



2019

IMPACT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The past year was another exciting one of growth for the Fargo Public Library. The continued amazing support of the Fargo community enabled the library to set new highs for annual circulation and program attendance. The increases in the circulation of physical books and e-content allowed for a record annual circulation of 1,047,165 items.

An attendance record for programs and events was set in 2019. Over 33,000 people attended an expanded number of programs and events held at library locations and in the community. Library staff provided services at a wide variety of community events including events held at the West Acres Shopping Center and the Red River Market.

April 2019 was the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Main Library. The opening of the Main Library has proved to be an important milestone in the history of the Fargo Public Library.

In the past ten years the Fargo Public Library has worked to meet the needs and challenges of a growing and dynamic community through the introduction of a wide variety of new programs and collections. One of the most significant collections introduced was our e-content resources, initiated in 2010. A significant program was the introduction of the *One Book, One Community* author event and community read program that began in 2012. Also, the Northport Branch Library opened its new community room in 2014 to ensure an improved experience for library patrons. In 2015 the library migrated to a web-based circulation platform that would allow for library-identified modifications and improvements. In conjunction with Fargo Cass Public Health, homeless outreach services became available at the Main Library in 2016. In order to remove barriers to services, the Fargo Public Library eliminated fines on children's items in 2018.

As we look towards the future we are excited at the challenge of making a positive impact on our dynamic community. We will continue to honor the community's support and strive to meet their expectations. Thank you again for a great 2019 and a tremendous ten years since the opening of the Main Library.

Regards,

Timothy S. Dirks, MLIS, MPA
DIRECTOR • FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT RACHAEL STEENHOLDT

2019 marked the 10 year anniversary of the opening of the Main Library. While it is hard to believe ten full years have passed since this location opened its doors, it is also difficult to imagine a time when this downtown staple wasn't there. In response to Fargo's dynamic and rapid growth over the last decade, the library



has listened, adapted, and innovated to meet the ever-changing needs of its community. The numbers reflect the library is hitting its mark as circulation has increased 1.5 times, program attendance has nearly quadrupled, and the widely popular e-content collection has increased from 776 to over 155,000 in annual usage since its unveiling ten years ago. The library has further engrained itself into the community's fabric in several ways including introducing its homeless outreach services. The Northport Community Room opened, giving patrons yet another space to gather. Staff have brought the library to the community through the beloved Book Bike. And the One Book One Community reading program began, creating an annually shared conversation over a community-wide reading of a single book. With the downtown location, the library has reached more patrons, while providing unrivaled service in the process. The library is eager to continue to grow with the community celebrating more milestones in the decades to come.

OUR MISSION

The Fargo Public Library provides effective and efficient library services to meet our community's personal, professional, and lifelong learning needs.

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2019 FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rachael Steenholdt, *President*
Mary Dickson, *Vice President*
Mary Batcheller

Dr. Scott Beaulier
Dr. Carlos Hawley
Carrie Peterson

Jan Ulferts Stewart
Tony Gehrig, *Commission Liaison*



OUR VISION

The Fargo Public Library will be a model of excellence in library services and the primary place in the community for people of all ages to fulfill their informational, recreational, and lifelong learning needs.

