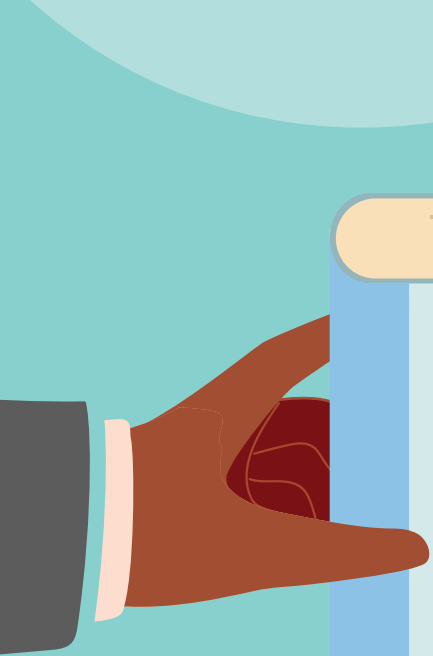
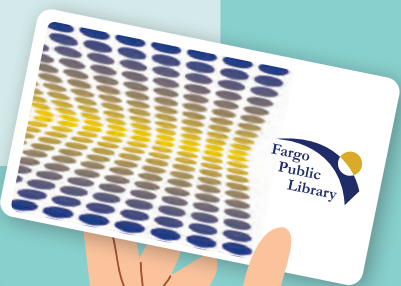




2021
IMPACT REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Fargo Public Library in 2021 successfully provided a wide variety of services and programming for all ages despite the continued impacts and uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. In January, we were excited to reopen all locations to the public. We continued to provide services with the health of the community in mind. In June, we moved to regular summer hours and began to expand onsite programming while maintaining our variety of virtual programs.

Library staff did a tremendous job identifying and providing virtual, onsite, and hybrid programming. In March, the library held a virtual author event with Danielle Teigen highlighting her title *The Fargo Fire of 1893*. In June, the Children’s Department partnered with the Red River Zoo to provide the Tails and Tales summer reading challenge kickoff at the zoo. Library staff renewed their attendance at a number of community engagement events such as the Red River Market and Native American Community Picnic.

The library continued to collaborate with community organizations to provide enhanced programming and events. The library partnered with the Park District, Park District Foundation, and Growing Together for the installation of the new Learning Garden and Pollinator Garden at the Dr. James Carlson Library. The gardens will provide programming opportunities for all ages for years to come.

The One Book, One Community program series highlighted the book *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask* by Anton Treuer. The program series was a collaborative effort of the Fargo Public Library, Moorhead and West Fargo public libraries, Concordia College’s Carl B. Ylvisaker Library, Minnesota State University Moorhead’s Livingston Lord Library, North Dakota State University Libraries, the Indigenous Association, Moorhead Area Public Schools Indian Education, and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County. The program series was very successful with a variety of in-person and virtual events.

The continued support of the community was tremendous in 2021. The library saw significant increases in usage and attendance. The circulation of library materials increased by 23% over 2020. Visits to library locations were up 38% over 2020. Attendance at library programming increased by 13% over 2020. We are thankful for the community’s support and look forward to the opportunity of serving the Fargo community.

Regards,

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

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT SCOTT BEAULIER

Much like America’s rebound this past year, 2021 was a year of recovery and reinvention for the Fargo Public Library. Our doors largely remained open throughout the year; library programming came roaring back in terms of popularity and impact; and something approaching “normal” can be seen again in the data we keep our eyes on as Library Board members.

As Board President this year, I have been delighted to learn more about the Library’s programs, and I’m amazed each monthly meeting by the staff’s steadfast commitment to quality programming. As a father of four children, my interest is particularly piqued by the tremendous lineup of children’s programming, which helps young members of our community gain an appreciation for library resources and, more importantly, develop a love for learning and reading.

The One Book, One Community program series, highlighting the book *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask* was another highlight of the past year. What an appropriate selection for our community at a time when we are starving for greater acceptance and understanding of each other. The virtual and in-person events developed by library staff around the One Book, One Community program were engaging, well attended, and high quality.

Sticking with the topic of diversity, Adult Services Staff initiated a new book club called the Diverse Perspectives Book Club. The book club is an informal book discussion group that focuses on works which provide multiple perspectives.

Innovation and collaboration were also themes of the past year, and we can see evidence of departments reimagining themselves with the Dial-A-Story program and Books by Mail program from the Outreach Department, aiming to engage members in new ways and to reach our diverse membership. The partnership with Fargo Park District to install the Library Learning and Pollinator Gardens at the Dr. James Carlson Library makes this space a fascinating one for guests, and shows the entrepreneurialism in the Library’s excellent staff.

I’m inspired each month by the Library Staff’s enthusiasm for their craft, and their monthly updates on programming remind me of what a great community we live in. On behalf of the Fargo Public Library Board of Trustees, we thank you for your engagement with our libraries, and wish you the best in the New Year!

