



TOPEKA &
SHAWNEE
COUNTY
**PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Board of Trustees



Leadership

Library Officers

- FRONT ROW: **Thad Hartman**, Chief of Staff
Marie Pyko, Chief Executive Officer
- BACK ROW: **Kim Strube**, Chief Financial Officer
Jesse Maddox, Chief Human Resources Officer

ON THE COVER: Best-selling author Craig Johnson visits with Friends of the Library members at an exclusive reception during his author talk at our library.

2023 in Review

Marie Pyko, Chief Executive Officer



As I look back on 2023, I saw the library getting busier in both digital and building visits. The youth collections continue to increase in usage and families are once again spending time in the Kids Library, attending programs and visiting the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery to make art. The Level 2 Tech Center remains popular with independent users and customers who need help with technology. In December alone, Level 2 Tech Center staff responded to 5,918 questions. While the bulk of the questions were computer-related, staff helped people get started in the recording studios, helped with beginning research and resolved library account issues. As customer visits to the library increased in 2023, the meeting rooms are full again. The meeting room usage hours increased 40.2% during last year which impacted several areas of the library including digital services, facilities, Chandler Booktique and the Millennium Café. Community groups appreciate the new audio-visual equipment available in the meeting rooms. Activity in the library was not the only success, our outreach services including Bookmobile, outreach storytellers and the Learn and Play Bus usage increased. Community Outreach programs were on pace with staff enjoying being in classrooms with Kansas Connections learning programs and telling stories at childcare facilities. There are still significant opportunities for the library to reengage or newly engage our community.

I look forward to implementing the new strategic plan to encourage everyone to read more, experience more and connect to the needed information to support their lives.

Marie Pyko

Strategic Planning

The library engaged in a collective process in 2023 to craft a new strategic plan. The plan grew out of a comprehensive community profile, meetings with residents and library staff, and a community survey. This research identified areas of inequity within the service area and confirmed notable growth in the community's oldest and youngest age groups. It crystallized community-wide aspirations for more opportunities to gather, celebrate and learn.

Residents and stakeholders reported high levels of satisfaction in the online survey and defined a public library's most important role as being a source for books and other media. Across all information gathering, people asked for more dedicated library spaces throughout the community, improved access to health care, diversified entertainment options, more ways to learn and play, and the chance to connect with their neighbors.

The 2024-2029 Strategic Plan was released in early 2024.



CONNECTION

The library will support the diverse needs and interests of the community with services and resources that foster a sense of belonging and collaboration.

SPACE

The library will provide welcoming and inviting physical and digital spaces in which people have easy access to learning, connections and joy.

LEARNING

The library is committed to offering equitable learning and development opportunities to meet the goals and needs of diverse learners.

JOY

The library is committed to providing a variety of programs and services that enrich our community and spark wonder in residents across the county.

PEOPLE

The library will create a work environment where our staff and volunteers are valued, respected and empowered to contribute their best.

PEOPLE

- Training
- Recruitment & Retention

JOY

- Discover & Grow Passions
- Celebrate Local Stories

CONNECTION

- Digital Equity
- Socialization & Community Connections

COMMUNITY NEEDS & INTERESTS



SPACE

- Access
- Digital Library

LEARNING

- Readers & Reading
- Play & Experiential Learning

Engaging Readers

The library hosted several author visits, with our peak in October and November's Author Season sponsored by the Friends of the Library and The Library Foundation.



Craig Johnson

Craig Johnson author of the Longmire mystery Western series was the year's headliner. Johnson signed books and visited with Friends members at an exclusive reception prior to the public conversation on Oct 9. He entertained everyone with his colorful stories and warm personality.

Author Season also included visits from:



Lamar Giles

Lamar Giles writes for teens and adults across multiple genres. In addition to his library visit, Giles visited students at Washburn Rural High School. His most recent releases are the YA thriller *The Getaway*, the middle grade adventure *Epic Ellisons: Cosmos Camp* and the graphic novel *Static: Up All Night*. Giles is a founding member of We Need Diverse Books.



Alex Grecian

Alex Grecian is a New York Times Bestselling author who wrote *The Yard* and four sequels as well as the contemporary thriller *The Saint of Wolves and Butchers*, and the historical thriller *Red Rabbit*, which was released just two months before his visit. Grecian's visit was a Friends of the Library special event.



