

West Des Moines Public Library

ANNUAL REPORT

2021
2022



Sparking Endless Creativity



A message from the Director:

Depending on your age, you may remember going to your local public library at the end of the school year to sign up for the summer reading program. If you were, like me, the sort of child parents definitely did NOT have to bargain with to make them interested in eating, you might have done your reading with an eager eye on that end-of-the-summer personal pan pizza that a certain nationwide pizza chain would make for those kids who read the required number of books by the end of the summer.

It may interest you to know that, though the rewarding carbohydrates have largely been taken out of the equation, summer reading as a program continues for ALL ages at the West Des Moines Public Library. As I write this, the summer 2022 program is already well underway, and we've got over 2,200 registered readers in the program just so far.

The 2021-22 school year was a challenging one as we reopened to the public for the first school year after our renovation with the Teen Center complete. It didn't take long for us to see sizable crowds of teens unwinding in the library, especially in the after-school hours. On behalf of staff, I want to thank the West Des Moines Police Department (especially the school resource officers), City DEI director Audrey Kennis, Youth Justice Initiative Director Jen Hahn and our partners at the West Des Moines Community Schools for their support, insight and action taken to help us manage this influx of teen patrons. You all were invaluable to creating positive change in our Teen Center this year.

In addition to the array of activities taking place under the roof of 4000 Mills Civic Parkway, we continue to expand our Homebound and Outreach services to reach patrons who might not be able to visit our physical building. We now host library collections ranging from 75-100 items in 15 elder care/ memory care facilities in the area.

In FY2022 we were able to reach over 1,300 patrons through our homebound or elder care programs.

Another bright spot has been watching the use of our 24-Hour Library Kiosk in Valley Junction continue to increase. This 235-item vending-style machine allows patrons to browse, select, check out and return library materials 24 hours a day. If you haven't had a chance to explore our new fixture in the Valley Junction community, consider spending some time looking at it. The Kiosk is located behind the Valley Junction Activity Center at 217 5th St, West Des Moines, IA 50265.

Here at the West Des Moines Public Library, we take our mission to heart, always aiming to provide convenient, timely and equal access to information and ideas; offering engaging activities, opportunities for personal and professional growth; and promoting the love of reading and learning while remaining responsive to the changing needs of the community. Thank you for being on this journey along with us each time you and your family use our library's services.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darryl H. Eschete".

Darryl Eschete
Director

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Library
HIGHLIGHTS



DART Storytime, June 2022



Mental Health Awareness Month, May 2022



Summer Reading school visits, May 2022



Patrons visit the 24-hour Valley Junction Kiosk, November 2021



After School Adventure, October 2021



Outreach at Fall Fest at Middlebrook Farm, October 2021

BY THE NUMBERS

We loved watching our numbers soar in FY2022!



4,833

new library cards



51,893

reference questions answered



682,555

physical items checked out



55,745

e-books downloaded



58,574

e-audiobooks downloaded

42,021
card holders

40%
of West Des Moines residents hold library cards

248,673 library visitors

132,859 visits to our website

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

FACEBOOK

28,666
engagements

FACEBOOK

565,029
impressions

INSTAGRAM

80,190
impressions

TWITTER

163,625
impressions

MOST POPULAR CHECKOUTS

Of all the items borrowed this year, these were the most popular.



PROGRAMS



815
programs & events

21,931
attended programs

HOMEBOUND & OUTREACH

The West Des Moines Library continues to serve patrons who are unable to access our physical building by delivering via our Homebound and Elder Care Outreach programs.

931
individual
homebound
deliveries

175
care facility
deliveries

1,300+
patrons served
via homebound
or elder care

15
participating
care facilities

1,125
materials in
elder care
facilities

VOLUNTEERS

215 volunteers

1,750 volunteer hours