



2022 Annual Report

BOISEPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG



Note from the Director

Welcome to the Boise Public Library's 2022 Report to the Community!

Thank you to everyone who visited and used the Library in 2022. Following two years heavily shaped by COVID disruptions, we have been so gratified to welcome you back with more in-person programs and events. This report will highlight for you some of the great ways we've been able to engage with you this year.

In 2022 we kicked off an effort to develop a new strategic plan for the Library. We gathered feedback from the community about how, together, we can shape the future of the Library. Thank you to everyone who participated in our listening sessions and to the nearly 2,400 of you who took our community survey. We heard loud and clear how much you appreciate the work of Library staff, how much you value the diverse collections we have both in print and electronically, and how much you want the Library to serve everyone in Boise. The thoughts and ideas you shared with us have inspired us to think more about how we can build on our accomplishments from 2022 and provide even more opportunities to learn, play, and create in 2023 and beyond.

Boise has a bright future ahead and we're excited to be a part of it.

Thank you for being a Boise Public Library user and supporter.

– *Jessica Dorr*



Note from the Board President

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am very pleased to introduce this annual report.

The Board of Trustees provides oversight of the Library, sets policies, and ensures Library resources are well-spent in support of community needs. As a board, we have been heavily focused on strategic planning this year and have enjoyed discussions with the community about the Library and its future.

My fellow trustees and I believe one of the most important key insights from the strategic planning process was that the community is not aware of everything the Library has to offer. We believe this annual report will help show how the Library supports everyone who lives in Boise. You'll learn about programs such as the Ultimate Book Nerd, Summer Reading, and the Boise Comic Arts Festival. You'll also get a chance to learn about some of the technology investments that are making the Library more efficient and helping to serve you better.

It is an honor to serve on my fellow Boiseans as a Trustee of the Library and I look forward to seeing you at the Library.

– *Brian Klene*



By the Numbers

Library visitor count by branch:

252,405

Main Library

56,815

Library! at Collister

50,143

Library! at Hillcrest:

91,399

Library! at Cole and Ustick:

85,969

Library! at Bown Crossing:

Total Visitors:

536,731

The Urban Libraries Council released a new tool that provides libraries the opportunity to estimate the impact of their business services called the "Business Value Calculator". The calculated impact the Boise Public Library provided was \$1,280,569.99 in economic value to entrepreneurs and businesses, including support for:



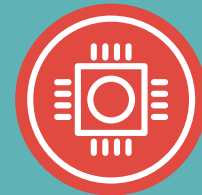
Training
+ Education:
\$10,800.00



Research
Services:
\$1,155,567.38



Physical
Space:
\$64,110.00



Technology
+ Equipment:
\$50,092.61

Programming snapshot for each branch:

Main Library	1,285 Programs	18,234 Participants
Library! at Collister	965 Programs	16,845 Participants
Library! at Hillcrest	847 Programs	6,516 Participants
Library! at Cole and Ustick	984 Programs	15,556 Participants
Library! at Bown Crossing	490 Programs	8,812 Participants

4,571

Total programs
facilitated

66,963

Total program
participants

3 Million+

visits to our
online library
catalog

9,676

new library
cards issued

100,000+

requests
for information
or services

1.3 Million

print books
circulated
throughout
Boise

926,497

digital and
audio/visual
books
circulated

2,269,148

total
materials
circulate

Increased Programs and Services

Mental Health Coordinator

In 2022, we joined a growing number of libraries across the U.S. that employ a dedicated social worker. Ashley Hammond started with the Library on May 31st as our first Mental Health Coordinator. Ashley's primary function is to help residents find the resources they need to live a safe, happy, and healthy life. Adding Ashley to the Library has allowed us to better meet the needs of our users who increasingly look to us for help with housing applications, rental assistance, substance abuse, mental health, or a life crisis. She also has allowed us to expand our reach by working closely with local service organizations.

Libraries have always provided a safe space for people to access resources and services to help them navigate their own set of unique challenges. "People come to the library for information and resources when they don't know where else to go. Librarianship and social work are so aligned with their ethics and their values." - Ashley Hammond

Ultimate Book Nerd

Back again by popular demand, the Ultimate Book Nerd has proven to be a very popular Library program because it helps readers identify new books and stories all year long. The challenge is simple: read 50 books in one year, easy, right? What if we told you that instead of just reading 50 books, you had to read 50 books with completely different challenge categories. For example: maybe one week you're reading a book set in the future and the next you're reading something translated from Spanish. As if that wasn't enough, the next category you would have to tackle is reading something from a celebrity book club!