10
YEARS

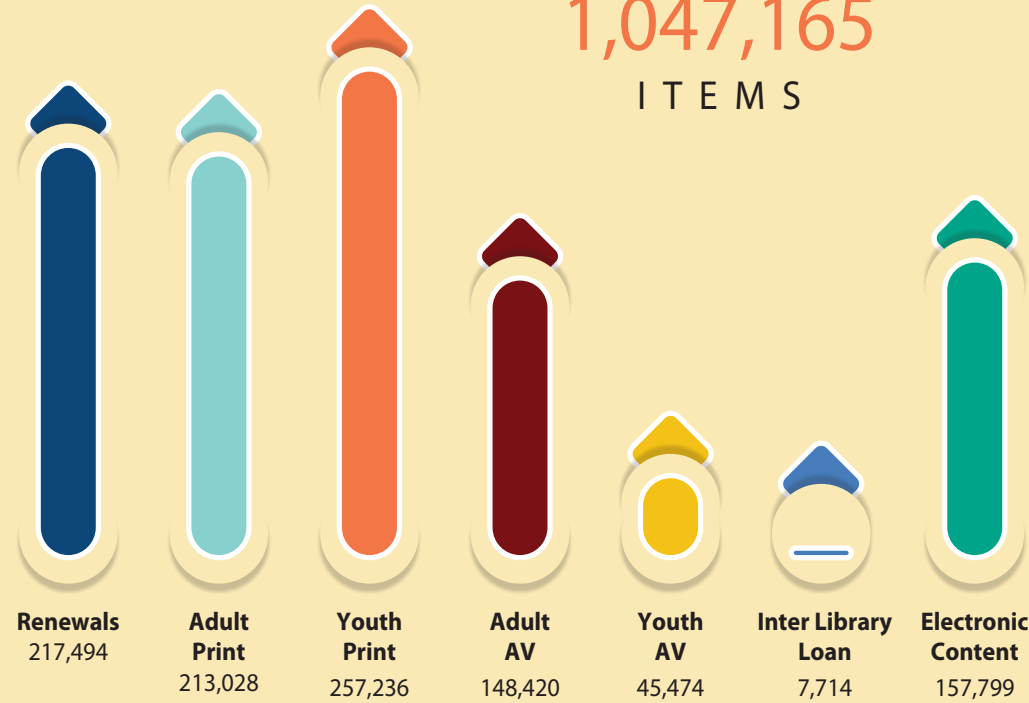
Record 10 Year
Anniversary Circulation

CIRCULATION

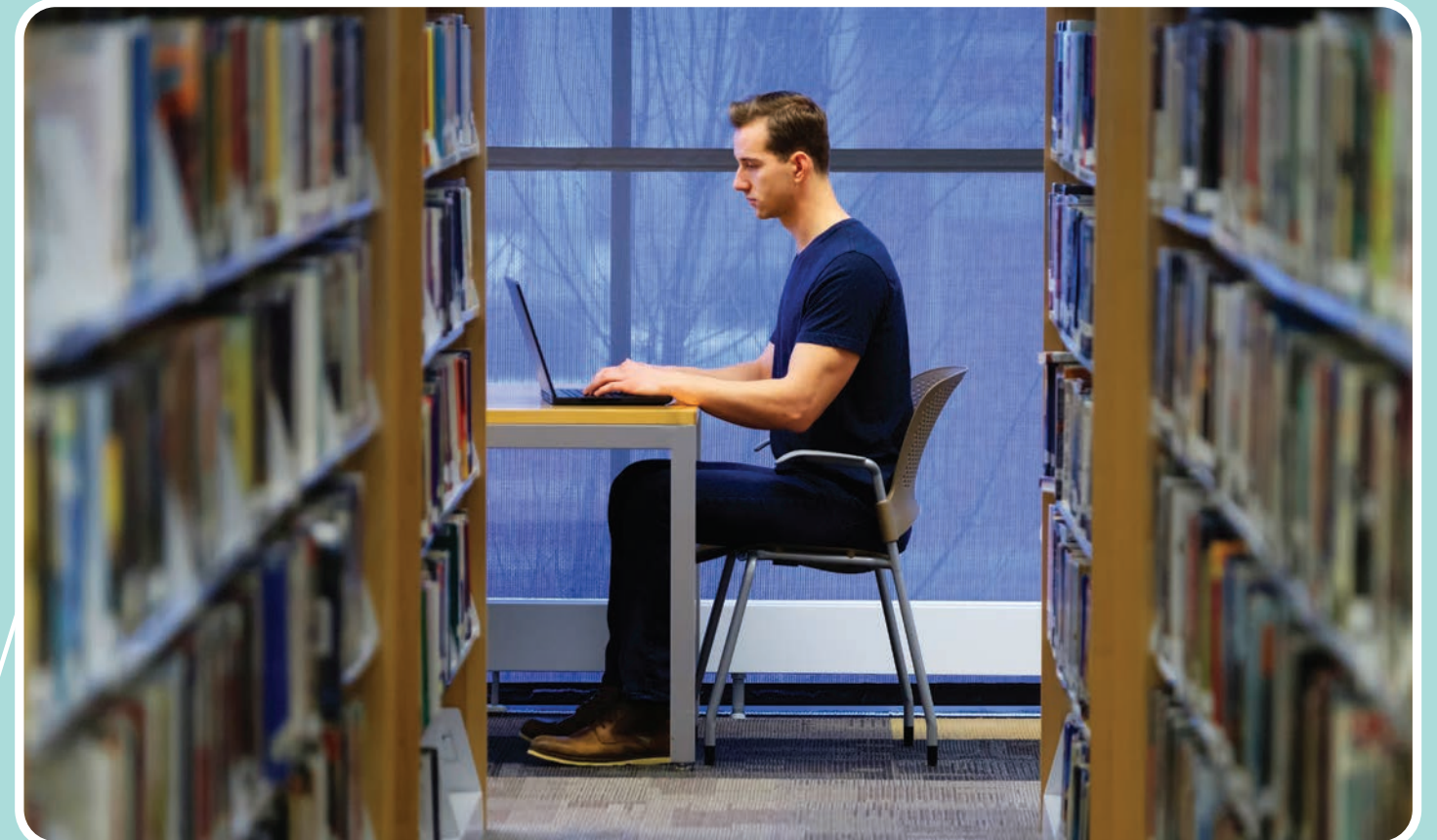
In 2019 our patrons checked out

1,047,165

ITEMS



The Fargo Public Library continues to focus on growing and improving our **electronic collections** to meet the increased needs of our community.



10
YEARS

OUR COLLECTION

The Fargo Public Library collection has continued to evolve to meet the needs of the public. Staff have been hard at work adding over 30,000 books, DVDs, and more per year for the public to checkout. The library has expanded its eBook and eAudioBook offerings through services like Overdrive and Hoopla which allow customers to access the library from their mobile devices. Fargo Public Library has also embraced the Library of Things by offering items like board games and mobile hotspots.

In 2019, the library introduced the Lucky Day collection to increase availability of popular items for patrons. The Fargo Public Library's collection will continue to evolve in new ways to serve the community.

Adult

1. *Where the Crawdads Sing* | Delia Owens
2. *Educated: A Memoir* | Tara Westover
3. *Becoming* | Michelle Obama
4. *Girl, Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies About Who You Are so You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be* | Rachel Hollis
5. *The Great Alone: A Novel* | Kristin Hannah
6. *Before We Were Yours: A Novel* | Lisa Wingate
7. *Nine Perfect Strangers: A Novel* | Liane Moriarty
8. *A Spark of Light: A Novel* | Jodi Picoult
9. *Long Road to Mercy: Atlee Pine Series, Book 1* | David Baldacci
10. *Look Alive Twenty-Five: Stephanie Plum Series, Book 25* | Janet Evanovich



TOP 10 CIRCULATED TITLES IN 2019



Teen

1. *The Hate U Give* | Angie Thomas
2. *The Book Thief* | Markus Zusak
3. *Turtles All the Way Down* | John Green
4. *Five Feet Apart* | Rachael Lippincott
5. *A Court of Frost and Starlight: A Court of Thorns and Roses Series, Book 3.1* | Sarah J. Maas
6. *Everything, Everything* | Nicola Yoon
7. *A Court of Thorns and Roses Series, Book 1* | Sarah J. Maas
8. *Children of Blood and Bone: Legacy of Orisha Series, Book 1* | Tomi Adeyemi
9. *Kingdom of Ash: Throne of Glass Series, Book 7* | Sarah J. Maas
10. *Throne of Glass: Throne of Glass Series, Book 1* | Sarah J. Maas