Here’s to a great 2022!



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2021 FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Scott Beaulier, *President*
Dr. Carlos Hawley, *Vice President*
Rachael Steenholdt

Carrie Peterson
Jenna Reno
Amy Ouren

Tony Gehrig, *Commission Liaison*
Patrick Sinner, *Friends of the Fargo Public Library President*

OUR MISSION

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

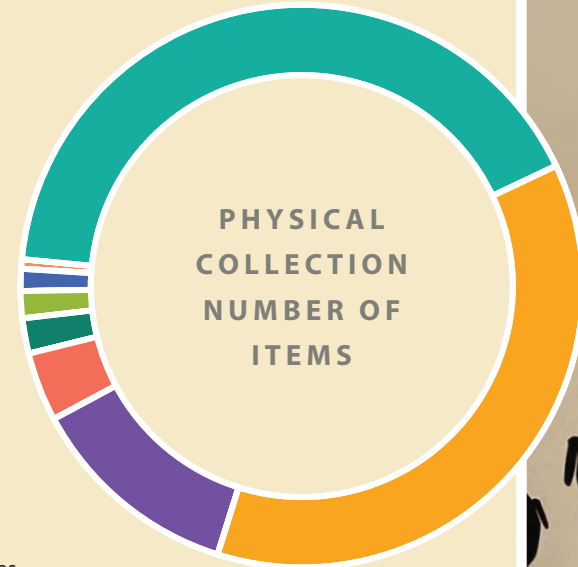
OUR VISION

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.

2021 COLLECTIONS

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

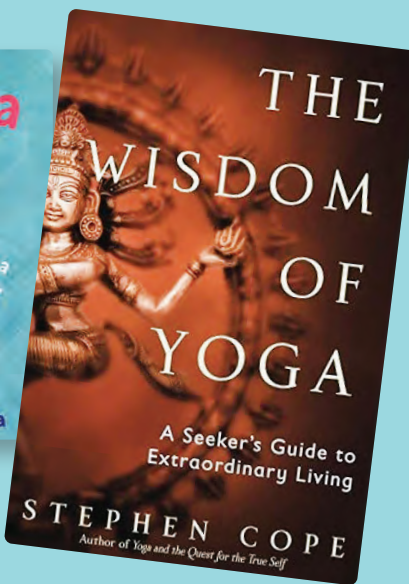
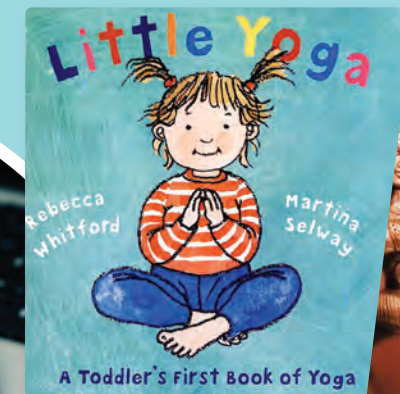
- 112,329 Adult Print
- 99,982 Children's Print
- 33,426 Adult AV
- 10,754 Children's AV
- 5,505 Young Adult Print
- 4,198 Adult Magazines
- 3,444 North Dakota Collection
- 1,470 Miscellaneous
- 612 Children's Kits
- 435 Children's Magazines
- 267 Adult Kits
- 86 Young Adult Magazines
- 70 Day Use Equipment



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 check out. The library has expanded its **eBook** and **eAudioBook** offerings through services like Libby and Hoopla which allow customers to access library resources from their mobile devices. Fargo Public Library has also embraced the Library of Things by offering items like **board games** and **mobile hotspots**.

In 2021, 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.



TOP 10 CIRCULATED TITLES IN 2021

Adult

1. *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah
2. *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave
3. *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
4. *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
5. *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins
6. *Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
7. *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman
8. *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham
9. *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
10. *Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid



Teen

1. *Midnight Sun* by Stephenie Meyer
2. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins
3. *Five Total Strangers* by Natalie D. Richards
4. *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo
5. *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black
6. *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas
7. *Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
8. *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley
9. *Siege and Storm* by Leigh Bardugo
10. *One of Us Is Lying* by Karen M. McManus



Children

1. *Dog Man: Grime and Punishment* by Dav Pilkey
2. *Mighty Pup Power!* by Hollis James
3. *Break the Ice!* by Courtney Carbone
4. *Jurassic Bark!* by Hollis James
5. *All-Star Pups!* by Mary Tillworth
6. *Dog Man: Fetch-22* by Dav Pilkey
7. *Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls* by Dav Pilkey
8. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball* by Jeff Kinney
9. *Guts* by Raina Telgemeier
10. *Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* by Mo Willems



