



# CARMEL CLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Annual Report 2023



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2023 was an exceptional year for the Carmel Clay Public Library. The first full year of operation in the newly renovated Main Library was notable for record visits and program attendance. The Joyce Winner West Branch was able to operate with its full schedule for the first time since opening in January 2020 and also received record visits.

The new Carmel Clay Public Library has received regional and national recognition. The most important recognition came from the community itself, evidenced by their usage of the library. The library set a record in new library card registrations in 2023 with over 10,000 new cards issued.

The library continues to be used in new and innovative ways. In 2023, area businesses and nonprofit organizations regularly reserved and utilized meeting spaces in the library. Incredibly, library study rooms were reserved by patrons over 30,000 times in 2023. The library's state of the art Digital Media Lab was used at an unprecedented level. The Video Recording Room in the Digital Media Lab was introduced in late 2023 and is in high demand.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the people who make the daily and wonderful happenings of the library possible: the amazing and talented library staff, the library Board, the CCPL Foundation, our local leaders, and, most importantly, our patrons.

**Bob Swanay**



## 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Ranjit Puthran**  
*President*

**Stephanie Kim**  
*Vice President*

**Casey Wilson**  
*Secretary*

**Rosie Foulke**

**Anne Hensley**  
**Poindexter**

**John Williams**

**Xiao Ou Yuan**

## MISSION

To inspire lifelong discovery, facilitate collaboration, and connect people with resources.

## VISION

To support a diverse community of people committed to lifelong learning, an enhanced quality of life, and enriching social and cultural experiences.

# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

**2,075,215**  
CHECKOUTS  
(24% OF THEM DIGITAL ITEMS)

**580,305**  
LIBRARY VISITS

**154,255**  
QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**64,716**  
LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS

**30,482**  
STUDY ROOM USES

**1,730**  
AUDIO/VIDEO  
RECORDING ROOM USES

**274**  
MEETING ROOM USES

## AN AVERAGE DAY AT THE CARMEL CLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**438**  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED BY  
LIBRARY STAFF

**92**  
STUDY, MEETING,  
AND RECORDING  
ROOM RESERVATIONS

**4,478**  
PHYSICAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT

**1,367**  
DIGITAL ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT

**1,649**  
VISITORS TO  
THE MAIN LIBRARY  
AND WEST BRANCH

**AUTOMATION**  
Click to Play ▶

## CELEBRATING OUR FIRST YEAR

On September 30, the Main Library celebrated the one-year anniversary of its reopening. Visitors enjoyed face painting, table tennis, crafts, karaoke, tours, and refreshments. During its first year, the new library welcomed over 530,000 visitors who were excited to use the new spaces, browse for great titles to check out, and take part in fun and informative events.

The Main Library's expansive Community Room enables programs on a scale that was impossible before the renovation. Returning programs like the Green Gift Shop, the Model Railroad Meet, and the Foundation Friends book sales have had greater engagement than was previously possible. The 2023 3D Printing Expo connected over 1,500 guests with hobbyists, small businesses, and colleges who have a passion for this technology. Hundreds of families took part in the Halloween Celebration, and scores of attendees learned about local history at the Hamilton County Bicentennial-sponsored Clay Township History Fair.



## SOLAR POWER

In September, the Main Library's new rooftop solar array began operation. The 552 modules can generate the equivalent annual energy of 45 homes and are expected to supply 20-30% of the library's energy needs.

## 3D PRINTING EXPO

[Click to Play](#) ▶

## MEETING AND STUDY ROOMS

As part of the Main Library renovation, the number of study rooms was increased. Demand is consistently high with over 29,000 Main Library reservations and 1,000 West Branch reservations being made in 2023. Patrons are now able to rent Main Library meeting rooms for larger meetings when the rooms are not in use for library programs. These rooms, varying in capacity from 16 to 296 people, were utilized for over 200 nonprofit meetings and 58 business meetings in 2023.





# A YEAR AT THE DIGITAL MEDIA LAB

Click to Play ▶

## THE DIGITAL MEDIA LAB

After just one year as part of the Main Library, the Digital Media Lab is establishing itself as the premier place for the Carmel community to explore technology and develop digital creations. A series of photography programs and activities allowed patrons to practice their photography skills and encouraged them to utilize the Lab's resources for photo editing. The two Audio Recording Rooms have proven to be especially popular with local podcasters. Meanwhile, the Video Recording Room is utilized not just for video projects but also for photo shoots, giving patrons a chance to work with exciting equipment and edit their projects in a supportive environment. The Lab also introduced new 3D printers and filaments to help patrons realize their creative vision.



## DIVERSE OUTREACH

In keeping with its strategic goal to bring greater diversity to its programs, the library launched several new initiatives in 2023. The library hosts a semi-monthly English as a New Language Conversation Group that welcomes more than a dozen people a month. The library expanded its World Languages Collection to include books in Arabic, Italian, Tamil, Telugu, and Ukrainian. The library also worked with Carmel's Sister Cities committees to develop a series of exhibits of cultural pieces from Latvia, Japan, and Italy as well as dual-language storytimes and StoryWalk installations. One special StoryWalk, created in partnership with the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, offered book text in Braille with tactile birdhouses for visitors to experience.



