

West Des Moines Public Library

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022  

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2023



**Igniting Curiosity**



# A message from the Director:

A new fiscal year is underway, and the upcoming school year is set to start soon. Statistics indicate that this summer has brought us back to nearly pre-COVID levels of usage and participation. As of now, 2,900 people have signed up to use Beanstack, our summer reading participation tracker, for this year's program. That's a 30% increase compared to the same time last year.

Whenever I have a few minutes of free time in the afternoon, I leave my office and take a walk through the building to gauge the level of activity. On many afternoons, the children's area is bustling with excited children and caregivers engaged in block or toy play or reading together. Meanwhile, focused computer gamers guide their Roblox characters across their screens, and quiet young readers sit cross-legged on the floor, flipping through books. It's truly gratifying to see our community gradually leaving behind the anxiety of the past decade and rediscovering the world outside.

Looking ahead to the rest of this fiscal year, we have some exciting projects in store. Firstly, we will be installing new, upgraded elevators to address the known issues. Additionally, we are nearing the completion of a new outreach vehicle, made possible through collaborative funding efforts between the library and the West Des Moines Public Library Friends Foundation. Our intention is to use this vehicle to connect with library users, especially young users, out in the community.

The design of the truck will allow us to park in places like parks and schools, creating a mini open-air library experience with easily browsable shelves. We can hardly contain our excitement for its arrival and the subsequent unveiling, scheduled for later this year or early next, depending on supply and production schedules aligning.

While it would be impossible to highlight everything the library is doing or is planning to do in the coming year in the space I've got, know that everything we do is done with meeting the needs of West Des Moines residents in mind. We invite you to come in, spend time with us and tell us how you think we're doing. The library belongs to everyone in West Des Moines and our contract community of Cumming and we expect the arrangement to be more conversation than lecture.



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

**Darryl Eschete**  
Director

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**\$100,000+** **donated by**  
**the Friends**

# HIGHLIGHTS



Live-Action Clue, October 2022



Adult Craft Night, April 2023



Valley Junction Farmers Market, June 2023



Balloon animal class, October 2022



Library NERF Battle, April 2023



Card-making class at Valley West Apartments, November 2022

## BY THE NUMBERS

Here's a snapshot of how our patrons used the library this year.



**5,326**  
new library  
cards



**46,396**  
reference  
questions  
answered



**800,898**  
physical items  
checked out



**59,517**  
e-books  
downloaded



**75,350**  
e-audiobooks  
downloaded

**42,317**  
card holders

**41%**  
of West Des  
Moines residents  
hold library cards

**244,474**  
library  
visitors

**143,874**  
visits to  
our website

### SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

**FACEBOOK**  
**30,384**  
engagements

**FACEBOOK**  
**618,364**  
impressions

**INSTAGRAM**  
**75,569**  
impressions

**TWITTER**  
**60,086**  
impressions

# MOST POPULAR CHECKOUTS

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



## PROGRAMS



878

programs & events

35,811

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.

968

individual  
homebound  
deliveries

191

care facility  
deliveries

1,300+

patrons served  
via homebound  
or elder care

18

participating  
care facilities

1,350

materials in  
elder care  
facilities

## VOLUNTEERS

438 volunteers

2,900 volunteer hours