Metro Library takes you places.

2022 Annual Report
Mayor David Holt  
*Member Ex Officio – Oklahoma City*

Dr. Larry White  
*Chief Executive Officer, Oklahoma City*

Brian Alford  
*Chair – Oklahoma City*

Nancy Anthony  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

LeAnn Childers  
*Member – Nicoma Park*

Ana Carmina Dange  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Jennifer Edmunson  
*Member – Luther*

Cynthia Friedemann  
*Vice-Chair, Oklahoma City*

Dr. Arlita Harris  
*Member – Bethany*

Shamia Jackson  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Rachel Johnson  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Elizabeth Larios  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Brian Maughan  
*Member at Large – Oklahoma City*

Penny McCaleb  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Tracy McDaniel  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Richard McQuillar  
*Member – Midwest City*

DJ Morgan  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Mukesh Patel  
*Member – Del City*

Kim Patterson  
*Member – Harrah*

Michelle Phelps  
*Member – Choctaw*

Leah Rubio  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Jay Scambler  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Judy Smith  
*Member – The Village*

Beth Toland  
*Member – Warr Acres*

Susan Tucker  
*Member – Jones*

Craig Woodruff  
*Disbursing Agent – Oklahoma City*

Tracey Zeeck  
*Member – Oklahoma City*

Cover design courtesy of Buddy Johnson, Special Collections
OUR MISSION
Connecting our diverse communities with resources and experiences to educate and enrich lives.

OUR VALUES:
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
People First
Innovation
Integrity
Respect
From the Chief Executive Officer

Since its inception in 1965, the Metropolitan Library System has strived to bring information and communities together. Our libraries have played a crucial role in addressing the needs of Oklahoma County residents by providing free and open access to community enriching information. As times change, we continue to innovate and grow with Oklahoma County to assure that we provide the most effective ways to contribute to our guests’ success.

During FY22, Metro has taken major strides towards upgrading facilities, adding programs and helping connect our guests in new and exciting ways. Our libraries served more than five million visitors in FY2022, a more than 500 percent increase from the year before, as we all returned to “normal” following the pandemic. Our programs and events also saw more than twice the number of visitors in FY22 than we did for the last few years.

Technology upgrades made during the COVID pandemic have been paying off, as the usage of public computers and Wi-Fi sessions both made dramatic jumps. These numbers show us that providing our guests with high quality access to the tools they need pays dividends. During this time, we also upgraded facilities at Belle Isle, Warr Acres and added computers at our Del City location.

Throughout FY22, Metro has continued to grow and flourish and we are excited to share the information we have collected in this report. We are so thankful for supporters like you, who believe in our mission, values and efforts that make us able to positively affect the communities we serve.

Sincerely,
Dr. Larry Nash White
Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Library System
Metro on the Move

Fiscal Year 2022 has been year of growth and change for Metro. We had to rethink the way we operate during the pandemic that began in 2020, but despite some challenges, FY2022 was a huge success for our system. Not only did we change a number of processes and procedures to add more value to our guests, we also created new ways to connect with our communities.

FY2022 Highlights
Increasing Access by Going Fine Free

In July 2021, Metro launched a year-long pilot project to understand the impact of going fine free for overdue items. By the end of FY2022 results showed there has not been any significant measurable negative impact from the implementation of the pilot project. Not only did we learn that guests were continuing to return items promptly, but it was increasing the number of guests using our services.

- Over 50,000+ inactive accounts re-activated
- Overdue items decreased by 47.1%
- Customers with overdue items decreased by 50.4%

Facts on the GO

- 5,433,169 visitors in FY2022
- 815,103 in FY2021
- Population served (US Census 2021): 798,575
- 10,108,655 total checkouts in FY2022
- 8,401,827 in FY2021
- 7,007,836 physical checkouts in FY2022
- 3,100,819 digital checkouts in FY2022
- 373,064 Metro Library card holders including 49,144 new cardholders. In 2021: 406,785 total, 32,755 new

With an average cost of $25/item, taxpayers saved $252,716,375
By the Numbers

Revenue

Property Taxes
FY2022: $42,515,590
FY2021: $41,929,087

Fines and Copy Services
FY2022: $274,523
FY2021: $241,450

Gift and Grants
FY2022: $366,622
FY2021: $1,046,630

State Revenue
FY2022: $203,492
FY2021: $203,135

Other
FY2022: $160,766
FY2021: $59,371
Library catalog updated to increase usability and make it easier for guests to find the material in the format of their choice.

