

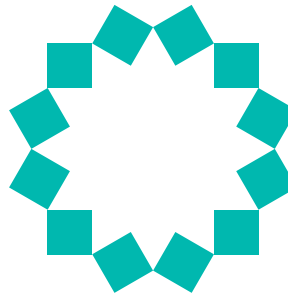


2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



GRAND
RAPIDS
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Letter from the Director



Hello Everyone,

Because we live in a time of endless choice and rapid change, the Grand Rapids Public Library is always striving to adapt to the needs of the community while remaining dedicated to our purpose—which is to connect our community to trusted resources and to each other. While it is not always easy work, I believe our services to the public are more important than ever.

We are proud of the resources we provide to the city of Grand Rapids. We offer early literacy programs that build a strong foundation for children and their families, provide free access to over 1 million items in multiple formats from many viewpoints and help the community discover ways to connect and learn together.

This year, our Summer Reading Challenge engaged 8,767 participants—including 2,420 Grand Rapids Public School students. This celebrated library tradition brings our community together around reading while helping children enter the next school year ready to succeed.

Our passion for literacy is also demonstrated through a year-round schedule of storytimes specifically designed to equip parents and caregivers with tools to nurture their child's development with confidence. In addition, many of our programs are enhanced through local partnerships with schools, such as our annual "One Book, One City for Kids" initiative, which encourages all 5th grade students in Grand Rapids to read and discuss the same book (that's over 1,400 kids). This year's selection, *Playing the Cards You're Dealt* by Varian Johnson, came to life in classrooms across the city, giving students the chance to explore the story through a librarian-created curriculum designed just for them.

Our commitment to skills development also extends to adults, focusing on both professional advancement and personal enrichment. We offer classes and one-on-one technology appointments that strengthen digital literacy, as well as career consultations that help individuals navigate a changing job market or launch a small business. This year, we launched an "Introduction to..." series, which brings people together to learn about a variety of topics from container gardening and podcasting to speed puzzling.

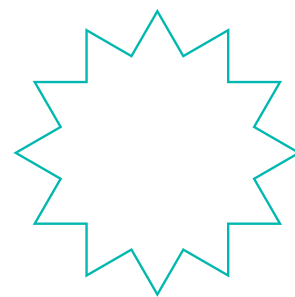
At the heart of our work is our rich collection. This year, we expanded our physical collection to include video games, furthering the ways our materials can inspire social connection, joining popular favorites like board games, tickets to area attractions, and portable record players.

We're proud to be your public library, and I look forward to building upon our impact as we continue to fulfill our purpose and promise to this community.

John McNaughton,
Grand Rapids Public Library Director

By the Numbers

Total items
borrowed
1,433,292



Items borrowed
from physical
collections
764,903

Items borrowed
from digital
collections
668,389

Est. items in
the collection
1,001,483

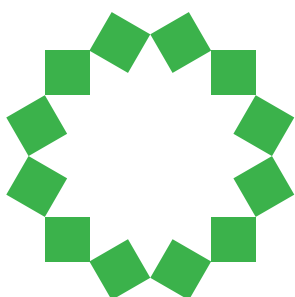
New items
added
36,718

Number of
cardholders
53,844

New
cardholders
10,520

Library
visits
535,775

Public computer
sessions
85,968



Programs
& classes
822

Program
attendance
27,283

Tours/class
visits
81

Outreach
events
142

Outreach
attendance
16,780

Database
searches
195,936

Digital archival
items viewed
178,765



The Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation collaborates with the library to provide our community with exceptional services, enriching programs, and valuable resources. Learn more at www.grplfoundation.org