



Inspired by You

2024 Donor Impact Report



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Donor Impact Report
2024

Strengthening Our Community

Reflections and Gratitude from our President & Director

Dear Neighbors,

As we reflect on the progress of the past year here at the Library, we are filled with gratitude for your generous support and unwavering commitment to our mission. Thanks to your contributions, we are able to continue strengthening our community, empowering individuals, and making a lasting impact in neighborhoods across the Pittsburgh region.

Each day, we work together to create a place where everyone can access knowledge, connect with others, and find joy. From the expansion of our services—such as the largest increase in library hours in decades—to offering new resources like the Library of Things and RAD Pass Summer Staycation, every step forward has been made possible by your support.

One of the highlights of 2024 was the incredible success of our Summer Reading program, where we saw a significant increase in participation and engagement. In partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools, we reached new heights; nearly 20% of participants were students who had never previously been involved in our programs. Through initiatives like CardFest, we've been able to ensure all Pittsburgh Public School students are now equipped with a library card, opening doors to countless opportunities for learning and discovery.

In addition, our efforts to provide equitable services and promote inclusion have never been more critical. We remain steadfast in our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. With your support, we will continue to stand strong in our efforts to make the Library a welcoming and empowering space for all. Last year also brought exciting events like the return of the Greater Pittsburgh

Festival of Books and the Vivian Ann Davidson Hewitt lecture, where we hope to inspire the next generation of library leadership and library lovers.

These are just a few small examples of the exciting initiatives that your contributions helped bring to life, creating opportunities for our community to connect, learn, and grow together.

We also recognize the importance of planning for the future, and we are working diligently to prioritize key capital improvements to ensure that our spaces remain welcoming and accessible to all. We are committed to fiscal responsibility and transparency, knowing the investments you make and entrust us with are key to sustaining our work for years to come.

Donating is a deeply personal decision, and as President & Director of this incredible organization, one of my greatest joys is speaking with you, our donors. Each of you has a unique library story, and I am always inspired by the reasons you choose to support our mission. Whether it's a memory from childhood of discovering a love for reading, or an experience where the Library played a pivotal role in your life, your stories reflect the powerful connection we all share. Featured in this report are two of these amazing stories.

No matter the size of your gift, every contribution is meaningful and plays a vital role in helping us continue to meet the ever-evolving needs of our community. Because of you, we are able to enhance the services, resources, and experiences that our neighbors rely on. Now in our 130th year serving our community, we are extremely grateful for your partnership, and we look forward to the continued growth and success of the Library—all made possible by you.

As you read this report, I invite you to reflect on the impact your support has had on our Library and the patrons we serve. Together, we've accomplished so much, but the journey is far from over. There will always be new opportunities to explore, new stories to write, and new lives to impact.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we can ensure that Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh remains a vibrant and essential part of our region.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Andrew Medlar
President & Director

Notes of Kindness

How Siblings Eliana and Connor Lee
are Changing the Beat of Giving



Twelve-year-old Eliana on the trumpet. Nine-year-old Connor on the trombone. Their musical notes sparkle in the air, floating breezily down Walnut Street in Shadyside, the Strip District, on the Roberto Clemente Bridge during Pirates games, and in front of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill branch. They are playing jazz tunes like "The Preacher" by Horace Silver and "Moanin'" by Bobby Timmons. People take notice, stopping in their tracks, listening, smiling, and enjoying the moment on a warm summer day.

"They typically busk for about an hour and a half, which is, on average, when their lips have fallen apart and can no longer play a brass instrument," says their dad, Brian Lee. "People usually are quite impressed, delighted, and/or surprised to hear a couple of kids improvising over jazz tunes. It's always fun to see someone look over and notice that there are two kids playing jazz on the streets. If I had a nickel for every time I heard, 'That trombone is as big as he is!', well, CLP would've gotten a much larger donation. And I'm obviously biased as their dad, but people passing by are usually impressed by the way these kids can play a bunch of tunes by memory and improvise jazz solos on the spot."

Even more impressive? The kids' desire to donate all their busking proceeds to charity, including the Library. "To date, they've donated \$1,086.77 to CLP. They've raised just under \$9,000 total over the past four years of busking for various charities," said Brian, who asked both kids to share their thoughts about why they choose to give back.

"I think it's important because it's important to help other people. I like seeing other people happy because of our music," said Eliana.

"I like it because I can help people in need and I like entertaining people," said Connor.

The fact that the kids chose to support the Library with their busking bucks reflects mom Natasha and dad Brian's strong belief in the value of literacy and the imagination it sparks for people of all ages. Not just for learning, but also for the sheer joy of curling up with a good book.

