

Queens Public Library's Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024

April 14, 2023

To Our Customers:

Amid the many challenges of our times, Queens Public Library continues to work towards an equitable recovery for our borough and for our city. For 127 years, the Library has remained a force for truth and democracy and a source of personal discovery and growth, offering free access to knowledge, information, and opportunity to all.

The Library is helping young people recover from the educational and emotional losses of the pandemic, supporting asylum seekers and other immigrants as they adjust to their new home, guiding job seekers and small business owners to find success in today's economy, offering expanded digital collections and WiFi, and providing all New Yorkers free and safe spaces to connect to one another and the resources they need.

At a pivotal moment in our history, we know people across the borough and beyond are counting on Queens Public Library for help, and we are committed to doing all we can to support and strengthen our diverse communities. But we are facing proposed budget cuts of \$15 million in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Cuts of this magnitude would undoubtedly result in significantly reduced library services – fewer operating hours, programs, books, and more.

We are now in the process of setting our budget for Fiscal Year 2024, which begins July 1, 2023. We want the public to understand where our funding comes from, our proposal for spending this revenue, and how we will balance our budget. We welcome you to share your thoughts and opinions about our plan during a public hearing on Thursday, April 20, at 5:30 p.m. at Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432.

Your feedback is essential as we prepare for our future. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please send us your written comments about our budget through our website, from Thursday, April 20 to Monday, May 22, 2023. We hope you will lend your voice to this important process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Earl G. Simons, Ed.D., Chair, Queens Public Library Board of Trustees **Dennis M. Walcott**, President and CEO, Queens Public Library

Queens Public Library Revenue

Fiscal Year 2024

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

Source	Туре	Description	FY 2023 (millions)	FY 2024 (millions)	Major Variances
NYC Operating	Restricted & Unrestricted	City funds for Operating and Grant Expenses	\$121.9	\$114.7	NYC proposed budget reductions to operating subsidy
NYC Pension	Unrestricted	City funds for Pension Expenses	\$11.4	\$11.7	
Fees	Unrestricted	Lost item fees, lost Library card fees, multifunctional device usage fees	\$0.3	\$0.3	
Federal Grants	Restricted	Federal grants including IMLS, Department of Labor, WIOA, and HUD CDBG	\$4.3	\$3.0	All grants are subject to submission of an application/proposal, most of which are competitive.
NY State Grants	Restricted & Unrestricted	General and Special Library and Literacy Aid. State Aid for construction, Literacy and Programs	\$12.6	\$10.6	All grants are subject to submission of an application/proposal, most of which are competitive.
Fundraising	Restricted & Unrestricted	Foundation and corporate grants, private donations and fundraising events	\$1.7	\$1.6	
Investment Income	Restricted & Unrestricted	Investment earnings on investments & investment fees	\$1.0	\$0.7	
Contributed Facilities	Restricted	Value of the utilities for City-owned buildings, paid by the City directly, and the annual lease value of those buildings	\$30.8	\$30.8	
Contributed Services	Unrestricted	Value of volunteer services	\$0.2	\$0.2	
		TOTAL	\$184.2	\$173.6	

Queens Public Library Expense

Fiscal Year 2024

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

Budget Item	Description	FY 2023 (millions)	FY 2024 (millions)	Major Variance
Library Services	Includes all expenses required to provide Library Services to the public at all locations including all books and materials, wages, benefits and facility costs.	\$90.1	\$86.8	NYC proposed budget reductions to operating subsidy
Library Materials	Includes all expenses required to provide Library Services to the public at all locations including all books and materials, wages, benefits and facility costs.	\$5.7	\$4.2	
Facilities	Custodial, maintenance, repairs, utilities, lease costs, equipment, renovations and value of contributed services	\$44.3	\$43.0	
Programs	Programs for adults, young adults and children, special events, literacy, youth counselors, job and information programs, after- school programs, summer reading, including staff costs.	\$5.2	\$4.6	
Technology	Software licenses, one-time software development, computers, network equipment, maintenance con- tracts, RFID equipment, technology staff	\$5.1	\$4.6	
Fundraising Expenses	Expenses for fundraising events and personnel.	\$1.6	\$1.4	
Management & General	Includes expenses for operations and management of Queens Library including Human Resources, Accounting, Legal, & Risk Management.	\$32.2	\$29.0	
	TOTAL	\$184.2	\$173.6	

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