The Ultimate Book Nerd challenge was created to respond to the many requests we heard from our users who asked us to recommend books to help them expand their reading lists with a specific focus on exploring our large and diverse collection. Participants continue to share with us how much they enjoy expanding their reading horizons and sharing book recommendations for each category on our Facebook page. We are thrilled to continue to offer this program and hope to see more Ultimate Book Nerd t-shirts around Boise!

Summer Reading

There is no better way to kick off summer than with a Summer Reading & Learning Celebration! Nearly 1,000 people came out and partied with us and our partners at JUMP!, including the Ada Community Library, Boise School District, Idaho Public Television, and Rediscovered Books. Boise Rock School put on incredible performances that kept the party lively and rocking all day long.

Participation for 2022 Summer Reading drastically increased from the previous year, which was very encouraging, especially after the pandemic.

	2021	2022	INCREASE
Registered (Goal = 4,500)	3,614	4,445	+23%
Readers who logged days	2,233	2,568	+15%
60-Day Prize (Goal = 1,350)	961	1,440	+49%
Books Redeemed	3,566	5,515	+54%
Days Read	77,391	133,619	+73%

This program is vital to the community because it helps prevent the decline in literacy that happens during long breaks known as the "summer slide". The goal of the program is to make reading a fun, daily habit. Our aim is to ensure that good stories are accessible no matter where you are in life or what circumstances you are experiencing.



Boise Comic Arts Festival

2022 brought another celebration with the 10th Annual Boise Comic Arts Festival (BCAF). The event took place at a few new venues, including Zoo Boise, the Idaho State Museum, and the Main Library. It featured new programs, workshops and panels, twenty-five guest creators from across the country, and an expanded schedule which included three days of activities. Highlights include:

- **BCAF at Zoo Boise.** Through a partnership with Boise Parks and Recreation, we hosted a free day at the zoo for nearly 7,000 participants featuring cosplay competitions, presentations, performances, and an outdoor Artists' Alley with creators, vendors, and exhibitors. Additional activities took place in Julia Davis Park, including a LEGO exhibit and a superhero training camp for kids.
- **BCAF Teen Mentorship Program.** Another new feature of the event was our Teen Mentorship Program for aspiring comics creators. Three high school artists partnered with mentors who helped them learn to vend at a comics festival, including how to have their artwork printed, how to best display and price their work, and included how to engage with potential customers. One of our guest creators shared a message he received from a mentee's mother after the event: "My son learned so much and was so happy to be part of it. He took what you all said and is taking his characters and starting his comic...This mentorship was a life changer for him. What you guys say really matters. As a momma I am beyond grateful he was able to experience these life teachable moments."
- **Librarians & Educators Day at the Idaho State Museum.** For the first time, we offered a free, professional development opportunity for librarians and educators to help them better engage with students interested in reading or creating comics. The day included panels and workshops with comics and library professionals and featured creator spotlights, instructions on making comics with kids, and a publisher spotlight.

BCAF X was made possible through the generous financial support of the Boise Public Library Foundation, the Friends of the Library, and Sparklight.



Improved Access



Ida App

2022 saw the official rollout of our new digital app, Ida – An Idaho Library App! The app is available for iOS and Android devices and makes it easy to access your Boise Public Library account on-the-go. With Ida, you can:



SEARCH THE CATALOG



PLACE HOLDS TO PICK UP LATER



MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNTS



REQUEST CURBSIDE PICKUP



CHECK OUT BOOKS



VIEW OUR CALENDAR AND RESOURCES

More Reading! More Books!

In 2022, we prioritized refreshing the collections which get used the most, particularly picture books, expanding sought after collections, and providing more access to titles in languages spoken by our refugee and immigrant communities. We added digital resources and streaming services, and we partnered with other Idaho libraries to expand access to e-books and e-audiobooks.

- Over 42,000 physical items added to the collection
- 300,000 retrievals from 31 digital resources
 - Added: New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Oxford English Dictionary
 - Completed Idaho Statesman Historical Archive so that we have access to the full archive starting in 1864

Creating Safe and Welcoming Facilities



Wi-Fi at all Locations

One of the consistent requests we've received from our users is to expand the reach of our Wi-Fi network. During the pandemic, many users would access our public Wi-Fi network from outside of our buildings, whether it was in a safe outdoor space or from a vehicle. In response, we installed additional technology and seating to expand the reach of our free, public network. We know how much the public appreciates this expanded access because we see people sitting outside our buildings with laptops and phones before, during, and after we are open to the public!