"Reading, in general, is obviously important and crucial for everyone. Providing free access for everyone to so many books and resources; supporting children so their knowledge, creativity, literacy, and imagination can grow; uniting cultures and communities; and closing economic and achievement gaps are just some of the many reasons CLP is so valuable," Brian said.

"I think it's
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it's important to
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I like seeing other
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music."

-Eliana Lee



A Year of Growth and Impact

As we mark one year into our 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, we're thrilled to share the progress we've made in fostering literacy, enabling exploration, and connecting with our community.



KEY MILESTONES IN 2024:

Creating Community Connections

Vivian Ann Davidson Hewitt Initiative:

Launched in March to support and celebrate BIPOC community members through artist residencies and the inaugural Hewitt Lecture with Dr. Carla Hayden, 14th Librarian of Congress.

Summer Reading Program

(READ-A-PALOOZA Book Bowl 2024):

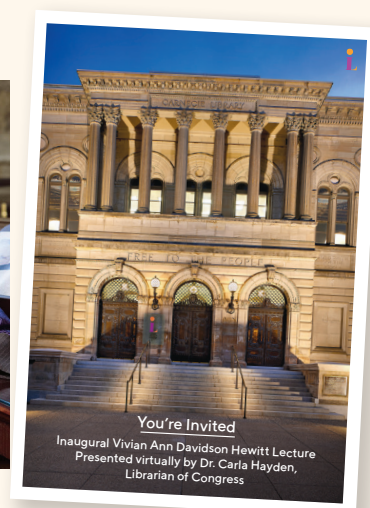
Partnering with Carnegie Science Center and CitiParks, we saw a 16% increase in registrations and a 43% rise in books logged. Team Sheraden's Gladiators won the overall Gold medal with a remarkable 1,600% increase in books read.

Teen Internship Programs:

Two new programs—Teen CEO in partnership with the Homeless Children's Education Fund, and a new 16-week CLP Teen Internship program, supported by the Eden Hall Foundation and Partner4Work—saw 100% completion rates, empowering local youth in job readiness.

CardFest:

We distributed 14,000 library cards to Pittsburgh Public School scholars, expanding access to dynamic programming, vetted research resources, homework help, mentor support, and more. The district-wide launch included specially-designed, already-activated cards that were mailed directly to scholars' homes—with materials available in 12 different languages. Every fall moving forward, new CardFest cards will be created for PPS kindergarteners, new students to the district, or those whose cards may be expired or lost.





Delivering Responsive Services

Extended Hours:

In March, we significantly increased our Library's accessibility in all locations by expanding library service hours by 93 hours per week, welcoming nearly 250,000 more visitors in 2024 than in 2023.

Hybrid Programming:

We introduced hybrid events, including lectures and job programs that were streamed across multiple locations.

Library of Things:

With 380 new items available to borrow, including board games and outdoor activities, 93% of these items were circulated by the end of the year.

Outdoor Spaces:

New tables and benches were added outside of CLP - Main where our neighbors can read a book, have a snack, or chat with friends.

Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) 2024 Children's Literature Lecture:

Together with the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information and Allegheny County Library Association, we hosted bestselling and multiple award-winning children's author Rita Williams-Garcia. Last held in Pittsburgh in 1989, the lecture is a national event for adults who work with children and/or who have an interest in children's literature.

Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books:

Continuing our work to support diverse authors, we led the third annual Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. More than one-third of the authors who participated in the festival were authors of color.

KEY MILESTONES IN 2024:



Strengthening Regional Cooperation

RAD Pass Summer Staycation:

100,000+ free admissions to various local attractions were made available to Allegheny County residents, with over 31,000 reservations made by library cardholders through RADPass (radpass.org). Originally intended to run from May 15 through August 31, the program was so popular that multiple partners chose to extend their passes through September.

Allegheny County Law Library (ACLL):

We celebrated one year of managing the ACLL, expanding services such as meeting room reservations and legal literacy programs.

Cooperative Allegheny Libraries Support (CALS) Initiative:

We launched new programs to support under-resourced county libraries and raised more than \$1.7 million from more than 9,400 donors for county libraries during 2024's successful Love Your Library campaign, which saw a 30% increase over the previous year.

Cultivating Organizational Excellence

Facilities Assessment:

A systemwide facilities assessment was completed, laying the groundwork for future maintenance and sustainability planning.

