Can you spot the difference?

Take the quiz!

What library service do you need?

Design Your Own Mug

page 6

page 9

page 11
Bars were reduced from $1.00 per day to 15¢ per day in 2018.

Did you know that GRPL reduced DVD fines from $1.00 per day to 15¢ per day in 2018?

Fun Fact!

Use this code to find the name of the exclusive GRPL service that allows patrons to visit museums, cultural performances and sporting events for free.

Bar Code

Answer on back cover.

Grand Rapids Public Library
2018 Annual Report

Director:
John McNaughton

Assistant Director:
Maria J. Ehlers

Board President:
James Botts

Board Vice President:
M. Jade Vander Velde

Board Members:
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William Baldridge
Sophia Ward Brewer
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Foundation Board Chair:
Daniel J. Poortenga

Foundation Board Vice Chair:
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Foundation Board Secretary:
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M. Jade Vander Velde

Foundation Manager:
Shirley Gagnon Allen

The mission of the Grand Rapids Public Library is to connect people to the transforming power of knowledge.

Dear Reader,
by John McNaughton, Director

Libraries transform communities. They transform lives. They change viewpoints and worldviews. They empower people and encourage growth. And they are a place of laughter and enjoyment. Of fun. Of creative expression. Of bonding.

2018 was a big year for the Grand Rapids Public Library. There is a new director (that’s me!) and a renewed commitment from staff to provide excellence in customer service, quality collections, engaging programming, and spaces that gather us together. Together we spent time reflecting on where we have been, and began to point our star to what is possible.

If you have not visited our flagship Main Library or our stellar seven branches, I encourage you to do so. Take in the intricate architecture. Watch a child discover a book. Be a part of our large community celebrations. I promise you will leave inspired.

Our work at the library is made possible by community support and our remarkable Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation, who work tirelessly to raise funds to support nearly all library programs. I would be remiss to not mention the Friends of the Library, a group of volunteers who raise thousands of dollars a year for the library by selling one 25¢ used book at a time.

2018 was a time of transition, reflection, and connection. I can’t wait to see what 2019 brings.

Best,
John McNaughton

www.grpl.org/contact-us

You have an Idea for the library? Share it with us.

Grand Rapids Public Library
Dear John,

I love the library. I always have, but the downtown Main Library has always been my favorite one! I always felt when I was a little kid that it was a magical place to be. From the building itself and the beautifully intricate artistic detail inside and out. The nooks and crannies one can find over the years with weird books and new places. I always felt and still do feel welcomed and cozy, simply put a feeling of home. I am always eager to go in to find my next adventure. The staff and patrons are always nice and courteous to one another. Just go get a book and fall in love like I have and don’t forget to look for the little things :) love love love love . . .

– Alicia via Google Reviews

Dear John,

A library card and some books. This is foreign to me, I don’t read. I’m not a reader. . . this is the lie I have told myself since I was a kid. But today I walked into the Grand Rapids Public Library and asked for a library card. I got nerves like a kid who is asking for something he wants very badly but not sure he is allowed to have it. 3 weeks ago I made a mental change. See I was spending too much time on here (Facebook, Instagram), watching everyone else lives and engaging in the lives of the children playing around me. So I put away my phone and picked up a book (A Walk in the Woods) and have since finished 3 books. Doing this while my children snuggle and read next to me and my wife wonders who this foreign person is. See the lies we tell ourselves to hold us back. At 40 I don’t want to be held back by the lies I told myself when I was 10. I ask you in the New Year what lies are you still believing that you told yourself when you were 10? They’re not true so lets together leave them.

– Steve via Facebook
In April, John McNaughton was named the new Director of the Grand Rapids Public Library. His seventeen years of love for public library service began when he was hired as a circulation clerk in Plano, Texas. He spent four years as a reference librarian before accepting his first directorship at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. He came to GRPL from the Romeo District Library where he was director since 2014.

The Grand Rapids Public Library is one of 28 libraries in the country to be accepted into the Community Webs project. The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant funded program empowers public libraries to build collections of historically-valuable, web published material documenting their local communities.

