

A LIBRARY  FOR EVERYONE



2023

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ANNUAL REPORT

Making an Impact





INSIDE BY PAGE

A Message from Joslyn.....	3
By the Numbers.....	4, 5
Stories to be Shared.....	6, 7
Progress on Priorities	
Equity & Anti-Racism	8
Engagement.....	9-10
Learning.....	11-12
Stewardship	13-15
Collaboration.....	16-17
Friends.....	18
Donors	19

MISSION & VISION

Our library’s mission is to share the information, services, and opportunities that fulfill Oak Park’s aspirations. Our vision is to empower every voice in our community.

PRIORITIES

Our library strives to be a library for everyone, one that prioritizes:

- Becoming an equitable and anti-racist organization;
- Connecting people and building community;
- Creating capacity for literacy, learning, and lifelong skill development; and
- Sustaining, sharing, and respecting community resources.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report shares examples of library work in 2023 that has made an impact—measurable and anecdotal—on the individual people it serves and the overall community it supports. Thanks for reading and for using your public library, Oak Park!



ON THE COVER

In April, we cut the ribbon on the new Creative Studio with the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce. **Read more on page 11.**



A MESSAGE FROM JOSLYN

Hello, Oak Park! As I wrap up my first full year as your public library's Executive Director, I'm sharing a few highlights that are memorable to me from 2023:

January: We shared news of our Five-Star Status awarded by Library Journal.

April: We cut the ribbon to debut Oak Park's newest makerspace, the Creative Studio.

April, May, and June: We implemented a three-month series of Community Listening Sessions at various library and community locations—to connect, live and in person, with you. And to gather your feedback on services, spaces, and programs for future planning.

June was a busy month! With trustees from our Village, we declared Oak Park a Book Sanctuary Community. We received local recognition from the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association and national recognition from the American Library Association's Sustainability Roundtable for Wellness in the Workplace. We also were nominated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, in the area of diverse collections and artifacts, and we're hoping to hear back this spring on next steps!

September: We created Oak Park's Library of Things, a nontraditional collection fully funded by a generous bequest from our beloved former head librarian and Oak Park luminary Ms. Barbara Ballinger.

October: We celebrated 120 years as a public library, 20 years in the current Main Library building, and, as an unprecedented number of book bans continued to occur throughout the U.S., our continued "Freedom to Read."

November: We supported a local business and brought in fresh coffee—for sale in the Main Library Lobby—courtesy of Kribi Coffee.

December: We launched our first Pop-Up Shop, selling branded "A Library For Everyone" merchandise—an effort to explore how, as a local government agency, we can try to build upon and diversify our sources of revenue.

In the midst of these wins, and with libraries across the country, we faced a wave of anonymous bomb threats (mark this as another thing you never thought you would have reason to learn in library school). By banding together with other libraries to share strategies and best practices, we supported each other and Oak Park staff members with onsite counseling and therapy dogs—to attempt to lessen the stress and keep on serving Oak Park.

With your continued support, I look forward to the good things to come—in 2024 and beyond!

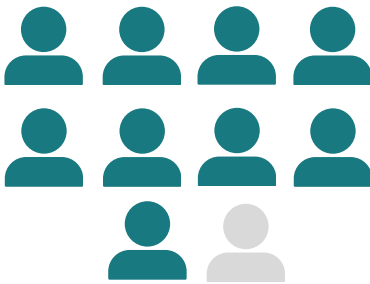
**In service and gratitude,
Joslyn Bowling Dixon
Executive Director
joslynd@oppl.org**

BY THE NUMBERS

As a Five-Star Library, our mission is to share the information, services, and opportunities that fulfill Oak Park’s aspirations. To evaluate how we fulfill that mission, we collect, analyze, and share stories and data to better understand the library’s impact on our community. [Review our core statistics dashboard \(updated monthly\) here »](#)