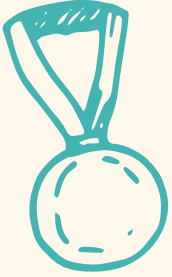
Staff Development:

Our first Staff Development Day in 15 years helped align our CLP team with our Strategic Plan and fostered deeper cross-departmental engagement.

Fundraising:

We surpassed our fundraising goal, raising more than \$4.5 million from more than 3,400 donors.

Championing Literacy and Inclusion



The Legacy of Karen Hoesch and Kenneth Jaros



For more than 15 years, Karen Hoesch and Kenneth Jaros have supported Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, fueled by a deep love of literacy.

“As a kid, my mother decided I would spend my Saturdays at CLP – Brookline while she worked,” said Karen, Executive Director of ACCESS Transportation Systems. “The librarian learned what I seemed to like and made suggestions of books that might challenge me more. I developed curiosity, self-confidence, and independence of thought from those Saturdays at the Library. I still remember the day I got my first library card (felt so adult) and the first time I was allowed to go alone to the main branch in Oakland and wander through those fabulous stacks with the ‘see-through’ floors.”

An adoration of books also began at a young age for Kenneth, retired faculty from University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public Health. “As a kid I would devour just about any adventure story that turned up in the little library at our small two-room school. My dad and grandpa loved to go to the weekly auction sale and see what kind of treasures they might find. Often it turned out to be a cardboard box filled with someone’s discarded hardback books, probably costing a quarter. What fun for a kid to sort through these and find something cool.”

Fast forward to 2023, when the couple founded The Karen B. Hoesch and Kenneth J. Jaros Fund, an endowed fund that provides flexible, everlasting support for the Library’s general operations and will help CLP adapt and evolve for decades to come.

A year later, Karen nominated CLP for the 2024 Richard Meritzer Award, which it won. The award was named in memory of Richard Meritzer, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh from 2007 to 2019.

“Libraries are safe and welcoming places within communities, but they have not always been accessible to people with disabilities. CLP is the trustee of many historic and architecturally significant buildings throughout Pittsburgh, many of which were built before or at the turn

of the 20th century when physical access was not a consideration,” said Karen in her nomination. “As opposed to the oft-heard excuse that historic buildings cannot be made accessible, or relying on imperfect afterthoughts, CLP has embraced the challenge with thoughtful and user-friendly solutions.”

As a donor, that level of sincerity left a lasting impression.

“CLP demonstrated commitment to inclusion in many ways; the bricks and mortar part of it is just what most people think of as accessibility,” she said. “If all the buildings were physically accessible but there was no culture of inclusion

“I feel like our financial support to CLP is really an investment in Pittsburgh as a whole.”

-Kenneth Jaros



and respect, they would still be inaccessible. I can trust CLP to keep inclusion as a guiding principle.”

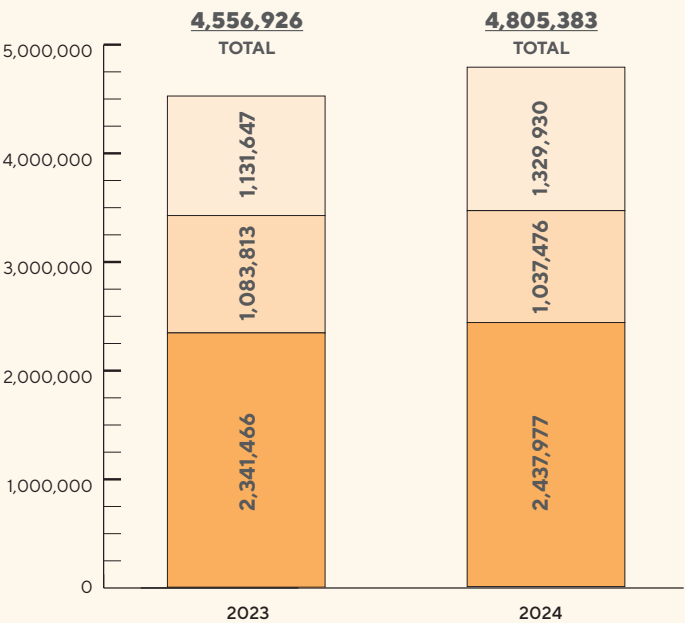
Support from donors like Karen and Kenneth provides a sustainable and reliable source of funding that preserves and advances the Library’s legacy for today’s patrons and future generations.

