

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**WESTLAKE**  
Porter Public Library

27333 Center Ridge Rd.  
Westlake, OH 44145  
(440) 871-2600

[westlakelibrary.org](http://westlakelibrary.org)



# From the Director

It is interesting that some of our biggest stories in 2024 were related to the great outdoors. A total solar eclipse, that won't happen again until 2044, saw 250 people come to the library for a watch party and to celebrate the event. Moreover, the library was able to distribute 3,600 pairs of viewing glasses to the public for free.

Conversely, on August 6th a tornado raced through Westlake, and other neighboring communities, leaving a trail of devastation and loss of power in mere minutes. Many in the area were without power for up to a week. Fortunately, the library retained power and for the next several days we extended our hours until 11 p.m. so people had a place to cool down and recharge their electronic devices. Over three days, we had 8,000 visits when normally we would have seen a quarter of that amount.

Porter Library has been around since 1884, so we celebrated 140 years of continuous existence in 2024. Leonard Porter would probably be astonished to see what his \$1,000 and collection of books led to all these years later. Since he clearly valued learning and growth, I think he would be quite pleased.

Since we closed the books on 2024, we look ahead to 2025 as we continue to serve the community. Our main focus will be on our current partnerships and establishing new ones. Through these partnerships we are able to leverage assets, skills, and resources to bring even more learning, information, and growth to our community.

Elizabeth Taylor once quipped, "The public library is more than a repository of books. It's a mysterious, wondrous place with the power to change lives."

I believe that now as much as I did when I started in libraries 35 years ago and I believe Leonard Porter would have felt the same way. I truly hope you all take advantage of all the mysterious, and wonderful things your public library has to offer.



Sincerely,  
Andrew Mangels  
Director  
Westlake Porter Public Library

## 2024 Board of Trustees

William Perry, President  
Lauren Golick  
Tianyi Krupka  
Jason Nolde  
Robert S. Plantz, Jr.  
Elizabeth Sheehe  
Peter Schindler

## Library Administration

Andrew Mangels, Director  
Jana Nassif, Fiscal Officer  
CJ Lynce, Assistant Director

# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS



**28,668**

Registered  
Card Holders



**286,923**

Visits



**879,831**

Items Checked Out



**1,716**

Programs



**37,162**

Program Attendees



**188,136**

Digital Materials  
Borrowed



**719**

Outreach Visits



**6,097**

Volunteer Hours



**1,513**

Public Meetings



**1,294**

Passports Issued



**1,706,535**

Website  
Visits



**54,014**

Questions  
Answered

# New Spaces and Places: Phase 2 Renovations

## CIRCULATION

- New layout to allow patrons to return their materials directly into the sorter machine for immediate check-in
- New passport office
- Direct line of sight from the desk to the drive thru window to allow for a more efficient workflow

BEFORE



## SECOND FLOOR

- Additional seating areas and work spaces
- Two additional meeting rooms that are available for programming and patron use

## TEEN LOUNGE

- Two large monitors for gaming and events
- Additional PC workstations
- Improved shelving
- Flexible and comfortable seating
- Tables for group seating