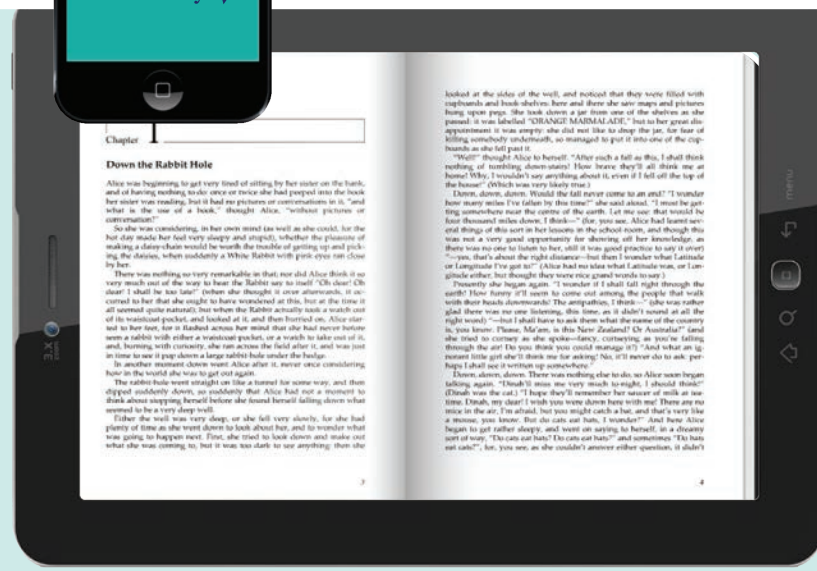
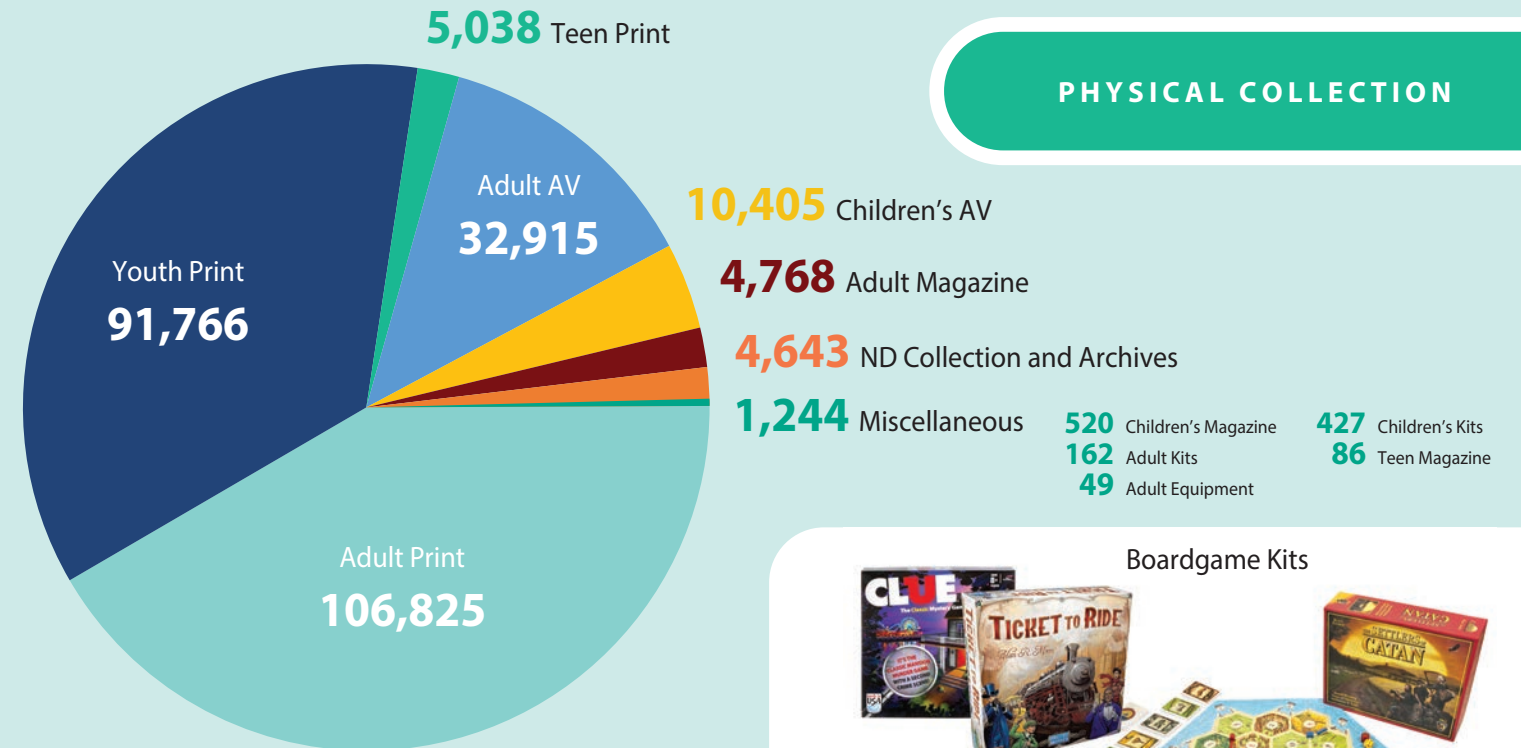
Children

1. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth* | Jeff Kinney
2. *Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* | Mo Willems
3. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* | Jeff Kinney
4. *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* | Mo Willems
5. *Frozen* | Bill Scollon
6. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School* | Jeff Kinney
7. *Dog Man: Dog Man Series, Book 1* | Dave Pilkey
8. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway* | Jeff Kinney
9. *Brawl of the Wild: Dog Man Series, Book 6* | Dave Pilkey
10. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown* | Jeff Kinney

