



TOPEKA &  
SHAWNEE  
COUNTY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



## Board of Trustees

FROM LEFT:

**Shawn Leisinger**, Vice Chair

**Peg Dunlap**, Treasurer

**Joan Hicks**, Secretary

**Hannah Uhlrig**

**Jim Ramos**

**Beth Dobler**

**Jim Edwards**, Chair

**Liz Post**

**Jennifer Miller**

TERM ENDED APRIL:

**Kacy Simonsen**

**Kristen Brunkow O'Shea**



# Leadership

## Library Officers

BACK ROW: **Jesse Maddox**, Chief Human Resources Officer  
**Marie Pyko**, Chief Executive Officer

FRONT ROW: **Kim Strube**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Thad Hartman**, Chief of Staff

ON THE COVER: Autumn Friedli shares her recommendations on the Bookmark podcast.



# 2022 in Review

by Marie Pyko, Chief Executive Officer

What a difference a year can make in the library. When I wrote my annual report message for our 2021 year, we talked about the COVID-19 pandemic retreating and returning to “normal.” We have learned that our library’s former “normal” looks much different now and has impacted the way the library operates, the expectations and needs of our customers in how they use the library, and the retention and recruitment of staff. Each month programs and services looked a little different.

Our new normal has us looking to the future and the changing needs in our community including focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion at the library. We’ve been working with community partners to address the technology-gap in our community (distribution of WIFI hotspots and TSC Get Digital), developing new strategies to keep our community engaged readers, improving access to the library for students and providing opportunities to meet bestselling authors.

Like the rest of the world, the library has been impacted by turnover like we have never experienced before. However, we celebrate the retirements of staff who dedicated their career to this library (see back cover). We also developed programs to prepare staff for leadership through our Emerging Leaders program, a year-long course teaching skills, budgeting, supervisory skills and project management. Our first class of eight individuals is highlighted below.



## Emerging Library Leaders Class of 2022

- Abigail Siemers
- Angie Hardy-Foltz
- Areli Bermudez-Villareal
- Cadie Maas
- Hayley Swisher
- Meredith Snapp
- Patrick Berry
- Rachael Schmidlein

# LEVEL 2 TECH CENTER

In August, the Level 2 Tech Center opened offering a work space you can take your skills, hobbies and work to the next level. This area includes a fully-equipped Digital Art Studio, two recording studios, 30 computers and 5 small meeting rooms. Regardless of your skill level, the library has the staff, equipment, software and training to help level up your tech game.



Episode 5

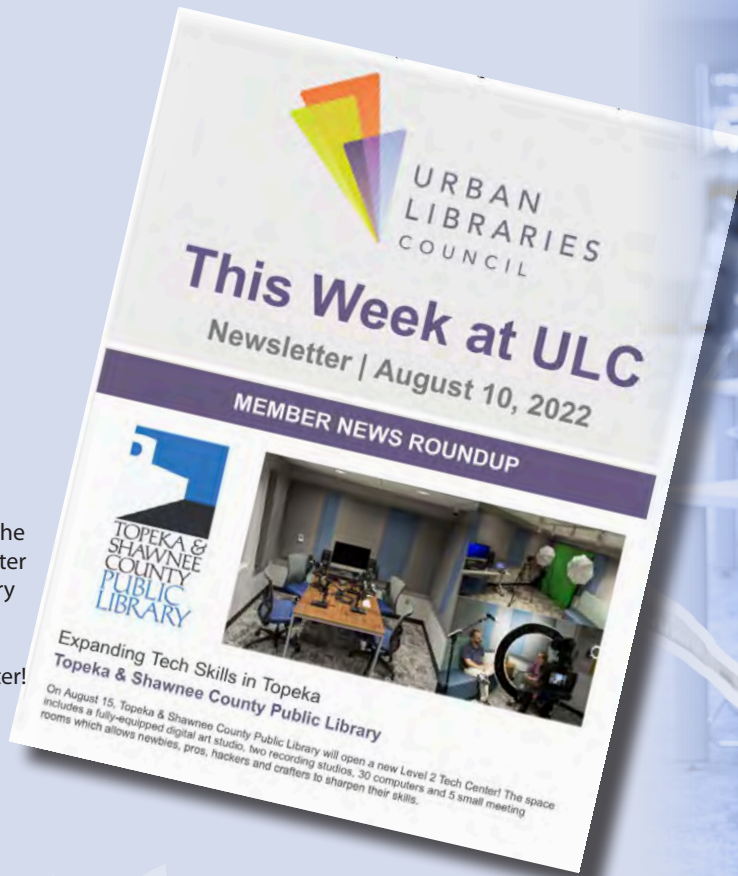


The first official podcast in the new audio recording studio was recorded by India Yarborough, Greater Topeka Partnership, and Gretchen Spiker, City of Topeka, hosting their fun and informative podcast *Topeka Talk: A Community Conversation*. Marie Pyko and Todd Smith were interviewed about the Level 2 Tech Center and the tools and services available.