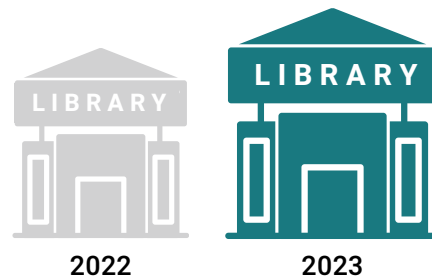
91%

Surveyed patrons who are very satisfied



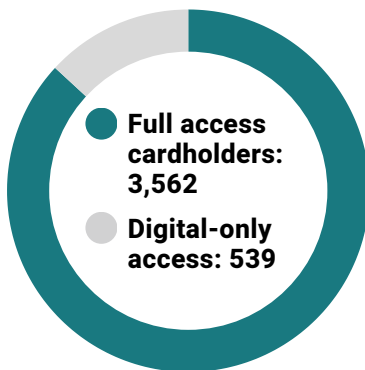
371,003

In-person visits to all 3 spaces (up 22% from 2022)



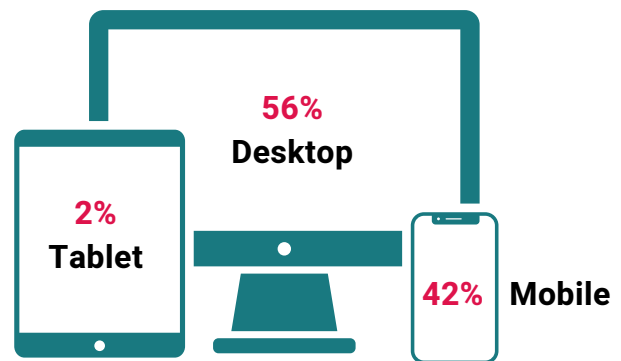
4,101

New library users



405,832

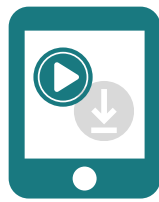
Website users



- Five-Star Library: Library Journal’s Index of Public Library Service 2022 ranking. Out of the 5,359 libraries reviewed, Oak Park was ranked #3 in the country in its expenditure range (\$5-\$9.9 million).
- Surveyed patrons: 90.6% of active cardholders who responded to our Net Promoter Score (NPS) survey in 2023 (n=713) rated the library a 9 or 10 in response to the following question: “On a scale from 0 (not at all likely) to 10 (very likely), how likely are you to recommend the library to others?”
- In-person visits: The number of patron visits to the Oak Park Public Library’s three physical locations.
- New library users: The number of new account registrations (digital-only accounts or full-access library cards). Digital-only accounts became available to community members in March 2020. Users who obtain digital-only accounts and later convert to full-access cards are only counted once.
- Website users: The number of people who initiated at least one session on oppl.org.



1,469,524
Library materials circulated



430,298
Digital catalog items
downloaded or streamed



1,039,226
Physical items checked
out or renewed

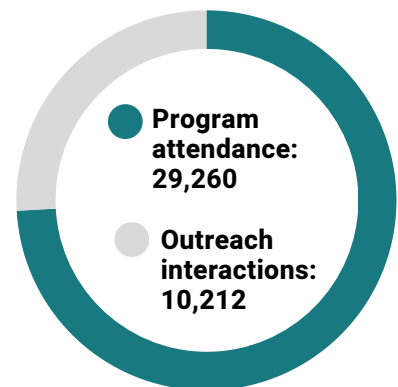
85,609

Online resource sessions across
130+ vetted research tools



39,472

People reached via onsite
and offsite library programs
& outreach visits



This included **13,733** materials delivered directly to patrons where they live and work, and **1,396** materials distributed at community events via Oak Park's Book Bike.



- Library materials circulated: Digital circulation is the number of materials downloaded or streamed from Oak Park library collections. Physical circulation is the number of checkouts plus renewals made at an Oak Park library location.
- Online resource sessions: The total number of sessions (logins) for all online resources requiring an Oak Park card, based on vendor statistics.
- People reached: Program attendance is the number of attendees at programs held inside an Oak Park library location or in a library virtual space. Outreach is the estimated interactions from all outside-the-library visits (in-person and virtual) and Book Bike events. (Note: The number shown above is not a count of unique individuals reached during the year; it is the sum of attendance/interactions logged at each unique program or outreach event.)