2024 by the Numbers

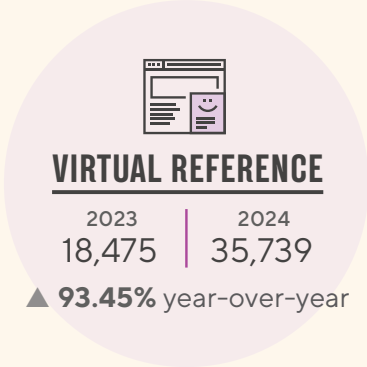
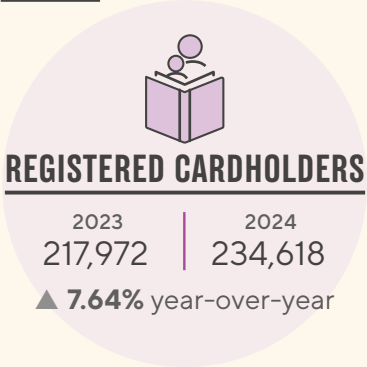
COLLECTIONS ▲ 5.45% change from 2023 to 2024

-  **eCirculation**
Includes Overdrive, Hoopla and Flipster
▲ 17.52% year-over-year
-  **LAMP (Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians) National Library Service (NLS) Circulation**
▼ -4.28% year-over-year
-  **CLP Locations***
▲ 4.12% year-over-year

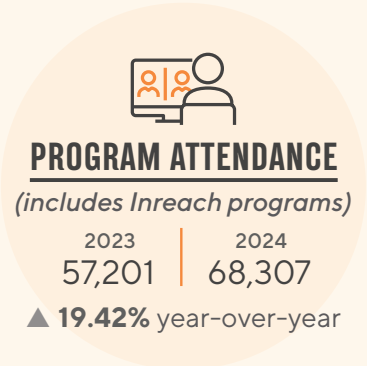
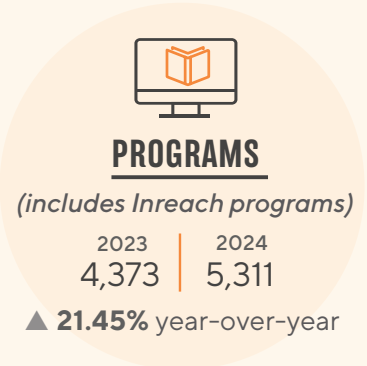
*Circulation includes CLP Locations, LAMP and the Allegheny County Law Library



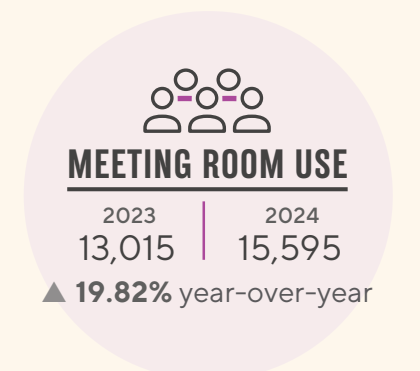
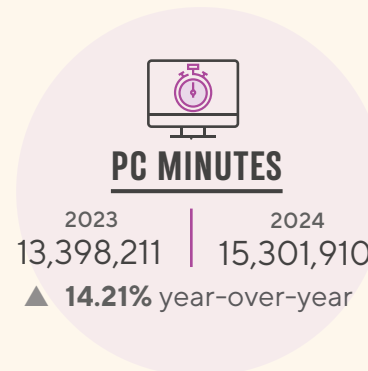
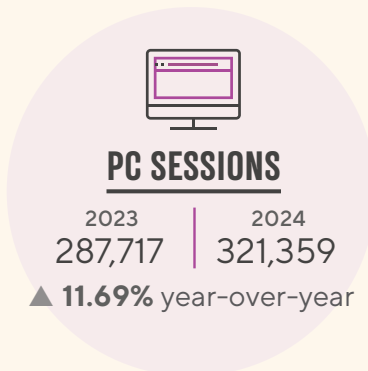
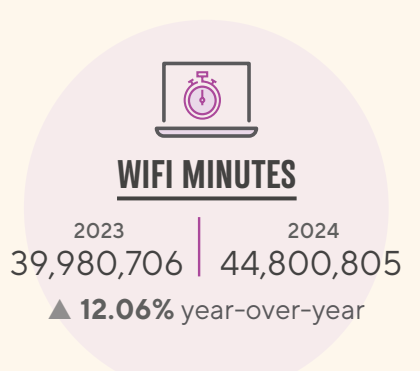
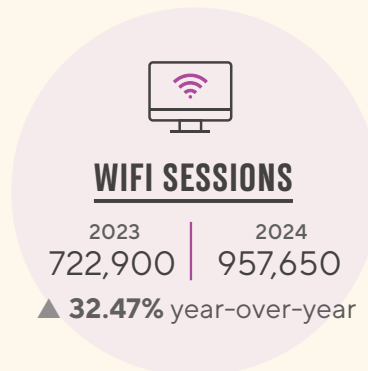
PEOPLE



PROGRAMS



SPACES



"I had the most heartwarming conversation with a former teen, now young professional, visiting the Library! He self-identified as a former 'bad teen' but said how much a particular Teen librarian meant to him and remembered coming to the Library on Saturdays to play games. He said it kept him and a lot of other teens on the right path. He asked if we still have a lot of teens visit here and was happy to hear how we are helping another generation of youth find their way."

