

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

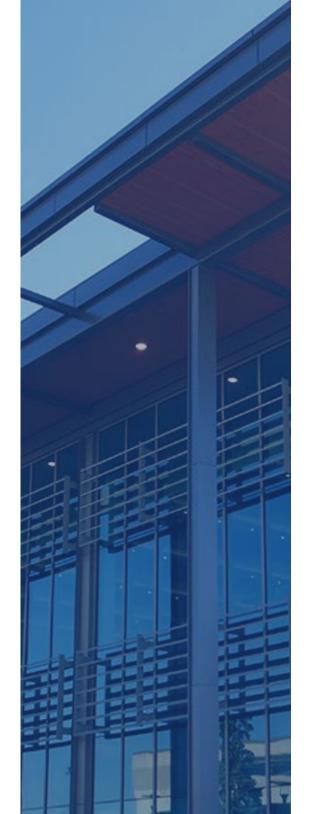
2023 was an exceptional year for the Carmel Clay Public Library. The first full year of operation in the newly renovated Main Library was notable for record visits and program attendance. The Joyce Winner West Branch was able to operate with its full schedule for the first time since opening in January 2020 and also received record visits.

The new Carmel Clay Public Library has received regional and national recognition. The most important recognition came from the community itself, evidenced by their usage of the library. The library set a record in new library card registrations in 2023 with over 10,000 new cards issued.

The library continues to be used in new and innovative ways. In 2023, area businesses and nonprofit organizations regularly reserved and utilized meeting spaces in the library. Incredibly, library study rooms were reserved by patrons over 30,000 times in 2023. The library's state of the art Digital Media Lab was used at an unprecedented level. The Video Recording Room in the Digital Media Lab was introduced in late 2023 and is in high demand.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the people who make the daily and wonderous happenings of the library possible: the amazing and talented library staff, the library Board, the CCPL Foundation, our local leaders, and, most importantly, our patrons.

Bob Swanay



2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ranjit Puthran President

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Casey Wilson Secretary

Rosie Foulke

Anne Hensley Poindexter

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Xiao Ou Yuan

MISSION

To inspire lifelong discovery, facilitate collaboration, and connect people with resources.

VISION

To support a diverse community of people committed to lifelong learning, an enhanced quality of life, and enriching social and cultural experiences.

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

2,075,215 CHECKOUTS (24% OF THEM DIGITAL ITEMS)

580,305 LIBRARY VISITS

154,255 QUESTIONS ANSWERED

64,716 LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS

30,482 STUDY ROOM USES

1,730 AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING ROOM USES

274 MEETING ROOM USES AN AVERAGE DAY AT THE CARMEL CLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY **438** QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY LIBRARY STAFF

92 STUDY, MEETING, AND RECORDING ROOM RESERVATIONS

4,478 PHYSICAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT

> **1,367** DIGITAL ITEMS CHECKED OUT

AUTOMATION

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1,649

VISITORS TO THE MAIN LIBRARY AND WEST BRANCH

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST YEAR

On September 30, the Main Library celebrated the one-year anniversary of its reopening. Visitors enjoyed face painting, table tennis, crafts, karaoke, tours, and refreshments. During its first year, the new library welcomed over 530,000 visitors who were excited to use the new spaces, browse for great titles to check out, and take part in fun and informative events.

The Main Library's expansive Community Room enables programs on a scale that was impossible before the renovation. Returning programs like the Green Gift Shop, the Model Railroad Meet, and the Foundation Friends book sales have had greater engagement than was previously possible. The 2023 3D Printing Expo connected over 1,500 guests with hobbyists, small businesses, and colleges who have a passion for this technology. Hundreds of families took part in the Halloween Celebration, and scores of attendees learned about local history at the Hamilton County Bicentennial-sponsored Clay Township History Fair.



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SOLAR POWER

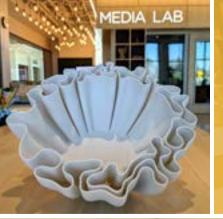
In September, the Main Library's new rooftop solar array began operation. The 552 modules can generate the equivalent annual energy of 45 homes and are expected to supply 20–30% of the library's energy needs.

3D PRINTING EXPO Click to Play

MEETING AND STUDY ROOMS

As part of the Main Library renovation, the number of study rooms was increased. Demand is consistently high with over 29,000 Main Library reservations and 1,000 West Branch reservations being made in 2023. Patrons are now able to rent Main Library meeting rooms for larger meetings when the rooms are not in use for library programs. These rooms, varying in capacity from 16 to 296 people, were utilized for over 200 nonprofit meetings and 58 business meetings in 2023.