STORIES TO BE SHARED

Stories fill our buildings' stacks—and are happening in our spaces all year long. This 2023 story timeline includes just a few examples that help shape the bigger picture of how library work impacts our community.



JAN



Launched new teen mentorship programs
Through partnerships, we offered three new ways for youth in grades 6-12 to learn, build relationships, and grow in academics, job readiness, health, relationships, and overall confidence and self-awareness. [Read more »](#)

FEB



Celebrated Black History in the Idea Box
Our Multicultural Learning Coordinator celebrated Black community leaders in the Main Library Idea Box, along with artwork and artifacts from the community. [Read more »](#)

MAR



Dedicated more to sustainability
We hired a new Environmental Programming Specialist to help connect people to resources, information, programs, and community groups focused on sustainability. [Read more »](#)

APR



Kicked off community listening sessions
We began our series of nine public listening sessions hosted by Executive Director Joslyn Bowling Dixon and library staff. In all, more than 250 individuals participated! [Read more »](#)

MAY



Geared up for all-ages summer reading
Why should kids have all the fun? Our Collections Team created a new adult summer reading program with activities, badges, and prizes. [Read more »](#)

JUN



Supported democracy and the freedom to read
The Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees approved a new resolution declaring the Village of Oak Park a Book Sanctuary Community. [Read more »](#)

JUL



Went big for Disability Pride

Through programs and our first-ever Disability Pride March, we worked with community members to celebrate and advocate for disabled people. [Read more »](#)

AUG



Won award for teen mental health partnership

Since 2019, the library has been partnering with researchers from Northwestern University to develop a digital tool to help teens with anxiety. [Read more »](#)

SEP



Launched Library of Things collection

In response to community demand, we launched a new collection of nontraditional library items for cardholders 18+ at the Main Library! [Read more »](#)

OCT



Celebrated our freedom to read and 120 years

We celebrated our 120-year history and shared how to support the fight against book bans nationally and locally, including handing out 120 "Freedom to Read" kits. [Read more »](#)

NOV



Honored with community LGBTQ+ award

OPALGA+ (Oak Park Area Gay and Lesbian Association) recognized our "outstanding efforts on behalf of LGBTQ+ people in Oak Park and the surrounding area." [Read more »](#)

DEC



Shared best titles and gift picks

Librarians curated books, movies, and more in their "Best of 2023" lists, plus a gift guide with titles to engage, educate, and inspire all ages. [Read more »](#)

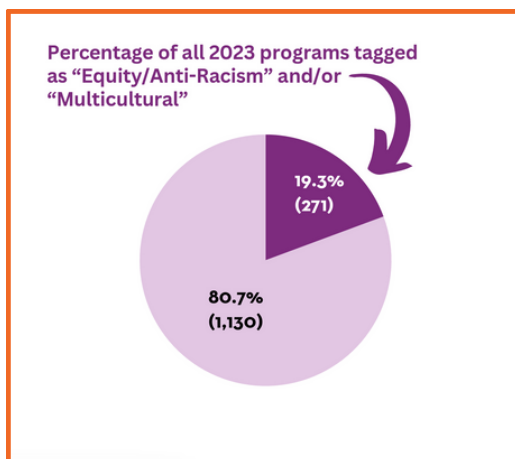
The best way to get the most out of your library experience? Subscribe!

Email is green, flexible, and it is budget friendly. That's why we use 10 different emails to share how what's happening here may interest or benefit you. In 2023, we introduced our first community partner email with the Collaboration for Early Childhood. To see what's available, and manage your promotional library email preferences, visit oppl.org/subscribe.



We prioritize relationship-building and meaningful collaboration in our efforts to advance anti-racism and equity.

Oak Park’s third annual Uniquely You Tea Party (held in February and in honor of Black History Month), created a safe space for girls ages 8-12 who identify as members of the African diaspora, with honest conversations about race, equity, colorism, body image, friendship, and leadership. Girls were encouraged to find and use their voice to become stronger leaders and anti-racist advocates. To be seen and heard, they were encouraged to take the mic and to dance, including down a Soul Train-style line!