In 2021 our patrons checked out

607,339
TOTAL ITEMS

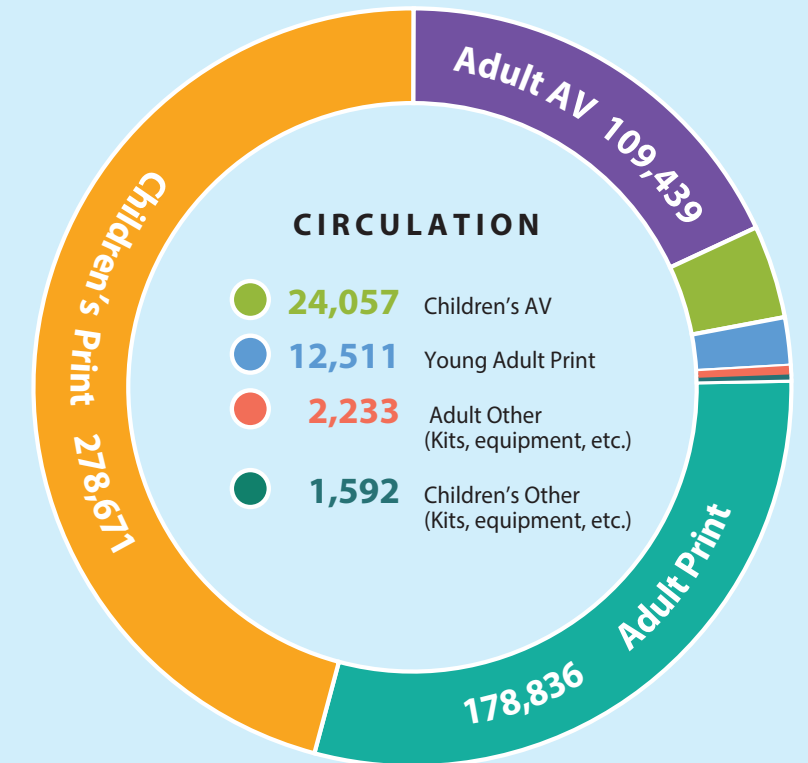
146,126 Renewals

[across all item formats]

OverDrive + hoopla = **205,403**
TOTAL ITEMS ELECTRONICALLY CIRCULATED
179,527 + 25,876

5,848 Interlibrary Loans

2021 Top 5 Online/e-Resources



New! in 2021

creativebug®



CHILDREN'S 2021 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



SUMMER READING PROGRAM
1,366 CHILDREN PARTICIPATING



3,780
CRAFTER-NOONS
TAKE HOME PACKETS



700
CRAFTS TO GO
TAKE HOME PACKETS



375
SPECIAL DAY
TAKE HOME CRAFTS
GIVING HEARTS DAY,
SEUSS DAY,
NEW YEAR'S PARTY

STORYTIME TO GO PACKETS
1,200



Story Time

OUTDOOR
98

FALL FESTIVAL
150

VIRTUAL BABY RHYME TIME
91

VIRTUAL
352

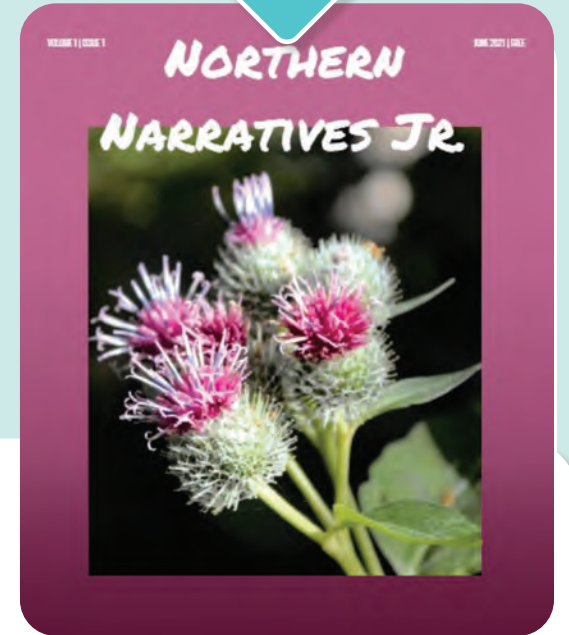
Virtual Events **344**

CHILDREN IN ATTENDANCE

Passive Programming

StoryWalk©	576
Dial-a-Story	178
Design a Bookmark	163
Scrabble Display	116
Alexander Hamilton Display and Take Home Kits	100
Lego Mania Design Contest (Online)	67
James Webb Telescope Challenge and Fun Pad Giveaway (Beanstack)	38
Library Pen Pals	36
Reading Rocks	
Battle of the Books	

New! in 2021



SUMMER READING PROGRAM By the Numbers

Young Children
Birth – Age 4

366
Participated

99
Completed

12,426
Days Read

School Age Children
Age 4 – 12

1,000
Participated

219
Completed

28,337
Days Read

SRP
40,763
Total Days Read
BIRTH – 12 YEARS OLD

WINTER READING PROGRAM

314
Read-A-Thon
Participants

Summer Reading Program – this summer's program was a hybrid with both online and in-person elements. The Library continued its online registration, logging, and prize selection using Beanstack. Families were also able to choose to participate with paper logs.