- Excerpt from a customer visit to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - East Liberty

This is a wonderful reminder that sometimes we don't know until much later what an impact we have made.

**Carnegie Library
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is grateful to the
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who gave financial
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or made a gift in
a prior year that
continues to
provide revenue
for CLP.**

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Never could," Bianca laughs,
"but I can show you how to dance."
Bianca jitters, jives, bounces to the side.
It's no double Dutch, but Africa joins her.





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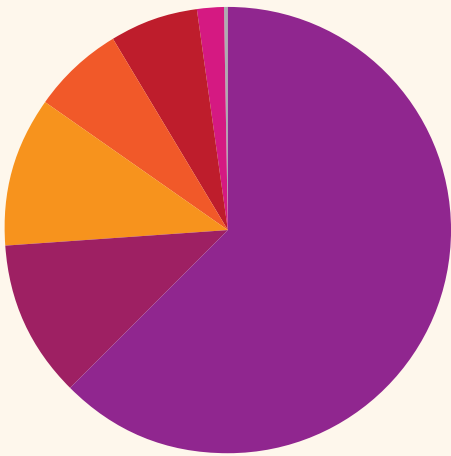
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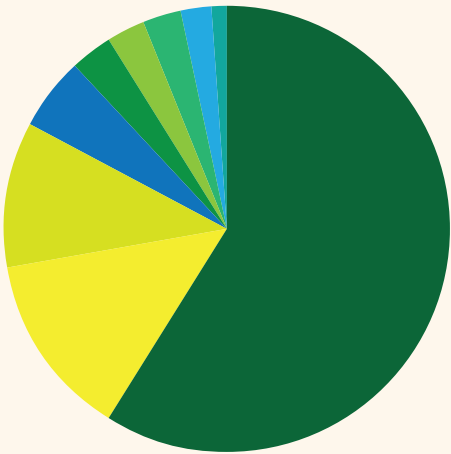
Financial Summary



2024 OPERATING REVENUES

62.5%	●	Regional Asset District	\$ 25,751,032
11.5%	●	Commonwealth of PA	4,711,533
11.0%	●	City Library Tax	4,530,438
6.6%	●	Fundraising (Annual)	2,736,187
6.4%	●	Earned Income	2,634,305
1.8%	●	Table Games	750,519
0.2%	●	City of Pittsburgh	68,471

TOTAL REVENUES \$ 41,182,485



2024 OPERATING EXPENSES

59.0%	●	Salaries and Benefits	\$ 24,307,575
13.5%	●	Library Materials	5,542,145
10.5%	●	Facility Related	4,322,705
5.3%	●	Supplies & Professional Services	2,197,190
2.8%	●	IT & Electronic Services	1,158,370
2.8%	●	Utilities	1,158,157
2.8%	●	Fundraising & Communication	1,144,956
2.4%	●	Debt Service	997,700
0.9%	●	Fund Balance	353,687

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 41,182,485

2024 Fundraising Revenues by Source & Purpose

	Unrestricted Operating (Operating Budget)	Restricted Operating	Capital	Endowment	Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians	Grand Totals
Individuals	\$ 692,435	\$ 43,952	\$ 199	\$ 237,161	\$ 21,025	\$ 994,772
Bequests	500	119,285	—	13,000	72,490	205,275
Corporations	531,039	—	—	2,500	500	534,039
Foundations	1,053,618	317,486	3,000	58,898	43,650	1,476,652
Groups and Organizations	458,595	22,493	850,000	1,000	2,200	1,334,288
Trusts	—	8,163	—	—	—	8,163
	\$ 2,736,187	\$ 511,379	\$ 853,199	\$ 312,559	\$ 139,865	\$ 4,553,189
Competitive Government Grants	\$ 28,471	—	—	—	—	\$ 28,471

This report reflects private philanthropic revenues received in 2024, as well as revenue from competitive government grant programs to support essential services that the Library provides.

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