Janae Marks

Janae Marks is a New York Times Bestselling author of middle grade novels including the Zoe Washington series. Her novels have been named Best Book of the Year by Parents Magazine, Chicago Public Library, the *Boston Globe*, the Bank Street College of Education and others. Marks also made visits to Ross Elementary School and Chase Middle School.

Other amazing authors who visited the library

Marcia Cebulka

author and playwright launched her memoir *Lovers, Dreamers & Thieves* at the library in May.

Emily Cowan

history researcher and author of *Abandoned Topeka*, one of our most popular nonfiction books of 2022.

Rita Woods

Afrofuturist and Hurston/Wright Award-winning author of the novels *The Last Dreamwalker* and *Remembrance*.

Rewards of Reading

Readers love earning prizes. We had three all-ages reading challenges in addition to the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge. Check out these numbers!

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Kids birth to Kindergarten get an additional year-round reading challenge.

369 ACTIVE READERS	316 NEW REGISTRATIONS DOWN 23%
396 REWARDS REDEEMED UP 7%	38 CHALLENGE COMPLETIONS UP 27%



Winter Reading Challenge

Read 3 books in January

1,162 ACTIVE READERS UP 24%
6,962 BOOKS READ UP 52%
1,059 COMPLETED CHALLENGE UP 32%

Print books, ebooks, audiobooks and graphic novels are part of the Reading Challenges. Our digital collections at Libby and Hoopla are always available and provide immediate access to thousands of great reads. If you want help finding amazing reads, sign up for Browsing Just for You and a librarian will select books for you based on your interests.

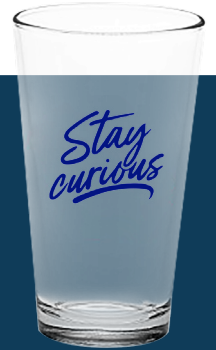
Summer Reading Challenge

2,637
ACTIVE READERS
UP 49%

9,157
BOOKS READ

677+
THOUSAND
MINUTES READ*
DOWN 55%
*birth - 12 years old tracked minutes; teens & adults tracked books

1,863
COMPLETED CHALLENGE
UP 60%



Fall Reading Challenge

Read 3 books in October

683
ACTIVE READERS
UP 4%

3,692
BOOKS READ
UP 47%

605
COMPLETED CHALLENGE
UP 3%



Author Lamar Giles signs books for eager fans.



Kudos to The Happy Bookers book club who made a black cake for their meeting to discuss *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson! They checked out the Book Group in a Bag and said, "The extra pages of support materials including playlist and recipes were extra fun!" The baker of the group even decorated the cake to look like the book cover. So cool!


 **21K+**
FOLLOWERS
ON FACEBOOK
UP 966+

YouTube
314,413
VIEWS
UP 21%

1,896,365
ALL-TIME VIEWS
AS OF 12/31/23

1,553
ALL-TIME FOLLOWERS
UP 4%
59 NEW SUBSCRIBERS


3.3K
FOLLOWERS

 **7,040 PEOPLE**
FOLLOW US
DOWN 2%

Red Carpet 50th Anniversary

We have been bringing the library to older adults and those with accessibility needs through Red Carpet Services since 1973. Our librarians deliver books, movies and music to independent and assisted living facilities, medical and nursing home facilities, senior meal sites, senior centers, and to those who are homebound. We get to know individuals reading and movie preferences and provide recommendations.





Improving the Library Building

In 2016 the library developed a Master Facilities Plan to determine maintenance and improvements to library spaces to achieve the following key goals:

Allow more meaningful interactions with customers.

Be where people need them.

Align library services and librarians in support of community goals.

Empower customers and improve customer experience.

Under this plan, several improvements have been made to the library in the past seven years. During 2023 building contractors completed renovations to the Movies & Music Lounge and the New & Novel room, and building maps were added in rotunda kiosks and in the atrium.

Previous improvements:

- new roof
- renovated plaza that includes customer service, large print, copy center and notary office
- new air conditioning chillers
- Millennium Café renovation
- Alice C. Sabatini Gallery renovation
- creation of the Level 2 Tech Center

Supporting Early Learning & Literacy

ABC Mouse

Parents and caregivers were excited when the library added ABC Mouse as a free online resource for kid-friendly early learning. Between April and December 2023 there were more than 2,900 online visits to ABC Mouse completing more than 31,000 activities.

