



SPOKANE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# 2017

## ANNUAL REPORT

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Andrew Chanse**  
Executive Director  
Spokane Public Library

Thank you for making 2017 another remarkable year for Spokane Public Library. Our accomplishments this year highlight our continued relevance in the community as well as our ability reinvent and improve our services to meet and exceed the needs of Spokane.

From record-setting attendance at our Summer Reading programs (over 900 people attended our Solar Eclipse programs!) to a 37% increase in cardholders and a 10% increase in digital resource checkouts, Spokane continues to turn to the library for education and entertainment.

Those same community members supported us in April when voters passed the Library Levy Lid Lift. This endorsement by the community has allowed us to continue our expanded hours at East Side, Hillyard, and Indian Trail and maintain our Sunday hours at Shadle. Starting January 21, 2018, this funding added Sunday hours at South Hill and continues to provide early literacy programming, technology access and funding toward expanding our collection.

In October, we introduced the Community Lens, a stage and gathering place on the 3rd floor of the Downtown Library, that showcases Spokane and continues to build the community's social capital. I encourage you to attend an upcoming event in this space, like the monthly Lilac City Live, a late-night style talk show that features some of the best talent in Spokane.

Finally, 2017 saw the rebrand of the Spokane Public Library visual identity. The previous logo and identity had been in place for more than 15 years. This new dynamic branding better reflects our diverse offerings and will carry us into the future towards our vision of a 21st Century Library.

Spokane Public Library would not be where we are today without the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers, the leadership of the board of trustees and the continued support from the Spokane Public Library Foundation, the Friends of the Spokane Public Library and our elected officials.

We look forward to many exciting programs and improvements in 2018, including a capital bond on the ballot in November, the launch of the Numerica 24/7 library at the West Central Community Center, more community partnerships, and increased engagement with our customers.

I invite you to keep informed about library developments by signing up for our newsletter and following us on social media. Together, we are building a Community of Learning in the City of Spokane.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Chanse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Andrew Chanse

# CELEBRATING SPOKANE'S HERITAGE

The Inland Northwest is home to a rich Native American heritage. For the first time, during the month of November, we hosted different programs to learn more about the region's native tribes, past and present. For Spokane Public Library program offerings please visit [www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar](http://www.spokanelibrary.org/calendar)

**31**

programs

**545**

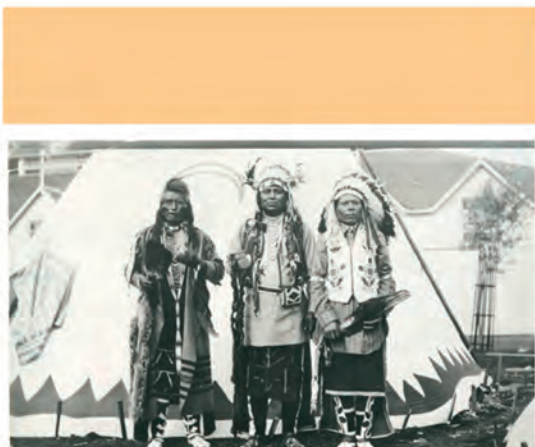
attendees

**4**

artist receptions

**60**

people in attendance for our 'First Friday'  
featuring LaRae Wiley and the Bunchgrass Band



# BOOKS FOR BABIES

This year, the **Friends of the Library** expanded their financial assistance to the Library and provided much needed funds to launch some exciting new programs.

Their contribution launched our first ever, "Books for Babies" program where every child born in the City of Spokane receives a new book and their very own library card.

More than 1,000 kits have been provided to all local hospitals and the Spokane Midwives. The community support of the project has been overwhelming.

***"Reading to babies from the first day is so important. Many parents don't realize that early literacy can and should start at Day One."***

- Sally Chilson, Spokane Public Library's Learning and Literacy Coordinator

***"I just wanted to send you a heartfelt thank you! I had the honor of taking my granddaughter Aria to the library for the first time. She is 15 months old. It was such a thrill for me to pass on the enriching experience of library visits. But what made it even more special was getting the Books for Babies kit. I was totally surprised to receive such a precious gift. The book was delightful (we've already read it many times tonight) and getting her own library card was especially wonderful. I can just picture her year after year grabbing her card and her library books bag and heading off to the library. I was also pleased to see all of the educational toys available for us to play with. What a warm and wonderful library! Thank you to all who support this very unique and important project - you are wonderful!"***

- From customer feedback on the program



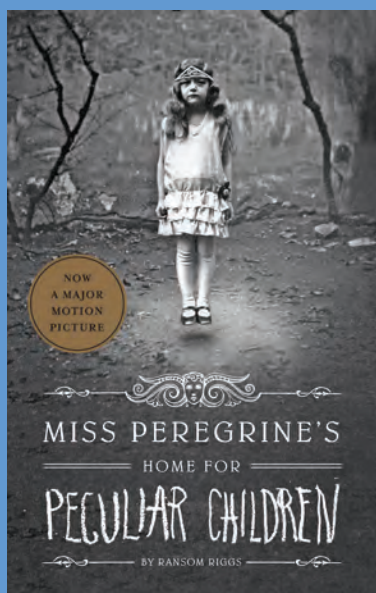
Grant (age two weeks), our Books for Babies spokesbaby, activates his Spokane Public Library card.