Learn more at oppl.org/equity.

OPALGA+ (Oak Park Area Gay and Lesbian Association) recognized our library for “outstanding efforts on behalf of LGBTQ+ people in Oak Park and the surrounding area.”

The library’s Executive Director Joslyn Bowling Dixon accepted the OPALGA+ Mel Wilson Founders Award at the OPALGA+ Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Gala on October 22.

“Tonight we recognize a local champion of free expression,” read the event program. “At a time when the essential freedom to read is under attack, libraries across the state and across the country have been the most visible targets. Oak Park Public Library has never wavered. They are a leader in challenging the growing library censorship movement, which has focused on banning books by and about LGBTQ+ people and other marginalized groups.”



We facilitated connections among diverse audiences through shared community aspirations and experiences.

'The Work': Black History of Oak Park—in the Idea Box

In honor of Black History Month, the second annual Black History Museum in the Main Library Idea Box honored Black Oak Park history and the leaders who defied racial barriers to lay the foundation of this diverse, progressive village. “My mission in life is to create the Oak Park that did not exist for me as a child, so that other Black and Brown children may see themselves reflected in the culture of our village,” said Multicultural Learning Coordinator Juanta Griffin, who curated this first-of-its-kind showcase of Black history in Oak Park, honoring Black leaders past and present. [Read more »](#)

Weekly Spanish-Language Storytimes

Community member and library collaborator Kathy Valdivia began offering Cuenta Cuentos con Kathy, a monthly Spanish-language storytime for families with young children. Due to popularity, the program grew to be offered weekly. In October, Valdivia offered a storytime at the ¡Viva! Oak Park Hispanic Heritage Month Festival, a collaboration by the Village of Oak Park, the Oak Park Township, the Oak Park Latine planning committee, and the library. The festival was part of a wide range of Hispanic Heritage Month programs planned by Latine Language and Culture Librarian Nora Sanchez. [Read more on page 16.](#)

Our First Disability Pride March

For Disability Pride Month in July, the library offered storytimes, film discussions, an inclusive dance workshop, and a peace circle for people who have disabilities that are not apparent. We also hosted Oak Park’s first Disability Pride March, after community member and disability advocate Kruti Parikh Shah brought the idea to Children’s Librarian Shelley Harris, who then made it happen. On July 15, disabled people and allies marched inside and outside the Main Library. They held signs bearing messages like “No one walks alone” and “Inclusion Matters” and “I am a person, not a problem.” As Shah said, “the library is setting the bar really high.” [Read more »](#)





Hip Hop Fashion Show

Our library was one of more than 30 organizations around the country—including other libraries, museums, colleges, universities, and archives—partnering to celebrate the culture of hip hop as it turned 50. The collaborative initiative, Collections of Culture: 50 Years of Hip Hop Inside Libraries, Museums and Archives, was led by the Queens Public Library and funded by a \$267,760 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In Oak Park, we put on a Hip Hop Fashion Show and held film screenings, spoken word and arts workshops, a T-shirt design contest, karaoke in the Idea Box, and more. [Read more »](#)

Community Listening Sessions

More than 250 individuals participated in our series of nine public listening sessions hosted by Executive Director Joslyn Bowling Dixon and library staff. We asked questions to gain insights into three specific areas: library services for older adults, library spaces, and library-led programs. For the widest reach, we held sessions in different locations: at the entrance to or directly outside library buildings and at the What’s Blooming on Harrison and A Day in Our Village festivals. While community members certainly had suggestions for improvements, we heard no shortage of positive feedback and appreciation for all the library provides to Oak Park—in particular, the welcoming, caring, and helpful library staff who make it all possible. [Read more »](#)

Intellectual Freedom, Book Bans & Censorship

Each fall, we gather to celebrate and recognize former head librarian Barbara Ballinger and her 32 years of dedicated service to the library and to Oak Park. In November, three experts on censorship and intellectual freedom (Emily Knox, Kelly Jensen, and Dr. Lucy Santos Green) took to the stage in an at-capacity Veterans Room for a frank panel discussion. Here are some words of wisdom we heard them share:

- “Freedom to read is an apple-pie issue. But there are nuances in the conversation, reflected in the four Rs: redaction, restriction, relocation, and removal.”
- “There are great lacks of perspective. Because everyone has their own life experiences. And their own way of interpreting text.”
- “The effects of these organized efforts [to remove books from library shelves] are hyperlocal. What can you do? Ask yourself: What are my skills? What one piece of this work can I participate in to strengthen and uphold my community?”