Building Readers

Our **Building Readers** program offers specialized early learning and literacy activities for parents and children based on age. **Baby Bookworms** introduces infants from birth-12 months to the amazing world of books through interactive songs, stories and bounces. **Wonderful 1s** is focused parent and child interaction time with bubbles, stories, songs and play for kids 12-24 months. **Totally 2s** is a time for kids 24-36 months and caregivers to read, sing, move, play and discover their expanding world.

Bilingual Events

We offered several bilingual storytimes, games and book fun in 2023. While Bilingual Storytimes are geared to preschool kids, Bilingual Games and Bilingual Book Fun focus on elementary kids. These events entertain children, improve their language skills and understanding of Spanish, and are an opportunity to practice social skills.



Marlana, Kyler & Debbie are building readers from birth to 36 months.

April 2017

Program enrollment began

Actual number of children enrolled by December 2023

5,969

Total dollars raised \$1,286,612

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

78,114

Total books mailed in Year 6 (Apr 2022-23)

Year 5 Costs \$16,374.59 (paid by donations)

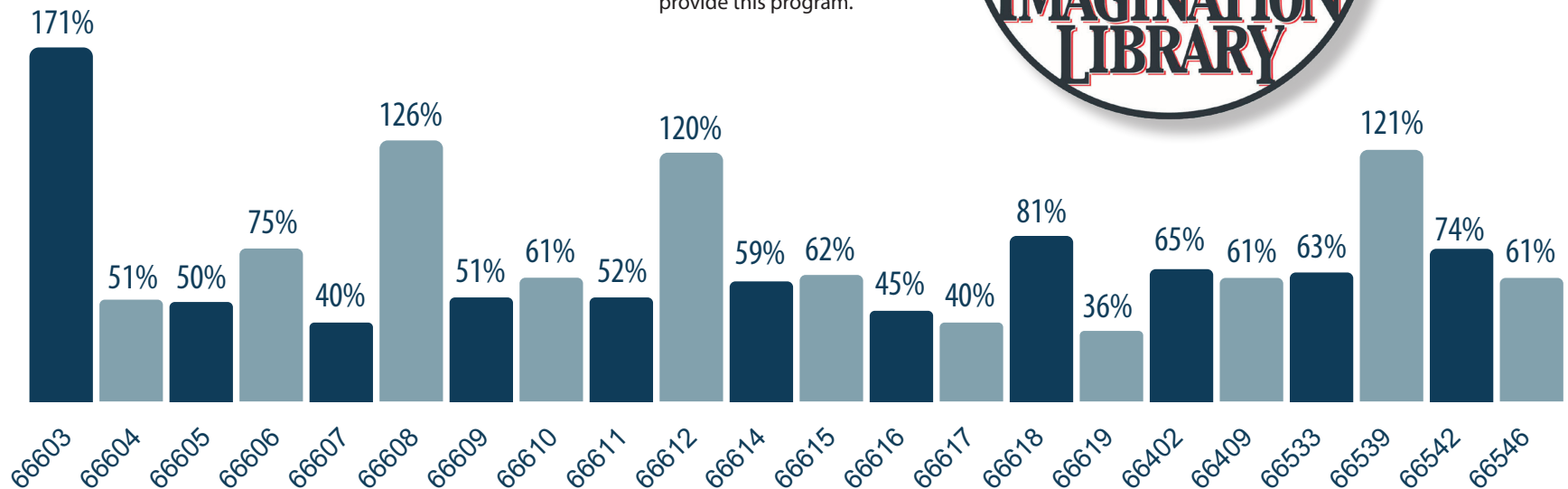
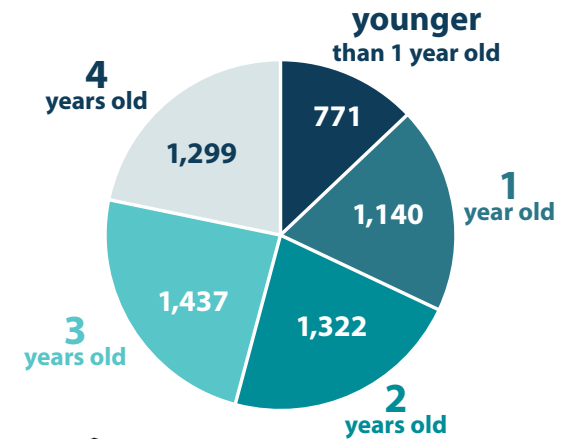
Shawnee County Imagination Library

2023



We collaborate with United Way of Kaw Valley to provide this program.