## TEEN LIBRARY COUNCIL

Click to Play ▶

### TEEN LIBRARY COUNCIL AND YOUTH LIBRARY COUNCIL

The library's two councils for young people continue to allow local students a chance to engage more deeply with the library. Members plan special events for their peers and have a chance to help with library programs. They also share recommended titles through discussions, displays, and online reading lists.

**"The Teen Library Council means a lot to me. It's not just about books. Being part of the council allows me to express myself and contribute to making our library a better place for teens. It's a space where I feel heard and valued, and I look forward to every meeting."**

**- Ankita, Teen Library Council member**

### SENIOR OUTREACH

Library staff make outreach visits to four senior communities each month, bringing with them a specially curated selection of books that residents can check out. Library cardholders at these communities can also sign up for homebound delivery, and staff will bring a custom selection of items tailored to that patron's tastes. These senior outreach visits provide a powerful connection between the library and patrons who might otherwise have difficulty accessing library services in person.

### WEST BRANCH TAKE-AND-MAKE KITS

The West Branch continues to find creative ways of engaging with its patrons through take-and-make kits. Over 60 different kits were offered in 2023, including monthly spice kits that allowed patrons to explore new ingredients and recipes from around the world. Other kits promoted STEM, gardening, and cultural awareness activities. The West Branch debuted a new take-and-make tradition by offering kits inspired by the Icelandic Jolabokaflokk tradition, complete with hot cocoa, candy canes, winter-themed bookmarks, and a coupon for a free book from the Foundation Friends Bookstore. In all, over 8,000 kits were handed out to West Branch patrons.



# PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

Through partnerships with other organizations, the library is able to offer a broad range of meaningful events. Recent examples include the mental health and family services seminars presented by the Chris Center, the exhibit and presentation offered with the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, and “Hear Our Stories: The Life & Afterlife of Incarceration,” presented with Storytelling Arts of Indiana and other community partners. These collaborative efforts provide meaningful experiences and powerful connections.

“I attended the ‘Hear Our Stories’ presentation, and it was excellent. The speakers were great and so brave and so personable. I was so pleased (and surprised) to see that kind of programming at our library. Thank you!”

- CCPL patron



**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Click to Play ▶



	Winter Reading Program	Summer Reading Program
<b>Child Participation</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>2,369</b>
<b>Teen Participation</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>653</b>
<b>Adult Participation</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>842</b>
<b>Donations Earned</b>	<b>631</b> Donations for Kids Coats of Hamilton County	<b>8,007</b> Donations for Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County

# READERS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

Winter and Summer Reading Programs saw tremendous growth in 2023 with participation increasing 91% for the winter program and 63% for the summer program compared to the previous year.

# CCPL FOUNDATION DONORS

## **\$10,000+**

Anonymous  
Laura Miller  
Aslam and Sandy Siddiqui  
Jim Winner

## **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Robert and Mary Christianson  
David and Victoria Temple

## **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Greg and Cindy Binder  
Virginia Mae Cody Estate  
John and Cheryl Ericson  
Melisa and Todd Keiser  
Mark and Carolyn Wyatt

## **\$500-\$2,499**

185 Promotions and Apparel  
Mike and Amy Alley  
Allstate Foundation  
Altman, Poindexter & Wyatt LLP  
James and Angie Bagnoli  
Ball Dentistry  
Lon and Margie Brown  
Robert and Emily Browning  
Michael and Susan Bursaw  
Mark Burton  
Jeff and Wendi Butler  
Centier Bank  
Sally Chapman  
Lila Chiappetta  
Sandy Chitwood

City of Carmel  
Club Canine  
Cheryl Cooper  
William and Angela Corley  
Joshua and Erin Corwin  
Craig and Teneen Dobbs  
Waneta Dunkerly  
Melissa Eldredge  
Missy Eltz  
Marc Fooksman  
Donald and Elizabeth Frazer  
Elizabeth Fuller  
David and Sara Glenn  
Barry and Brenda Goodrich  
Dwight and Alice Gossett  
Martin and Megan Gregor  
Jane Gunsenhouse  
Elizabeth and Lucius Hamilton  
Douglas and Tammy Haney  
David and Louisa Hollander  
Boyd & Alice Hovde  
Brett and Hollie Hoy  
Jim and Sally Hubbard  
The Hudelson Family  
Ice Miller Legal  
& Business Advisors  
Rodney and Catherine Jones  
Fritz and Kasey Kauffman  
James and Cheryl Keating  
Duane and Linda Kennen  
Melinda Kennen  
Ralph and Ellen Kerwin  
Rhonda & Michael Kile  
Richard and Karen Kohlmann

