

A photograph of a man and a young child sitting at a table in a library, high-fiving. The man is wearing a blue t-shirt with "SYRASE" on it. The child is wearing an orange t-shirt. They are surrounded by bookshelves filled with books. The background is a blue wall with some posters.

# PLYMOUTH

■ ■ ■ ■ DISTRICT LIBRARY

# 2023

ANNUAL REPORT





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## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

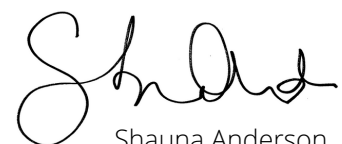
As we close out another remarkable year, I am honored to reflect on the journey we have undertaken together at Plymouth District Library.

One hundred years ago, visionaries planted the seeds of knowledge and community in the form of our beloved library. As we marked this significant milestone, it is with deep gratitude and a sense of responsibility that we carry forward the legacy of those who came before us.

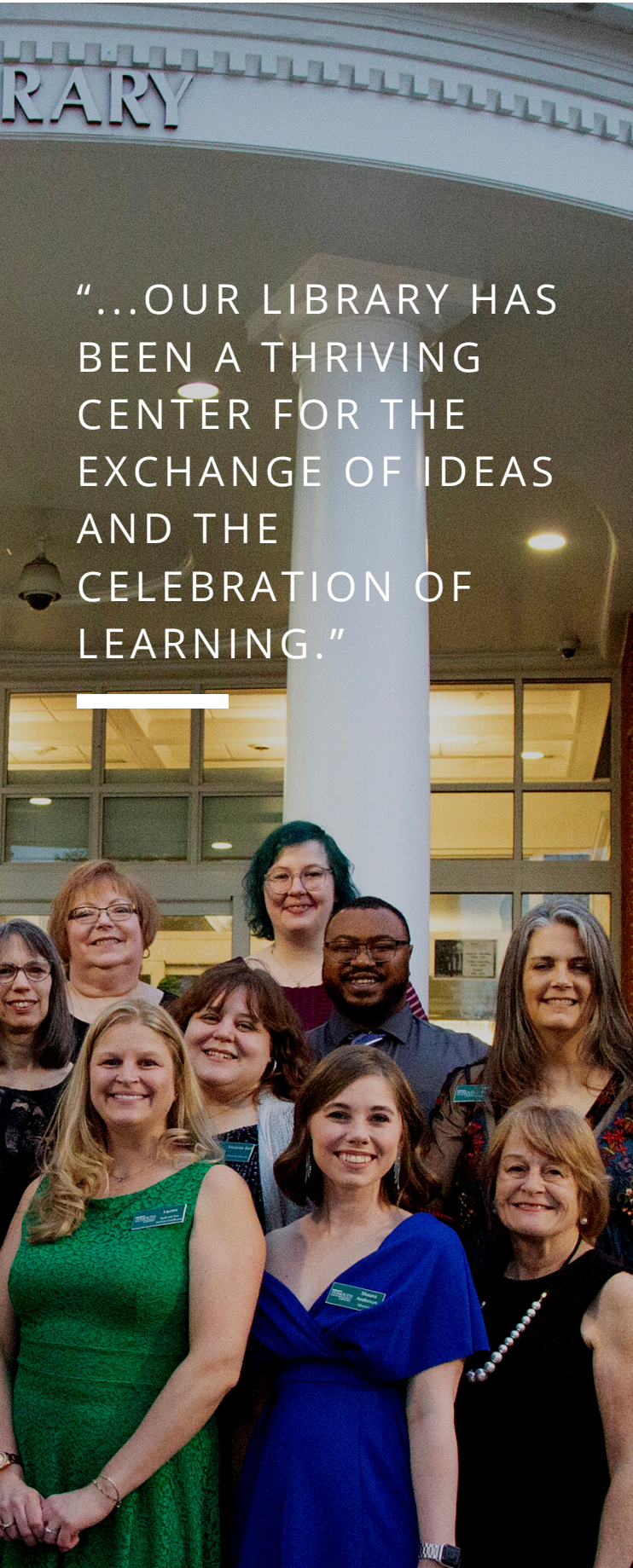
Throughout the past year, we hosted a series of events, programs, and initiatives that celebrated the rich tapestry of our community and showcased the diversity of talents within our midst. From literary festivals and historical exhibits to technology workshops and storytimes, our library has been a thriving center for the exchange of ideas and the celebration of learning.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated library staff, volunteers, patrons, and partners who have contributed to the success of our centennial celebrations. Your passion, commitment, and enthusiasm have been the driving force behind the many achievements and milestones we have reached together.

To each member of our library community, thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey. Your support and participation have made the past 100 years truly exceptional, and we look forward to many more years of shared exploration, discovery, and connection.



Shauna Anderson  
Library Director



"...OUR LIBRARY HAS  
BEEN A THRIVING  
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# CIRCULATION

## COLLECTION DIVERSITY

Over the course of the past year, our Reference Department completed an in-depth analysis of the representation of diverse perspectives in our library collection. This data will help our librarians recognize gaps in knowledge in order to increase the quality of our collection.

