

Upper Arlington, OH 43221  
2800 Tremont Road



# Upper Arlington Public Library Annual Report

# 2023



We build connections  
that make lives better.





# Dear Upper Arlington,

It was an amazing year at the Upper Arlington Public Library. Due to your generous support in passing the 2022 operating levy, we were able to make some incredible improvements and planning for the future.

Our first priority was reviewing and making salary adjustments for our staff that are competitive with other local libraries and employers. We spent many months researching industry data and working with a consultant on a comprehensive salary study. These efforts resulted in an average salary increase of 16%, which included a years-of-service salary range to ensure increases for long-time staff.

Second, we worked on a Master Facilities Plan with HBM Architects and Interior Designers that included a building assessment with repairs listed by urgency and cost estimates, a library space assessment, and community engagement for ways to improve space and functions.

**Beth Hatch**  
Library Director

2023  
Board of  
Trustees



Peter Hahn  
President



Sue Ralph



Kevin Fix  
Vice-President



William Shkurti



John Yesso



Kate Hare



Stephen Flynn

## 2023 Impact

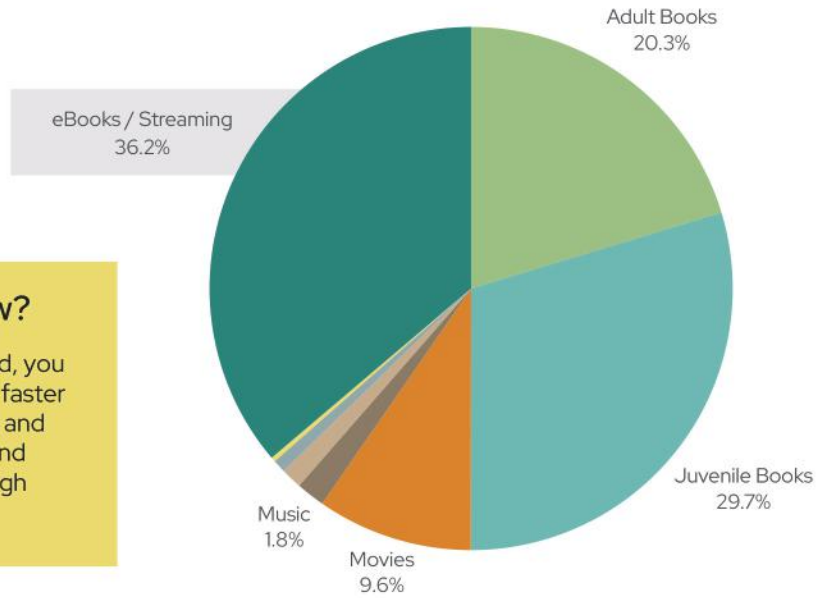
Library Usage	As of December 31, 2023	Change from 2022
Visits	446,643	↑ 15%
Program Attendance	56,530	↑ 26%
Wi-Fi Sessions	487,001	↓ 18%
Streaming / eBooks	325,926	↑ 11%
Database Usage	45,289	↓ 4%
Public Computer Usage	20,355	↑ 10%

Despite the drop in use during the pandemic, use of the library skyrocketed in 2023 for circulation and program attendance.

# Books and eBooks are More Popular than Ever

Looking at straight checkouts of items, not including renewals, we are able to see what patrons are taking out most. In 2023, patrons checked out more books than in any of the past eight years. Our adult book circulation is continuing to trend higher than our movie circulation by almost double.