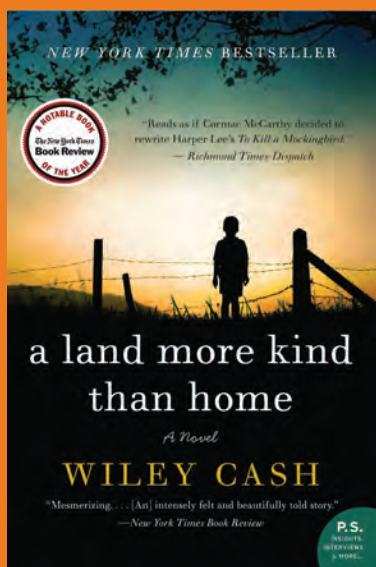
Photo: Spokesman-Review.



## MOST POPULAR YA TITLE IN 2017



**#1 BOOK  
CHECKED OUT  
SYSTEM WIDE**



## SPOKANE PUBLIC LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS

**7,568**  
volunteer hours

**1,934,085**  
materials checked out

**554,896**  
youth materials checked out

**929,591**  
gate count

**8,721**  
attendees for preschool story time

**8,548**  
attendees for toddler story time

**92,775**  
program attendees

**862,269**  
website visits

# INTRODUCING THE COMMUNITY LENS



We started with a vision to position Spokane Public Library's Downtown library as a cultural anchor and community destination. With the addition of the Community Lens, a major piece of that vision has been fulfilled. Positioned directly overlooking one of the best view in the city, the Community Lens is a full-featured performance venue, complete with stage, sound, and lighting. The new space allows the library to be a platform for artists, musicians, writers, community groups and non-profits to share their talents and passions with their community.

The Downtown library is becoming an integral part of our every-growing, ever-thriving downtown core. Our Downtown library is now one of the most popular attractions for the community's 'First Friday' events by hosting local artists and musicians for the public to experience for free. The flagship event for the new space is Lilac City Live, a monthly late-night talk show that aims to feature people doing great things in Spokane. Since the completion of the space, the library has also hosted author readings, the Individual World Poetry Slam Championship, movie nights, local musicians, virtual reality events, and many cultural events to celebrate the heritage of our community. We are excited to continue to position the library as the platform to showcase Spokane.



Our new late night variety show, *Lilac City Live*, premiered with over 200 people in attendance.

# BUILD A BETTER WORLD SUMMER READING

Summer reading was presented online for the second year in a row. We had a wide variety of summer reading program offerings to engage all interests resulting in record-setting program attendance.

## 7,738

people signed up for summer reading

## 3,686

people read for at least 15 hours

## 1,868,573

minutes read

## 3.56 years

of reading

## 23,000+

attendees at summer programs





# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Spokane Public Library collect donated books, which are sold at annual book sales and at the Friends' book store at the Downtown Library. Some members work the sales as volunteers; others choose to support the Friends financially with paid memberships. Money raised goes to the library, which benefits every year from the Friends' support.

Some of the benefits provided by The Friends of the Spokane Public Library are:

- Books that support Summer Reading for kids and teens.
- An annual contribution to the Spokane Is Reading program, which brings a different author to town each year.
- Book Club bags and storytime kits.
- Coding robots for Children and Teen Programming.

In addition to funding the landmark, "Books for Babies" project, the Friends of the Spokane Public Library continue to support the purchase of books for our youth and teen Summer Reading participants as well as the funding for our annual fall 'Spokane is Reading' event, which in 2017 featured author Wiley Cash.

Learn how to become a Friend of the Library by visiting  
[www.SpokaneLibrary.org/friends](http://www.SpokaneLibrary.org/friends)

**proud to  
provide the  
library over  
\$40,000  
in annual  
support**



## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY

Contribute to the quality and success of library programs and services. Individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$15.  
[www.SpokaneLibrary.org/friends](http://www.SpokaneLibrary.org/friends)



# SPOKANE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Spokane Public Library Foundation exists because of the generosity of many who have committed their time, gifts and financial resources to continue to strive for our library's excellence.

Last year brought many new opportunities for the Foundation due to the generous donations from the *Mayor David and Kristin Condon Our Town Gala*. As the recipient of this event, we were able to partner with the Spokane Police Department to offer programs all summer long to the youth of our community. We hosted six all day programs with 112 youth participating in a rich variety of STEM programming including virtual reality programs and coding lessons.

The Foundation amped up our grant applications to support the libraries ground breaking endeavor with the 24/7 Library and have welcomed many new partnerships as a result. Also, we continued to fund the robust business services that are reaching hundreds of citizens with real time data and librarian support.



## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our mission is to provide high quality education for all – opportunities to read, to learn and to discover the world. Gifts of all sizes are appreciated.