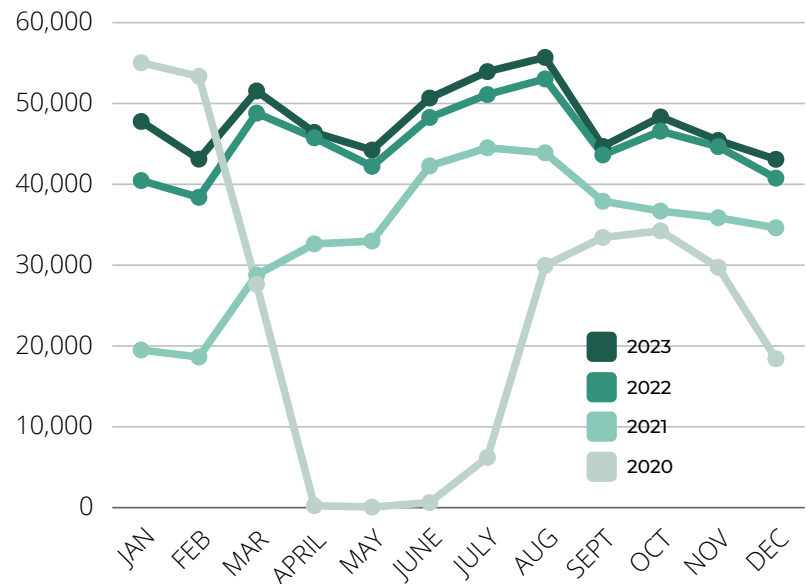
## BOARD GAMES & MORE

Our Library of Things continues to grow to support experiential learning. This year, we added a board game collection and another set of kits focused on outdoor exploration.

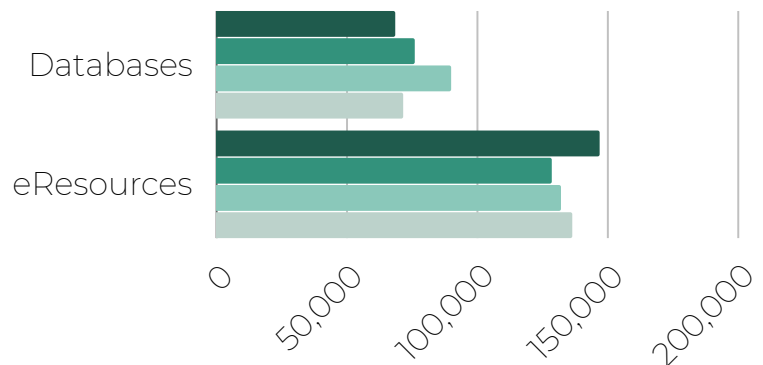
## ONLINE READING GROWS

While our physical circulation continues to lag behind pre-pandemic levels, the number of checkouts for online reading and listening has surpassed anything we have seen in the past. As we look toward the implementation of a new database for library accounts and materials, we will have an eye toward making our online resources easier to access.

## PHYSICAL BOOKS & MATERIAL CHECKOUTS



## DIGITAL RESOURCES



# TOP TITLES

*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus  
*The Boys From Biloxi* by James Patterson  
*Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand  
*Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett



# PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

## SUMMER READING SUCCESS

Event participation skyrocketed throughout 2023, particularly in regards to the library's annual Summer Reading Program. This year we saw more adults participating than ever before, in addition to youth and teens. We also replaced weekly prizes with coupons that drew patrons back out to our local businesses.

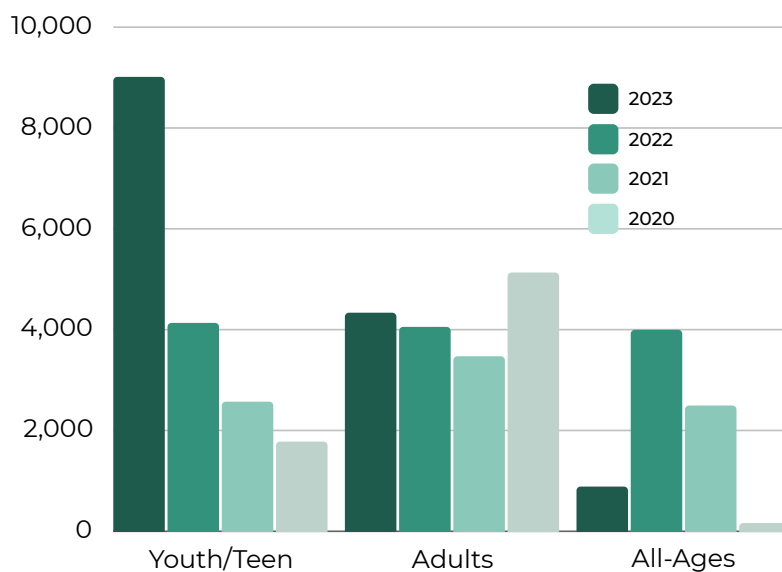
## MAKER FEST

To celebrate the success of The Lab, the library's growing makerspace, we held a day-long festival dedicated to hands-on learning. Workshops and demonstrations were held by local experts and the day drew over 1,000 participants.