1,000 BOOKS
Before Kindergarten

515
BOOKS EARNED BY
Kids Reading
100 Books
WITH AN ADULT



What's Next?

Personalized Reading Recommendations for Kids
65 requests fulfilled – What's Next? aims to assist children and families find new reading and book recommendations. Officially begun in November 2020, the What's Next? service grew out of patron requests that Children's Services staff were already responding to during curbside service.

Northern Narratives Jr.

55 entries – The first annual Northern Narratives Jr. in 2021 gave kids in grades Kindergarten through 6 an opportunity to show off their writing and artistic skills. All submissions were included in the online magazine.

New Collection News – the Children's Services department added two new collections in 2021:

Curiosity Kits focus on STEM skills, and contain materials and instructions for children to experiment with various scientific concepts and develop their problem-solving abilities. Future Curiosity Kits will expand the collection beyond STEM to also include literacy, historical events, and physical/creative movement.

Also new in 2021 are the addition of **Wonderbooks**. Wonderbooks are picture books with a pre-loaded audiobook player permanently attached to the hardcover book.

New! in 2021

Wonderbook
THE READ-ALONG BY PLAYAWAY®



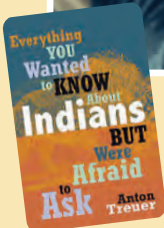
2021 ADULT PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

It was another year of exploring other avenues for programming and events at the Library. We used our **outdoor spaces** during the warm months with our Summer Garden Book Club, summer yoga sessions, Fresh Air Crafts, and well-attended demonstration by World Yo-Yo champion, John Narum. A few events were held in the Commission Room in City Hall which allowed us to record and **livestream events** while also allowing in-person audience members to socially distance. In partnership with the Indigenous Association, a two-part Community Conversation took place using this hybrid format. Native boarding schools and missing and murdered indigenous people (MMIP) were the two topics for the panel discussions.



One Book, One Community and Anton Treuer Visit

Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask by Anton Treuer was the 2021 One Book, One Community selection. Our partners for the program series were Moorhead and West Fargo public libraries, Concordia College's Carl B. Ylvisaker Library, Minnesota State



University Moorhead's Livingston Lord Library, North Dakota State University Libraries, Moorhead Area Public Schools Indian Education, the Indigenous Association, and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County. Author Anton Treuer's in-person presentation at Concordia College was also live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. Combined attendance/viewing for the author was over 550 people. In addition to Treuer's author visit, the partnering organizations assembled an array of supporting events, including panel discussions organized by the Indigenous Association, a powwow at Moorhead High School organized by Moorhead Area Public Schools Indian Education, and multiple book discussions. The 2021 One Book, One Community project received support from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (major sponsor), Friends of the Fargo Public Library, Concordia College Cultural Events, Friends of the West Fargo Public Library, Friends of the Moorhead Public Library, and Moorhead Community Education.

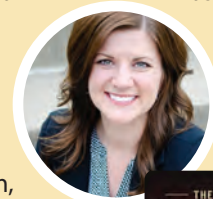
Crafts continue to be extremely popular for adult patrons, and the Library offered both in-person sessions and to-go kits in 2021. The Fresh Air Craft series, held outside the Dr. James Carlson Library during the summer months, featured paint pour art, shibori bandanas, and bleach dye t-shirts. Crafts To Go kits included Microwavable Hot Packs, Valentine Gnomes, and Amethyst Soap, among many others. With the addition of relaxation activity kits, and more in-person sessions in the fall, the Library had **2154 patrons** attending in person or picking up a kit to craft at home.



Go & Grow – Plant lovers came out in droves for our Go & Grow Houseplant series in 2021! **Over 1,000 starter houseplants went to patrons' homes**, along with an informational brochure with specifics to help that plant grow and thrive. Other plant-themed activities over the year were a spring plant swap held outside at the Dr. James Carlson Library, a houseplant Q&A session with Don Kinzler from NDSU Extension, and an online video with tips on becoming a successful plant parent.



Author Visits – The Library hosted a few author visits either virtually or as an in-person/livestream combo during this transitional year. First up, was a virtual book club with



author **Amy Scheibe** about her novel *A Fireproof Home for the Bride* in February. Author and journalist **Danielle Teigen** discussed her 2020 book, *The Fargo Fire of 1893*, during an online event in March. In June, retired Forum editor **Jack Zaleski** joined us for an in-person and virtual presentation featuring his recent book *Forum Communications Company: A Narrative History 1980-2018*.



Reading Challenges for Adults – The Library's Winter Read-a-thon was a success with over 381 adult registering and tracking their time spent reading and earning prizes. In May, the Library transitioned to Beanstack, a different online platform for the Summer Reading Program.