Find more resources shared during the event at getreadystayready.info.



Nick Posey and Anthony Ortiz Ferrer test out equipment in the Audio Booth in the Main Library's third floor Creative Studio. The 8-by-12-foot Audio Booth is a quiet space for audio recording and editing.

We worked to prepare people for continuously changing technology and to improve lives through opportunities that create new skills.

After listening to our community, refurbishing our spaces, and investing in technology that Oak Parkers asked for, the Main Library Creative Studio opened for all kinds of digital learning possibilities in spring 2023.

"I've never been this excited to make noise in the library before," said Supervising Librarian of Creative Technology John Gargiulo during an April ribbon-cutting event and open house kickoff with members of the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce (pictured on cover).

The Creative Studio offers staff-led learning plus wider opportunities for independent learning and activities. Thanks to the advocacy of State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, the library received a \$25,000 Illinois State Library grant to build out the space, which includes 3D printers, a large-format printer for posters and other oversize print jobs, an acoustically treated Audio Booth, software and tools for creating and editing professional-quality audio and video

content, and media preservation equipment for digitizing analog media such as VHS tapes. Special thanks to the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library for their support in purchasing a laser cutter.

"We are thrilled to be able to realize the promises made in our strategic plan to focus on preparing people in our community for continuously changing technology," the library's Executive Director Joslyn Bowling Dixon told the crowd assembled in April.

Since then, patrons have used Creative Studio equipment to record podcasts, mix albums, design logos, digitize videos, and more. For example, author Gwen Tolios used the Audio Booth to record and edit the audiobook to her third book.

"I'm still learning, but super excited to do so!" Tolios told us. "I really appreciate library staff answering questions."

[Learn more about the Creative Studio »](#)



(Above left) We offered one-on-one help, including workshops and Learning Labs, which are scheduled one-on-one sessions in which patrons can get guidance on a technical topic directly from a library staff member. Learn more below. (Above right) In March, families with students in grades K-8 experienced the wide world of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) at hands-on stations throughout the Main Library. This partner event with Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and the Oak Park Education Foundation drew around 500 people!

Individualized Tech Learning

Learning Labs allow patrons to make an appointment with a library staff member to get individualized support with a technical topic. Throughout 2023, demand grew and the types of requests expanded. In addition to help with computer and smartphone basics and Google Workspace and Microsoft Office apps, patrons sought support with Creative Studio technology, including audio production, 3D printing basics, laser cutter design, and analog media digitization.

The opportunity to schedule one-on-one appointments provides more focused support and learning for patrons, plus it gives staff a chance to research the topics beforehand. Patrons have expressed a great deal of appreciation for the individualized support that staff provide through Learning Labs. “Having things explained in a variety of ways until the content clicks for me is fantastic,” patron Sharon Eckhoff told us. She signed up for Learning Lab sessions in 2023 to get help with a new computer, and she told us these sessions allowed her to progress at her own speed, work on the exact things she needed, and free her from “being a burden in other relationships.” [Read more »](#)



Teen Summer Interns

Say hi to (from left) LaChawn, LJ, and Skye, who interned at the Main Library this summer (and posed for both serious and silly photos on their first day). We hope these three high school students had fulfilling learning experiences that may lead them to pursue a future career in library services.

We provided broad, effective, and equitable access to resources.