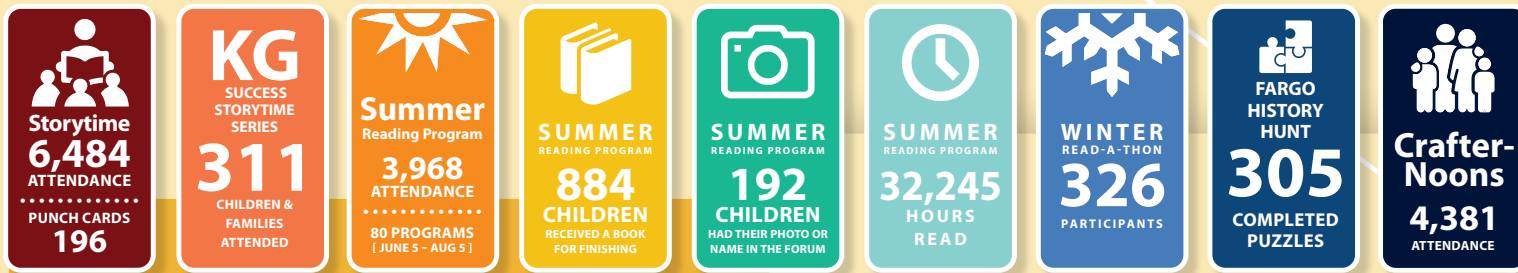


2019 FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

The Fargo Public Library continues to focus on growing and improving our collections to meet the increased needs of our community.



CHILDREN'S 2019 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



In 2019
16,429 CHILDREN Attended **468** DIFFERENT CHILDREN'S EVENTS
258 were storytimes for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers

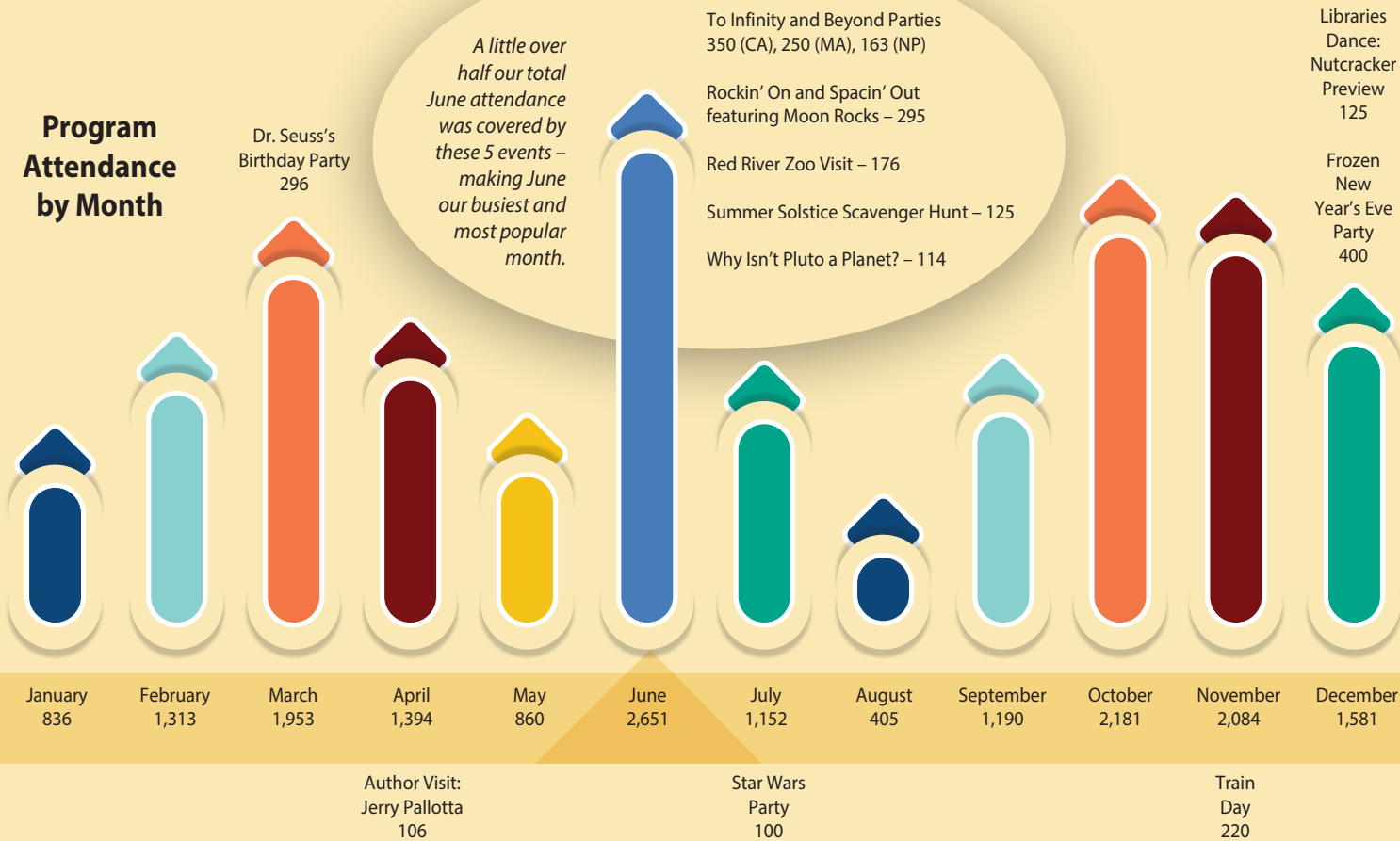


98 Completed **100** Titles
39 Completed **1,000** Titles
575 Books Given Away

10 YEARS

We've given away 8,318 books
Children read 198,800 hours during our Summer Reading Program
2,466 Storytimes

Program Attendance by Month



10 YEARS THE WIGGLE ROOM

Since it opened in 2012, the Wiggle Room has provided a space for hundreds of hours of play for young children. Families use the space each and every day. Using generous funds provided by Dr. Julie Blehm in memory of her late husband, Dr. David Blehm, the Wiggle Room repurposed an underutilized space at the Main Library. This room is filled with a plentiful mix of experiences because the children's staff know that the best way young children learn is through play.

The Wiggle Room has become a destination location for local families who come for meet-ups and a free space to experience learning, play, and fun. Whether it is providing a safe play space during the cold winter months or an extension of the storytime experience, the Wiggle Room has been a key space for our youngest patrons.