BEFORE



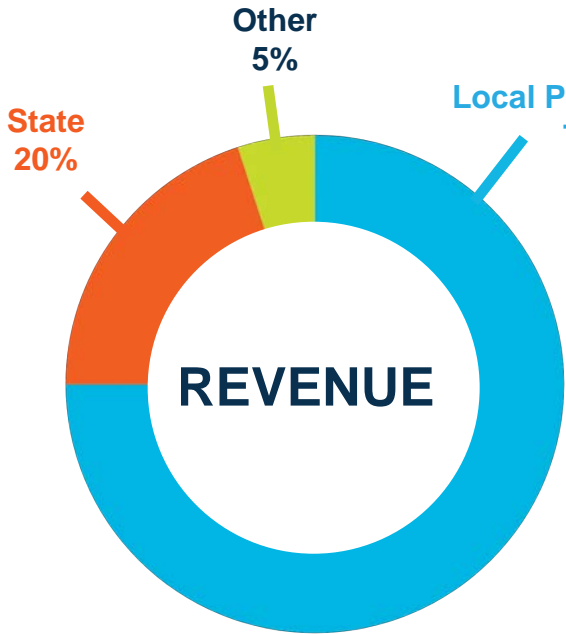
# 2024 Financial Report

## How is the library funded?

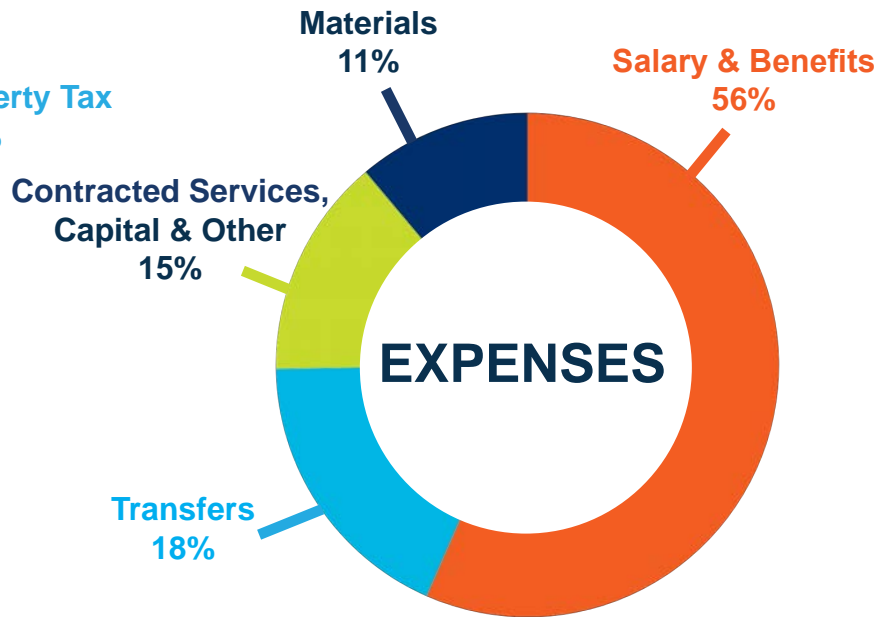
**75%** of the library’s funding comes from our local levy. The library’s current 3.4-mill five-year levy was approved by voters in May 2023, and will be in effect from 2024 through the end of 2028.

**20%** of funding is provided by the State of Ohio through the Public Library Fund (PLF). Ohio is unique across the country in providing this type of state-wide support for libraries, and it is what helps keep Ohio libraries among the best in the country.

**5%** comes from a combination of other sources, including interest earned on investments, fees, grants and donations.



Local Property Tax	5,145,133
State	1,414,324
Other	344,141
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6,903,598</b>



Salary & Benefits	3,741,134
Materials	733,431
Contracted Services, Supplies & Other	959,929
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,434,494</b>
Transfers	1,200,000
<b>Total Expenses with Transfers</b>	<b>6,634,494</b>

## How does the library fund capital projects and improvements?

Each year, the library allocates funds to be transferred into two designated accounts: the Permanent Improvement fund and the Automation fund. These funds are earmarked for covering capital expenses associated with maintaining the building, construction projects, and technology purchases. By consistently contributing to these funds on an annual basis, the library aims to avoid the necessity of seeking additional financial support from taxpayers for unforeseen building or capital improvement projects. The renovations recently completed, including the creation of a dedicated Young Adult area, opening the second floor to the public, reorganization of the Circulation Department and the addition of vending options, were paid for by the library’s Permanent Improvement fund.

In 2024, the library transferred \$1.2 million into the Permanent Improvement and Automation funds to ensure adequate resources for future projects.

# Thank You Friends of Porter Public Library

The Friends of Porter Public Library is a non-profit volunteer organization that has supported the library through volunteer services and monetary contributions since 1972. To date, the Friends have donated over \$1,000,000 toward the library, including its most recent \$100,000 donation toward the Friends Programming Pavilion.

## Bringing Spectacular Events to WPPL

### Rick Smith Jr. Magic Show

Professional illusionist Rick Smith Jr. put on a show that was nothing short of amazing this past Summer. The audience was dazzled by his magic tricks and card throwing skills. And who couldn't resist the treats from the Kona Ice truck provided by the Friends?



### Fall Festival

The Friends invited the community to a Fall Festival where they enjoyed games, fall treats, and crafts. The Friends also gave away some childrens books and pumpkins to attendees. Characters made an appearance—Supergirl read books and passed out stickers. Chomps the dog played cornhole and then visited library patrons inside the library.

### Holiday Party and Live Reindeer Visit

Over 300 people visited two reindeer, Chet and Jingles from Spring Mist Farms (aka The North Pole), outside at the Friends Pavilion. Others enjoyed the holiday party inside where they did crafts, played games, had snacks and visited Santa.



## Join Friends of Porter Public Library

Join the Friends today! Your membership helps fund programs such as the Summer Library Challenge, National Library Week, and expenses outside the library's regular budget. Members enjoy perks such as early access to the annual Book Sale, coupons for Mitchell's Ice Cream and Dean's Greenhouse, and a voucher for the Book Nook. **Learn more about supporting the Friends at [westlakelibrary.org/friends](http://westlakelibrary.org/friends).**

# WESTLAKE Porter Public Library FOUNDATION



## Foundation

The WPPL Foundation's mission is to ensure perpetual financial support for Westlake Porter Public Library in order to benefit current and future generations within the local community.

The Foundation provides support for many library programs, building projects and technology needs that are not part of Westlake Porter Public Library's regular budget through fundraising. A dedicated group of volunteers help steer this mission throughout the year by organized fundraising efforts such as the Wine and Beer Garden at the annual Art Festival.

**Learn more about WPPL's Foundation at [westlakelibrary.org/foundation](http://westlakelibrary.org/foundation)**

**Save the Date**

**Friday, June 6, 2025**



Music • Food • Make a Difference

Please join us for an after hours Gala Fundraiser  
hosted by WPPL's Foundation