StoryWall

A YEAR AT THE DIGITAL MEDIA LAB

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THE DIGITAL MEDIA LAB

After just one year as part of the Main Library, the Digital Media Lab is establishing itself as the premier place for the Carmel community to explore technology and develop digital creations. A series of photography programs and activities allowed patrons to practice their photography skills and encouraged them to utilize the Lab's resources for photo editing. The two Audio Recording Rooms have proven to be especially popular with local podcasters. Meanwhile, the Video Recording Room is utilized not just for video projects but also for photo shoots, giving patrons a chance to work with exciting equipment and edit their projects in a supportive environment. The Lab also introduced new 3D printers and filaments to help patrons realize their creative vision.

DIVERSE OUTREACH

In keeping with its strategic goal to bring greater diversity to its programs, the library launched several new initiatives in 2023. The library hosts a semi-monthly English as a New Language Conversation Group that welcomes more than a dozen people a month. The library expanded its World Languages Collection to include books in Arabic, Italian, Tamil, Telugu, and Ukrainian. The library also worked with Carmel's Sister Cities committees to develop a series of exhibits of cultural pieces from Latvia, Japan, and Italy as well as dual-language storytimes and StoryWalk installations. One special StoryWalk, created in partnership with the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, offered book text in Braille with tactile birdhouses for visitors to experience.



SENIOR OUTREACH

Library staff make outreach visits to four senior communities each month, bringing with them a specially curated selection of books that residents can check out. Library cardholders at these communities can also sign up for homebound delivery, and staff will bring a custom selection of items tailored to that patron's tastes. These senior outreach visits provide a powerful connection between the library and patrons who might otherwise have difficulty accessing library services in person.

TEEN LIBRARY COUNCIL

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TEEN LIBRARY COUNCIL AND YOUTH LIBRARY COUNCIL

The library's two councils for young people continue to allow local students a chance to engage more deeply with the library. Members plan special events for their peers and have a chance to help with library programs. They also share recommended titles through discussions, displays, and online reading lists.

"The Teen Library Council means a lot to me. It's not just about books. Being part of the council allows me to express myself and contribute to making our library a better place for teens. It's a space where I feel heard and valued, and I look forward to every meeting."

- Ankita, Teen Library Council member

WEST BRANCH TAKE-AND-MAKE KITS

The West Branch continues to find creative ways of engaging with its patrons through take-and-make kits. Over 60 different kits were offered in 2023, including monthly spice kits that allowed patrons to explore new ingredients and recipes from around the world. Other kits promoted STEM, gardening, and cultural awareness activities. The West Branch debuted a new takeand-make tradition by offering kits inspired by the Icelandic Jolabokaflod tradition, complete with hot cocoa, candy canes, winter-themed bookmarks, and a coupon for a free book from the Foundation Friends Bookstore. In all, over 8.000 kits were handed out to West Branch patrons.



PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

Through partnerships with other organizations, the library is able to offer a broad range of meaningful events. Recent examples include the mental health and family services seminars presented by the Chris Center, the exhibit and presentation offered with the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, and "Hear Our Stories: The Life & Afterlife of Incarceration," presented with Storytelling Arts of Indiana and other community partners. These collaborative efforts provide meaningful experiences and powerful connections. "I attended the 'Hear Our Stories' presentation, and it was excellent. The speakers were great and so brave and so personable. I was so pleased (and surprised) to see that kind of programming at our library. Thank you!"

- CCPL patron

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

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Winter Reading Program	Summer Reading Program	
Winter	CAMPEL CLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY	
Reading	Commergification Exception	
Program	POR BIOS, TEEMS, AND ADULTE	

Child Participation	539	2,369
Teen Participation	169	653
Adult Participation	288	842
Donations Earned	631 Donations for Kids Coats of Hamilton County	8,007 Donations for Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County

READERS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

Winter and Summer Reading Programs saw tremendous growth in 2023 with participation increasing 91% for the winter program and 63% for the summer program compared to the previous year.

CCPL FOUNDATION DONORS

\$10,000+

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\$5,000-\$9,999

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up to \$499

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!





2023 OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$4,780,247
Library Materials & Databases	\$1,699,937
Other Services & Charges	\$696,155
Building Equipment & Maintenance	\$499,093
Utilities	\$221,108
Supplies	\$177,102
Furniture & Equipment	\$120,016
Programming Costs	\$119,268
Capital Improvements	\$2,681

2023 OPERATING REVENUE

Property Tax	\$4,296,502
Local Income Tax	\$3,742,542
Interest Earnings	\$1,019,754
Local Income Tax, Special Distribution	\$846,445
License Excise Fee	\$358,768
Contributions	\$181,000
Fines & Fees	\$31,201
Other	\$38,394

carmelclaylibrary.org

MAIN LIBRARY 425 E. Main St.

JOYCE WINNER WEST BRANCH 12770 Horseferry Rd.

