

# Annual Report

## FY2024



# Commissioners

## Metropolitan Library System Commissioners FY 2023-2024

**Mayor David Holt**

*Member Ex Officio, Oklahoma City*

**Dr. Susan Smith**

*Interim 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, Edmond*

**Shamia Jackson**

*Member, Oklahoma County*

**Rachel Johnson**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

**Elizabeth Larios**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

**Brian Maughan**

*Member at Large, Oklahoma County*

**Penny McCaleb**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

**Tracy McDaniel**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

**Richard McQuillar**

*Member, Midwest City*

**DJ Morgan**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

**Debbie Morris**

*Member, Warr Acres*

**Mukesh Patel**

*Member, Del City*

**Kim Patterson**

*Member, Harrah*

**Chaya Pennington**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

**Michelle Phelps**

*Member, Choctaw*

**Leah Rubio**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

**Jay Scambler**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

**Judy Smith**

*Member, The Village*

**Susan Tucker**

*Member, Jones*

**Marilyn Wetmore**

*Member, Bethany*

**Craig Woodruff**

*Disbursing Agent, Oklahoma City*

**Tracey Zeeck**

*Member, Oklahoma City*

### 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

*In May, we celebrated the opening of the new Almonte Library in South Oklahoma City. The \$6.6 million facility features a media lab, a Makerspace and a podcasting studio.*



As we reflect on Fiscal Year 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the strides we have taken in service to our community. This year has been a transformative period for the Metropolitan Library System, marked by growth, innovation and a deepening of our commitment to empowering the people of Oklahoma County.

Throughout the year, we have embraced our role as a cornerstone of learning, creativity and connection. From launching exciting new programs and expanding our collections to investing in cutting-edge technology and welcoming nearly two million visitors to our 19 branches, we've worked tirelessly to ensure the library remains a vital resource for all.

We also celebrated milestones that represent the heart of our mission. We gathered community input for our forthcoming strategic plan, paving the way for a vision that reflects the diverse voices and aspirations of the people we serve.

None of this would be possible without the steadfast support of our partners, donors, staff and the community. Your belief in the power of the library inspires us to do more, dream bigger and reach further.

As you explore this report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of all we've achieved together. Thank you for being part of the Metropolitan Library System's story. We look forward to continuing this journey with you in the year ahead.



Dr. Susan Smith,

*Susan Smith*

Interim CEO, Ph.D., M.L.I.S.



# Usage & Engagement



**2,005** Museum  
Pass Checkouts



**55,388**  
Engagement  
Attendance

**396**  
Discovery  
Backpack  
checkouts



**3,672**  
Notorizations

**407,111** Card Holders



**50,673**

Room  
Reservations



Total Circulation  
**9,184,275**

Digital

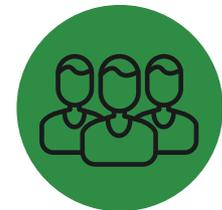
**3,695,080**

Physical

**5,219,195**



**358,866**  
Public Computer  
Sessions

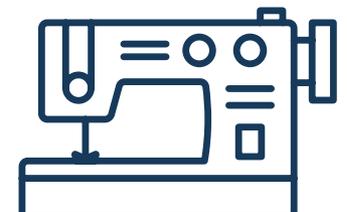


**149,875**  
Library Program  
Attendees

**10,949,973**  
Wi-Fi Sessions

**3,460,990**  
Website Visits

**435**  
Hotspot Checkouts



**1,835**  
Makerspace  
Sessions

# Soar to New Heights

Library metrics surged in FY24, showcasing impressive growth across various activities. These statistics highlight the increasing engagement and use of library resources, reflecting Metro's significant role in community development.

- The increase in library visits (2%), program attendance (37%) and room reservations (17%) reinforce our role as a hub for education, connection and collaboration.
- Digital engagement has skyrocketed, with social media interactions (101%) and Wi-Fi usage (127%) more than doubling, underscoring how the library bridges digital access gaps.

**What's Next:** The library aims to build on this momentum by introducing new programs and enhancing digital resources to cater to the evolving needs of our guests.





# Powerful Comm

Through the efforts of our Outreach and Engagement department, we're transforming our community. The dynamic partnerships they forge bring a wealth of expertise and resources into our libraries. These collaborations provide immense opportunities for our guests, paving the way for them to grow, learn and thrive like never before.