The Wiggle Room focuses on building early literacy skills through one of the most important ways children learn – PLAY! From puzzles and blocks to costumes, there is something to engage every child. Recent research on early literacy and child development indicates that it is never too early to start preparing young children for reading success.

Children who have been read to from an early age have a larger vocabulary, better language skills, a greater interest in books, and are more likely to want to learn to read. In addition, research has shown that children need to develop certain skills in order to benefit fully when they arrive at school. As parents or other caregivers talk, sing, read, write, and play with children, they help develop the language and literacy skills they need to become successful readers and learners.

Children who enter kindergarten with these skills are ready to learn to read. Since so much of school success is based on being a good reader, helping children get ready to read is an important priority for the parents and caregivers of young children.

Fine Free for Children's Materials – in 2018, the Fargo Public Library Board and Staff made the decision to go fine free for all children's materials. We made this decision because we want all children in our community to read early, read often, and read everywhere. Fines present a barrier to access, especially for those in our community who are in most need of the library resources and materials.

The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive with many parents expressing their gratitude for this small gesture of relief in their busy lives. By eliminating fines, we are increasing access, boosting literacy, and removing barriers for all children in Fargo.



2019 ADULT PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

French Film Festival partnering with NDSU

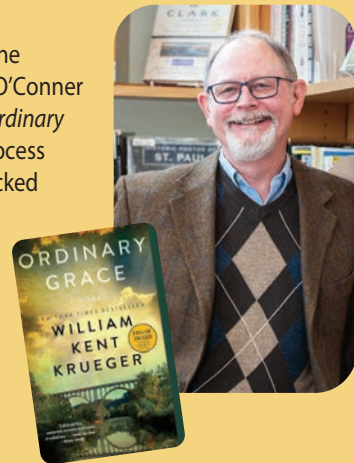
In partnership with NDSU Department of Modern Languages, the Library hosted a French Film Festival in February. Over 100 people attended the six French films with English subtitles that were featured. The festival highlighted the beauty and diversity of the French film industry today as well as the similarities and interconnectedness of the American and Francophone cultures.

Instant Pot Demonstration with Family Wellness

Those looking to feel more comfortable using an Instant Pot learned basic terminology and techniques with this demonstration class featuring an instructor from Family Wellness. Participants also sampled two different healthy dishes prepared during the class.

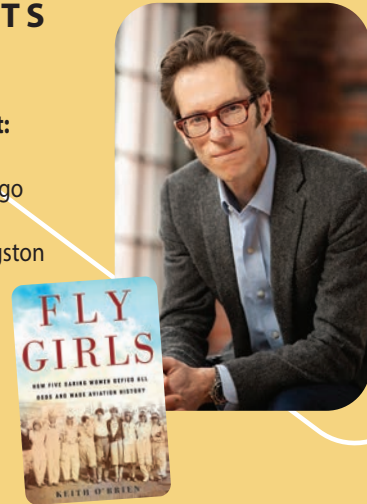
William Kent Krueger

Author William Kent Krueger, the best-selling writer of the Cork O'Conner mystery series and the novel *Ordinary Grace*, discussed his writing process and his mystery novels to a packed room of over 150 people. Krueger's visit was part of the Main Library building's 10th anniversary celebration series of events and was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Fargo Public Library.



1 Book 1 Community Author Visit: Keith O'Brien, Fly Girls Author

The Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo public libraries, the Carl B. Ylvisaker Library at Concordia College, Livingston Lord Library at Minnesota State University Moorhead, North Dakota State University Libraries, Moorhead Community Education, the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, and the Fargo Air Museum selected the New York Times bestseller *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History* by Keith O'Brien as the 2019 One Book, One Community selection.



Fly Girls is the previously untold story of five remarkable women who competed against men in the high-stakes national air races of the 1920s and 1930s. One of the five women was Florence Klingensmith, a high school dropout who worked for a dry cleaner in Fargo, North Dakota, and was born in Oakport Township, MN. Her little-known story intrigued the community with her history and local ties.

Close to 400 people attended the author visit held at the Fargo Air Museum in October. The project received support by the Friends of the Fargo Public Library (major sponsor), Friends of the West Fargo Public Library, Friends of the Moorhead Library and Moorhead, Community Education.



IMAGE OF FLORENCE KLINGENSMITH

1 Book
1 Community
2019 Attendance
810

10
YEARS

ADULT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

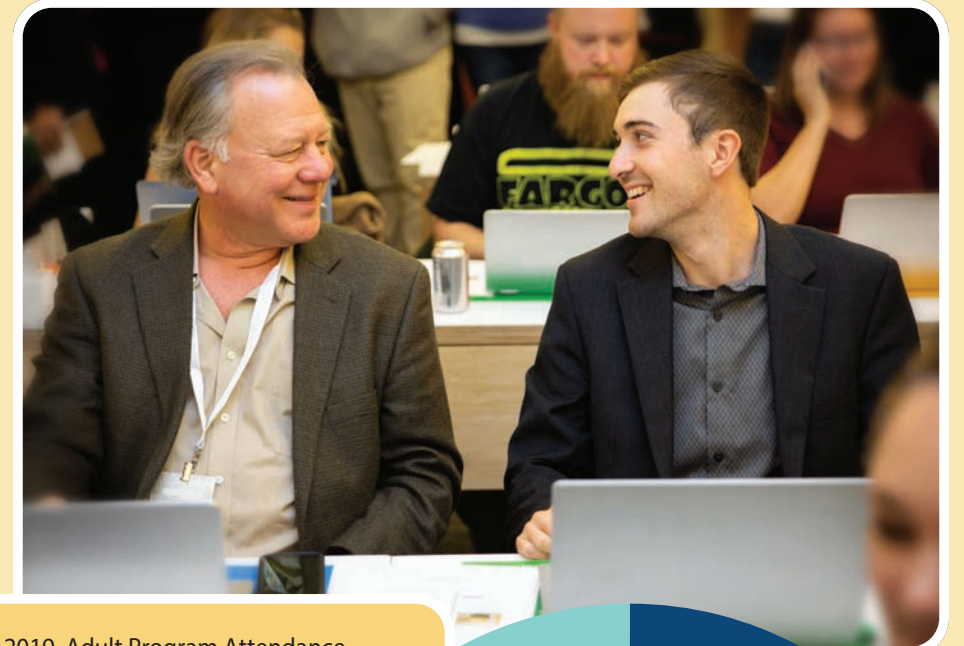
Over the past ten years, adult events and programs have steadily increased in offerings and attendance. The Library offers a number of book clubs featuring different types of genres, health and wellness classes such as beginner and restorative yoga, and instructional classes on subjects from cross-stitch to digital photography. Lectures from local scholars and experts continue to be popular and cover subjects from historic weather events to gardening to home brewing, while concerts and movies bring in good crowds as well. Adult participation in the Summer Reading Program and Winter Read-a-thon has grown, and in 2019, we offered an adult category for the annual Design-a-Bookmark contest or the first time.

