



2800 Tremont Road  
Upper Arlington, OH 43221

# Upper Arlington Public Library Annual Report

# 2025

We build connections  
that make lives better.



# Dear Upper Arlington,



Kevin Fix  
President



Kate Hare  
Vice President



Peter Hahn



William Shkurti



Matthew Courser



Sue Ralph



John Yesso



Beth Pfahler  
Library Director

As we move into the final year of our current Strategic Plan, which focuses on customer impact and use of space, I find myself reflecting on how much progress our library system has made – and how well-positioned we are for the work ahead.

We continue to be greatly appreciative of the levy support in 2022, which has made all of our progress and future plans possible. In 2022, the Library's total revenue was \$6.3 million, made up of levy funds and support from the State's Public Library Fund. With the passage of the 10-year levy, annual revenue increased to \$9.3 million – an increase of approximately \$3 million each year. However, the structure of our revenue will remain relatively flat over time unless there are increases to the State's Public Library Fund or future voter-approved levy support. We are carefully planning how to invest in our facilities and services to carry the Library into the future, and only through our local property tax levy are we able to make significant improvements.

The levy came with a promise to invest in our buildings over the next five years, beginning with critical maintenance and repair. We have committed funds to major projects, including replacing the roof at the Tremont Road location and completing significant infrastructure and HVAC upgrades across all three facilities. To date, roughly half of the levy funds have been directed toward these building improvements as we work through an extensive list of priorities and plan for future renovations. One important project was the renovation of our Lane Road Branch – its first in 50 years. Community feedback on the improvements has been overwhelmingly positive, with the new meeting rooms and shared spaces being heavily used. Thank you to the patrons who made use of our other locations during the necessary eight-month closure.

The additional levy money also enabled the Library to complete a comprehensive salary and compensation study in 2022-23, which led to meaningful investments in employee pay and benefits in 2024.

Looking ahead, the Tremont Road Branch will be a major focus in the coming year. We are assembling a community task force that will work closely with HBM Architects and Interior Designers to develop more detailed concepts for the Tremont renovation. This effort will prioritize operational efficiency, responsible financial planning, and better use of existing space, while keeping community needs at the center. The Library plans to fund this future renovation by continuing to invest in our Building Improvement Fund to prepare sustainably for upcoming projects.

I am excited about what lies ahead and confident that our libraries will continue to be vibrant, essential spaces for learning, connection, and opportunity. I am so grateful for the continued support of our community, our Board, and our staff.

# 2025 Fiscal Stewardship

## 2025 General Revenue Fund

Public Library Fund	\$ 3,124,852
Property Tax Levy	\$ 5,690,918
Other	\$ 618,373
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 9,434,144</b>

The Library's revenue stays relatively flat because the amount we receive from our voter-approved property tax levy does not increase over time, even if property values go up. The levy generates a fixed amount unless voters approve an increase or a new levy.

The only other potential increase comes from the State's Public Library Fund, and those increases are rare. Any changes to property taxes, state funding, or other income would result in needed reductions in spending.

## 2025 Expenditures

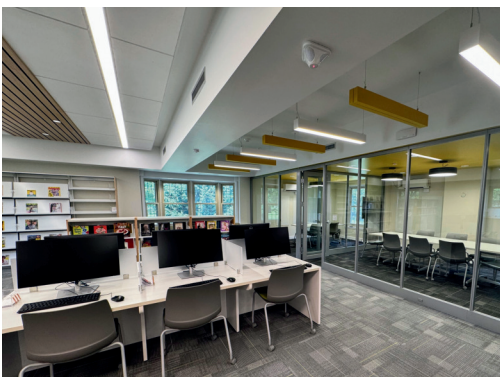
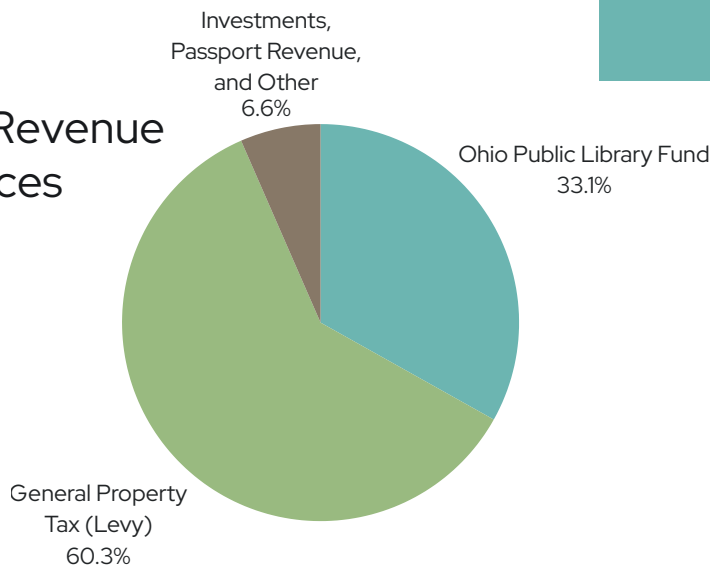
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 5,033,718
Library Materials	\$ 993,571
Utilities, Other	\$ 1,402,844
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 7,430,132</b>
Building Improvement	\$ 1,200,000
Fund Transfer	
<b>Total Expenditures after Transfer</b>	<b>\$ 8,630,132</b>