Tailored Skills program launched to provide guests with library and community resources to learn new skills.

Our Oklahoma City Museum of Art Experience Passes were so popular with guests that we added additional Experience Passes to the Oklahoma History Center and the Museum of Osteology for our guests in FY22.

Locations began offering Notary services as a free benefit to our guests.
After a quiet FY21 due to precautions taken due to the pandemic, 2022 brought new ways for Metro to connect with our communities. Not only did we host more than 4,000 programs and events, but we also added embedded social workers and DHS staff at locations where the need was greatest to help connect guests with crucial services.

**4140**

Programs & Events

**26,657**

Room reservations in 2022

1,431 room reservations in 2021

**65,437**

Attendance at programs and events, compared to 32,135 in 2021
New Partnerships in 2022

Pivot
Oklahoma County Juvenile Justice Center
Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center
Freedom Oklahoma
Community Literacy Centers
Smart Start of Central Oklahoma
Spero Project
ReMerge
Oklahoma City Museum of Art
CAIR Oklahoma
Progress OKC
OKC-County Health Department
League of Women Voters of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Oklahoma Literacy Coalition
Arts Council Oklahoma City
YMCA

Major Programs of 2022

**Becoming Oklahoma: Exploring the Threads that Define Us** - regional arts partnership to celebrate traditional arts practices of Oklahoma

**123 Play With Me** - back to in-person events

**LitFest** - month-long “writer’s conference”-style series with dozens of events, authors, and classes

**TeenTober** - included second annual teen art contest for summer volunteer t-shirts Back to in-person teen summer volunteers for the first time since 2019

**Author Hour** - monthly series coming to a close in December 2022 after highlighting 62 published authors on 25 Facebook Live events that have tens of thousands of views

**Non-Profit Partner Open House**

**OKCMOA Family Discovery Week** - distributed 500 passes over spring break, thousands in July

**Book Lover’s Corner with International English Library** - 3 MLS staff members gave booktalks and presented to an international audience hosted by our sister library in Germany

**Vaccine clinics** (2nd round w/ boosters)

**Bystander Intervention Training & World Refugee Classes with CAIR**

**Summer Reading** – Enrollment for 2022 was up 30% as our numbers continue to recover from the pandemic.

**Winter Reading** – Our percentage of participants completing the program went up. We had 2086 readers in 2023 who logged 23,955 books.

**Juneteenth** – Eleven libraries collaborated to provide numerous creative writing celebration kits (232), centerpiece take-home kits (215), and emancipation flag and confetti poppers (383).

**Partnership with Spero Project**

**Outreach with ReMerge**

**Voter Resources**

**Religious Diversity Programming**

**Pride Outreach**

**Read Across Oklahoma** – larger involvement than previous years including serving on the planning committee

**Tax Help**

**Launching Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library** – launched in October of 2022 with 5,091 enrolled children receiving their first book in December 2022
Technology Connects Us

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Computer sessions across the 19 Metro Library locations in FY22
54.97% increase from 154,136 sessions in FY21

280,399
computer sessions in FY2022
154,136 computer sessions in FY2021

3,994,710
Digital Sessions

109,191
Social media interactions in FY2022
153,642 interactions in FY2021

432
actual number of computers at locations

1,477,618
Wi-Fi Sessions, compared to 933,755 in FY21

Did you know...? Metro Library has Hotspots, Chromebooks and laptops available to check out?
Thank you, from Metropolitan Library

As a public library system, we’re grateful to have active community partners that support our work with fundraising, volunteerism and community engagement. The Friends of the Metropolitan Library System and the Library Endowment Trust are two nonprofit partners whose missions are directly related to the impact our library system provides for the community.

In 2022 the Friends of the Library were able to return to their annual large Booksale event at the OKC Fairgrounds. After pausing the 2021 sale due to public health concerns, the Friends had a large inventory of withdrawn library items and donated community items. With their fundraising and membership efforts, the Friends contributed just over $200,000 to our libraries this past year. Funds were awarded to support staff scholarships, cultural and heritage programming, summer reading, neighborhood arts programming, furniture renovations to children’s and teens’ areas throughout the system, virtual reality historical models in special collections, and more.