ADULT EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



Online reading programs allow the Library to engage more easily with our patrons with the adjusted service hours. Using Beanstack, adults tracked their reading to earn entries for prizes from local small businesses. 581 adults read for a total of 14,678 days during the 11-week program. New in 2021 was the One Book, One Community reading challenge in coordination with the Moorhead and West Fargo public libraries. By reading and completing activities related to the title selection, participants earned entries to win prizes supporting Native and Indigenous businesses.

Food was spiced up throughout the year with our **Spice Club: A Take and Make Cooking Club**. Featured spices included cardamom, rosemary, sumac, and the fall favorite – pumpkin pie spice!



Registrants received a packet of spice, the history and background information of the spice, and a list of cookbooks for recipes using the spice. Those registered connected with each other on

Discord, a group-chatting platform, and shared their culinary creations via photos, recipes, and conversation.

Pairs Well With – In January and February, librarians offered reading suggestions to folks sharing their favorite beverage on our Facebook page for Pairs Well With. Whether it was hot chocolate or an old-fashioned, our librarians provided a complementary title to the preferred refreshments.

Later in the spring, Pairs Well With filmed tutorials featuring staff experts from downtown Fargo's Twist and West Fargo's Thunder Coffee to create cocktail/mocktails based on specific literary genres.



Take and make at-home kits provided some necessary ingredients, suggested reads, and recipes, in addition to the link to the instructional videos so folks could create the yummy drinks on their own and discover some new books to add to their to-read list!

PEAK ATTENDANCE
1,082 in OCTOBER
2021 Overall Annual Attendance
6,852

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT ATTENDANCE IN 2021

Along with programs and events, many community engagement events were on hiatus until late spring due to COVID.

In April, the Library participated, along with NDSU Press, in **World Book Night at Broadway Square**. Attendance was low due to the cold and windy weather, but our book bike made its first 2021 stop and we enjoyed chatting with folks about books and reading. The Library also took part in the **Red River Zoo's Party for the Planet**, a celebration of Earth Day, and interacted with 450 people at the event.

Midwest Kid Fest invites families to Island Park every June for an all-day event with educational booths and free activities. The Children's librarians visited with over 1,650 people at the Library's table and book bike. Later in June, we were part of the **Annual Fargo Police Community Picnic**. This is a great opportunity for the Library to interact with the public in a fun and casual atmosphere alongside other City of Fargo Departments and community organizations. We enjoyed the new location at **Urban Plains Park** in southwest Fargo, and sharing what we do with over 450 members of the public.

August was a busy month with the Library taking part in the **Native American Community Picnic at Trollwood Park** in north Fargo, **Pride in the Park at Island Park**, **Red River Market – Kids Day**, and **Red River Market – Senior Day**. We thoroughly enjoyed connecting with members of our community at all four events, and engaging with close to 2,000 people combined.

We rounded out the year with a Library **Card Sign-Up table at MSUM's Livingston Lord Library** on September 22, another Red River Market for their **Fall Fest** on October 2, and **Business After Hours** on December 2.

TOP 10 ADULT PROGRAMMING EVENTS

Crafts (in-person, To Go, kits)	2,154
Go & Grow, Plant Swap, Q&A	1,102
Stay at Home Book Party (once a month)	858
Spice & Cookie Club, Pairs Well With, Tea Tasting	685
Author Events	656
Book Clubs (virtual and in-person)	259
Yoga	161
Trivia	139
Movies & Movie Discussion Group	123
Concerts	97



2021 TEEN PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

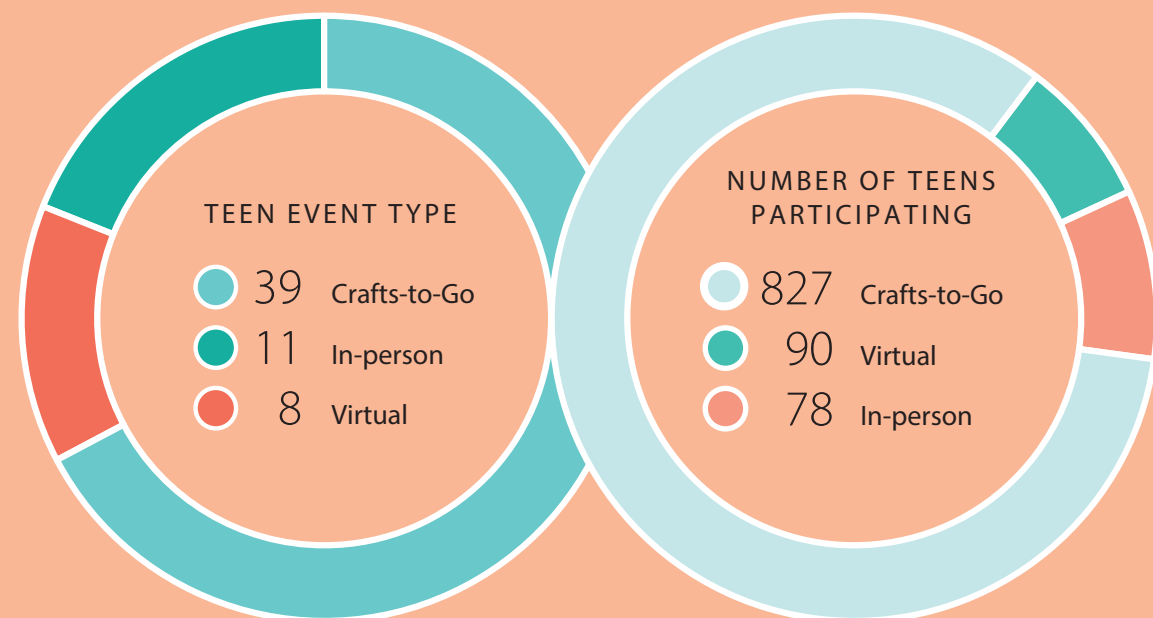
In 2021, the teen department offered a wide array of programs ranging from virtual, and in-person, and take-and-make crafts for area teens. In February, the Fargo Public Library partnered with the Dakota Medical Foundation to create Crafts to Go kits to inspire giving and positivity in the community. Teens were encouraged to pick up a kit containing a mini canvas and paint set from the library to make a positive message to share with others. A total of 75 sets were given out to teens to create and share their works of art!