## Lane Road Renovation

Our Lane Road Branch opened in July 2025 with an updated look and exciting new features. Improvements included a new HVAC system, upgraded lighting, additional power outlets, ceilings, soundproofing, and two new meeting rooms on the first floor.

Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E)	\$418,667.70
Construction & Facilities	\$1,021,697.24
Design Services	\$117,054.25
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$1,557,419.19</b>

## Our Revenue Sources



# Library Use

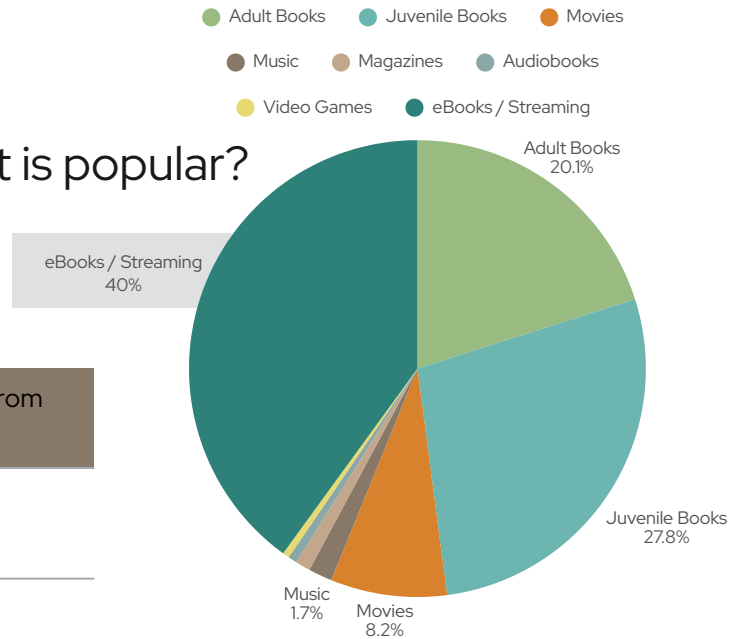
Print is popular! 48% of our circulation is adult and youth books. eBooks and streaming services make up 40% of our circulation.

## 2025 Impact

Library Usage	As of December 31, 2025	Change from 2024
Visits	441,523	↓ 6%
Program Attendance	71,159	↑ 27%
Circulation	1,489,064	↓ 2%
eBooks / Streaming	426,826	↑ 15%
Research Tools	51,800	↑ 12 %
Public Computer Usage	23,602	↓ 6%

Despite Lane Road being closed until July 2025, Library use remained high and even surpassed expectations in program attendance, eBooks, and database use.

## What is popular?



## Top Adult Fiction Titles



## Top Nonfiction Titles



## A special thank you...

Friends of the Library raised **\$101,565**



We participated in

**46**

Community Partnership Events



**87** adults volunteered **2,698** hours



**421** students volunteered **1,416** hours



# Biggest Year Ever for Programs

There is always something happening at the Library! Stop in to experience animal visits, yoga classes, author events, storytimes, live music, lectures, summer and winter reading programs, and an explosion of holiday and summer fun.



**1,822** programs and events for all ages

**71,159** people came to our events

**↑27%** increase in program and event attendance



# Ways to Give



## 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.



**Friends**  
of the  
Upper Arlington  
Public Library

## The Friends of the Library

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



## 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 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 2025 donors

Abigail McClain	Elizabeth Seely
Abigail McGrath	Erik Booth
Alisa Lin	Fidelity Charitable Donor
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Northwest Kiwanis  
Olivia Lee  
Pari Davis  
Patricia Connor

Your 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.

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