- Adult Books
- Juvenile Books
- Movies
- Music
- Magazines
- Audiobooks
- Video Games
- eBooks / Streaming



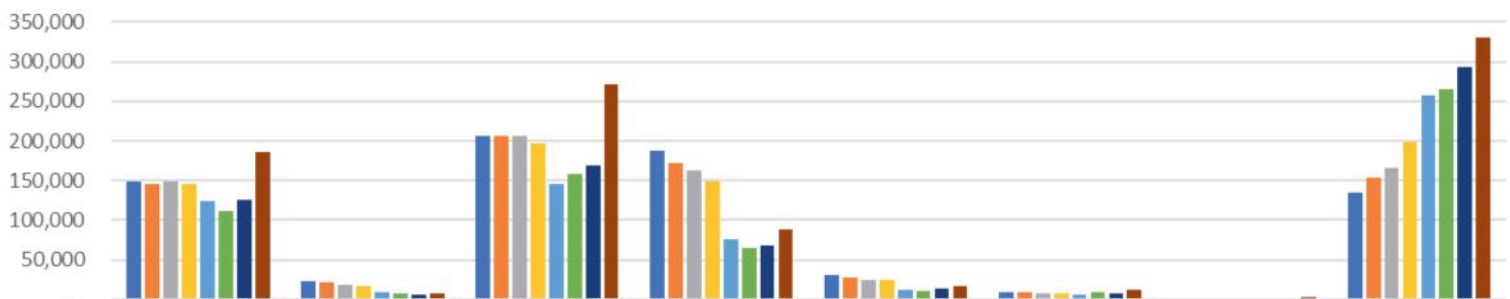
eCards give you instant access to eBooks & online resources.

**Did you know?**  
With an UAPL card, you get exclusive and faster access to popular and curated eBooks and audiobooks through Libby!



## Moving Our Movies and Music

With the rising popularity of streaming services, we've experienced a significant decrease in the use of our movie and music collections (see below). We moved our media collection to the Adult Department in 2023. The former media area has been repurposed for programming and study space, and soon as staff workspace during our lower level renovation. Patrons currently enjoy lounge-style seating with power nearby.



	Adult Books	Audiobooks	Juvenile Books	Movies	Music	Magazines	Videogames	eCirc
2016	149,170	23,022	206,322	187,009	30,982	8,704	244	135,203
2017	145,648	21,200	206,170	172,505	28,000	8,700	216	153,890
2018	149,072	18,883	205,780	163,204	25,360	8,152	349	165,907
2019	146,027	16,177	196,547	148,355	23,926	8,263	559	198,883
2020	124,705	9,432	145,600	76,000	11,562	5,593	649	257,294
2021	111,993	8,135	158,845	65,312	10,853	8,476	1,205	264,611
2022	125,274	6,695	168,627	67,914	13,416	8,109	2,040	293,509
2023	185,706	7,310	271,509	87,976	16,243	11,900	2,581	330,910

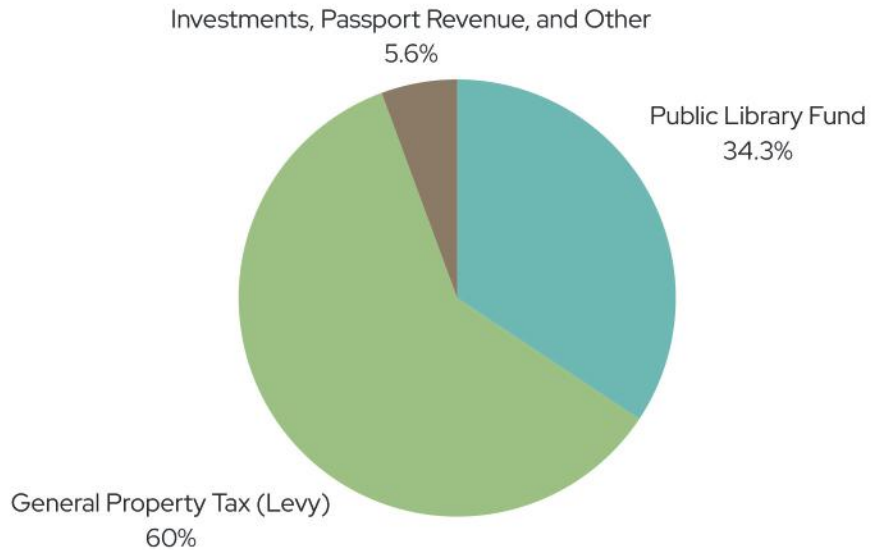
Legend: 2016 (blue), 2017 (orange), 2018 (grey), 2019 (yellow), 2020 (light blue), 2021 (green), 2022 (dark blue), 2023 (brown)

# 2023 Fiscal Stewardship

Last year was the Upper Arlington Public Library's first year seeing the revenue from the levy that passed in May 2022. We transferred \$1.2 million into our building improvement fund this year to prepare for large capital repairs and replacements.