## Highlights

- Book giveaways to Oklahoma City Housing Authority and other organizations
- Goodwill workforce development training
- Oklahoma City County Health Department Mobile Market visits
- More than 150 musical performances through the Arts Council of OKC, Oklahoma Arts Council and National Endowment of the Arts
- Programs on costume design, art, history, embroidery, and STEAM activities led by experts from Oklahoma Museum of Art, Science Museum Oklahoma, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma History Center and Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center
- Experience Pass program that provides library guests free access to seven community museums

## What's Next

Our network of partners is growing, helping us reach even more of our community. We're excited to bring more enriching programs to our guests in the year ahead.



# unity Connections

## Library by Mail

We believe that everyone deserves access to the joy and enrichment that books bring. Our Library by Mail service sends books and audiobooks for free to people aged 65 and older who have health or mobility problems. They also receive monthly newsletters with recommended titles.

**13,217** checkouts

## Onsite Libraries

The Metropolitan Library System has over 90 onsite libraries in Oklahoma County. You can find them in places like senior living homes, child development centers and parks. We change the books and audiobooks at these locations every six to eight weeks, so seniors and kids who might not go to a library can still enjoy them.

**54,279** checkouts



# Summer Reading



The Metropolitan Library System's Summer Reading program is an annual initiative to keep readers of all ages engaged during the summer. With fun activities, events and prizes, it combats the "Summer Slide," a decline in academic skills when children are out of school. By promoting daily reading, the program builds literacy, supports lifelong learning and fosters a love for books, making summer both enjoyable and educational.

Library staff are crucial to the Summer Reading program, creating engaging activities for all ages. They organize story times, crafts, and hands-on events, manage logistics, curate resources and promote the program to boost participation. Their commitment transforms libraries into lively summer centers that inspire learning and creativity.

## Summer Reading Stats

**17,472**  
**participants**

**7%**

**10%**

**13,146,809**  
**points**

# Success

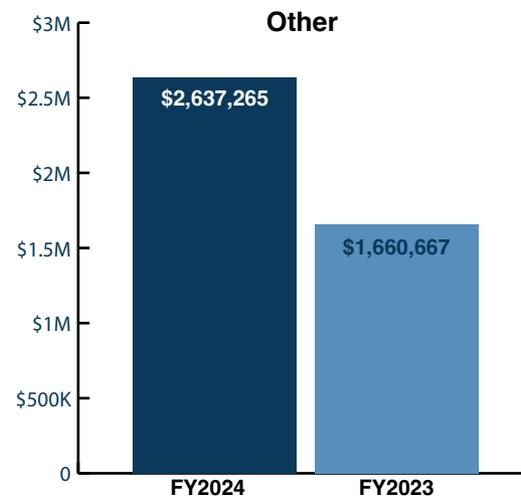
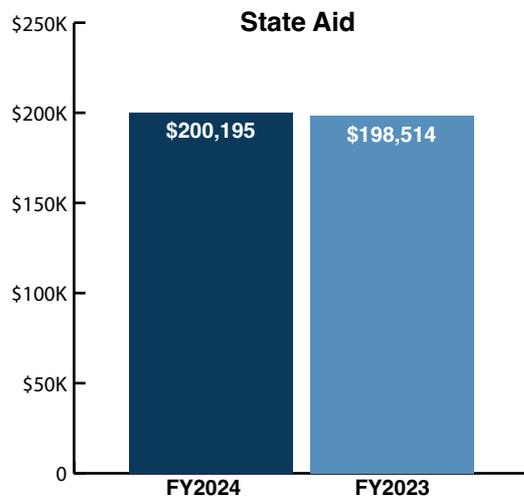
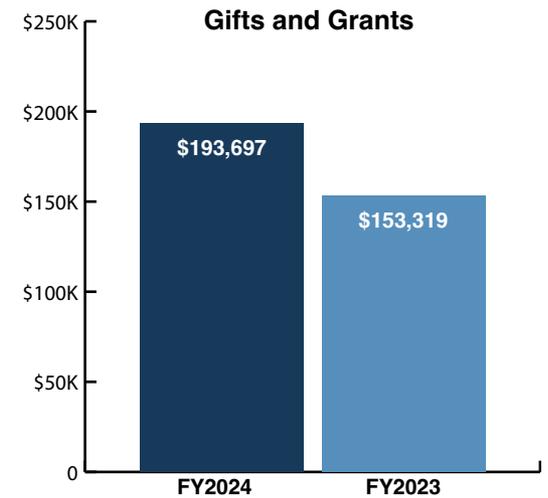
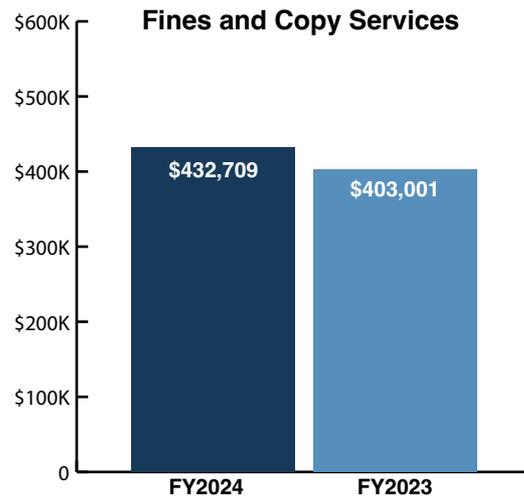
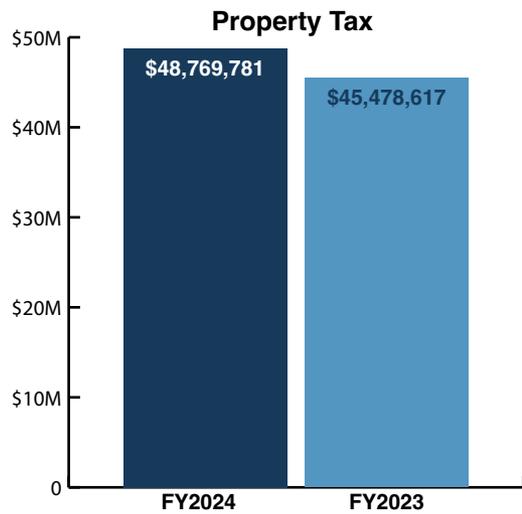