Age of children enrolled



Percent of children signed up by zip code

Sharing Art

The Alice C. Sabatini Gallery is your connection to the arts and curates four main exhibits each year including the Summer Art Exhibit for Children. In addition to the large exhibits, gallery staff curate several others throughout the library each year giving visitors opportunities to explore a wide variety of art and artists. The gallery hosted four main exhibits in 2023: *Melting Point*, *Shades of Greatness*, *Unexpected Friends* and *DoPiKa*.



Laura Anderson, Zan Popp, Brittany Keegan, Travis Garwood, Marie Pyko and Diana Friend accept the 2023 People's Choice Arty Award.

2023 People's Choice Arty Award

"This year's honorees really exemplify how the arts can be a source of richness in all aspects of life. They show us how we can center the arts in our conversations about history and the importance of cultural representation and understanding. They demonstrate how both arts and non-arts stakeholders can serve as critical advocates for ensuring that the arts – and artists – thrive in Topeka," said Sarah Fizell, executive director of ArtsConnect. "It is important to shine a light of gratitude and recognition on artists in our community. They are the ones who will blaze our path forward. Their success is inextricably linked to our success as a community, and it is important to take a moment to stop and recognize what that means."

DEC 9, 2022 – FEB 12, 2023



Melting Point

Visitors found all the forms and techniques of glass art in *Melting Point*. People explored the work of Studio Glass artists who use this versatile material to create colorful and intricate works. This exhibit included an artwork by world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly.

FEB 24 – MAY 7



Shades of Greatness

The critically-acclaimed traveling art exhibit from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum featured 35 original works of art produced by 28 diverse professional artists from across the country who interpret the Negro Leagues experience on-and-off the playing field. Renowned artist Kadir Nelson headlined the talented roster of artists in *Shades of Greatness*.

MAY 27 – AUG 13



Unexpected Friends

Kids and adults explored unexpected animal friendships with fun activities, cool art and lots of surprising facts during *Unexpected Friends*. The exhibit also included local animal information and resources from our friends at the Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center and an artwork by Tembo the elephant and video of the art creation. The annual art exhibit for children is made possible in part by The Library Foundation through contributions from the Sabatini Family Foundation.

SEPT 8 – NOV 26



DoPiKa: A Land Acknowledgement

Visitors had an opportunity to explore the art and culture of the Indigenous people and artists who made and continue to make Topeka and Shawnee County their home. *DoPiKa* acknowledged and honored the original inhabitants of Shawnee County: the Osage, Kaw, Delaware, Potawatomi, Shawnee and Wyandotte nations. This exhibit was a collaboration with Lisa LaRue-Baker, Cherokee tribal citizen and Gallerist of 785 Arts.

