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 wonderous 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

4,478 PHYSICAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT

1,367 DIGITAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT

1,649 VISITORS TO THE MAIN LIBRARY AND WEST BRANCH

438 QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY LIBRARY STAFF

92 STUDY, MEETING, AND RECORDING ROOM RESERVATIONS

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.

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.

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.
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.
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 Jolabokaflod 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.

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.

“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
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

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.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Winter Reading Program</th>
<th>Summer Reading Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Child Participation</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>2,369</td>
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<td>Teen Participation</td>
<td>169</td>
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<td>Adult Participation</td>
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<td>Donations Earned</td>
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<td>Donations for Kids Coats of Hamilton County</td>
<td>Donations for Shepherd’s Center of Hamilton County</td>
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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
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Mark Burton
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McCaw Family Foundation
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Jerry and Stacy Murphy
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The National Bank of Indianapolis
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Bruce and Linda Polizotto
Robert and Rose Popovich
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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 Stirm
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
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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

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<td>Capital Improvements</td>
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### 2023 OPERATING REVENUE

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<td>Interest Earnings</td>
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<td>Fines &amp; Fees</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>$38,394</td>
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[www.carmelclaylibrary.org](http://www.carmelclaylibrary.org)

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