The 2021 Summer Reading Program marked a return to in-person programming. Two outdoor events were held at the Dr. James Carlson Library for teens to participate in over the summer. In June, teens were invited to the green space outside the library to make their own spray dyed T-shirts. In July, teens had the opportunity to use special photo-reactive paper and articles found in nature to create sun art. Further, 24 teens participated in the spray dye event and 16 attended the sun art event. In addition to the in-person summer programming, there were also opportunities for teens to attend a virtual Origami in Motions session, and Pet Show and Tell events. Additionally, several Crafts-to-Go programs were offered for those not yet comfortable attending in-person programs. Over the course of the summer, 349 teens participated in Fargo Public Library events and 160 teens participated in the Summer Reading Challenge.

November marked the return to Teen Time, a weekly event held Tuesday afternoons, for teens to hang out with peers and participate in STEM, arts, reading, and games. Each week a different activity is offered for teens to try.

58
Total Events
995
Teens
Participating



The Friends of the Fargo Public Library provided a record level of support to the library in 2021 with a total of \$8,580 donated. The Friends provided financial support for such major events as One Book, One Community, and Crafternoons. 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.

Staff Development	\$2,500
One Book, One Community 2021	\$2,000
BookPage Subscription	\$1,530
Crafternoons	\$1,000
Pollinator Garden project	\$500
Northern Narratives 2021	\$450
Traveling Lantern Theater Company	\$450
Seed Library	\$150

More information about the Friends

CALL: (701) 364-2665

EMAIL: Friendsoffargopubliclibrary@gmail.com

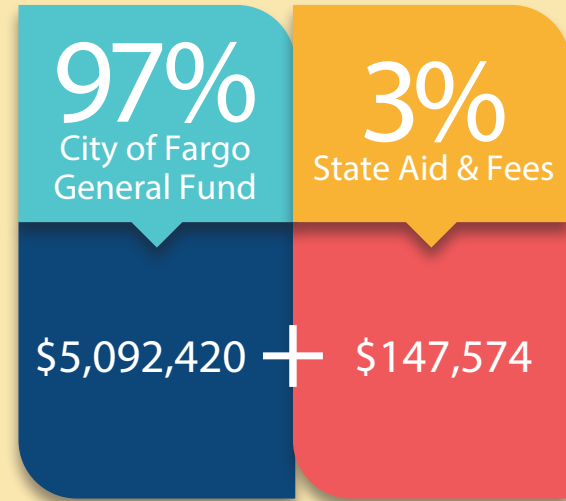
MAIL: Friends of the FPL
P.O. Box 1365 • Fargo, ND 58107