Gretta Hug used the Cricut to create this sign in the Digital Art Studio.

The opening of the Level 2 Tech Center was the lead story in the August 10 Urban Libraries Council newsletter!



FROM LEFT: Liz Post, Peg Dunlap, Jim Edwards, Jim Ramos, Marie Pyko, Mayor Mike Padilla and Greater Topeka Partnership helped with the ribbon cutting.

# Personal Connections

Library staff strive to connect to community members through reading recommendations, book discussions, bookmobiles, author visits, art exhibits, events, outreach programs, music, business and career resources, and technology classes. Here are some examples of the connections we made this year.



The traveling exhibit *Resilience A Sansei Sense of Legacy* about Japanese Americans internment in World War II generated many customer comments and appreciation:

“An important exhibit that is not talked about enough.”

“I just learned something new. Thank you.”

“Really impressive!”

The exhibit also generated visitor discussions with library staff about book lists, the kimono artist’s series, World War II memories from childhood, and even comments about sleeping on cots during the Korean War.



Eloise had a fantastic impact on registrations for **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**. Three days after this Facebook post, registrations for the program increased dramatically. As of Dec 2022 we had **410** registered!

“Our discussion group may have been one of the first to use this invaluable service [Book Group in a Bag]! Hope recently updated the list of books we’ve read. That’s 135 titles since 2008, 14 years!! Also, we’ve donated four kits to the collection – *Becoming*, *My Antonia*, *City of Thieves* and *Worth the Pain*.”

–First Lutheran Church Book Discussion Group

“My Littles tell pretty much everyone we meet that we live at the library and that the librarians are our friends! They are free to be who they are there, are never judged, and are encouraged to be curious and follow their interests and learn whatever they want.”

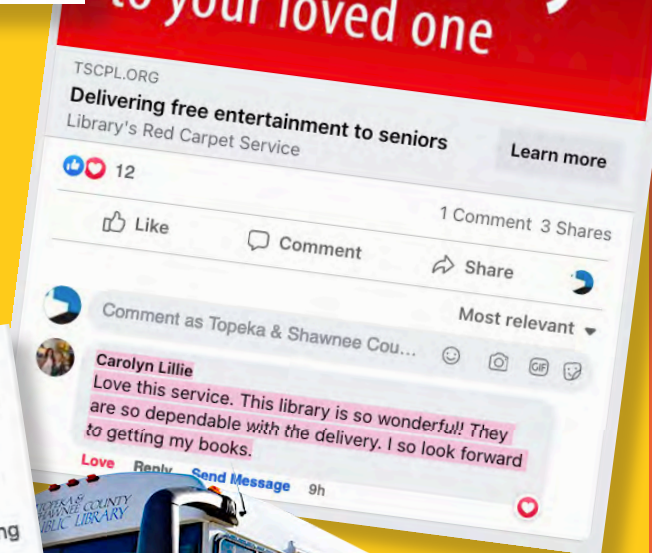
–Crystal Gehrt

“I love books & literature & the staff there make me feel so at home. The staff is so professional & just good, good people. They are the type that I would pick as friends.”

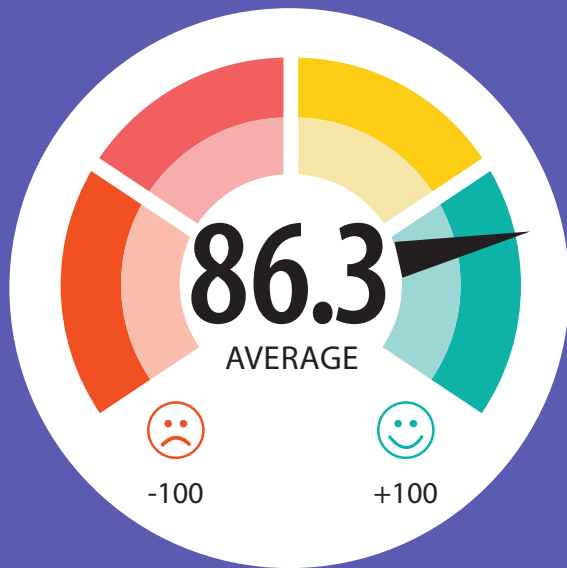
–Ernie Beery



October’s music article was found and Tweeted about by a fan group of The Cure within hours of being posted on the library website.