Terry Koo  
Vivian and Lawrence Lawhead  
Thomas and Dana Lawrence  
Charles and Lynn Lazzara  
Jeffrey and Kim LeCount  
Carlos and Eleanor Lopez  
John and Theresa Lucich  
Elizabeth McCaw  
McCaw Family Foundation  
Merchants Bank of Indiana  
Susan K. Meyers  
Glenn Moehling  
Sharon Morrill  
Jerry and Stacy Murphy  
Patti Napier  
The National Bank of Indianapolis  
Blake and Carolyn Neubauer  
Goehrig Orr  
Bruce and Linda Polizotto  
Robert and Rose Popovich  
Printing Partners  
John and Judy Proffitt  
O. H. and Connie Rigsbee  
Capi Scheidler  
Julian Shepard  
LaLaine Smith  
Matt Snyder  
Claudia Somes  
Specified Lighting Systems  
Jack and Joy Stafford  
James and Virginia Steckley  
Thomas and Judy Steiner  
Dena Stirn  
Randall Stoesz

Donald and Miriam Taylor  
Richard and Lauren Taylor  
Terry and Linda Thompson  
Susan Tobin  
Keely Underhill  
Mark and Ann Varnau  
Larry Webb  
Raymond E. Wesolowski  
Tim Wesolowski  
Dennis and Karen Whitaker  
Tim and Amy Wiley  
Larry and Carolyn Woodling  
Linda and Ken Young

## **up to \$499**

Faheem Abbasi  
Tanya Abraham  
Laura Anderson  
Kristen Atteberry  
Brett and Heather Bane  
Lori Barnhart Grable  
Erik and Hilary Barrett  
Peter and Shokrina Beering  
Robert and Mary Bennett  
Rafik Bishara  
James and Marianne Brocke  
Erin Brothers  
Sherritt Burger  
Peggy and Daniel Burke  
Linda S. Carlson  
William and Adele Carr  
Gregory Colwell  
Rhonda Craver



Robert and Pam Curtis  
Julie Davis  
Sheila Delaney  
Kyle Drew  
DrewMor LLC  
Duke Energy Foundation  
Judith Evard  
Rachel Finn  
Elizabeth Foland  
Donald Frey  
Brian Fulwider  
Debbie Gangstad  
Robin Gardiner  
Richard & Barbara Gibson  
David Gilliland  
Michele Gingras  
Linda Griffin  
Audrey M. Haas  
Hageman Foundation Inc.  
John and Barbara Hassell

Jane Herndon and Dan Kramer  
Carol E. Hinkley  
Wayne & Lori Hoeing  
Mary Ann Hoffmann  
Liz Hourigan  
William Howard  
Robert and Pati Hughes  
Carol R. Jackson  
Jane Joyal  
Frederick and Anne Kelvin  
Marjorie A. Kimes  
Thomas and Mary Kirchner  
Pat Kirn  
Bob and Sandra Kleymeyer  
Dennis and Karen Licht  
Karl and Amy Maierhofer  
Sharon and Dale Mansberger  
Gary and Sandra Martindale  
Michael and Cindy McConnell  
Angie McVey

Sherry McVey  
Jennifer and James Meece  
Sachin Mehta  
M. P. and Jill Meisenheimer  
Tana Meko  
James and Drayton Metzler  
Hadley Moore Vlahogorge  
Laura M Morgan  
Steve & Michelle Moss  
Chris and Shelley Naum  
Kathy and Kim Peterson  
Michael Phillips  
Michael & Cynthia Pitman  
Ranjit and Melissa Puthran  
Angela Raab  
Peter and Karen Reist  
Mel and Cindy Robertson  
Pat Rodkey  
Mark and Karen Roller  
Julie Shadinger

Carol Siefken  
James and Connie Simpson  
Donna Skeens  
Elaine and Phil Stephens  
Robert Swanay  
Virginia Terpening  
Eleanor and Wayne Timberman  
Eugene and Dorothy Van Hove  
James and Christina Voelker  
Doris Anne Webster  
Audrey Wiebenga  
Jeanne and Brian Wise  
Richard and Barbara Yoho

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
GENEROUS  
SUPPORT!**





## 2023 OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$4,780,247
Library Materials & Databases	\$1,699,937
Other Services & Charges	\$696,155
Building Equipment & Maintenance	\$499,093
Utilities	\$221,108
Supplies	\$177,102
Furniture & Equipment	\$120,016
Programming Costs	\$119,268
Capital Improvements	\$2,681

## 2023 OPERATING REVENUE

Property Tax	\$4,296,502
Local Income Tax	\$3,742,542
Interest Earnings	\$1,019,754
Local Income Tax, Special Distribution	\$846,445
License Excise Fee	\$358,768
Contributions	\$181,000
Fines & Fees	\$31,201
Other	\$38,394

**[carmelclaylibrary.org](http://carmelclaylibrary.org)**

### MAIN LIBRARY

425 E. Main St.

### JOYCE WINNER WEST BRANCH

12770 Horseferry Rd.