[www.SpokaneLibraryFoundation.org](http://www.SpokaneLibraryFoundation.org)



# INCREASE OF CARDS IN HOUSEHOLDS

*"We saw last year as a great opportunity to engage with citizens who either haven't used us in a while or who have never even thought about using the library. It was a great opportunity to share our services and change perceptions of what the library has to offer."*

Andrew Chanse, Executive Director, Spokane Public Library

## 43.3%

Spokane households with  
at least one library card

## 8,000

new households reached  
in nine months



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Jim Kershner**  
Board Chair  
Appointed 1/1/12



**Mary Starkey**  
Vice Chair  
Appointed 5/12/14



**Nathan G. Smith**  
Appointed 4/29/13



**Lara Hemingway**  
Appointed 3/7/16

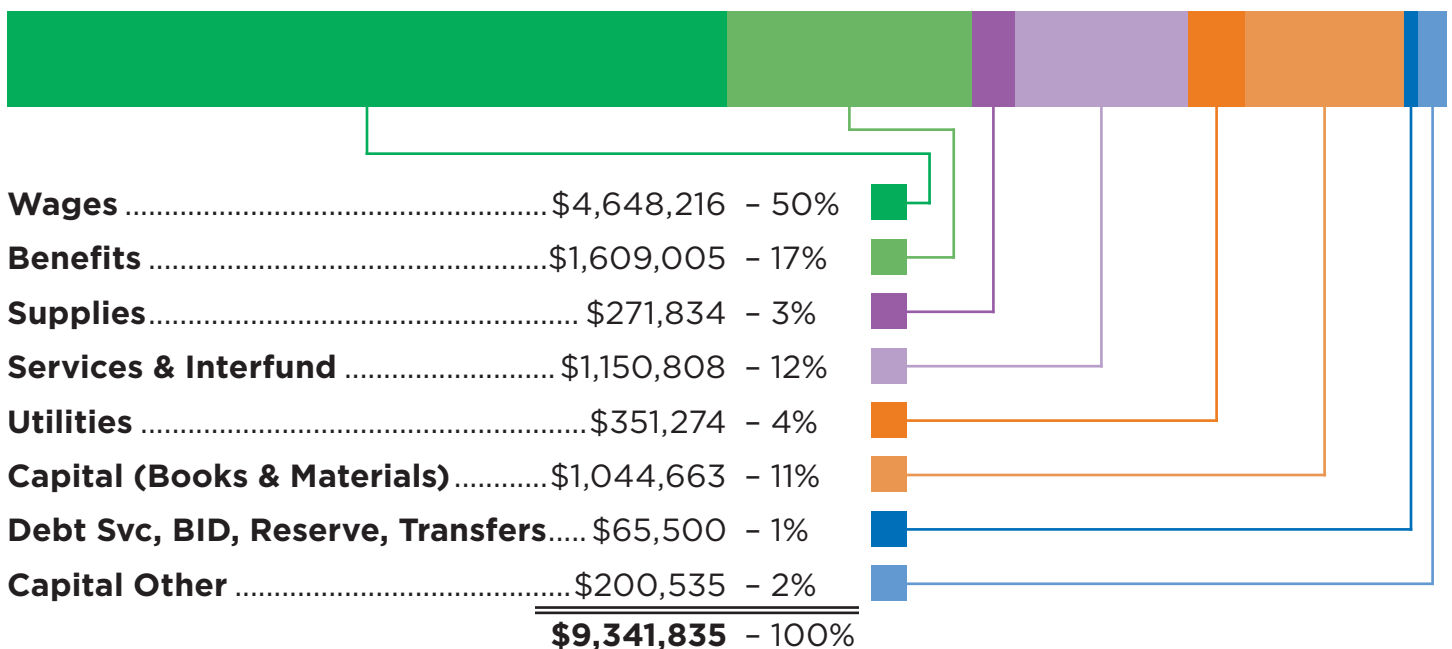


**Casey Linane-Booey IV**  
Appointed 4/1/17

The Spokane Public Library Board of Trustees meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Find more information at [www.spokanelibrary.org/about/administration/#meeting](http://www.spokanelibrary.org/about/administration/#meeting)

## 2017 EXPENSES





# PREVIEW 2018

The 24/7 Library Presented by Numerica will be ready for service by July 2018 at the West Central Community Center.

At the 24/7 Library citizens can access:

- Books, DVDs, return items, and pick up holds
- Specialized collections to neighborhood needs
- Wi-Fi
- Pay Fines and Fees
- Access personal accounts
- Hold requests

Thank you to the Community Building Foundation for the new materials grant!



The 24/7 Library is made possible by generous funding and partnership from:



City of Spokane Community, Housing & Human Services

Spokane Neighborhood Councils including West Central, Nevada Heights, and Emerson Garfield

**Downtown** 906 W Main

**East Side** 524 S Stone St

**Hillyard** 4005 N Cook St

**Indian Trail** 4909 W Barnes Rd

**Shadle** 2111 W Wellesley Ave

**South Hill** 3324 S Perry St

**SpokaneLibrary.org**



# SUNDAY! SUNDAY! SUNDAY!

Starting January 21, 2018,  
the South Hill library will be open 1-5pm on Sundays!