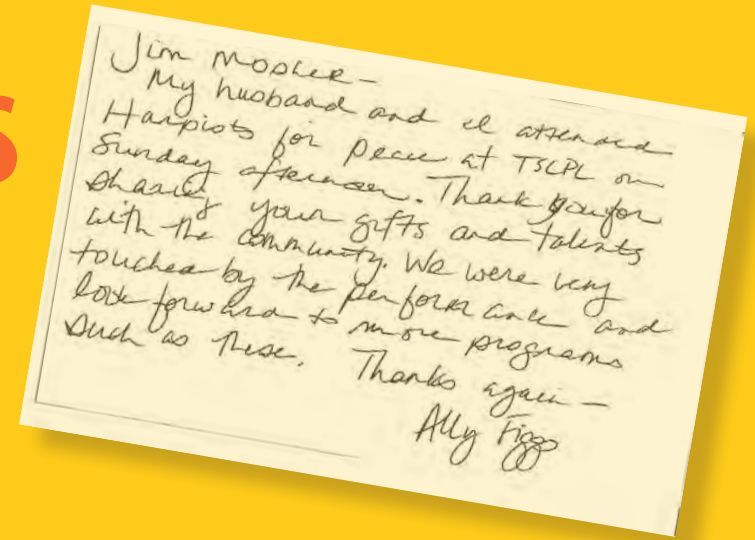


# Personal Connections



## Net Promoter Score (NPS)

NPS can be generalized as measuring customer loyalty. Our high and positive NPS indicates people were satisfied with their recent experience at the library and are willing to tell others.



“I just had a great conversation with a patron in the Gallery. His wife sent him in to pick up a fiber craft pack and he got one for himself too. He told me he’s a disabled vet and has a hard time using his left hand due to an injury he suffered while serving. He can’t work so he’s always looking for something to do. I told him about the take and make packs for the next 3 weeks, the Arts and Craft kits he can check out, and I showed him Creativebug. He hadn’t been to the library in about 10 years, so he didn’t have a library card anymore. I suggested he get a new one and he went straight to the Customer Service desk when he left the Gallery. -Brea, librarian”

A mother and young son from a neighboring community visited the library for the first time. Staff set them up with cards, showed them around the Kids Library and assisted them with checkout. As they were leaving, the child who was no more than 4 years old said,

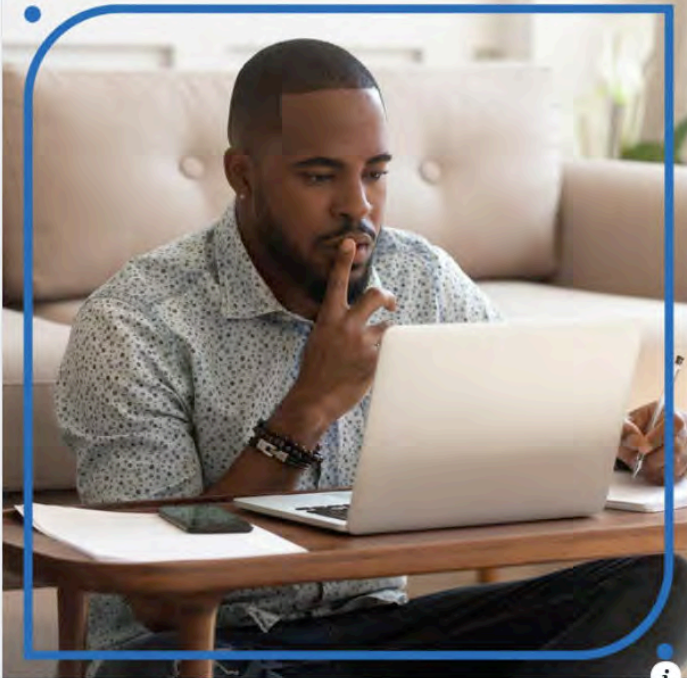
“On a scale of 1 to 10, I give this library 1,000!”



“I love going into the library but my favorite thing about the TSCPL is the library at work program. I love that it takes just a few clicks online to get books delivered directly to my work. It’s great!!!”  
 –Lindsay Winters

**Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library**  
 Published by Melissa Danielle White · 15h · 🌐

Wanting to read today's headlines? Use your library card to access thousands of articles from the comfort of your own home.



TSCPL.ORG  
**Access Free Newspapers Online from Library**  
 News without a paywall [Learn more](#)

**JoEllen McGranahan**  
 This blows my mind! I believe the only thing I used when in grade and high school was the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and of course, way before Internet! This is a wonderful resource!

