings and events, program support and collection development.
- The Friends of Richard Byrd Library who provided more than \$6,325 to support programming, collection development, branch events and the Summer Reading Adventure.
- The Friends of Woodrow Wilson Library who provided \$2,400 for collection development and programming.

Thank you to all of our wonderful, hardworking and generous Friends groups!

## Special Dedications

Occasionally, to honor those who have a profound effect on our library the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees will approve special recognitions in the form of space dedications. In FY2023, we were fortunate to be able to honor three such individuals.

In July 2022, FCPL honored longtime pillar of the Culmore community Carmen Fernandez by renaming the conference room at the Woodrow Wilson branch for her. Fernandez spent many Saturday mornings in the Woodrow Wilson Library room that now bears her name, facilitating community programs and activities for elementary school-aged children through a Hispanics Against Child Abuse & Neglect Inc. program, Morning Star, as well as parenting education classes through the Morning Star Mothers program.

FCPL also hosted an event in May 2023 celebrating the naming of the children’s section at its Pohick Regional branch after Yolanda and Bob Atkins in recognition of more than 30 years of service to the library. Yolanda served as the President of the Friends of Pohick Regional Library for more than 20 years and is currently a member of the Fairfax Library Foundation board of directors. Bob served as the Treasurer of the Friends of Pohick Regional Library for more than 20 years.

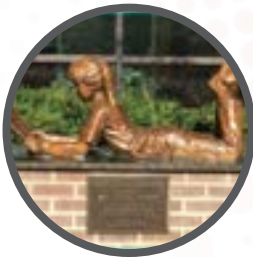
It wasn’t just FCPL doing the dedicating. In October 2022, former library staff member Promila Chhabra and her husband, Dr. Krishan Chhabra unveiled a statue, titled “Girl Reading,” which they had donated to the Tyson-Pimmits Regional branch. Promila, who had worked for FCPL for more than 30 years, and Krishan sought to show appreciation to all library staff for their service to the community. The statue is adorned with a plaque recognizing Promila for her years of dedication to the library as



Yolanda and Bob Atkins Naming Ceremony well.



Carmen Fernandez Naming Ceremony



“Girl Reading” statue donated by Promila Chhabra and Dr. Krishan Chhabra

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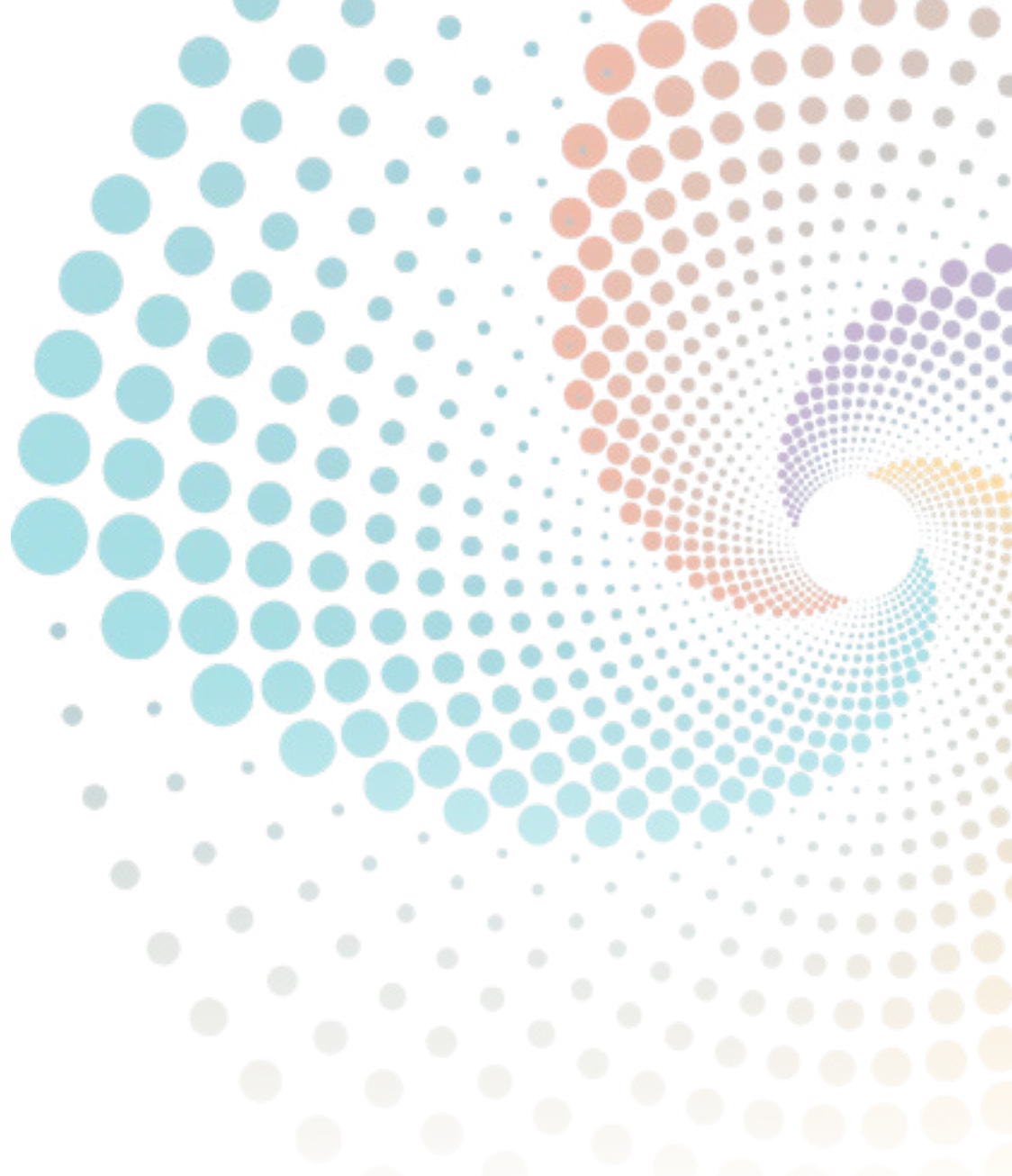
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