



SPOKANE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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.



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 Maxey 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.

Inspiring Our Youngest Residents
Events for children ranged from daily storytimes, attended by 21,621 kids and families throughout

the year to the Wonka Candy Carnival, where more than 400 attendees visited the Central Library to make their own creative candy bars and play life-size Candy Land. Other fun events throughout the year included Build with LEGO® Masters, Let's Dance: K-Pop for the Whole Family, and Balancing Act: Physics in Action.



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.

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



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.

BOND PROMISES DELIVERED



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 under-served 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.

LOCAL HISTORY MATTERS

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.

INLAND NORTHWEST SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BY THE NUMBERS
(March-December 2023)

- 784 patrons visited**
- 1,085 reference questions by email, phone, and in person**
- 5,000% increase in access to vault collections**
- 84% of visitors are local**
- 62% of research interactions take 30 minutes or more of 1-on-1 time**
- 25% of research interactions use our vault collections**

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:



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL LIBRARY VISITORS*

1,149,275

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

1,241,191

669,193 DIGITAL
571,998 PHYSICAL
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



2

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

469,855 Pages Printed

112,171 WiFi Sessions

875 Laptop Sessions

93,320 PC Sessions

COMPUTER AND PRINTING ACCESS

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

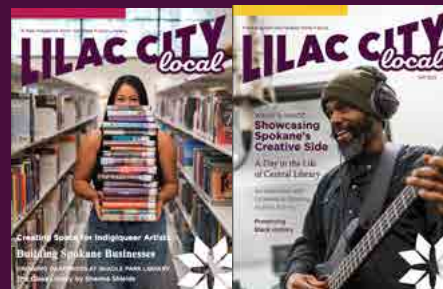


189,623

Database searches

2

Issues of new magazine, Lilac City Local, published



MEDIA STUDIOS USAGE

257

Music Lessons

208

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

360

Self-record sessions in the Video Lab

263

Self-record sessions in the Recording Studio

293

Video Educator 1-on-1 Sessions

577

Self-record sessions in the Podcast Studio



2

Renovated locations opened: South Hill & Indian Trail

TOP CIRCULATED TITLES

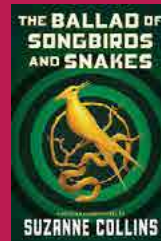
Fiction



Non-Fiction



Young Adult



CD



DVD



DIGITAL MAGAZINE



eAUDIOBOOK



eBOOK