*Teens can volunteer at Metro Library during our Summer Reading program.*

# FY2024

## By the Numbers

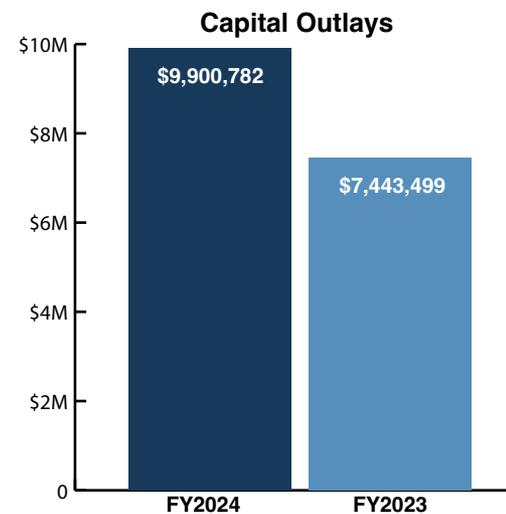
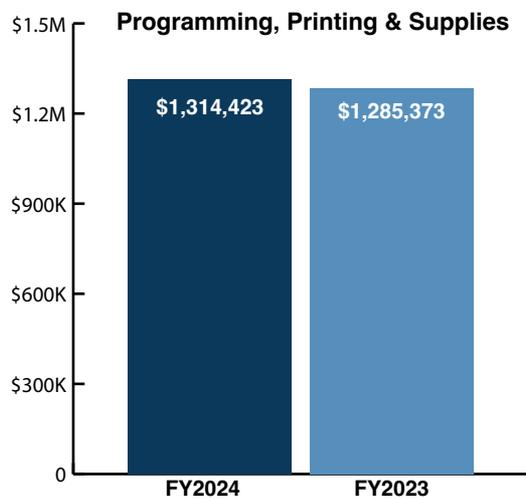
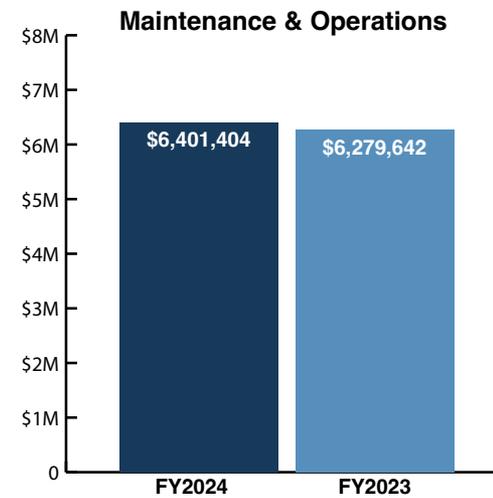
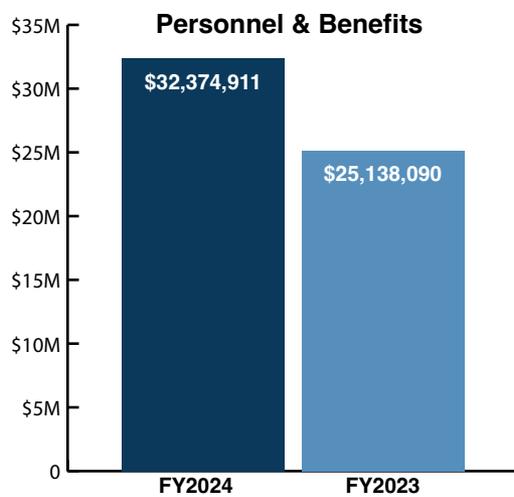
### Revenue