Book Sanctuary Community

Across the U.S., a movement has been growing to censor books in schools and public libraries. These attempts overwhelmingly target books by and about people of color and members of LGBTQ+ communities. We provide access to a wide range of reading materials crucial to democracy, and we've long upheld the freedom to read through our policies and practices. Thanks to ongoing conversations, in June the Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees declared Oak Park a Book Sanctuary Community. This resolution affirms Oak Park as a champion of diverse and inclusive books and making challenged and endangered books accessible to everyone. [Read more »](#)



Library of Things

You asked, and we answered—by building and then launching Oak Park's first Library of Things. The collection, which debuted in September, offers items in four unique categories: Do It Yourself (DIY), Entertainment, Outdoor, and Technology. Cardholders can check out a wall stud finder, an electric drill, a karaoke machine, a telescope, tennis rackets, a utility wagon, laptops loaded with Creative Suite software, WiFi hotspots, GoPro action cameras, and more. Items in the Library of Things have the potential to build capacity for literacy and education, prepare people for continuously changing technology, improve patrons' lives through opportunities to create and learn new skills, and provide equitable access to resources. [Read more »](#)



Free Printing & Copying Services

"I use the Maze Branch often," one cardholder told us in a July survey. "Thanks so much for computer and printer access. Also your team members are always helpful."

We began offering free printing and copying services in March 2021, which proved to be popular among both patrons and staff. But as the library transitioned into full access and services post-COVID, this unlimited service became unsustainable. In June, we began implementing new procedures to ensure that printing and copying could remain free to patrons while still being sustainable. Cardholders can now print or copy up to 50 pages for free each day, and we are seeing a clear impact on the volume of printing and copying, as well as paper and ink usage.





We invited everyone into library spaces that are welcoming, safe, and inspiring.

Essential Heating and Cooling Equipment

In late November, our Facilities Team oversaw a crucial maintenance project needed to ensure everyone's comfort inside the library and uphold our stewardship responsibilities: the long-awaited replacement of a 170-ton unit known as Chiller 1 at the Main Library. The Main Library requires two rooftop chillers to control the building's temperature and humidity. The typical lifespan of each is 15 years, and we made the decision to replace the 20-year-old Chiller 1 after it failed and would have required at least \$60,000 in known repairs, with no guarantee that more wouldn't be needed. The new unit, which will be operational by 2024, also will be more environmentally friendly, with predicted energy savings over time as well as updated refrigerant that does not contribute to ozone depletion. We have budgeted for a tentative replacement of Chiller 2 in 2024, because it is also past its lifespan and will eventually need to be replaced.

"Ooh, a Computer With a View!"

In September, we were pleased to achieve a long-term goal of having more versatility in the layout and location of computers on the third floor of the Main Library. We added 28 new outlets and data ports to the third floor, allowing for increased flexibility and access for patrons. This meant we were able to move all 14 public computers to study carrels positioned along the west wall of the third floor. Individual use tables were also moved to be near the other power outlets along the wall, allowing patrons to have increased access to outlets for personal devices, all while looking out over Scoville Park. Both staff and patrons report positive feedback from this move, and we are looking forward to the flexibility this provides for collection locations on the third floor. One patron told us it felt like a private office, and another said, "Ooh, it's a computer with a view!"



We supported library staff to achieve happiness, well-being, and success.

Wellness in the Workplace

At the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago in June, our library was awarded the 2023 Citation for Wellness in the Workplace. This award celebrates libraries that go above and beyond in meeting the wellness needs of their staff, and it was awarded to us for our ongoing efforts to support overall well-being for our library staff through engagement programs, professional development opportunities, and policy improvements. “We are grateful to be recognized for the work we’ve been doing and will continue to do to improve our staff’s overall well-being,” said Director of Human Resources Billy Treece. “We appreciate everyone who has supported, informed, and worked hard to make and keep well-being activities and initiatives a priority at our library, including our library’s Well-Being Committee members and Board of Library Trustees.”

[Read more »](#)

Joint Conference of Librarians of Color

In February, 14 staff members who represent diverse identities, experiences, expertise areas, and library service areas and positions traveled to the national Joint Conference of Librarians of Color conference. The conference explores issues of diversity in libraries and how they affect the communities of color that use library services. “I most appreciated being able to spend substantial quality time with my colleagues who also identify as library workers of color,” said one staff member. “I formed and strengthened bonds with my colleagues, which I think is vital for well-being, feeling happy and fulfilled at work, and being able to give more of myself to my job.”





