2019 Annual Report

EXPLORE FURTHER at the Grand Rapids Public Library

616.988.5400 • www.grpl.org
2019 was a pivotal year for the Grand Rapids Public Library.

A new strategic framework was developed with the input of hundreds of stakeholders and patrons. This framework turns the library outward and focuses on co-creating library programs and services with the community.

To increase access, the Board of Library Commissioners voted to eliminate all fines on children and teen materials and to forgive past fines. This allowed thousands of families to use the library again with minimal impact on the library budget.

The year ended with the introduction of a new search catalog. This catalog makes it easy to find materials and creates community through reviews, ratings, and recommendations.
We unveiled our new strategic framework.

Guided by Margaret Sullivan Studio, Grand Rapids Public Library (GRPL) undertook an exhaustive strategic process that refocused the work of the library. During the first year of listening and learning, we sought to understand the needs of the community and develop ways to work together to create a dynamic and responsive library system. Trust us, we are just getting started.

www.grpl.org/strategicframework

Looking for your own self-improvement? May we suggest:

*The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* by Priya Parker

*Happy (DVD)*

*EatingWell (RBdigital Magazine)*

*The Memo: What Women of Color Need to Know to Earn a Seat at the Table* by Minda Harts
Kids and teen materials went fine free.

“The decision to eliminate fines on youth material is about equity and access,” remarked GRPL Director John McNaughton, “We know that 75% of Grand Rapids Public School 3rd graders are not proficient in reading. This is a community problem that we can help solve. By removing a large barrier to using the library, we can get books in homes and help to develop a daily reading habit.”

Check out any of these titles without worrying about fines:

- The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya
- Trolls (DVD)
- We Are Grateful by Traci Sorell
- With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo
Our library catalog got an upgrade!

GRPL’s catalog got easier to use with the addition of Bibliocore. This upgrade includes powerful keyword searching, staff picks, ratings, reviews, and much more. The friendly user interface offers suggestions while you wait for something on hold, allows you to create virtual shelves and lists, and gives the option to share recommendations with others. It creates community within the catalog.

www.grpl.bibliocommons.com

Searching should be simple, but if you’re looking for a harder case to solve, try these mysteries:

- **Hollywood Homicide** by Kellye Garrett
- **Top of the Lake** DVD
- **Your House Will Pay** by Steph Cha
- **The Dead Girls Club** by Damien Angelica Walters
We partnered to bring Little Free Libraries to the parks.

Throughout July and August, we partnered with the Friends of the Grand Rapids Parks to support their Little Free Library initiative. The project supports literacy in public spaces. At each event, staff gave kids a book to take home and provided books to put in the Little Free Library.

There’s a big world out there. Go explore it:

- **Trees** by Pamela Hickman
- **How to Know the Birds: The Art and Adventure of Birding** by Ted Floyd
- **Nature’s Orchestra** Kanopy Documentary
- **My Great Outdoors Book: The Kid’s Guide to Being Outside** by Josie Jeffery
We added Creativebug to our digital collections.

Our digital resources go way beyond eBooks and streaming. By adding online services like Creativebug to our collection, library patrons can get crafty with over 1,000 online classes that teach painting, knitting, sewing, and more—all taught by top artists and creative experts. How will the library inspire you?

www.grpl.org/download

D-I-Why stop there? We have an abundance of resources for crafters:

- *The Mindful Maker* by Clare Youngs
- *Crepe Paper Flowers* by Lia Griffith
- *A Well-Crafted Home* by Janet Crowther
- Come to our DIY@GRPL program to make a craft!
Your museum visit just got better.

Want to learn more about that great exhibit you just saw? We’ve got you covered. GRPL partnered with the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA) to provide books to enhance visitor experience. These curated reading selections are checked out using an institutional library card and are available in the galleries so that museum-goers can learn more.

www.grpl.org/checkitout

Seeking inspiration? Find it here:

*David Wiesner and the Art of Wordless Storytelling* by Santa Barbara Museum of Art

*The Secret Lives of Color* by Kassia St. Clair

*Art & Queer Culture* by Catherine Lord & Richard Meyer

Check out free passes to area museums with our Check It Out Program.