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

2022 FISCAL YEAR

PROJECTED BUDGET

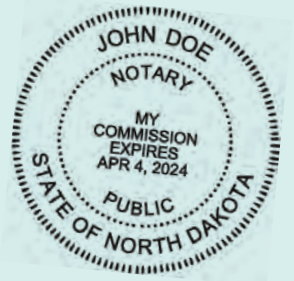
Revenue
= \$5,239,994



INNOVATIONS IN 2021

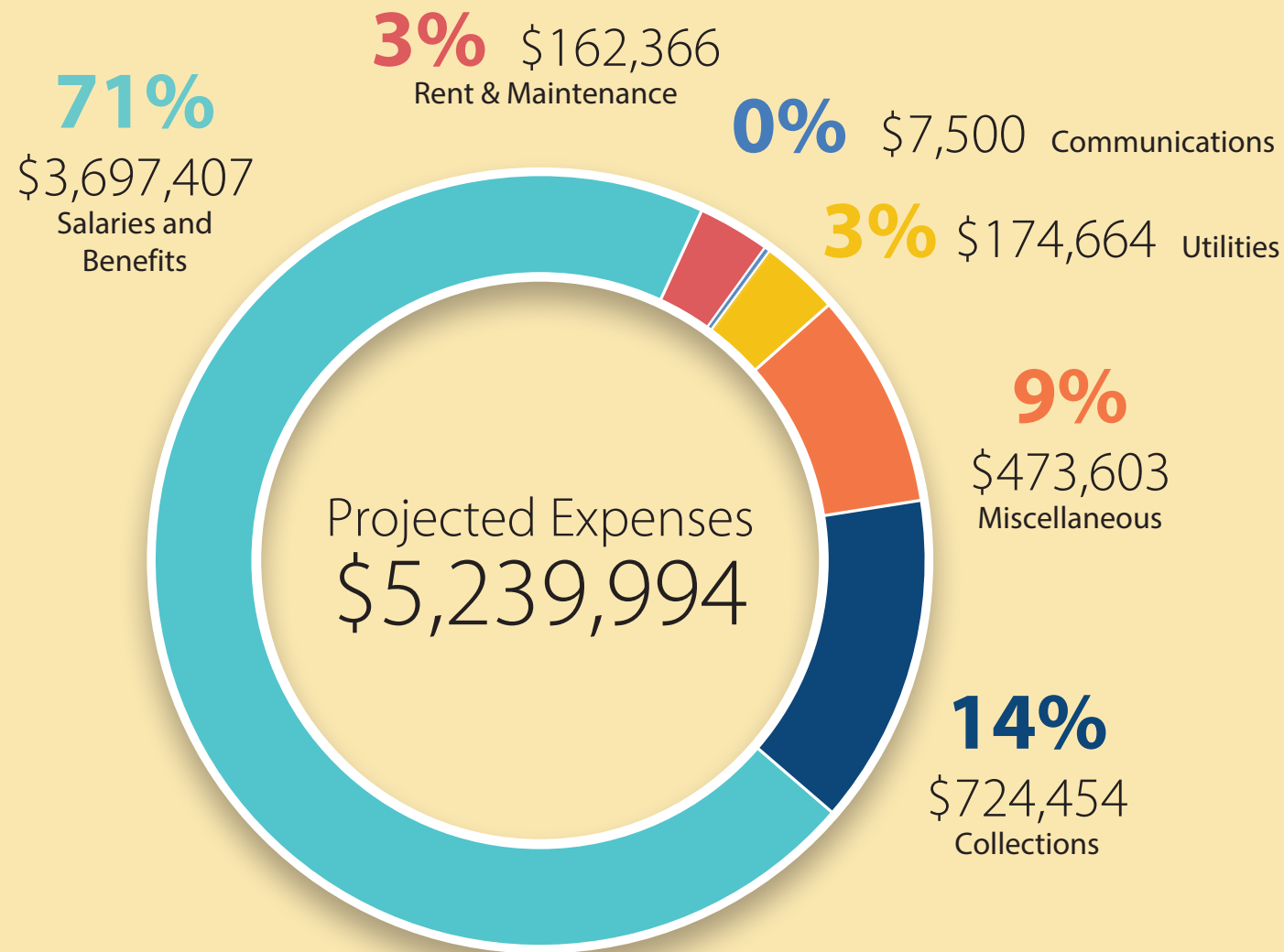
A new online arts and crafts resource is available in the Library's digital resource collection. **Creativebug** provides cardholders unlimited access to develop creative skills via its hundreds of videos covering sewing, painting, jewelry, knitting, wood engraving, and more. Expert crafters present video tutorials to start a new project or hone existing crafting skills. This addition supports our popular in-person and take-and-make craft sessions with its top-notch video classes, patterns, and daily practice ideas.

Notary Public is now one of the services the Library offers at no charge to residents. Anyone needing notary service is encouraged to call ahead to confirm a notary public is available, or to make an appointment. Since beginning this service mid-2021, Library staff notarized 89 documents through the end of last year.



In collaboration with the Fargo Park District, the Fargo Park District Foundation, and Growing Together, a local community garden organization, **Learning Gardens** are new additions to the Dr. James Carlson Library location. Three raised vegetable gardens and a pollinator garden provide a new option for library events and programs, and allow for focus on topics such as conservation, healthy foods, and pollinators. Events held over the summer included storytimes and crafts for kids, mason bee houses, and a garden book club. Planning for 2022 gardens and events are already in full swing!

Activity Kits contain items such as playing cards, coloring sheets, and tactile or sensory objects, and are available to patrons for in-library use. The aim is to help patrons of all abilities and ages have a more enjoyable time while at the library.



OUTREACH SERVICES 2021



Main Library
354 hrs.

Community Outreach
448 hrs.



