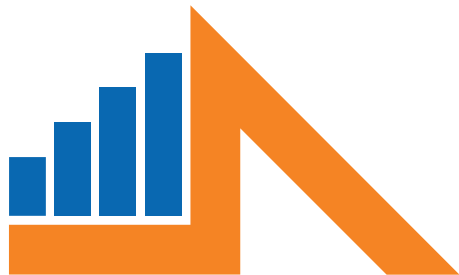
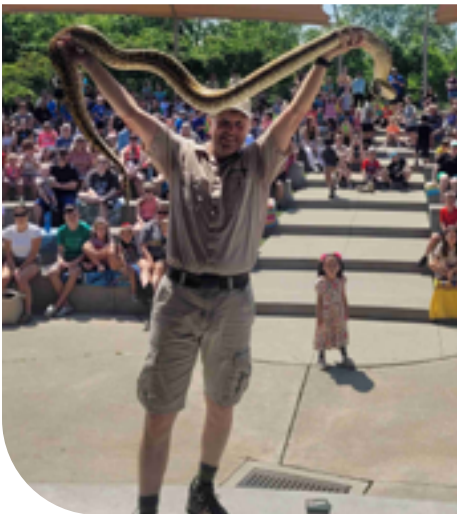


2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Akron-Summit County
Public Library





**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The Akron-Summit County Public Library has entered a period of exciting transformation, shaped by our community’s strength, changing funding realities, and a shared vision for a modern and welcoming library system.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Library staff, thank you for supporting the Library’s \$160 million Capital Bond Issue in May. This significant investment will fund essential capital repairs and allow us to renovate and modernize all 19 ASCPL locations to improve accessibility, technology, safety, and comfort. It will also expand the Springfield-Lakemore Branch into a full-sized facility. These improvements reflect our community’s commitment to lifelong learning, strong neighborhoods, and equitable access to resources across Akron and Summit County.

At the same time, recent state budget decisions have reduced funding for public libraries across Ohio, creating challenges as demand for library services continues to grow. The Board remains committed to responsible stewardship of public dollars and to advocating for stable, sustainable funding that supports the Library’s vital role in education, workforce development, family support, and civic life.

This past year also marks a leadership transition as we thank Executive Director Pamela Hickson-Stevenson for her dedicated service upon her retirement. Her steady leadership, principled decision-making, and deep commitment to our mission strengthened the Library and expanded our impact. We are grateful for her contributions and wish her the very best in her next chapter.

As we look ahead, we remain grounded in our mission and grateful for the continued trust and partnership of the people we serve.

Warm regards,

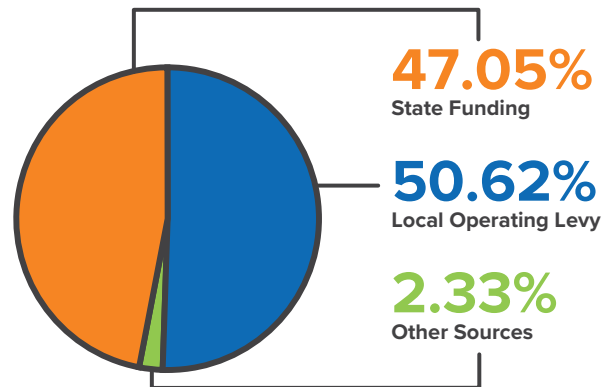
John L. Frola, Jr.
President, Board of Trustees

Pamela Hickson-Stevenson retired at the end of 2025 after seven impactful years as Executive Director. Having joined ASCPL in 2006 as Deputy Director and advancing to Executive Director in 2018, she provided steady, forward-looking leadership that shaped the organization’s growth.

Under her guidance, ASCPL successfully navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, expanded and enhanced services, modernized technology, and secured voter approval of a historic \$160 million bond to support critical facility improvements.



How our Library is funded...



