HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2023

After years of renovation and pandemic closures, the year 2023 was the first year since 2019 that all Library locations were open and operational. Much of the year was spent adapting to post-pandemic norms and deepening a new resiliency including evaluating new security needs. Additionally, for the first time ever, the total gate count at the Library’s seven locations combined exceeded 1 million people.

A Destination for Connection
Event attendance accounted for 5% of the Library’s annual gate count. The Library hosted more than 200 events per month in 2023, creating opportunities for learning and connection.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

As part of the staff’s investment in continuous learning, staff read and discussed a selection of DEI-related books in 2023 including:

- *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States* by Deborah T. Thomas
- *Mindf*...t about Fat* by Cathy Park Hong
- *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
- *Unmasking Autism* by Dennis Price, Jr.

The project will allow the Library to continue to support the economic growth of the region.

One key event was a partnership with the Hispanic Business Association: Tacos y Tequila. The Library closed down Spokane Falls Blvd. and welcomed more than 4,000 people to Central Library across two days in August to enjoy music, dancing, and tequila tasting.

The Library’s Writing Education Specialist hosted office hours and writing workshops for adults and kids throughout the year. In October, the Library partnered with SCLD for the 7th Annual Spokane Writers Conference, a two-day free conference hosted at both library systems, a great example of creating shared Library resources across the region.

Also in October 2023, the Library partnered with the Carl Macek Center on a project to help promote and preserve the stories of Spokane’s Black community and scanned more than 540 items for the digital collection.

Reintroducing StartUp Spokane, powered by Local Libraries

With the acquisition of StartUp Spokane, the Library completed a comprehensive redesign of the StartUp Spokane brand and website with help from the local agency, Houdini. The website redesign was funded by a grant from Washington Micro Business Association with a percent match from Numerica Credit Union.

Developing Community Resources at Central

The momentum around the social services program at the Library has grown along with the need for support in the community. This year, the Library began a partnership with Peer Spokane, opened a Resource Studio at Central Library, continued the internship partnership with Eastern Washington University, and installed a Naloxone Vending Machine in partnership with Better Health Together and Spokane Regional Health District. Coffee & Conversations at the Central Library drew 1,052 attendees and the team connected 34 individuals with housing.

In 2023, Spokane Public Library delivered on the remaining commitments made with the passage of the $77 Million 2018 Bond Measure that funded the renovation of 4 libraries and construction of 3 new libraries.

A freshly renovated Indian Trail Library opened on March 7, 2023. Closed for thoughtful remodeling for the duration of 2022, the renovated Indian Trail Library maximizes improvements while stretching the taxpayer dollar. The space features a spacious event space and two study rooms and the Basalt Burrow Children’s Playspace.

Soon after, South Hill Library opened on March 21, 2023. Undergoing a similar renovation to Indian Trail, capital improvements included new HVAC, new roof, new carpet, and the addition of a Turkey Treetops Children’s Playspace. Additionally, more meeting space was added. Before renovation, South Hill had one event space. Now it offers an event room as well as two private study rooms and 4 study pods.

Also included in the Bond funding was the installation of 24-hour Library Kiosks in neighborhoods that are otherwise underserved by Library services. New Library Kiosks opened in Latah Valley outside Yokes Fresh Market and in the Logan neighborhood at Gonzaga Family Haven. Two final kiosks will open in 2024 at the Five-Mile Park and Ride and at a library property at Nevada and Sitka in Northeast Spokane.

In the Inland Northwest Special Collections, we try to practice what Rachel Vagts, an archivist at the Denver Public Library, coined as “radical welcome.” This challenges staff to design our policies and procedures through the lens of “how can we make people feel they are welcome here?” Visiting the Archives and Special Collections can be an intimidating experience, and many people feel like they need to be a “serious researcher” to see some of our most valuable and precious materials. But in the Inland Northwest Special Collections, we celebrate people visiting because they want to feel inspired by our collections.

However, when you can’t see your own history and community reflected in these collections, we are failing as archivists to achieve our goal of providing a radical welcome. While the Black community in Spokane has been here for over 140 years and has made rich and meaningful contributions to the region, it can be challenging to find those stories across the archives and museums in town. Having representation in archives is one way to help honor and understand the past, and to have your community be visible, represented, known, and celebrated.

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### 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

**TOTAL LIBRARY VISITORS**

- **1,149,275**

**1,241,191** Items Checked Out

**DIGITAL SERVICES USED**

- Audiobooks: 271,901
- eBooks: 256,821
- Videos: 97,011
- Magazines: 39,586
- Music: 3,874

**1,031** Museum Passes Borrowed

**57,029** TOTAL EVENT ATTENDANCE

- Adults = 24,772 | Youth = 9,057
- Storytime = 21,621 | Specialty 1-on-1s = 1,579

**329** 1-on-1 Business Consults

**68,139** Hours of meeting room usage

**230,668** YouTube views

**159,883** Active library card holders

**189,623** Database searches

**257** Music Lessons

**360** Self-record sessions in the Video Lab

**293** Video Educator 1-on-1 Sessions

**208** Hours of Audio Engineer 1-on-1 Sessions (52 sessions x 4hrs per session)

**263** Self-record sessions in the Recording Studio

**577** Self-record sessions in the Podcast Studio

**2** Issues of new magazine, *Lilac City Local*, published

**469,855** Pages Printed

**112,171** WiFi Sessions

**875** Laptop Sessions

**93,320** PC Sessions

**39,586** DIGITAL SERVICES USED

- Audiobooks: 39,586
- eBooks: 27,190
- Videos: 97,011
- Magazines: 39,586
- Music: 3,874

**279,998** PHYSICAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT

**230,668** YouTube views

**257** Museum Passes Borrowed

**2** Renovated locations opened: South Hill & Indian Trail

**MUSEUMS**

- New Library Kiosks at Gonzaga Family Haven & Yokes Fresh Market in Latah Valley

**COMPUTER AND PRINTING ACCESS**

- **469,855** Pages Printed
- **112,171** WiFi Sessions
- **875** Laptop Sessions
- **93,320** PC Sessions

**DIGITAL MAGAZINE**

- *What's Next*
- *Lilac City Local*

**MEDIA STUDIOS USAGE**

- **257** Music Lessons
- **360** Self-record sessions in the Video Lab
- **293** Video Educator 1-on-1 Sessions
- **208** Hours of Audio Engineer 1-on-1 Sessions (52 sessions x 4hrs per session)
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**TOP CIRCULATED TITLES**

**Fiction**

- *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century* by Kim Fu
- *Desert Star* by Colleen Hoover

**Non-Fiction**

- *Solito* by Javier Zamora
- *Prine Harry* by John Prine

**Young Adult**

- *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer
- *Spiderman* by Stan Lee

**CD**

- *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins

**DVD**

- *What's Next*
- *Lilac City Local*

**eAUDIODOC**

- *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century* by Kim Fu
- *Desert Star* by Colleen Hoover

**eBOOK**

- *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer
- *Spiderman* by Stan Lee

*Gate count includes The Hive® from October 1–December 19.*