Improving the Checkout Experience

Checking out books and other print material is the cornerstone of what libraries offer. We know our users want to check out their books as quickly as possible and we've heard from many of you how much you appreciate self-service. We installed new kiosks this year which are more efficient and ADA accessible. The new kiosks feature larger screen sizes, a better user experience, diversified functionality, and a touch of fun with their multicolored displays!



New Library Card Designs

Library Card Designs – A Collaboration with the Department of Arts & History

In late 2021 we held a public vote to pick three new library card designs to add to our selection. “Traversing into Wonder” by Miguel Angel Almeida, “Reading Time with ‘Readworthy’” by Julia Green, and “A Paper Fairyland” by Beth and Cate Williamson received the highest number of votes and were printed and distributed in January 2022.



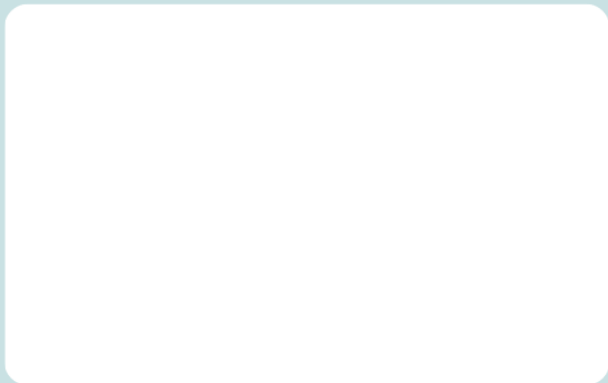
TRAVERSING INTO WONDER:

Miguel Angel Almeida’s card design was inspired by the joy and adventure books can bring to children, teenagers, and adults. The style and bright colors reflect Mexican architecture, ceramics, and clothing, celebrating his Latinx/e community.



READING TIME WITH READWORTHY:

Julia Green credits the Library as her earliest inspiration to draw and paint. Julia hopes her illustration of Readworthy reminds people of what inspired them as children and encourages them to look back at those early memories to help inspire them today.



A PAPER FAIRYLAND:

Childhood fairy tales inspired sisters Beth and Cate Williamson to design this intricately crafted paper scene. The interplay of light and shadows create an atmosphere of wonder, indicative of the imaginative spark that reading brings to everyone.

Branch



Highlights:

Words from our Branch Managers

“ Heidi Lewis, Main Library

“At the Main library downtown, we collaborated to create new partnerships with the community. Programs such as “Lawyers in the Library” allowed low-income individuals and families to connect with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program. Monarch Landing, part of the International Rescue Committee, offered tours and library cards for refugees of all ages.”

Our Main Library’s Home-based Services team delivered more than 325 placemats—created by kids and caregivers, scout troops, staff, and community partners—to bring cheer to individuals and senior living communities throughout December, including the holiday luncheon hosted by Boise Park and Recreation’s Dick Eardley Senior Center.”



“ Joni Hansen, Library! at Bown Crossing

“On May 18th, 2022, Bown Crossing celebrated its fifth year as part of the Bown Crossing community with games, cupcakes, activities, and a live band. And a big birthday party was just the start of the fun. In 2022, over 5,000 people attended programs at the library. We started three distinct storytimes – toddlers, babies, and Music and Movement – and have reintroduced school-age programs to the community. Our Lego Club and our Pokémon League have stellar attendance and our partnership with the BSU eSports Arena has led to some memorable Mario Kart Tournaments. Our Stitch Niche group returned and is rebuilding its membership and adults have flocked to our book club and craft nights. We also checked out over 350,000 items over the course of the year, the majority of them for children.”





“ Huda Shaltry, Library! at Hillcrest

“At the Library! at Hillcrest branch, we did it all in 2022! With over 200 programs and nearly 2,000 participants, we stayed busy. After a couple of years of reduced operation due to the pandemic, we wasted no time re-engaging with the community. With events like book folding, “crafternoons”, giftwrap party, and speed friending, there was no shortage of fun to be had. When Mayor McLean took the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge, we dove headfirst into the challenge to create a sustainable future for the community. We gave away 200 plants, celebrated World Bee Day, and connected library users to the outdoors through Storytime in the Park.”