# FY2024

## By the Numbers

### Expenditures



# Dynamic Programming

Our robust programming schedule is designed to engage and educate. The programs not only enrich community life but also support lifelong learning and cultural engagement. There is something for everyone, from kids to adults, creating a welcoming space for learning and creativity.

## Highlights:

- Read Across Oklahoma: Collaborative efforts to reach kindergarten students statewide with reading initiatives.
- LitFest 2023: A platform for writers of all genres to learn, create and connect.
- Paranormal Fest: Attracted over 300 participants for themed activities and community interaction.
- Young at Art: Exhibited Caldecott Book Illustrations, promoting appreciation for visual arts.
- Systemwide themes offer guests an exhilarating journey through heritage, empowerment and discovery. Our programs celebrate the vibrant stories and achievements of Black History Month, dive into the trailblazing tales of Women's History Month and experience rich traditions during Native American Heritage Month, just to name a few.
- Young Storytellers: Celebrated the new program at the Edmond Library with a reception where eight young authors shared their cataloged books, inspired by a guest's request and supported by library staff.



# Engages the Community

## Visiting Authors Inspire Our Community

Author events at our libraries celebrate the power of storytelling and connect our community with inspiring voices. From Jan Brett's enchanting children's tales to Gwenna Laithland's relatable humor, Clare Westmacott's international perspective on history, and TJ Klune's amplification of diverse voices, these events foster learning, cultural exchange, creativity and empathy. They provide unique opportunities for readers to engage with authors, spark new ideas and deepen their love for books and the written word.

These authors reflect the broad spectrum of experiences within our community. Their visits align with the library's mission to be a space where everyone feels seen, valued and inspired. Hosting such authors encourages meaningful conversations, promotes diversity in literature, and strengthens our commitment to serving as a welcoming hub for all.



# Building for the Future



Our system embarked on an exciting new journey in 2024: construction of a second location in Edmond. It will be in the City of Edmond's community complex that also includes a modern YMCA. The current Edmond Library is the busiest library in the state with more than a million checkouts a year.

The \$31 million building is located at 15th Street and Interstate 35. The 12,000-square-foot library space will offer meeting rooms, a Maker Space creativity lab, adult and children's book collections, and a convenient drive-thru book drop-off.

## Facility Highlights

The new design features shared spaces that encourage people to come together and feel included. The library will have a large collection of resources and educational programs to help strengthen our communities.

## Community Impact

The YMCA will offer fitness and wellness programs to help residents live a healthy lifestyle. This facility exemplifies the power of partnerships, bringing significant benefits to Edmond's rapidly growing community.

## What's Next

Scheduled to open in early 2026, the complex will stand as a "quality-of-life jewel" in Edmond, embodying the city's vision and our commitment to collaboration and community service.



# Partners in Literacy: Friends and Endowment Trust Elevate Library Services

The Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma County benefits from two supporting organizations. The Friends of the Metropolitan Library System (FOL) raises funds through membership fees and book sales, generating nearly \$5 million for grants, learning tools, programs and staff scholarships since their inception. Their annual book sale attracts almost 25,000 people. This year they earned over \$585,000 from book sales.