As we work on the ninth year of 1 Book 1 Community, the Moorhead and West Fargo public libraries, the Carl B. Ylvisaker Library at Concordia College, Livingston Lord Library at Minnesota State University Moorhead, North Dakota State University Libraries, and the

Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County are partnering with us. The 1 Book 1 Community project highlights the cooperative nature of our local organizations and businesses, and truly creates a movement to foster community through reading.

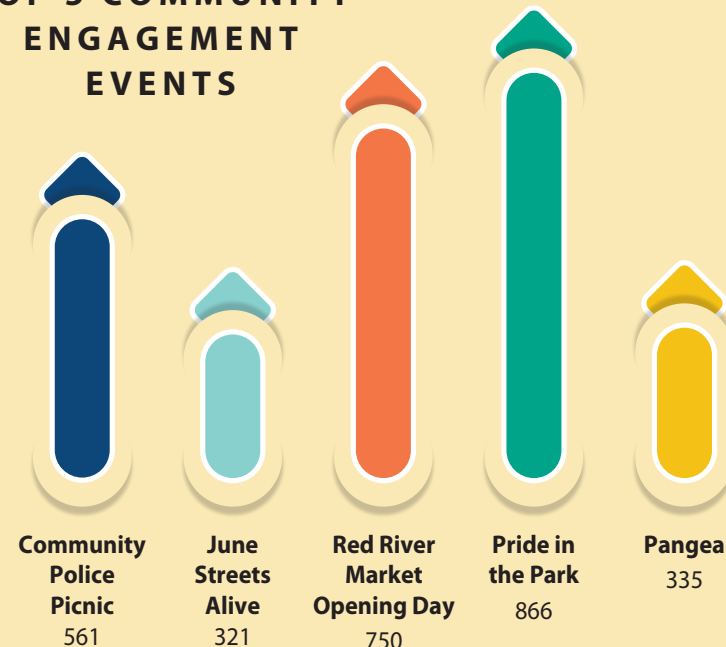
1 Book 1 Community: Starting a Conversation, Building a Community

The 1 Book 1 Community project encourages the entire community to read and discuss one book and participate in related events. Starting in 2012 as a partnership with Lake Agassiz Regional Library and West Fargo Public Library, this annual project has continued to develop and grow over recent years and include various local organizations as partners.



In 2019, Adult Program Attendance hit its highest count in October with 1,057 participants and an overall annual attendance of 5,858

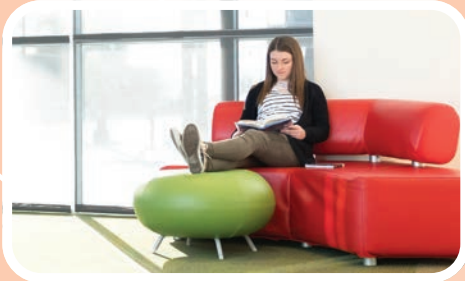
TOP 5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT ATTENDANCE IN 2019

2019 TEEN PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, the Teen Summer Reading Program encouraged area teens to participate in a variety of fun, engaging events and activities. With events in a wide variety of subject areas including chemistry, art, and physical fitness, teens had the opportunity to collaborate with their peers and build relationships with other members of the community. The Summer Reading Program encourages teens to read over the summer months, an activity that is vital to promoting lifelong learning.



Over the last ten years, we have seen the number of teens participating in the Summer Reading Program increase steadily, with 2019 being the highest number of participants yet – more than doubling the number of participants from 10 years ago with a total of 1,200 books read by area teens over the course of the summer!



One major factor in the success of the Summer Reading Program is our long-running partnership with Concordia College Science Academy. Through this partnership, we've been able to add high quality science programs to our list of offerings throughout the year. These programs give students the opportunity to work hands-on in a lab setting with trained professionals to guide them. This experience sparks teens' interest in exploring science and technology.

OUTREACH SERVICES 2019

In 2019 the Outreach department began offering quarterly adult programming to our partner sites. Outreach staff (with occasional assistance from Reference Staff) offer informational, travel, and entertainment programs featuring multimedia presentations, photographs, food, music, crafts and costumed characters. Program evaluation survey responses have been very positive, calling the presentations "delightful," "superb," "well done and interesting," and noting "we all loved it!" The inaugural year of programming included 57 performances with an attendance of 1,040 patrons.

The Outreach department relies heavily on volunteers to staff its services. According to the organization Independent Sector, the dollar value of a single hour of volunteer service rose in 2018 to \$25.77 for North Dakota. Therefore, the cumulative total value of all hours given to the Fargo Public Library in 2019 by volunteers was \$70,661.34.