**Crystal Gehrt** is with **James Gehrt.**  
 4d · 🌐

We love sick days when **Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library** brings the fun to us!



“We love sick days when Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library brings the fun to us!”  
 –Crystal Gehrt posted about TSCPL@Home with a photo of her young sons and their delivery bags.

**f** **20K+**  
 FOLLOWERS  
 ON FACEBOOK  
**UP 2300+**

**YouTube**  
**1,415,812**  
 VIEWS  
**1.4K** SUBSCRIBERS



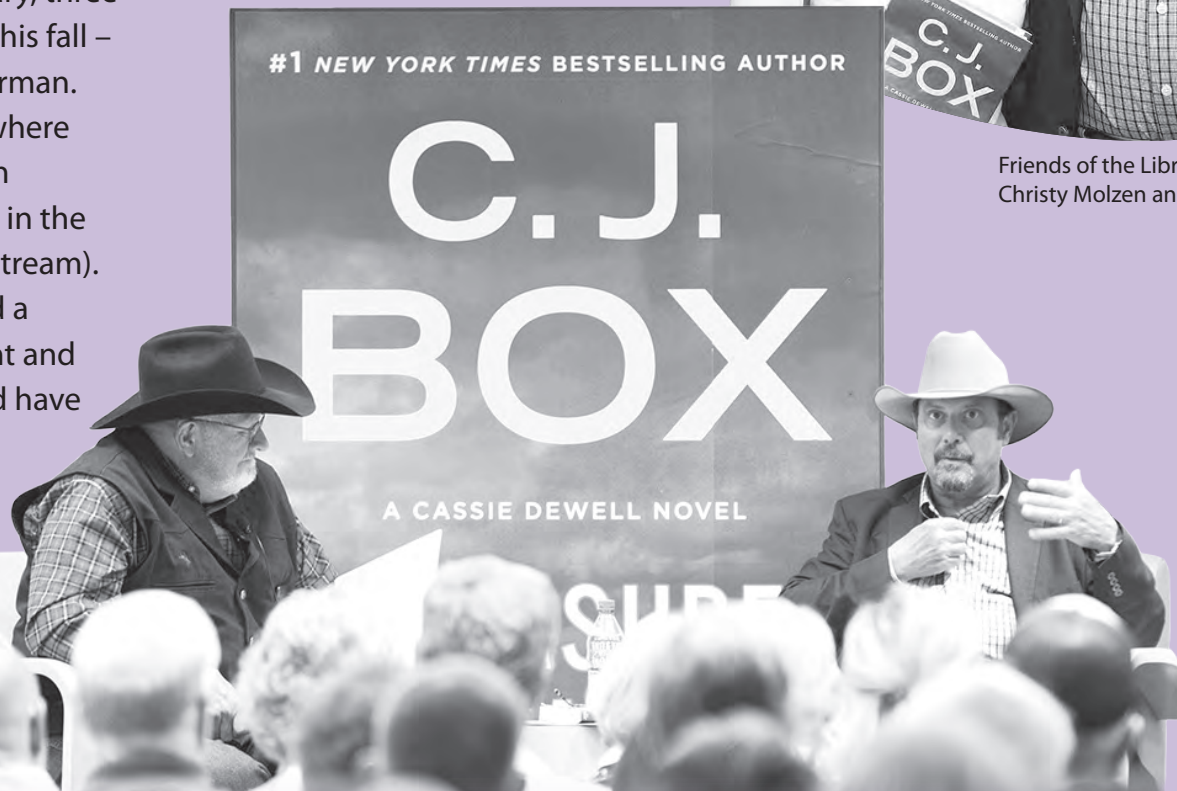
**7,162 PEOPLE**  
 FOLLOW US  
 ON TWITTER

# Encouraging a Community of Readers

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, three major mystery writers visited us this fall – C.J. Box, J.A. Jance and Faye Kellerman. Box was at the library in person where he spoke to a full crowd in Marvin Auditorium (we even had people in the Learning Center watching a live stream). Members of the Friends attended a special reception before the event and were able to meet the author and have photos and books signed.



Friends of the Library President Christy Molzen and C.J. Box



## Other amazing authors who visited the library

### J.A. Jance & Faye Kellerman

Kansas Public Radio's Kaye McIntyre moderated virtual conversations with Jance and Kellerman. Attendees participated by Zoom or joined McIntyre in Marvin Auditorium to enjoy the authors on the big screen.

### Kalynn Bayron

Bestselling author of the Young Adult fantasy novels *Cinderella Is Dead*, *This Poison Heart* and *This Wicked Fate*, and the middle grade paranormal adventure *The Vanquishers* was well-received by adults and teens. She met with students at Topeka High School plus an evening event at the library.