## 2023 Revenue

Public Library Fund	\$ 3,223,281
Property Tax Levy	\$ 5,635,203
Other	\$ 527,667
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 9,386,157</b>



## 2023 Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 4,826,976	Building Improvement	\$ 1,200,000
Library Materials	\$ 851,152	Fund Transfer	
Utilities, Other	\$ 1,176,848		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 6,854,976</b>	<b>Total after Transfer</b>	<b>\$ 8,054,976</b>

### HBM Architects & Interior Designers

We hired GBM in 2023 to conduct a 10-Year Master Facilities Plan. The plan includes assessments of needed repairs and use of space, as well as opportunities for community engagement around the process.



### Building Improvement Fund

The Library pays for capital improvements, like a new roof for Tremont Road, out of the building improvement fund.

# 2023 Staffing Report

**51%**  
of our revenue was spent on salaries and benefits

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**82%**  
of premiums for single and family health plans are paid by the Library

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We increased the average staff salary by

**16%**

## Rewarded Tenure

We included a years-of-service salary range to ensure increases for longtime staff. 2023 was the lowest year for turnover in the past 10 years, and we celebrated two major retirements of longtime staff.

## Increased Paid Time Off

We added two additional paid federal holidays (Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth). We provided more benefits for part-time staff, including more vacation and sick leave, and paid holidays.

## Open Communication

Staff participated in focus groups and surveys to gather employees' thoughts and questions about culture, communication and facility needs. We started a Staff Internal Communications Committee with staff from many levels and departments.



In recognition of our incredible staff, Library leadership has dedicated significant time and resources in recent years to meet continued needs expressed by staff to make UAPL a better place to work and grow.

# Biggest Year Ever for Programs

There is always something going at the Library to serve our community: farm and zoo animal visits, kitten and goat yoga, author events, storytimes, live music, a mystery dinner, lectures, summer and winter reading, and an explosion of holiday and summer fun.



**1,260** programs and events for all ages

**55,000** people came to our events

**↑26%** increase in program and event attendance



# Ways to Give

The Upper Arlington Public Library welcomes donations. Your philanthropic support for the UAPL allows us to further our goal of providing exceptional programs and services that strengthen and enrich our community. We are grateful for gifts of any size. Donations are tax deductible.



## General Fund Donations

Your direct gift to the UAPL supports special projects like our Early Learning Play Areas, building projects, furniture needs, collections, programming and more.



## Ann Royce Moore Fund

This fund supports author visits in Upper Arlington. The Upper Arlington Public Library and the Upper Arlington Community Foundation partner in this mission with funds held by and administered by the UACF.



## The Friends of the Library

The Friends assist the Library with funds raised through book sales and memberships. They make projects like summer and winter reading program and staff appreciation possible.



## The Columbus Foundation Planned Gifts and Donor Advised / Named Funds

The Library partners with the Columbus Foundation to administer planned gifts, donor advised or named funds that support us.

## Thank you to our 2023 donors



Anonymous  
Berlin Brook  
Carolina Ricco Pereira  
Christine McCracken  
Courtney Epstein  
Deborah Lynn  
Doug Goldman  
Elizabeth Kraftician  
Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund  
Frederick & Karla Roehrig  
Gerlinde Lott  
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Gloria and Dale Heydlauff  
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Alisa Lin  
Allison Frew  
Ann & Roger Avery  
Ann Cupps  
Ann Knodt  
Anne & Lawrence Peterson

## A special thank you...

Friends of  
the Library

Book sales raised

**\$89,171**



**3,984** Hours  
donated by  
**58** Volunteers



We participated in

**28**

Community  
Partnership Events