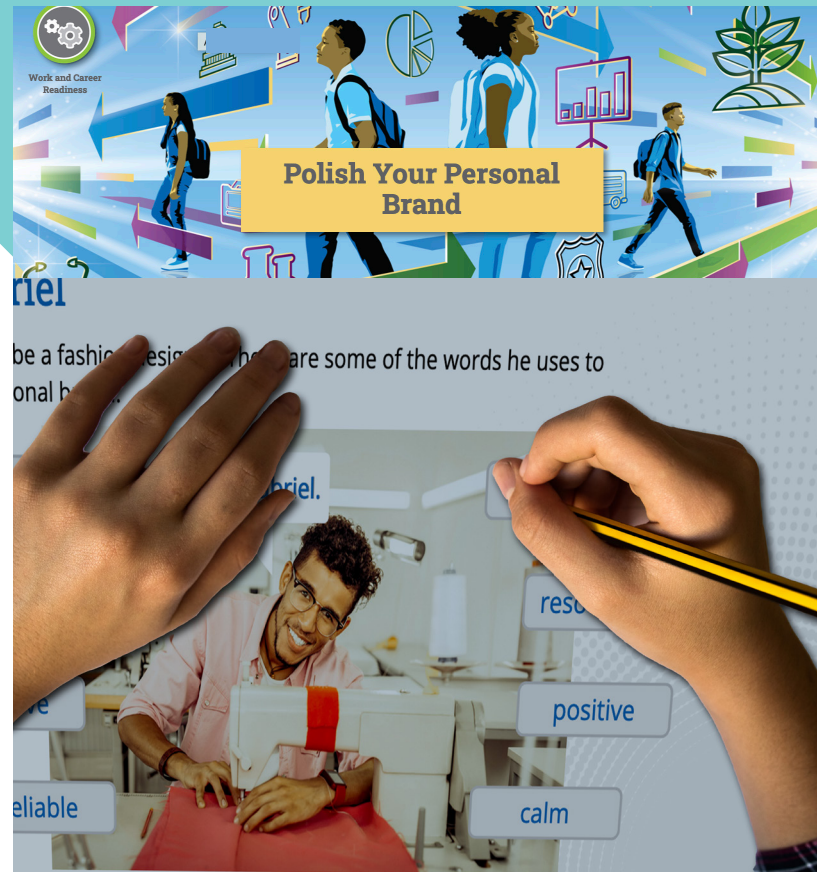
Community Connections



Staffer Kyler Carpenter helping zoo keepers select books.

Partnering with the Topeka Zoo & Conservation Center

We had lots of fun promoting reading while working with the Topeka Zoo to support acclimating a new zoo resident, Monty the bontebok, and celebrate Hoho the Malayan Sun Bear's birthday. Reading to Monty was one of the strategies zoo keepers used to help Monty feel more comfortable with people and the Topeka Zoo. The library was a natural partner to help pick books for Monty, get him a library card and have Facebook friends suggest amazing kids books. Library staff and customers also recommended bear books Hoho might like for his 34th birthday party. The library also partnered with the Topeka Zoo on the summer art exhibit. See page 15.



"What's your Brand"

Communications & Marketing Director Diana Friend and Digital Services Director David King, participated in a Junior Achievement "It's My Future" career readiness program with 28 eighth-grade students at Landon Middle School. During the 6-week course, they helped the class teacher lead discussions on personal branding, career pathways, creating a resume, turning interests into careers, and soft skills like promptness and honesty in a work environment. The class actively participated and asked a lot of questions. It was a fun experience and a chance to share information about the library as a potential career path.

Community Leadership



2023 En Point Award from Ballet Midwest

The library received an En Point Award from Ballet Midwest for years of support, which includes a special Musical Storytime with ballerinas from each year's Ballet Midwest Nutcracker performance.



Staffers Debbie Stanton, Bret Wilson, Cale Herreman, Shannon Eddings, Areli Bermudez-Villarreal, Maegan Hepburn, Nessa Johnson and their families were the brigade in the Miracle on Kansas Ave parade in December.

Emerging Library Leaders Class of 2023



From left: LaVoyce Ewing, Aubrey Conner, Alex Henault, Cale Herreman, Angie Reed, Dawn Buttery, Zan Popp. Bottom center: Todd Smith

The Emerging Library Leaders Program focuses on self-awareness, clarity around goals and addressing needs and changes throughout the year. Participants are matched with a mentor who contributes to their learning.

Libraries are for Everyone!

“ For our family, the library is the heart and soul of the town. It’s the place for us to learn and grow in a supportive environment. It’s where we meet our friends, and our 2nd home. We love our library! ”

– CHAWENGSUB FAMILY



“I have been going to the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library since I was a kid. I made so many great memories and still love it to this day! I always look forward to seeing the new exhibitions in the gallery or to simply browse books for hours. I’m currently reading the last book in the *Dorothy Must Die* series!”