Local history collections serve as a vital resource for preserving community history but often do not include online sources like local blogs, online news, social media and other platforms. The average span of web content is ninety days. This grant will allow the Grand Rapids Public Library to play an active role in preserving the contemporary digital records of Grand Rapids and ensure that these unique materials are accessible for use in the future.

Working with partners from the Internet Archive, Queens Public Library, Cleveland Public Library, and San Francisco Public Library, the Community Web project provides training, support and services to develop expertise in creating collections of historically valuable web materials documenting local communities.

The Grand Rapids Public Library receives $25,000 in web archives services for five years to build local history web archive collections. Staff also receive $3,500 per year to attend cohort meetings, and participate in training, conferences, and professional development. The Community Webs project will preserve over 35 terabytes of community heritage material for long-term access, create open educational resources relating to web archiving and digital preservation, and explore new forms of local engagement and partnerships through public programming support.
The Grand Rapids Public Library was selected as one of 100 libraries nationwide to take part in the Great Stories Club, a reading and discussion program for underserved youth. This competitive grant is from the American Library Association (ALA) with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Staff from the Grand Rapids Public Library work with youth at HQ to read and discuss stories that explore what it means to be a hero. The titles were selected to inspire youth—especially those facing difficult circumstances or challenges—to consider “big questions” about the world around them and their place in it, ultimately affecting how they view themselves as thinkers and creators.

HQ opened in December of 2014 as Grand Rapids’ first drop-in center for runaway and homeless youth. HQ works with youth ages 14-24 during multiple drop-in sessions each week that provide a safe and welcoming space with a strong emphasis on inclusion and equity for youth experiencing housing instability.

1. What library service do you need?

A. binge watch a TV show that has gotten great reviews.
B. read a good book.

2. To break up the monotony on a long road trip, I would rather

A. crank up the tunes and sing along.
B. lose myself in a great audiobook.

3. When my kids are acting crazy, and they need some quiet time, I

A. stream a movie on the iPad. That will give me a couple hours of silence.
B. separate them and have them read silently.

4. A big project is due next week and there is a ton of research that needs to be done. I would most likely

A. jump online and do some database searches.
B. go to the library and work with a librarian to find the best books on the subject.

5. When reading for pleasure, I prefer to

A. download eBooks so I can read them anywhere on my device.
B. hold the physical book in my hands. I love the smell of books.

Use the words in the word bank
- Almost Adulting
- Cam’Ryn
- career
- diverse
- education
- financial institutions
- Grand Rapids Public Library
- Inclusive Internship Initiative
- Public Library Association
- mentor
- money
- Spanish
- Teens

This summer, the _______________ participated in a connected learning internship program sponsored by the _______________. Through its ________________, PLA sponsored paid, mentored public library internships for 50 high school juniors and seniors from _______________ backgrounds. With individual guidance from a ________________, each intern learned about the multiple facets of a library _______________—from administration to programming to user services.

Intern _______________ created a workshop, _______________, a 3-part financial literacy workshop series for teens. _______________ learned how to get a job, manage their _______________, explore bank services, and learn how to put that money to work towards getting an _______________. Cam’Ryn also created a pathfinder of _______________ in Grand Rapids with _______________ speaking resources.

WORD SCRAMBLE
DMLOERA SWRBC
Unscramble the words to find the authors of the books.

1. _______________
   SENEI PMTRGAAL

2. _______________
   RSCUHP JCOHEBA

3. _______________
   SKAE NMAT

4. _______________
   DOKOE FRIN RNOA

Answers on back cover.
Materials Needed:
- 1 White Ceramic Mug
- Sharpie Oil-Based Paint Markers
- Rubbing Alcohol

Instructions:
1. Start by cleaning your mug with rubbing alcohol.

2. Next up: start drawing!

3. Baking Instructions: Let paint dry for 24 hours. Bake your mug in the oven for 30 minutes at 350° F. Place the mug in the oven while it preheats and leave it in the oven while it cools to prevent cracks.