“ Renee Addington, Library! at Cole & Ustick

“At the Library! at Cole & Ustick branch, we made it a point to re-engage our community after the pandemic with over 51 outreach events and 250 programs. We offered a plethora of programming and events as well as our “Grab and Go” kits, so there was a way for every library user to rediscover the magic that they had missed over the last couple of years. Our effort to expand programming served as a reminder that libraries are more than just a place for traditional education - the community had the opportunity to interact with the world around once again and explore new ways to learn and grow.”



“ Jennifer Villalobos, Library! at Collister

“At the Library! at Collister branch, you’ll be hard-pressed to find a more artistic and creative bunch. Our spooky décor and costumes were always a Halloween hit, drawing in library users from all neighborhoods to participate in pumpkin decorating, papier mache, and more! Halloween wasn’t the only time that you saw our crafty team bust out the markers and paint. We had over 3,000 people attend our programs, many of which emphasized the importance of living sustainably. We participated in the Global Cardboard Challenge and created a masterpiece from recycled materials. There were enormous castles built out of milk jugs, and if that wasn’t enough, we took it one step farther to give back to the planet by starting our very own seed library!”

Planning for the Future

For nearly 130 years, the Boise Public Library has been a valued community asset providing open access to knowledge, stories, and ideas for all Boiseans.

Our city is growing rapidly, and we are experiencing transformative changes like technology advances and a global pandemic that have altered the way we provide services in so many ways. These changes present an opportunity to create a Library of the future to serve the community for years to come.

To write the Library's next chapter, we started by listening to the people of Boise. We gathered data and feedback to understand where to focus our efforts and how to strengthen the Library's role in our community. We focused on addressing questions such as:

- Do our programs and services reflect our community's needs and wants?
- How can we create a welcoming environment for everyone?
- Where can we make the biggest impact and set bold goals for the years ahead?

We held seven listening sessions, attended various community events, interviewed individuals and organizations, offered visioning activities in our libraries, and conducted an online survey that had over 2,300 responses. We are grateful for all the input the community shared with us during this first phase of the project!

This initial phase led to establishing strategic priorities:

1. **Expand Access:** Make our collections, programs, and services available when, where, and how people want them.
2. **Increase Impact:** Create valuable experiences for every resident and meet their needs at every stage of life.
3. **Optimize Resources:** Modernize, strengthen, and streamline our operational capabilities.
4. **Measure Value:** Establish impact and performance metrics and use data for decision making.

With established strategic priorities, we can build a framework for what success looks like in the future. We look forward to finalizing this plan in 2023 and serving you even better!



Library

Board of Trustees

President, Brian Klene
Vice-President, Rebecca Lemmons
Trustee, Phil Magnuson
Trustee, Nicole Trammel Pantera
Trustee, Natasha Rush

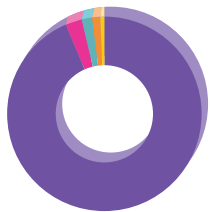
City of Boise

Mayor and Council

Mayor Lauren McLean
Council President, Holli Woodings
Council President Pro Tem, Jimmy Hallyburton
Council Member, Patrick Bageant
Council Member, Luci Willits
Council Member, Latonia Haney Kieth
Council Member, Colin Nash

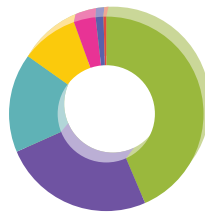
The impact of the Library is made possible by generous donations from the Friends of the Library and the Boise Public Library Foundation. These organizations provide support for our reading programs, BCAF, and staff development.

Financial



REVENUE:

General Fund	\$14,377,748
Lynx Consortium	\$393,682
Capital Fund	\$294,338
Donations	\$182,278
Other Revenue	\$45,687
Internal Charges	\$21,643
Departmental Revenue	\$18,024
Fines & Forfeitures	\$7,450



EXPENSES:

Personnel	\$6,531,332
Indirect Cost Reimbursement (IRC)	\$3,801,635
Maintenance & Operations	\$2,490,044
Materials (Including Digital)	\$1,445,934
Capital Fund	\$634,258
Lynx Consortium	\$162,554
Donations	\$127,131
Other (Transfer Out)	\$15,883



To learn more about the Boise Public Library, including how to support the Library, please visit our website, www.boisepubliclibrary.org.