### Lucas Bessire & Megha Majumdar

2022 Kansas Poet Laureate Huascar Medina moderated a conversation with National Book Award honored authors Bessire (*Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains*, 2021 Nonfiction Finalist) and Majumdar (*A Burning*, 2020 Fiction Longlist).

### Traci Brimhall

Poet Brimhall (2023 Kansas Poet Laureate) whose beautiful, accessible poetry has received national readership and acclaim spoke about her work and led a writing workshop. She is the director of Kansas State University's creative writing program.

### B.J. Hollars

Hollars is the author of *Rediscovering America on the Oregon Trail* that tells the story of his and his young son Henry's 2500-mile road trip on the Oregon Trail. They talked about their adventure to community members.

### R.B. Lemberg

Lemberg is a local author who writes genre bending novels with unique voices and perspectives. Lemberg discussed *The Unbalancing*, which is rooted in mystical cosmology, neurodiversity and queer-ness.



Illustrator & Author Dan Santat

### Nick Pyenson

People appreciated Pyenson's discussion of his book *Spying on Whales*, which shares insights into the mysterious lives of whales.

### Dan Santat

Bestselling author and illustrator of more than 100 juvenile fiction and picture books including *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*, spoke about his work and provided drawing tips to kids and adults.

### Annie Ward

Bestselling suspense author Annie Ward talked about her writing process and her books *Beautiful Bad* and the 2022 twisty page-turner *The Lying Club*.



Author Faye Kellerman on screen and moderator Kaye McIntyre at the podium

“Love all of the challenges!  
Thank you!! –Tiffany Deitcher”

“I just finished my third book. I am excited  
to get my mug and pick up my library card.  
We just moved here so I haven't been  
to the library yet.”  
–Anabell Parrish

“I'm obsessed with these  
fall reading challenges  
and the glasses!”  
–Brenda Blackman

We offer three reading challenges a year: Winter, Summer and Fall. The challenges encourage more discussion between librarians and readers, and between readers. Participants also appreciate the small rewards they earn by completing challenges.



# Rewards of Reading

## Winter

Reading  
Challenge

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**936**  
ACTIVE  
READERS

**4,569**  
BOOKS READ

**805**  
COMPLETED  
CHALLENGE

## Summer

Reading  
Challenge

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**1,770**  
ACTIVE  
READERS

**1.5**  
**million**  
MINUTES READ

**1,141**  
COMPLETED  
CHALLENGE

## Fall

Reading  
Challenge

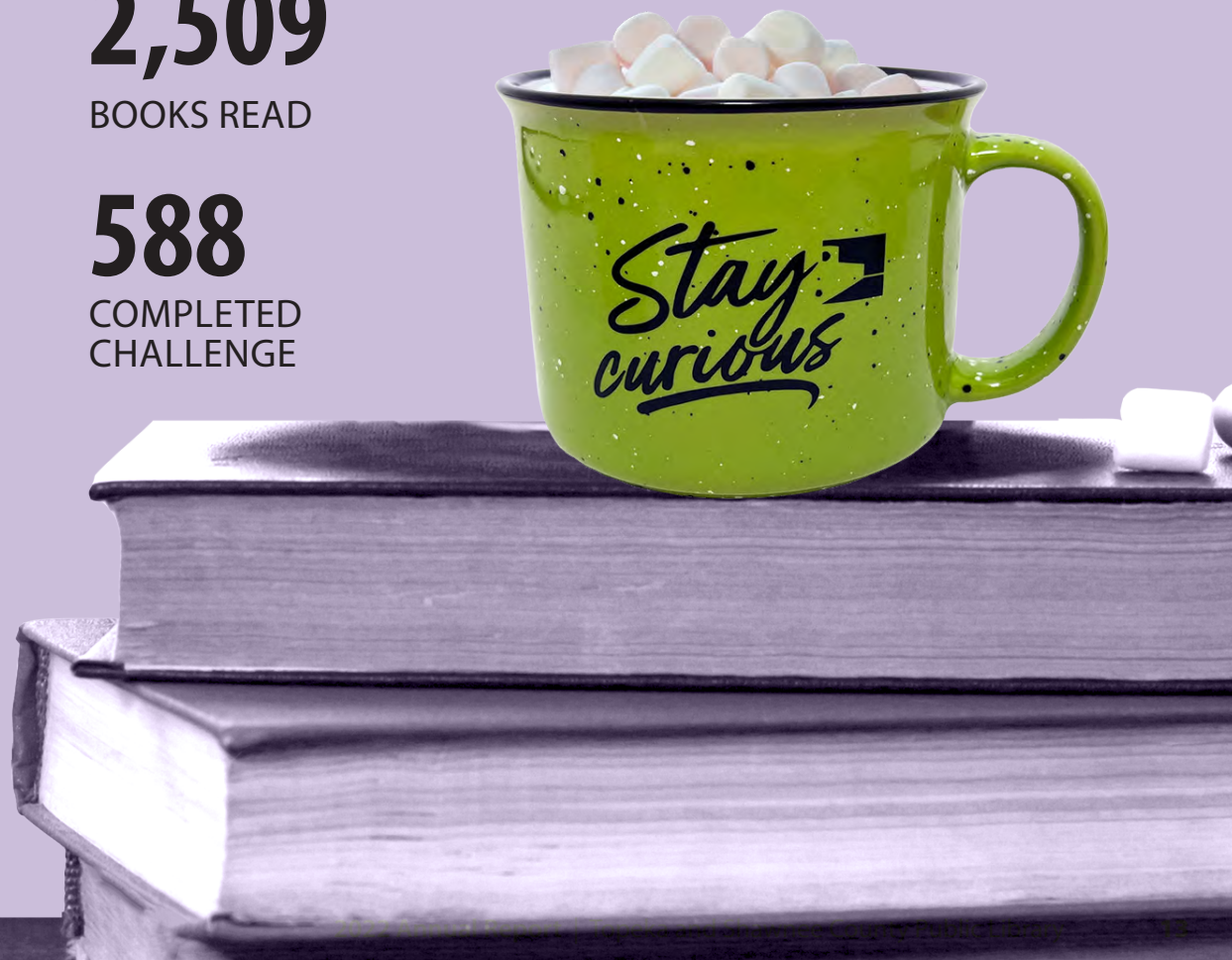
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**658**  
ACTIVE  
READERS