You’re never too old to stop learning. Find out more:

- **Young Water Protectors: A Story About Standing Rock** by Aslan Tudor
- **Arab in America** by Toufic El Rassi
- **Black: A Celebration of a Culture** by Deborah Willis
- Download the Kanopy app and stream some documentaries!
Sponsored by Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation,

Music in the Stacks highlighted local bands.

We never apologize for being loud in the library, especially when it involves amazing musicians playing in a unique location—the middle of the book shelves at the library. These monthly concerts feature well-known and up-and-coming musicians in an intimate jam session. No stage, limited seats, and infinite talent.

From the stacks to your speakers at home. Check out local music:

1. **Got to Go** (CD) by Asamu Johnson
2. **The Fool in Her Wedding Gown** (CD) by The Crane Wives
3. **Stack Rapids** (CD) produced by Ajax Stacks
4. **9** (CD) by Jes Kramer
2019 Board of Library Commissioners

William Baldridge
President

Kent Sparks
Vice President/Secretary

Rachel S. Anderson

James Botts

Sophia Ward Brewer

M. Jade VanderVelde

Caralee Witteveen-Lane

Library Director
John McNaughton

Grand Rapids
PUBLIC LIBRARY
# Grand Rapids Public Library Financials

## Library Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Capital Fund</th>
<th>Trust Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax Millage</td>
<td>$10,789,888</td>
<td>$—</td>
<td>$—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penal Fines</td>
<td>395,005</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>247,939</td>
<td>39,563</td>
<td>14,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>129,889</td>
<td>1,401,543</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>114,134</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines and Fees</td>
<td>144,613</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,821,467</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,441,106</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,287</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Library Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Capital Fund</th>
<th>Trust Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Services</td>
<td>$6,517,670</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance, Utilities, Other Services</td>
<td>$1,163,907</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections of Books &amp; Media</td>
<td>$1,482,997</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>$1,401,543</td>
<td>648,791</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operations</td>
<td>510,060</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Services</td>
<td>275,458</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,351,635</strong></td>
<td><strong>$648,791</strong></td>
<td><strong>$—</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Library Fund Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Capital Fund</th>
<th>Trust Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019 Surplus (Deficit)</td>
<td>$469,823</td>
<td>$792,315</td>
<td>$14,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Year’s Balance</td>
<td>2,578,288</td>
<td>864,901</td>
<td>413,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,048,120</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,657,216</strong></td>
<td><strong>$427,743</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2019 Board of Trustees

Daniel J. Poortenga  
Chair

Charles E. Burpee  
Vice Chair

Carla A. Grant  
Treasurer

Marisa Fahnenstiel  
Secretary

Kate Avery

William Baldridge

Debra A. Bates

Sophia Ward Brewer

Robert DeVilbiss

Amy L. Freeburg

Dan Fuller

Derether Greer

Monique Salinas, Ph.D.

Michael Scantlebury, Ph.D.

Marilyn A. Titche

M. Jade VanderVelde

Foundation Manager

Shirley M. Gagnon Allen
## Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation Financials

### Foundation Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 30, 2019</th>
<th>June 30, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 9,206</td>
<td>$ 38,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>4,502,455</td>
<td>4,243,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficial interest in Charitable Remainder Trust</td>
<td>109,125</td>
<td>107,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$ 4,621,092</td>
<td>$ 4,390,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and grants payable</td>
<td>37,259</td>
<td>29,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>$ 4,583,833</td>
<td>$ 4,360,668</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Foundation Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 30, 2019</th>
<th>June 30, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and gifts</td>
<td>$ 157,793</td>
<td>$ 177,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>103,599</td>
<td>111,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized gain on investments</td>
<td>227,682</td>
<td>257,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>7,125</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$ 496,199</td>
<td>$ 549,624</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Foundation Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 30, 2019</th>
<th>June 30, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants made and granting expenses</td>
<td>$ 235,133</td>
<td>$ 207,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>11,559</td>
<td>10,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>26,343</td>
<td>26,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$ 273,035</td>
<td>$ 244,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$ 223,164</td>
<td>$ 305,159</td>
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</table>