4. Wash/Care: Gently hand wash your mug. Warning: placing it in the dishwasher may ruin your design!

5. Fill your new mug with a beverage of your choice and settle down with a good book.

Autism Spectrum Gift
by Nora Standish

I am an Aspie,
dancing, leaping, falling down the stairs.
i am high-functioning,
speaking in more words than most people know,
watching friendships I'll never understand,
connecting unrelated things,
and creating something beautiful.
i am on a spectrum that no one else can see,
light years beyond infrared,
shooting past light-speed through alternate dimensions,
defying everything we think we know.
i have autism,
and with it millions of words,
thousands of images,
and no social skills whatsoever.
i miss the things you are trying to tell me—
because I am already seeing—
unrelated things—
more words and definitions
than anyone can shake a redwood tree at.
i have high-functioning autism.
i am gifted.
i do not have a disorder.

I don't know why vinyl works
by Anne Livingston

but once I carried a large cabinet record player
back to my house from three blocks away,
where I found it, like a pomegranate cut
open, with torn ruby velvet panels and cords
spilled out. It looked like what I imagine
surgery to be. Which is to say, when faced
with things I do not understand, like sound
jacks and the drowned power lines
of veins, I know only how to shoulder weights.
Which is to say I did not ask the record player
what she wanted to play. Which is to say I lied
to you, back there on Straight Street, because it was
a woman I hauled home. A woman I saw on the side
of the road. And she is still curled in the corner
of my room, next to my pillow, where sometimes the disc
of my forehead is scratched out of sleep by her
cedar edges. Where I won't move the bed
because I am trying to see what we will sound like
if I let her needle me just a little bit
longer. Where I don't know if my arms could manage
to move her again, even if she keeps saying
how light she is.

Fun Fact!
This was the first craft of DIY@GRPL, a new program
that launched in 2018.

50

2018 was the 50th anniversary of the Kent County Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition. In June, poets who participated in the competition over the past 50 years gathered to read poems and honor founder John Hunting. A special edition of Voices, pulled from the library’s archives, highlighted the history of the competition and notable poems.

Supported by a grant from the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation—Dyer-Ives Foundation Poetry Fund, the competition is proud to carry on the mission to encourage excellence in writing and provide recognition for local work of high quality for the next 50 years.

50

Iris
by Melissa Wray

I have surrendered
to finding
my strength
in vulnerability
like watching
an iris’ color
intensify
with tears
or the visibility
of a bird’s nest
clear
in a dying tree.

50

10

Kids learn app building skills at camp!
The Grand Rapids Public Library and Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes received a 2-year, $100,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant was used to run a 10-week summer camp that will teach middle and high school students how to develop an app and bring it to market.

During the course of the camp, students learned how to solve a problem in the community by launching their own start up business app. In addition to developing an app, the camp will follow the JA Company Program®, which teaches business and entrepreneurial skills.

The camp will continue again in summer 2019.
**Sweet Potato Pie**

**Ingredients**

- 2 cups sweet potatoes (2 medium
  sweet potatoes usually do it)
- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- 2 eggs
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoons ginger
- 1 Tablespoon flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

**Instructions**

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. In a bowl add the flour and cut in the shortening, until it resembles breadcrumbs.
3. Stir in the sugar & the salt.
4. Mix the egg up inside the ice cold water. Pour into the crust mixture and stir until combined.
5. Turn the crust mixture out onto a floured surface and gather it into a large ball. You may need to knead it lightly just to get all the dry crumbs to incorporate into a ball.
6. Divide the ball into two pieces (Store the other ball in the refrigerator and use it for another yummy pie in the future!)
7. Roll the dough out about ¼ inch thick and then place it into a deep dish pie pan.
8. Press the crust into place with your hands.
9. Refrigerate until ready to use. You can brush it with egg whites to get that shiny crust look if you'd like.
10. Place sweet potatoes in a large pot and fill with water just until it covers them.
11. Bring to a boil and boil for 45 – 50 minutes or until they are fork tender.
12. When done, let cool and then remove the skin. It should peel off very easily.
13. Place peeled sweet potatoes in a bowl and break it up with a fork.
14. Use a mixer to mix the sweet potatoes until smooth and creamy.
15. Add in butter and mix to combine.
16. Add in sugars, milk, eggs, nutmeg, cinnamon, ginger, vanilla, and flour. Beat until mixture is smooth. It may be a lil speckled, don’t worry it won’t be that way when it’s done.
17. Pour into prepared pie crust and bake for 55 – 60 minutes.
18. Let cool on the counter for about 30 minutes and then chill in the refrigerator for at least 3 hours to fully set.