– SHELBY MUNOZ,
WASHBURN
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT



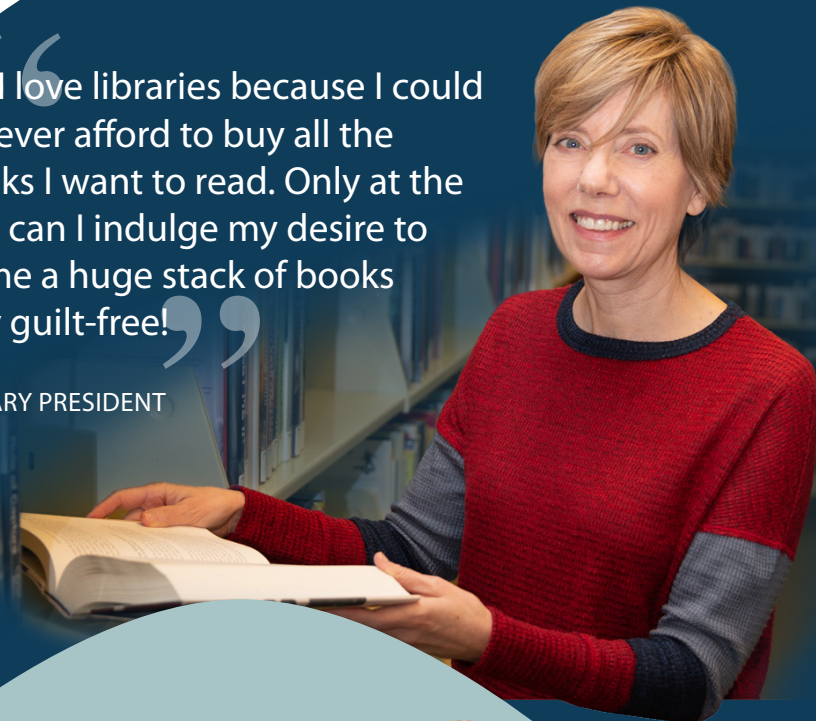
“I hadn’t been to the library since I was in high school in 2011, so when I brought my daughter to preschool story time I felt like a little kid again exploring this big old place. It’s really cool to see how much it’s grown. I’m happy to be apart of it!”

– SHELBY & BRAYAH



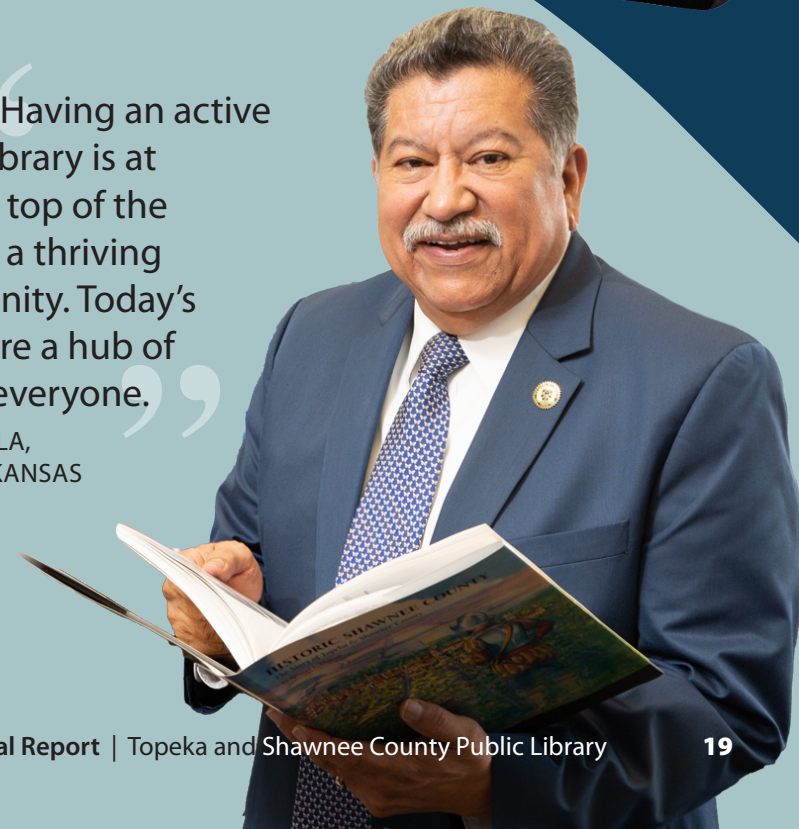
“I love libraries because I could never afford to buy all the books I want to read. Only at the library can I indulge my desire to take home a huge stack of books completely guilt-free!”