“It’s not just about the money,” said Friends’ president Brent Moss, “It’s about giving the community opportunities to build libraries at home for a low cost. And it’s about community.”

The Library Endowment Trust was set up to support reading programs, building renovations and new library buildings. It gets money from community donations and the yearly Literary Voices fundraising event. This year, the Trust worked extra hard to raise funds and hosted its biggest event ever. During National Libraries Week in April, they featured three well-known authors, Kwame Alexander, Kevin Kwan and James Patterson, at three different events. These events attracted hundreds of fans and supporters. As a result, they gained new sponsors, welcomed new library visitors, and sparked a lot of interest in the literary community to come to OKC.

Both organizations support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, providing monthly free books and educational newsletters to Oklahoma County children under five. We are proud that half of the county’s eligible children participate in the program.



## **Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library** by the Numbers

**15,970 children enrolled**

**3,815 graduated**

*Author Kwame Alexander*



*Author Kevin Kwan*



*Author James Patterson*





# Partners in Literacy: Volunteers

Volunteers play a key role in our success. They help make our programs better and create a friendly place for learning and growth. They lead activities and assist with Summer Reading events. By working with our staff, they help young visitors meet their reading and homework targets. Volunteers also organize and shelve books to keep the library in order.

Also included are 42 of our four-legged therapy dog volunteers who boosted reading skills and confidence by non-judgmental listening for 423.75 hours of reading.

## **Metropolitan Library Volunteering** by the Numbers

**826** unique volunteers

**13,662.31** hours in library volunteering



# Turning the Page to 2025

As we celebrate the successes of the last year, we are inspired by what lies ahead. Together, we've expanded access to knowledge, culture and opportunity for thousands, building momentum for even greater impact.

With our second Edmond location in the works, exciting partnerships, a visit from Jodi Picoult for our Literary Voices series, celebrating major milestone anniversaries of two of our older branches, and popular programs like Summer and Winter Reading, 2025 is set to be extraordinary.

Thank you for supporting your library and helping to create a brighter future for all—one program, one book, and one connection at a time.



# Metropolitan Library Locations

1	ALMONTE LIBRARY	2727 SW 59th St Oklahoma City	(405) 606-3575
2	BELLE ISLE LIBRARY	5501 North Villa, Oklahoma City	(405) 843-9601
3	BETHANY LIBRARY	6700 NW 35th Street, Bethany	(405) 789-8363
4	CAPITOL HILL LIBRARY	327 SW 27th, Oklahoma City	(405) 634-6308
5	CHOCTAW LIBRARY	2525 Muzzy Street, Choctaw	(405) 390-8418
6	DEL CITY LIBRARY	4330 SE 15th Street, Del City	(405) 672-1377
7	DOWNTOWN LIBRARY	300 Park Ave., Oklahoma City	(405) 231-8650
8	EDMOND LIBRARY	10 S. Boulevard, Edmond	(405) 341-9282
9	HARRAH LIBRARY	1930 N. Church Avenue, Harrah	(405) 454-2001
10	JONES LIBRARY	9295 Willa Way, Jones	(405) 399-5471
11	LUTHER LIBRARY	310 NE 3rd, Luther	(405) 277-9967
12	MIDWEST CITY LIBRARY	8143 E. Reno, Midwest City	(405) 732-4828
13	NICOMA PARK LIBRARY	2240 Overholser, Nicoma Park	(405) 769-9452
14	NORTHWEST LIBRARY	5600 NW 122nd, Oklahoma City	(405) 606-3580
15	RALPH ELLISON LIBRARY	2000 NE 23rd, Oklahoma City	(405) 424-1437
16	SOUTHERN OAKS LIBRARY	6900 S. Walker, Oklahoma City	(405) 631-4468
17	THE VILLAGE LIBRARY	10307 N. Pennsylvania Ave., The Village	(405) 755-0710
18	WARR ACRES LIBRARY	5901 NW 63rd, Warr Acres	(405) 721-2616
19	WRIGHT LIBRARY	2101 Exchange, Oklahoma City	(405) 235-5035
20	METRO2GO LIBRARY KIOSK	1501 W. Covell Road, Edmond	(405) 231-8650