**GRPL celebrates the rich diversity of the city of Grand Rapids through events like Día de los Muertos and Taste of Soul Sunday. The library also focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion through children’s programs like One Book, One City for Kids; Social Justice Begins with Me book club; and the Summer Reading Challenge. The Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation recently received a $10,000 grant from the Wege Foundation to support diversity and outreach programming at the library.**

**Find the GRPL programs, materials, and services funded by the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation.**
## Financial Highlights

### Library Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Capital Fund</th>
<th>Trust Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax Millage</td>
<td>$ 8,811,372</td>
<td>$ 1,596,045</td>
<td>$ —</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penal Fines</td>
<td>375,342</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>59,667</td>
<td>20,231</td>
<td>4,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>151,288</td>
<td>802,809</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>137,894</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines and Fees</td>
<td>165,582</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$ 9,701,145</td>
<td>$ 2,419,085</td>
<td>$ 4,635</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Library Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Capital Fund</th>
<th>Trust Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Services</td>
<td>$ 5,886,508</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance, Utilities, Other Services</td>
<td>1,130,160</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections of Books &amp; Media</td>
<td>1,179,077</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>577,401</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operations</td>
<td>451,085</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond Interest &amp; Principal</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,184,750</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Services</td>
<td>333,854</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$ 9,150,684</td>
<td>$ 2,762,151</td>
<td>$ —</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Library Fund Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018 Surplus (Deficit)</td>
<td>$ 550,461</td>
<td>($343,066)</td>
<td>$ 4,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Year’s Balance</td>
<td>2,027,827</td>
<td>1,207,967</td>
<td>408,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Fund Balance</td>
<td>$ 2,578,288</td>
<td>$ 864,901</td>
<td>$ 413,456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Financial Highlights

### Foundation Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>June 30, 2018</th>
<th>June 30, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 38,641</td>
<td>$ 22,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>4,243,358</td>
<td>3,987,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficial interest in Charitable Remainder Trust</td>
<td>107,047</td>
<td>98,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$ 4,390,046</td>
<td>$ 4,109,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and grants payable</td>
<td>29,378</td>
<td>54,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>$ 4,360,668</td>
<td>$ 4,055,509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Foundation Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>June 30, 2018</th>
<th>June 30, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and gifts</td>
<td>$ 177,676</td>
<td>$ 128,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>111,441</td>
<td>126,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized gain on investments</td>
<td>257,507</td>
<td>385,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>5,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$ 549,624</td>
<td>$ 645,462</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Foundation Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>June 30, 2018</th>
<th>June 30, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants made and granting expenses</td>
<td>$ 207,772</td>
<td>$ 248,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>10,351</td>
<td>12,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>26,342</td>
<td>24,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$ 244,465</td>
<td>$ 285,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$ 305,159</td>
<td>$ 360,174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answers

PAGE 2

Mystery Photo
Music in the Stacks

Bar Code
Check It Out: Circulating Memberships

PAGE 6

Can you spot the difference?
Our new director, John McNaughton appears in the right photo.

PAGE 8

Word Scramble
1. Art Spiegelman
2. Joseph Bruchac
3. M.K. Asante
4. Nnedi Okorafor

PAGE 9

Quiz: What library service do you need?
Mostly As: Digital User. You love the convenience of streaming movies, music and TV shows. You are an expert in downloading material to use on the go. You’ve bookmarked grpl.org on all your devices so that you have 24/7 free access to all that content.

Mostly Bs: Physical User. You love the feel of a good book in your hands and exploring the library to find interesting material. You enjoy chatting up library staff, and have a closet full of bags to carry all of your checked out material home.

Fill in the blanks
1. Grand Rapids Public Library
2. Public Library Association
3. Inclusive Internship Initiative
4. diverse
5. mentor
6. career
7. Cam’Ryn
8. Almost Adulting
9. Teens
10. money
11. education
12. financial institutions
13. Spanish

Answers