**2,509**  
BOOKS READ

**588**  
COMPLETED  
CHALLENGE

“I love these mugs SO MUCH. They are the only thing I will use for coffee now. —Brooke Myers Smith”



# Summer is time for

You logged  
**224,438**  
minutes of reading  
the week of June 13-21 and one of  
the awards kids could earn was an  
**ICE CREAM CONE!**



Learning from a marine biologist



Fossil dig activity



Reed Studio activity



Meet a Marine Biologist program

# learning fun



Blockbuster Wednesday The Amazing Arthur



Learning from a marine biologist



**715**  
visitors helped  
build the annual  
art exhibit for kids.



Ocean Tie Dye activity



Zan Popp was interviewed by KSNT FoxLIVE 43 AM Host Dane Kroll



Shark Week visitor

# Community Leadership



The Kansas Public Radio Queen's Gambit on-air book club May 2021 won

## First Place

in the 2022 Kansas Association of Broadcasters' Multi-Media/Digital category (medium market radio).

Library CEO Marie Pyko was a member of the book discussion with KPR's Kaye McIntyre, Kelly Barker and Logan Camarda.



Library named

## 2022 YWCA Employer of Excellence

At the YWCA Northeast Kansas 34th Annual Women of Excellence the library was named an Employer of Excellence for supporting employee learning and staff development.

Sherry Hess named a

## 2022 YWCA Woman of Excellence

Hess was recognized for her focus on engaging young children and their families in play-based early learning experiences. The Learn & Play Bus and its service are at the heart of her work.



Autumn Friedli

## Leadership Topeka

Class of 2022





# Snapshots



From left to right: Board Chair Jim Edwards, County Commissioner Bill Riphon, CEO Marie Pyko and Greater Topeka Partnership Ambassador Leanna James.

1. Thad Hartman, Jacqueline Belden and Shari Schawo served on the the City of Topeka's Digital Equity program "TSC Get Digital, distributing 1,200 desktop computers to qualifying applicants. Shari also taught beginning computer skills including computer navigation, email and using the internet.

2. The library opened a new book locker at Fairlawn Plaza adding a convenient book pickup and drop off location in southwest Topeka.

3. Kindergarten Ready - The library is part of the Shawnee County Kindergarten Transitions Team that created a one-stop website for parents to find all the information they need to get their child ready for kindergarten. The site includes a simple school finder to locate a school near them.