2025 Revenue:

2025 Expenditures:

State Public Library Fund: **\$14,993,631**

Salaries & Benefits: **\$19,291,750**

Local Intergovernmental/ Levy: **\$16,131,225**

Supplies: **\$478,667**

Fees: **\$300,999**

Purchased & Contracted Services: **\$6,728,766**

Interest Earnings: **\$400,260**

Library Materials & Information: **\$4,252,710**

Contributions, Gifts, & Donations: **\$11,625**

Capital Outlay: **\$345,226**

Other Revenue: **\$293,355**

Other Expenditures: **\$204,899**

Interfund Transfers & Advance Out: **\$3,000,000**

Total Revenue: \$32,131,095

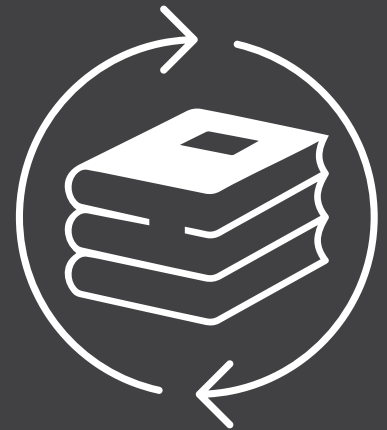
Total Expenditures: \$34,302,018

WHAT WE DO

The Library's broad offerings are carefully curated to meet the diverse needs of the community, ensuring that there is something for everyone. With 19 locations, including Main Library and 18 branches, as well as Mobile Services, we strive to provide extensive access to our resources.

Innovative services and collections such as the TechZone@Main Makerspace, the Small Business & Nonprofit Resource Center, the Art Library, the Accessibility Library, and the Library of Things exemplify our dedication to fostering creativity, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning.

We have a suite of digital resources accessible 24/7 to customers with a library card. Some of these include databases for leisure and learning, e-books, audiobooks, comics, movies, music, and magazines through apps like Libby, hoopla, and Kanopy.



**Total
Circulation**
4,615,483
Items Borrowed



Signature Event Attendance At Main Library



Dr. MLK Jr. Lecture

550

For over 40 years the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture Series has honored the legacy of Dr. King by featuring guest speakers on a wide range of relevant topics.



Book Fest

1,424

ASCPL's literary showcase featuring area authors, illustrators, and publishers. A celebration of books and writing.



GeekFest

1,577

An all-ages event for fans of comics, movies, manga, gaming, and television shows.

Presented in collaboration with the Akron Bicentennial & Akron-Summit County Public Library, "Dearest Enemy" was the first musical comedy score by the famous team of Rodgers & Hart. Presented at Akron's historic Goodyear Theater.

1,367
Attendance



Large Event Attendance At Library Branches



**Boo Bash at
Springfield-Lakemore
Branch Attendance:**

496



**Haunted Library
at Tallmadge Branch
Attendance:**

605



**The BLVD
Block Party
at Kenmore Branch
Attendance:**

740

ASCPL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES



Early Childhood Events

971
Programs

23,363
Young Children
Attended

Passports

The Library is an official Passport Acceptance Facility for the U.S. Department of State. We accept passport applications by appointment and also provide passport photo services.

2,164

U.S. passports processed

1,537

U.S. passport photos taken

Passport Services (including passport photos) are available at the following locations: Main Library & Nardon Hills Branch Library.

Short Story Dispensers

12,057
Stories
Distributed
in 2025



Storytimes

904 | **22,785**
Events | Attendees



The Accessibility
Library
Supporting Summit County

The Accessibility Library is a groundbreaking resource center dedicated to enhancing accessibility at festivals, performances, community gatherings, and cultural shows—at no cost to users, thanks to the support of its partners. Access these resources today at

akronlibrary.org/accessibility-library.



**FAMILY
READING
FESTIVAL**

1,512
Attendance

Songs, dance, and play are at the heart of the Family Reading Festival. 2025 marked our 17th year hosting the event, which features literacy-rich activities, special performers, and free book giveaways for families in our community.



1000 Books Before Kindergarten

children is the single most important thing adults can do to prepare them for kindergarten. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is a fun way to develop early literacy skills!

Lit Loot

Lit Loot is a themed monthly box that is available to those in grades 4-12. Each box contains two books to borrow and an assortment of goodies to keep! Lit Loot is designed to introduce young readers to new materials and to support a love of reading.



894
Kits
Distributed
in 2025

StoryWalks®

Bath Community Park Trail
(Fairlawn-Bath Branch)

Trail at the John Torok Community
& Senior Center (Green Branch)

Carter-Pedigo Trail (Richfield)

A StoryWalk® is a self-directed activity that allows all ages to read a picture book page by page along a park trail. Free and open during park hours, ASCPL has three permanent StoryWalk® Trails, which provide a unique opportunity to connect with nature and our community.