OUTREACH PARTNER AGENCIES

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Bethany University | Evergreens | North Sky Apartments | Touchmark at Harwood |
| Bethany on 42nd | Good Samaritan | One Oak Place | Trollwood Senior Center |
| Crossroads | Heritage House | Pioneer House | University Drive Manor |
| Edgewood Vista | High Rise Homebound | Riverview Place | Villa Maria |
| Elim Care Center | New Horizons | Rosewood on Broadway | |
| Eventide | | Sunrise Apartments | |



THE FRIENDS OF THE FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY PROUDLY SUPPORT THE FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Fargo Public Library proudly support the Fargo Public Library! The Friends operate the bookstore at the Main Library and offer books for sale at Northport and Carlson Libraries. Over the past 10 years, we have provided financial support for the following programs, activities and other needs:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Artwork | Furniture for the library and bookstore |
| Bookmarks | Geocaching map and program |
| BookPage subscriptions | Landscaping at Main Library |
| Carts for the Outreach program | Magnifiers for Outreach patrons |
| Community children's production of The Wizard of Oz | Northern Narratives |
| Computers | One Book One Community |
| Crafternoons | Popcorn machine |
| Early literacy stations | Prizes for completing the strategic planning survey |
| Fargo History Hunt | Seed library |
| Funding for Northport Community Room | Shirts and parties for staff appreciation |
| Funding for the 10th Anniversary Party | Summer Reading Program |
| Funding to assist low income and homeless patrons obtain identification | Yoga equipment |



FRIENDS OF THE FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

The Friends of the Fargo Public Library provided a record level of support to the library in 2019 with a total of \$18,989.17 donated. The Friends provided financial support for such major events as 1 Book, 1 Community, Crafternoons, and the Children's Summer Reading Program. The Friends also provided resources that enabled us to recognize the accomplishments and hard work of library staff. The generosity of the Friends of the Fargo Library allows us to provide the highest levels of events and services to the community of Fargo.