# more Snapshots



5



4



6



7



8

Katie Simmons



40 Years of FORTI-fying the Future



9



10

Rhonda Cathey

Theresa Girdler

Joyce Hedlund

4. WiFi Hotspots - In January, the library started checking out hotspots that allow customers to wirelessly connect to the internet from anywhere.
5. The library brand is used on library vehicles and a bookmobile received the Stay Curious brand so all who see it will know it's the library.
6. To invite people back to the library, we launched the "Now Offering" ad campaign using video and social media.
7. The Library Foundation celebrated 40 years of "FORTI-fying" the future.
8. Halloween was a photo opportunity for kids in costumes with library photographer Michael Perkins capturing the fun.
9. The crowds rolled in for the Lowrider Car Show in September.
10. Due to daycare/preschool COVID restrictions, it was November before Outreach Storytellers could return in-person storytime. The storytellers provide 139 early-learning experiences at 63 licensed daycare and preschool centers.

11



11. Through Kansas Connections library staff present to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes about science, math, animals and social studies to supplement teachers' curriculum.

12



12. The Alice C. Sabatini Gallery offered its first artist in residence program with Brad Leduc, painter, printmaker and Washburn Rural High School art teacher in April.

In November Mona Cliff, owner of Spottedcloud Studio in Lawrence, shared her multidisciplinary art that is influenced by the diverse cultures of her heritage, Aaniiih- People of the White Clay, Nakota and Eastern European.

13



13. The library's Topeka EmpowHERment Summit offered advice, motivations and goals for attendees from women who are powerful leaders in our community.

14



14. The library's genealogy team organized and hosted the Identity Quest conference and heritage celebration with two national keynote speakers, Kathleen Brandt and Dan Debenham, and more than 25 local and regional presenters.

15



15. The library had 1,336 in-person & online appointments to help people with personal browsing, ebooks, gadget help, gallery, genealogy, job, notary and genealogy.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## FINANCIALS

### Sources of Financial Support

Taxes	\$ 19,222,916
Fees & Reimbursements	\$ 323,112
Contributions	\$ 240,153
Grants & State Aid	\$ 53,210
Investment Income	\$ 199,050
Interfund Transfers	\$ 554,463
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,592,904</b>

### Library Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 11,874,702
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 2,836,779
Debt Service	\$ -
Library Materials	\$ 1,867,370
Equipment & Capital Improvements	\$ 1,752,888
Programming & Events	\$ 127,674
Interfund Transfers	\$ 554,463
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 19,013,878</b>

## CIRCULATION

YOU CHECKED OUT

**1.8** 

**MILLION ITEMS**  
THIS IS AN INCREASE  
OF 5.4% OVER 2021

DIGITAL  
DOWNLOADS

**608,617**  
INCREASE OF 4.2%



CURBSIDE SERVICE

**33,975**  
CHECKOUTS  
DOWN 82%



TSCPL@HOME

**37,348**  
CHECKOUTS  
DOWN 23.6%

## CARDHOLDERS

**38%**

OF ALL  
HOUSEHOLDS  
IN SHAWNEE  
COUNTY HAVE  
AN ACTIVE  
CARDHOLDER



## COLLECTION

OUR COMBINED  
PHYSICAL & DIGITAL  
COLLECTIONS GIVE  
CUSTOMERS



MORE THAN

**1.7**

MILLION ITEMS  
TO CHOOSE FROM

## PROGRAMMING

**40,645**

**PROGRAM ATTENDANCE**

(excludes exhibits, outreach,  
internal and training)



**25,064**  
PEOPLE VISITED THE  
ALICE C. SABATINI  
**GALLERY**

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE  
IS DOWN 9.9%

GALLERY  
ATTENDANCE  
IS

**UP**  
**18%**



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## DIGITAL BRANCH



**446,908**

VISITS TO THE WEBSITE

**212,517**

VISITS TO THE CATALOG

VISITS TO THE WEBSITE WERE UP 35.2%



VISITS TO THE CATALOG WERE UP 4.7%

## VISITS & ASK A LIBRARIAN

**349,950**

VISITS TO THE LIBRARY

**UP 71.8%**

FROM 2021



WE RESPONDED TO **166,542** QUESTIONS VIA WALK-IN, PHONE, EMAIL & CHAT

## MEETING ROOMS



**16,444**

MEETINGS WERE HELD IN THE PUBLIC MEETING ROOMS

**4,706**

IN LARGER MEETING ROOMS & AUDITORIUM

**UP 61.7%**



**9,875** IN TEAM ROOMS UP 870%

**1,863** IN COLAB ROOMS (OPENED IN AUGUST)

## PUBLIC WIFI USE



316,177 SESSIONS UP

**92.8%**

69,814 HOURS UP

**102.1%**

COMPUTER USE

**86,280**

SESSIONS UP 23.9%



**74,634**

HOURS UP 44.5%



April 2017

Program enrollment began

Actual number of children enrolled by December 2022

5,778

Total dollars raised \$1,161,458

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, United Way of Greater Topeka and Kansas Health Foundation