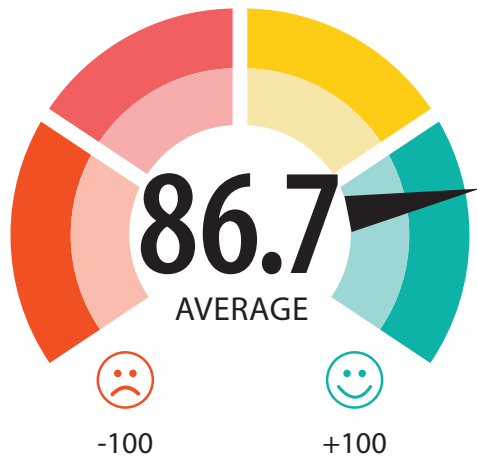
– CHRISTY MOLZEN,
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PRESIDENT



“Having an active library is at the top of the list of a thriving community. Today’s libraries are a hub of activity for everyone.”

– MICHAEL A. PADILLA,
MAYOR OF TOPEKA, KANSAS





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.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIALS

Sources of Financial Support

Taxes	\$ 19,260,983
Fees & Reimbursements	\$ 289,837
Contributions	\$ 237,284
Grants & State Aid	\$ 49,187
Investment Income	\$ 718,568
Interfund Transfers	\$ 1,002,039
Total	\$ 21,557,898

Library Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 12,039,535
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 3,017,324
Debt Service	\$ -
Library Materials	\$ 1,977,180
Equipment & Capital Improvements	\$ 1,803,059
Programming & Events	\$ 143,759
Interfund Transfers	\$ 1,002,039
Total	\$ 19,982,896

CIRCULATION

YOU CHECKED OUT

1.86
MILLION ITEMS

THIS IS AN INCREASE
OF 2.6% FROM 2022



DIGITAL
DOWNLOADS

649,921

INCREASE OF 6.8%



CURBSIDE SERVICE

17,760
CHECKOUTS
DOWN 48%



TSCPL@HOME

39,821
CHECKOUTS
UP 6.6%

CARDHOLDERS

41%

OF ALL
HOUSEHOLDS
IN SHAWNEE
COUNTY HAVE
AN ACTIVE
CARDHOLDER



COLLECTION

OUR COMBINED
PHYSICAL & DIGITAL
COLLECTIONS GIVE
CUSTOMERS



MORE THAN

1.85

MILLION ITEMS
TO CHOOSE FROM

EVENTS

53,617

EVENT ATTENDANCE

(excludes exhibits, outreach,
internal and training)



30,650

PEOPLE VISITED THE
ALICE C. SABATINI
GALLERY

PROGRAM

ATTENDANCE IS

UP
32%



GALLERY

ATTENDANCE IS

UP
22%

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

DIGITAL BRANCH



419,703

VISITS TO THE WEBSITE

227,147

VISITS TO THE CATALOG



TOTAL VISITS
TO THE
WEBSITE
DOWN 6%



VISITS
TO THE
CATALOG
WERE
UP 7%

VISITS & ASK A LIBRARIAN

452,723

VISITS
TO THE LIBRARY

**UP
29%**

FROM 2022

WE RESPONDED TO

250,458
QUESTIONS

VIA WALK-IN, PHONE,
EMAIL & CHAT

UP 50%

FROM 2022



MEETING ROOMS



22,755
MEETINGS

WERE HELD IN THE
PUBLIC MEETING
ROOMS

5,378

IN LARGER
MEETING ROOMS
& AUDITORIUM

UP 14%



9,298 IN TEAM ROOMS
DOWN 6%

8,079 IN LEVEL 2
TECH CENTER
ROOMS

**UP
334%**

(OPENED IN AUGUST 2022)



PUBLIC WIFI & COMPUTER USE



372,837 SESSIONS UP

18%

84,023 HOURS UP

20%

COMPUTER USE

96,722

SESSIONS UP 12%



91,765

HOURS UP 23%



Improving Digital Access & Equity

The Level 2 Tech Center remains very popular with independent users and customers who need help with technology. In December alone, staff responded to 5918 questions in the Level 2 Tech Center. While the bulk of the questions were computer related, staff also helped people get started in the recording studios, helped with beginning research and resolved library account issues.

IN-PERSON APPOINTMENTS

TOTAL
IN-PERSON
APPOINTMENTS
1,794

NOTARY
1,292

TECH HELP
474

GENEALOGY
282

RETIREMENTS

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



Kathy Ellison
24 years



Joyce Hedlund
22 years



Lloyd Herrera
23 years



Betsy Roe
11 years



TOPEKA &
SHAWNEE
COUNTY
**PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

*Stay
curious*

1515 SW 10th Ave | Topeka, KS 66604

785 580-4400 | tscpl.org

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