PROVIDED NEARLY
\$19,000

to the Fargo Public
Library in 2019

More
information
about the Friends

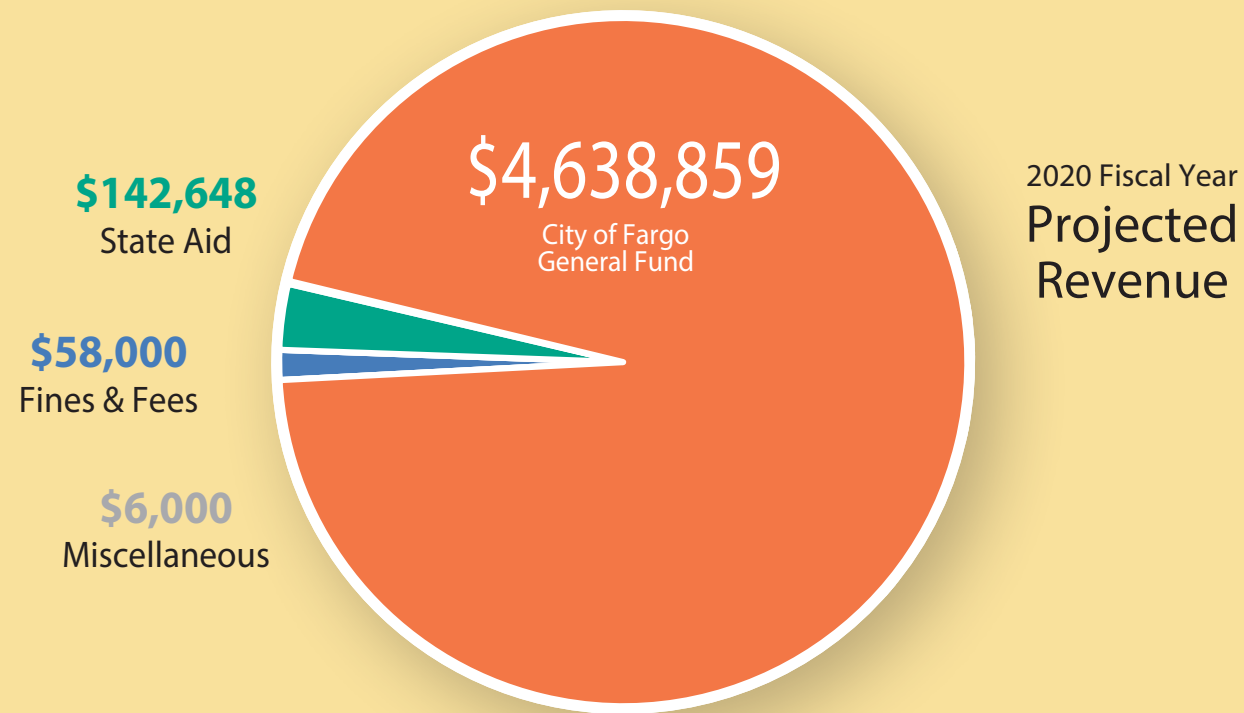
CALL: (701) 364-2665

EMAIL: Friendsoffargopubliclibrary@gmail.com

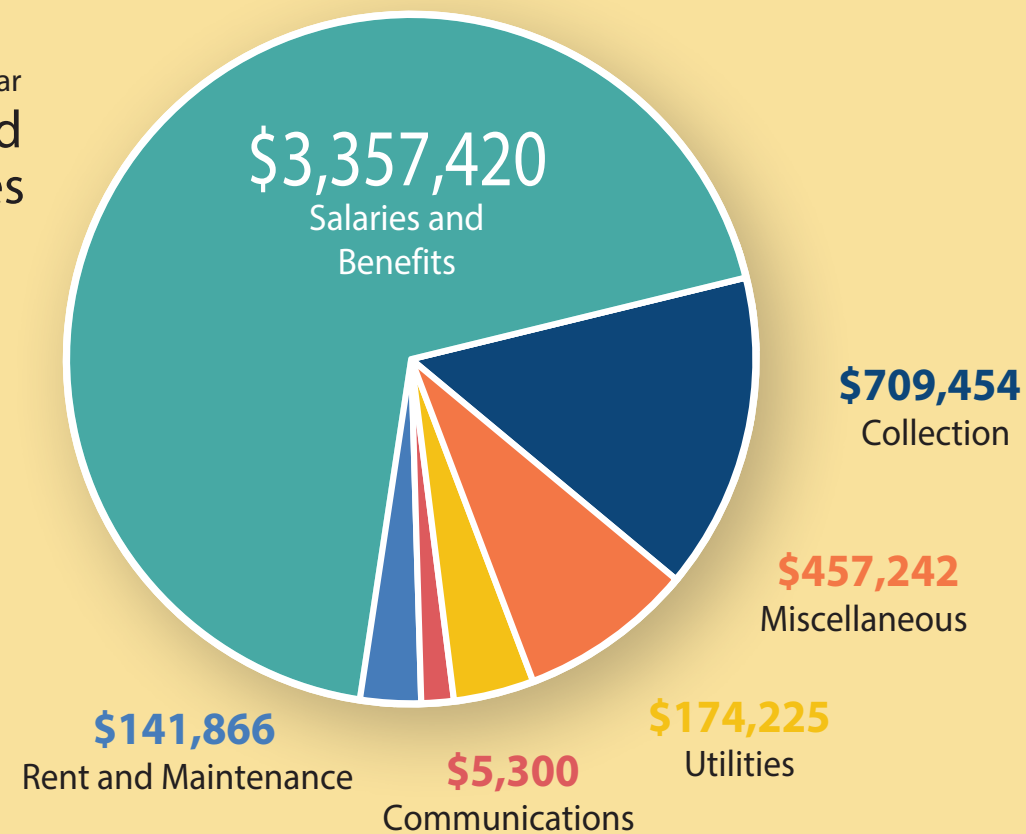
MAIL: Friends of the FPL
P.O. Box 1365 • Fargo, ND 58107

VISIT: www.fargond.gov/city-government/departments/library/support/friends-of-the-library

PROJECTED BUDGET



2020 Fiscal Year Projected Expenses



In the past 10 years, the Fargo Public Library has partnered with many different community organizations in order to provide programs and access to materials.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- 188th Army Brass Band Quintet
- AARP
- American Library Association
- Arts Partnership, The
- Audubon Dakota
- Better Business Bureau of MN and ND
- Cass County Emergency Management
- Children's Museum at Yunker Farm
- City of Fargo
- City of Fargo Forestry Department
- City of Fargo Planning Department
- City of Fargo Public Works
- City of Fargo Street Department
- Concordia College
- Concordia College Library
- Concordia College Science Academy & Dr. Graeme Wyllie
- Concordia College's Carl B. Ylvisaker Library
- Cultural Diversity Resources
- Dairy Queen
- Dakota Gourmet
- Daughters of the Earth
- Digital Dolphin
- Downtown Rotary Club
- Drekker Brewing Company – Brewhalla
- Ezra Jack Keats Foundation
- F-M Area Foundation
- F-M Ballet
- Fargo Air Museum
- Fargo Brewing Co.
- Fargo Fire Department
- Fargo Force
- Fargo Moorhead Heritage Society
- Fargo Park District
- Fargo Police Department
- Fargo Public Schools
- Fargo Rotary
- Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists
- Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre
- FINRA Investor Education Foundation
- First Step Recovery
- Flatland Dixieland Band
- FM Therapy Pets
- Forum, The
- Foundation Center
- Friends of the Fargo Public Library
- Front Street Taproom
- Gasper's School of Dance
- Giving + Learning
- Gooseberry Park Players
- Great Plains Food Bank
- Head Start Birth to Five – SENDCAA
- Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County
- HoDo, The
- Human Family, The
- Lake Agassiz Regional Library
- Lake Agassiz Regional Library / Moorhead Library
- Learning Forum, The
- Lonestar Steakhouse
- Matt Olien
- McDonalds
- MHA Nation
- Mick's Scuba
- Midco
- Miss North Dakota Pageant
- Moorhead Community Education
- MSUM Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
- MSUM's Livingston Lord Library
- Native American Commission
- NDSU
- NDSU Computer Science Department
- NDSU Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
- NDSU Department of Geosciences
- NDSU Department of Modern Languages
- NDSU Department of Spanish
- NDSU Entomology Department
- NDSU Extension
- NDSU Geology Department
- NDSU Libraries
- NDSU Musical Theatre
- NDSU Press
- NDSU School of Business/ Department of Accounting
- NDSU Theatre
- NDSU's Germans from Russia Heritage Collection
- Newspapers in Education
- NIE – The Learning Forum
- Nordic Culture Clubs – Scandinavian Heritage Hjemkomst Festival
- North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 1176
- North Dakota Air National Guard
- North Dakota Council on the Arts
- North Dakota Forestry Service
- North Dakota Humanities Council
- North Dakota Master Gardeners
- North Dakota School for the Deaf
- North Dakota State College of Sciences/Skills & Technology Center
- Office of the Attorney General for North Dakota
- Paradox Comics
- Pets R Inn FM
- Plains Art Museum
- Prairie Roots Food Coop
- Prairie St. John's
- Radio Fargo-Moorhead
- Red River Commodities/ SunGold Foods
- Red River Market
- Red River Modules Model Railroad Club
- Red River Tae-Kwon Do
- Red River Zoo
- River Keepers
- Scheels
- Skateland
- Southeast Human Services
- Spirit Lake Tribe
- Stage, The
- State Library of North Dakota
- Sunset Lanes
- Taco Johns
- The Spirit Room
- Therapy Pets of the Red River Valley
- Thunder Road
- Tony McRae
- Tri-County Tourism Alliance
- U.S. Navy
- uCodeGirl
- UND Air Race Classic Team: The Frozen Force
- US Bank
- Valley Reading Council
- Village Family Services, The
- Vogel Law
- Walmart
- Welcoming Week 2015 – 2019
- West Acres Mall
- West Fargo Public Library
- Wild Terra Cider and Brewing
- World in Fargo-Moorhead, The



At the touch of a button or the turn of a page.



The Fargo Public Library
is a department of the City of Fargo.

THREE LOCATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY:

MAIN LIBRARY
102 3rd Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 241-1472

DR. JAMES CARLSON LIBRARY
2801 32nd Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58103
(701) 476-4040

NORTHPORT LIBRARY
2714 North Broadway
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 476-4026