Additionally, the Library Endowment Trust worked to grow the endowment fund, which is made of gifts to support our libraries and system. Through fundraising activities such as Library Giving Day, the Trust raised $17,000 in community dollars to help the library purchase new digital read-a-long devices for early literacy. Other donations through the Trust resulted in $80,000 of program and materials support for the library system.

We are grateful to the supporters of the Friends of the Library and the Library Endowment Trust and what they together provide for our community. To learn more about supporting our libraries, visit Supportmls.org.

**DPIL Contributions**
LET - $75,000/year for five years
Friends - $75,000/year for five years

The Friends of the Library contributed just over **$200,000** in 2022
Metro knows that library services are vital to the community, so when the Southern Oaks Library closed in 2011 for renovations, we opened a temporary library location in the Almonte shopping center at SW 59th and May. Staff soon noticed many new faces and higher circulation rates, and the system discovered the value to adding an additional branch to the system. In 2013, the Almonte Library opened in its temporary space. Use continued to grow, and a new and improved Almonte Library is scheduled to open in December 2023. Funded by OKC's Better Streets, Safer City” bond of 1017, the new space will be 20,000 square feet, nearly double of their existing space, and will house 40,000 books, DVDs, magazines and other materials in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The new location will have expanded seating and play areas, meeting rooms, study rooms, a MakerSpace, a Podcast Studio, drive-up book pickup and returns window, and an automated materials sorter to help the system get books back on the shelf quickly for other library guests to enjoy.

Edmond 2

Many people know that the Edmond Library is the busiest location in Metro’s system, but it’s also the busiest public library in the entire state! For years Edmond residents have been asking for a second library and in September 2022, the Edmond City Council voted to purchase 9.5 acres of land from Henderson Hills Church and form a new partnership between the city, the library, and the YMCA to build a new facility just east of I-35 and 15th street. The new building is expected to be about 70,000 square feet: 50,000 square feet for the YMCA, 15,000 square feet for the new library and 5,000 square feet of shared meeting and programming space. This multigenerational community space will offer programs and activities for all ages and is scheduled to open in spring 2025.
## Metropolitan Library Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Library Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Almonte Library</td>
<td>2914 SW 59th, Oklahoma City</td>
<td>606-3575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Belle Isle Library</td>
<td>5501 North Villa, Oklahoma City</td>
<td>843-9601</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bethany Library</td>
<td>6700 NW 35th Street, Bethany</td>
<td>789-8363</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Capitol Hill Library</td>
<td>327 SW 27th, Oklahoma City</td>
<td>634-6308</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Choctaw Library</td>
<td>2525 Muzzy Street, Choctaw</td>
<td>390-8418</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Del City Library</td>
<td>4330 SE 15th Street, Del City</td>
<td>672-1377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Downtown Library</td>
<td>300 Park Ave., Oklahoma City</td>
<td>231-8650</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Edmond Library</td>
<td>10 S. Boulevard, Edmond</td>
<td>341-9282</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Harrah Library</td>
<td>1930 N. Church Avenue, Harrah</td>
<td>454-2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Jones Library</td>
<td>9295 Willa Way, Jones</td>
<td>399-5471</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Luther Library</td>
<td>310 NE 3rd, Luther</td>
<td>277-9967</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Midwest City Library</td>
<td>8143 E. Reno, Midwest City</td>
<td>732-4828</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nicoma Park Library</td>
<td>2240 Overholser, Nicoma Park</td>
<td>769-9452</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Northwest Library</td>
<td>5600 NW 122nd, Oklahoma City</td>
<td>606-3580</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ralph Ellison Library</td>
<td>2000 NE 23rd, Oklahoma City</td>
<td>424-1437</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Southern Oaks Library</td>
<td>6900 S. Walker, Oklahoma City</td>
<td>631-4468</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>The Village Library</td>
<td>10307 N. Pennsylvania Ave., The Village</td>
<td>755-0710</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Warr Acres Library</td>
<td>5901 NW 63rd, Warr Acres</td>
<td>721-2616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Wright Library</td>
<td>2101 Exchange, Oklahoma City</td>
<td>235-5035</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Service Center</td>
<td>300 NE 50th St, Oklahoma City</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Metro2go Library Kiosk</td>
<td>1501 W. Covell Road, Edmond</td>
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</tbody>
</table>