THANK YOU

The Akron-Summit County Public Library gratefully recognizes the individuals, families, funds, and organizations whose 2025 contributions to the Library's Endowment Fund at the Akron Community Foundation provide lasting support for our mission and future.

Ricky Allen	Culp Family Charitable Fund	Mallory Neumann
Wilma Anderson	The Carol & Eric Blum Fund	Casey Newman
Melvin Andrews	Cassi Galloway	Ann Otto
Ms. Erin Armstrong	Tonya Gardella	Hannah Paulin
Drs. Mark & Sandy Auburn	Dr. John Gerstenmaier	Michael & Janet Pera
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Patricia Barzacchini	Barbara Gravatt	Heather Pollock
Jim & Linda Beck	Pamela Gujrati	Mary Prchlik
Margot Beesley	Ann Haas	Ryan Pulis
Geri Beha	Ken Hampton	Gurinder Rana
James W. Bell	Michael Hayes	Karen Richter
Renee Bissett	Edward Herzog	Cathleen Ruble
John Blischak	Elizabeth Hickson	Kathy M. Salem
Julie Botnick	Teresa Hughes	Michelle Scarpitti
Rebecca Bralek	Allan Johnson III	Kathleen Scilla
Harriet Calcagno	Judy & Jeffrey James	Betty Jo Scurei
Karen Bozzelli Campbell and Jim Campbell	Jon Keppel	Rev. Dr. Sandra Selby
Ms. Robin Carduner	James & Rhonda Kroeger	Roger Marble & Nancy Shaw
Tom & Karen Clark	Dana Beezley Kwasnicka & Jan Kwasnicka	Robyn Shondel
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Marguerite Erme	Denise McGuckin	Glenn Swenson
Justis Estell	Sherra McLeod	Wendy Turrell
Carlynn Fitzgerald	Christine Meske	David Ulrich
The Richard and Alita Rogers Family Foundation	William & Elizabeth Meyer	Kathleen Waits
Bethany Foutty	Randy & Karen Mitchell	Kellie Walsh
Springfield - Lakemore Library Friends	Julia E. Moore	Jerry Wasson
Bill and Anne Lowery Fund	Angela Neeley	Laura Watson
		Susan Yingling
		Dean Young



150 attendees joined us across 28 teams — Main Library was buzzing from start to finish. With sponsorships and ticket sales combined, we raised

\$12,859

in support of Library programming.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Akron Children's, Akron Rubber Ducks, Associated Underwriters Insurance, Davey, Friends of Main Library, Kastner, Westman & Wilkins, LLC, Roetzel, S.A. Comunale, and Stifel.



\$31,500

in support of Summer Reading.

Special thanks to our Summer Reading sponsors: Acme Fresh Market, College Advantage, County of Summit, Friends of Main Library, Cleveland Clinic Children's

GRANTS RECIEVED

\$16,000

Beatrice McDowell Family Fund

\$5,870

State Library of Ohio - Library Services & Technology Act

\$5,000

Akron Community Foundation

\$500

Junior Leadership Akron



OhioMeansJobs

OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) is Ohio's free career counseling center that connects job seekers with businesses and provides career services to all Ohioans. ASCPL partners with OMJ career coaches to provide guidance on resumes and job searches, as well as with interview preparation.



Hope & Healing

The Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center (HHSRC) aims to empower survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking through emergency shelter, crisis services, and enhanced support. ASCPL partners with HHSRC by hosting drop-in hours to connect the public to case managers who provide resources, emotional support, and education.



Summit County Job and Family Services

Summit County Job and Family Services (SCJFS) Case Managers provide guidance with turning in documents, applying and reapplying for assistance, reporting case changes, and answering case or eligibility questions. ASCPL partners with SCJFS to provide on-site office hours at several Library locations, allowing the public to meet one-on-one with case managers.



New Bookmobile

The new Bookmobile made its debut at the Akron Bicentennial Parade on July 5.