We acted on our shared values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, collaboration, and compassion.

¡Viva! Oak Park Hispanic Heritage Month Festival

The ¡Viva! festival, held in October on the south lawn of Village Hall, was a huge success that drew roughly 600 community members. It was a collaboration between the Village of Oak Park, the Oak Park Township, the Oak Park Latine planning committee, and the library to support and celebrate our Latine and Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month. The festival featured bounce houses, face painters, games, food trucks, piñatas, craft vendors, a showcase of Latine-owned businesses, and music and dancing from three outstanding performers: ESSO, the Center of Peruvian Arts, and Mariachi Sirenas. The library was there with a Spanish-language storytime, the Mexican game Lotería, and books and library cards via the Book Bike.

Latine Language and Culture Librarian Nora Sanchez (pictured above at left, with community member Alma Martinez and Village of Oak Park Community Relations Coordinator Cassandra Adediran) said that attendees expressed gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate Latine and Hispanic culture in such an authentic and meaningful way. “The ¡Viva! Oak Park Festival succeeded in bringing the community together and showcasing the diversity and vibrancy of Latine culture, leaving a lasting and positive impact on all who attended,” she said. Oak Parker Kisa Marx said, “It was everything I love about community spread out on the Village Hall lawn.” And a local teacher said, “I didn’t want to leave the event; I saw many of my friends and my students enjoying themselves so much.”

Teen Mental Health

Our research partnership with Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine, in year four of a five-year grant, won an award for its strong collaborative research principles and work to impact health and equity in Oak Park and neighboring communities. The partnership’s goal is to provide accessible, evidence-based mental health services to local teens, particularly those from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic communities and those who most experience health inequities. [Read more »](#)





We acted on our shared values of access, education, and literacy, accountability, and sustainability.

Open Books

Since August, we've partnered with Open Books to host a book donation bin behind the Main Library. This option is available when we are not collecting for the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library Book Fair. Open Books' mission is to transform lives through reading, writing, and the unlimited power of books. Since 2006 they have been collecting used books and selling them to support their literacy programs in Chicago, including the Austin neighborhood. Open Books collects approximately 1.5 million donated books every year and repurposes them by selling them as used inventory in its retail bookstores or by providing them free-of-cost to children and families who lack access to books, through direct book grants, book nooks, and other community-based initiatives. Open Books' reading and writing programs engage children, their caregivers, and volunteers in and out of school, typically in Chicago Public Schools, and complement community-based organizing tools to strengthen literacy among families, particularly on Chicago's South and West Sides.

Youth Mentorship

In 2023, we collaborated with three organizations to offer new ways for youth in grades 6-12 to build relationships, learn with their peers and mentors, and grow in their schoolwork, job readiness, health, relationships, and overall confidence and self-awareness.

- **YourPassion1st** offers the weekly Access Granted Male Mentor Program to improve outcomes through academic and social support, including quality mentoring and coaching, challenging and engaging curricula, a team approach, and strong ties to family and community.
- **A Greater Good Foundation** offers weekly group mentoring to students of any gender in the You, Me, We: Co-Ed Mentoring Program, providing a comprehensive Restorative Social Emotional program to help students gain self-awareness and build healthy relationships and community.
- **Oak Park Township Youth Interventionists** and our library's Middle School Services staff host Tea Talk for middle schoolers of any gender.