## CENTENNIAL GALA

The library held an afterhours, ticketed celebration and fundraiser to support the creation of the Wilcox Amphitheater and Centennial Gardens. This event drew over 200 participants from across the community.

## EVENT PARTICIPATION



852

Total Programs

3,701

Outreach Participants

37,579

Questions Answered

3,012

Volunteer Hours



# HIGHLIGHTS

## WILCOX AMPHITHEATER

Thanks to the generous donation of the Wilcox Foundation, the library constructed a new outdoor amphitheater between the library and City Hall. This space will serve as an alternative program space for warm-weather events and performances, and will be ready for use in 2024.

## NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM

This year, we updated the software that powers our print and time management solutions for public computing. This new software makes it easier to send print jobs from home along with using a credit card to pay for prints. Along with this change, we are now also able to offer free copying and printing for up to \$1/day per person.

## FACILITY UPGRADES

We completed technology upgrades in the large Walldorf and Dunning meeting rooms along with a refresh of the Friends Board Room. At the close of the year, we also completed the construction of a Wellness Room available for public use in the Youth Department. The space will be open in early 2024.





# FINANCIALS

*The generosity of our community was on full display during our centennial anniversary.*

Patrons supported the library through donations in a variety of ways, particularly in support of the construction of the Wilcox Amphitheater. This year, we became a 501c3 to continue capitalizing on fundraising as a way to keep taxes stable for community members while improving our spaces and services.

Major expenses in the 2023 fiscal year were tied to upgrades to our physical spaces-- including the Friends Room revamp, Meeting Room technology upgrades, and the first phase of our centennial grounds improvement.

We continued to realign our investments for greater income opportunities, preparing for additional building upgrades scheduled for 2025.

## REVENUES

\$3,791,835	Tax Levy
\$243,226	Taxes Delinquent
\$101,308	Grants
\$37,856	State Aid
\$23,101	Penal Fines
\$6,110	Book Fines & Fees
\$3,761	Copier/Print Fees
\$30,861	Donations & Contributions
\$22,372	Friends of the Library
\$105,560	Interest on Investments
\$47,770	Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan
\$2,246	Adopt-A-Magazine
\$11,803	Other
<b>\$4,427,815</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

## EXPENDITURES

\$1,925,266	Salaries /Wages
\$145,483	Employers FICA
\$196,958	Medical/Dental/Optical
\$14,104	Life & Disability
\$334,300	Retirement
\$64,044	Operating Supplies
\$404,966	Books & Materials
\$197,711	Contractual Services
\$29,732	Communications
\$1,363	Transportation
\$34,827	Conferences & Training
\$47,424	Community Promotion
\$32,160	Events
\$59,038	Insurance & Bonds
\$4,324	Workers Compensation
\$159,460	Public Utilities
\$106,203	Repairs & Maintenance
\$1,082	Prior Year Tax Refunds
\$189,309	Building Projects
\$33,445	Furniture
\$170,326	Technology
<b>\$4,151,541</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>



A photograph of three children in a library setting. Two boys in the foreground are focused on playing with colorful building blocks on a low table. A girl in the background is also engaged with toys. The scene is brightly lit and shows a typical library play area.

# NEXT STEPS

*In the coming year, we will wrap up our current strategic plan while researching community needs for our next plan.*

The following strategic goals were developed based on staff and community feedback from 2021. In the coming year, we will embark on the projects outlined below to help move us further toward our goals.

01 **Promote equity across our entire community and contribute to a welcoming, inclusive environment for all**

Noticing a growing trend of economic insecurity among library users, staff collaborated on a Homeless Support Task Force to study best practices and recommend enhanced library services. We are now working to address all of the recommendations from this task force.

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02 **Increase awareness of library services and resources**

We will enhance the digital signage throughout the building and add stronger outdoor signage to communicate with the public.

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03 **Connect with patrons across multiple environments, prototyping services that extend beyond books**

Utilizing the newly-constructed outdoor amphitheater, we will produce a broad range of outdoor events, and improve additional outdoor areas of the library.

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04 **Become a convening space in our community for shared dialog and action**

We will experiment with a variety of in-person programming formats to support deep engagement with high-interest topics, including a Human Library event and a series of facilitated community conversations.

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05 **Establish benchmarks and formalize procedures in ways that increase organizational clarity and public transparency**

Internally, staff will implement new communication tools, streamline our ordering procedures, and begin migrating our data to a new ILS database.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*We would be remiss if we failed to recognize the contributions of the people who work tirelessly to make the projects mentioned within possible.*

Michael Pappas, Library Board President

Jean Walsh, Library Board Vice-President

Yasir Khogali, Library Board Treasurer

Beth Sexton, Library Board Secretary

Jacqueline George, Library Board Trustee

John Morrison, Library Board Trustee

Jessica Yaser, Library Board Trustee

The dedicated library staff who are our  
library's greatest resource

Our committed volunteers who make this  
institution possible

The generous support of individual  
donors across the community

Friends of Plymouth District Library

BOSCH Community Fund

Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth

The Regner Family Foundation

Library Access Friends

*We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to serve the community.*



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