Now that the new Bookmobile has entered regular service, you've probably noticed it around Akron. The city's landscape is celebrated in the design of the art that graces the new bookmobile. Those paying close attention to the vehicle will notice several nods to the place we call home, including: the Signal Tree; the unmistakable Burr Oak standing in Cascade Valley Metro Park, the Northern Cardinal, Ohio's state bird, the iconic lighter-than-air blimp, and the downtown Akron skyline, complete with church bell towers and recognizable skyscrapers, this element is a favorite among Library staff!



Akron History Center

In April 2025, after decades of planning, the dream of an Akron History Center finally became real. The Akron History Center has 3,000 square feet of exhibits on three floors.

The 3,000 square feet, three-floor building on Main Street houses more than 60 exhibits and 150 artifacts, accompanied by 30 flat screens with video presentations of historical figures and moments. It was all thoughtfully curated by a team of local historians and is managed by ASCPL's Special Collections Division.

READING PROGRAMS

Summer and Winter Reading programs at ASCPL are designed to keep people of all ages engaged with reading year-round, especially during times when routines change. Summer Reading, in particular, helps prevent the well-documented “summer slide,” a learning loss that can occur when students are out of school. By encouraging consistent reading through incentives, challenges, and events, the library supports literacy development, comprehension, and vocabulary growth. Winter Reading programs extend that momentum into colder months, when people may be more isolated and in need of engaging, enriching indoor activities.

These programs promote lifelong learning and community connection. ASCPL uses reading challenges, themed activities, and interactive events to make reading feel social and rewarding

rather than solitary or obligatory. Participants often explore new genres, authors, and formats like audiobooks or graphic novels, broadening their literacy skills and personal interests. At the same time, library programming fosters a sense of belonging by bringing together families, students, and adults in shared goals, reinforcing the library’s role as a community hub.

Beyond literacy, the benefits include improved mental wellness, increased motivation, and equitable access to resources. Reading Programs give participants structured goals and positive reinforcement, which can boost confidence and reduce stress. They also ensure that all community members, regardless of income or background, have access to books, digital materials, and educational programming.

Summer Reading



SUMMER READING
100 YEARS

13,098
Participants

Winter Reading



3,181
Participants



BUILDING OUR FUTURE

To ensure our libraries remain safe, accessible, and equipped for the future, we have embarked on a system-wide capital improvement plan. The improvements funded through this plan will allow every ASCPL location to better serve residents for decades to come. In April, we released a Space Usage Feasibility Study conducted by Bostwick Design Group. The study provided recommendations from staff, residents, and community stakeholders to ensure our facilities meet current and future community needs. In May, voters approved a \$1 million, 20-year bond issue, generating \$160 million dedicated exclusively to capital improvements at all 19 ASCPL locations.

In June, we purchased a standalone building for the Springfield-Lakemore Branch, enabling us to offer the same capacity of service available at our other branches. In September, the Library Board of

Trustees approved a system-wide design contract with Bostwick Design Partnership; then in October, the Board approved Independence Construction to serve as Construction Manager at Risk for Main Library, Ellet Branch, Nordon Hills Branch, and Tallmadge Branch. Renovations across the 18 branch locations will occur in phases to minimize service disruptions. As planning and construction progress, we will continue to share updates, timelines, and project details. Our goal is to keep the community informed every step of the way.

Follow our updates at akronlibrary.org/building-our-future.



Akron-Summit County Public Library
 60 S. High St. Akron, OH 44326
akronlibrary.org



facebook.com/AkronLibrary



instagram.com/akronlibrary



linkedin.com/company/akronlibrary



tiktok.com/@akronlibrary



threads.com/@akronlibrary

MAIN LIBRARY

Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm
Friday: 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Drive-Up Window closes ten minutes early.

BRANCH HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm
Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: Closed

SPRINGFIELD-LAKEMORE BRANCH

Monday: 12 pm - 8 pm
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 pm - 6 pm
Thursday: 12 pm - 8 pm
Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: Closed



AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND

An Akron Community Foundation Fund 



Donor support of the Library's Endowment Fund at the Akron Community Foundation helps individuals and families in our community access the essential library services, programs, and resources they need to make their lives easier and better. To donate today, scan the QR code or mail your donation to:

Akron Community Foundation
 Attn: ASCPL Endowment Fund
 345 West Cedar Street, Akron, OH 44307