78,649

Total books delivered in Year 5 (Apr 2021-22)

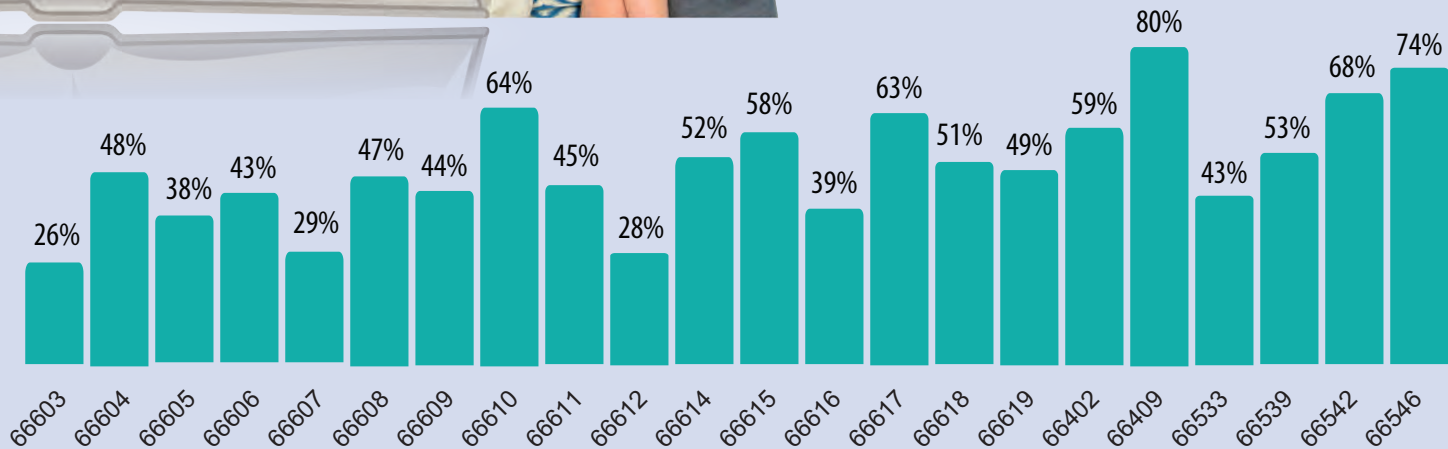
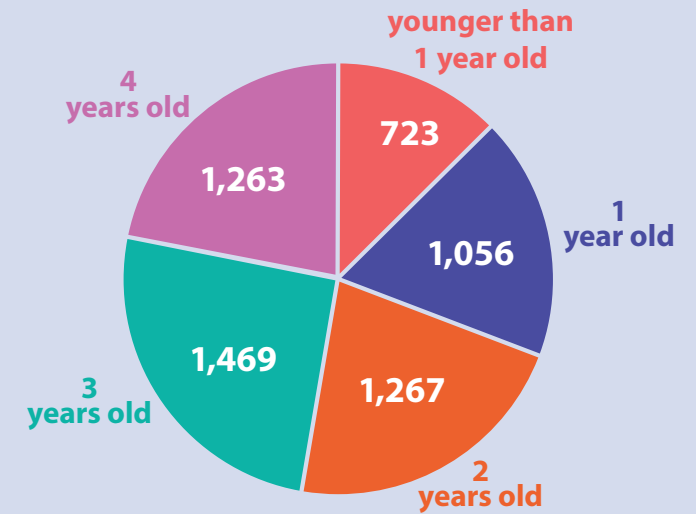
Year 5 Costs \$28,049.65 (paid by donations)

Shawnee County Imagination Library

2022



## Age of children enrolled



## Percent of children signed up by zip code

# RETIREMENTS with much appreciation for their service and best wishes in retirement!



**Kathryn Barnes**  
17 years



**Mary Campbell**  
13 years



**Bonnie Cuevas**  
21 years



**Diane Givens**  
21 years



**Jayme Lyons**  
23 years



**Luella Minner**  
39 years



**Betty Jean Neal**  
24 years



**Judy Trecek**  
14 years

## REMEMBERING



**David "DJ" Johnson**  
July 24, 1968 – September 17, 2022  
DJ had been with the library for eight years, starting on September 8, 2014.



**James "Jim" Serrano**  
July 27, 1967 – February 18, 2022  
Jim had been with the library for 21 years, starting on December 19, 2000.



*Stay  
curious*

1515 SW 10th Ave | Topeka, KS 66604

785 580-4400 | [tscpl.org](http://tscpl.org)

Hours Mon-Fri 9AM-9PM | Sat 9AM-6PM | Sun NOON TO 9PM