THANK YOU, FRIENDS

As a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library have raised funds and built valuable bridges between the library and community since 1948. [Learn more about our Friends »](#)

- Doris Adamczewski
- Darah Aldridge
- Robert Becker
- Kathleen Bell
- Loretta Bober
- Eric Bryning
- Paul Buchbinder
- Jane Bularzik
- Peggy Conlon-Madigan
- Ellen Cutter
- Doug Deuchler
- Susan Doyle
- Jean Edwards
- Sheila Elliott
- Jon Fjortoft
- Nancy Fjortoft
- Laura Font
- Russell Glidden
- Stuart Greene
- Eric Gyllenhaal
- Nancy Hartmann
- Linda Heying
- Julia Howland
- Shelena Johnson
- Shirleen Kajiwara
- Paul & Patricia Koko
- Kenneth Kosmala
- Paul Lydon
- Barbara Mayes
- Lori McConnell
- Lisa Molter
- Kasey Nicholoff
- Sharon Oates
- Dianne Olson
- Elizabeth Parson
- Anne Polaski
- Mary Ann Porucznik
- Kristina Roque
- Alice Rose
- Denise Roser
- Jan Sebastian
- Iris Sherman
- Peggy Sinko
- Susie Smith
- Kelly Soltys
- Kelley Staley
- Genevieve Stevens
- Derek Strain
- James Strait
- Elizabeth M Streit
- Geri Tapling
- Chester Taranowski
- Nadine Thompson
- Valerie Ursini
- Gordon Waldron

ANNUAL BOOK FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to our hardworking and dedicated Friends! Their efforts in the months leading up to the July book fair increased gross sales by 43% compared to 2022. Based on community input, in 2023 the Friends moved the fair to the third weekend in July, and arranged items throughout all three Main Library floors. "I could not be prouder of our efforts," said Friends Board President Russ Glidden.





The wildly popular Book Bike, seen here with engaged readers at a 2023 Block Party, was purchased with donated funds in 2015. Due to its success since, the library expects to roll out a second bike in 2024—an electric bike also purchased with donated funds—to expand the joy of reading to more people of all ages in our community.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO YOUR LIBRARY

Whether donating directly to the library or by investing in one of eight earmarked endowment funds, the library is incredibly grateful to these very generous donors! To learn more about giving to the library, visit oppl.org/give.

2023 DIRECT LIBRARY DONATIONS

Donated funds are earmarked to support new programs and unique library initiatives. In 2023, examples include: Oak Park's Library of Things, (created to respond to community requests for more non-traditional library items), and; the Main Library Winter Pop-Up Shop (an effort to test retail opportunities with branded library merchandise.)

- Barbara Ballinger
- F. Burt Fitch, III (in memory of Granville Neal McNish)
- Friends of Oak Park Public Library)
- Garrett R. Glass (Barbara Ballinger Books)
- Kathleen Walsh (in memory of Barbara Ballinger)
- Margaret E. Herman
- Marlene A. Fogarty (in memory of Jeanne Brislen)
- Nancy E. Shea

2023 ENDOWMENT FUND SUPPORTERS

Endowment funds, each earmarked for a specific area of spending, provide a tax-deductible opportunity to support the library and its future.

Bernard & Cecelia Sinkevitch Fund (collections)

- Jennifer Bulls
- Michael Schiffer
- Linda Schiffer

Fallon Family Library Fund (children's services)

- Emilia G. Halstead
- Kathy Hinson
- Kiwanis Club of River Forest—Oak Park

Friends of the Oak Park Public Library Fund (overall)

- Charlene Ortuno
- Heather Currier-Hunt
- Jennifer Rosenbaum
- Stephen Robert Flohr
- Tazewell Rowe

Jim Madigan Oak Park Public Library Staff Education Fund (staff continuing education)

- Timothy Zarazan

Scoville Hutchinson Fund (scholarships)

- Jennifer McNaughton



THANK YOU, OAK PARK, FOR USING YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY



Main Library

834 Lake St. | 708.383.8200
 Monday–Thursday: 9 am–9 pm
 Friday: 9 am–6 pm
 Saturday: 9 am–5 pm
 Sunday: 12–5 pm



Dole Branch Library

255 Augusta St. | 708.386.9032
 Monday: Closed
 Tuesday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm
 Friday: 10 am–6 pm
 Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
 Sunday: 12–5 pm



Maze Branch Library

845 Gunderson Ave. | 708.386.4751
 Monday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm
 Friday: Closed
 Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
 Sunday: 12–5 pm