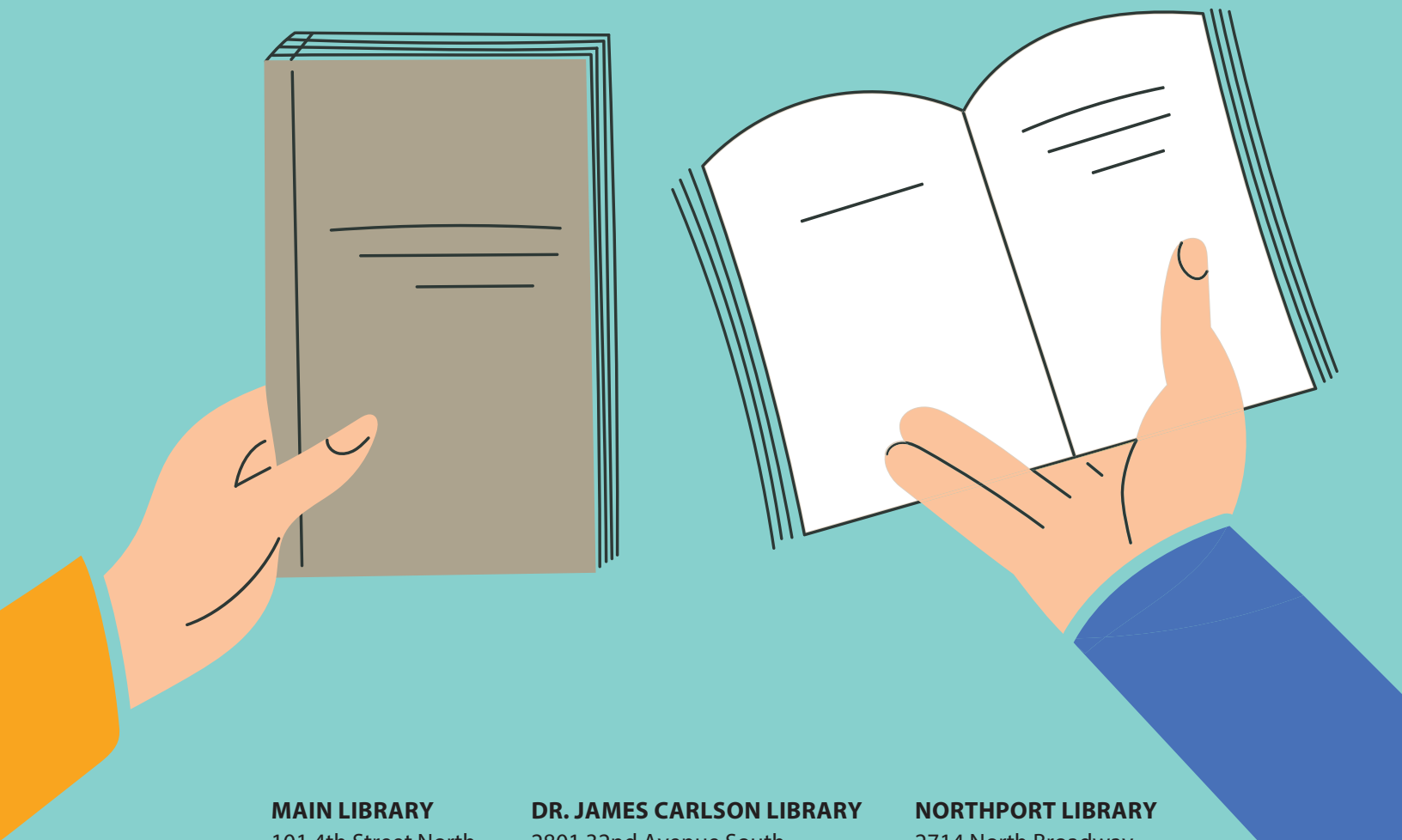
In 2021 the Outreach department continued offering its quarterly adult programming to our partner sites. Outreach staff (with occasional assistance from Adult Services Staff) offer informational, travel, and entertainment programs featuring multimedia presentations, photographs, food, music, crafts, and costumed characters.

According to the organization Independent Sector, the dollar value of a single hour of volunteer service rose in 2021 to \$27.95 for North Dakota. Therefore, the cumulative total value of all hours given to the Fargo Public Library in 2021 by volunteers is \$28,257.

OUTREACH PARTNER AGENCIES

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bethany On 42nd | Goldmark Property Management | The Meadows on University |
| Bethany Retirement Living | North Sky Senior Apartments | Touchmark at Harwood Groves |
| University Drive | One Oak Place | Trollwood Village Apartments |
| Crossroads Senior Living | Retirement Community | University Drive Manor |
| Ecumen Evergreens | Pioneer House Assisted Living | Villa Maria Nursing Home |
| Edgewood Vista | Rosewood on Broadway | |
| Eventide Senior Living Community | Sunrise North | |





MAIN LIBRARY

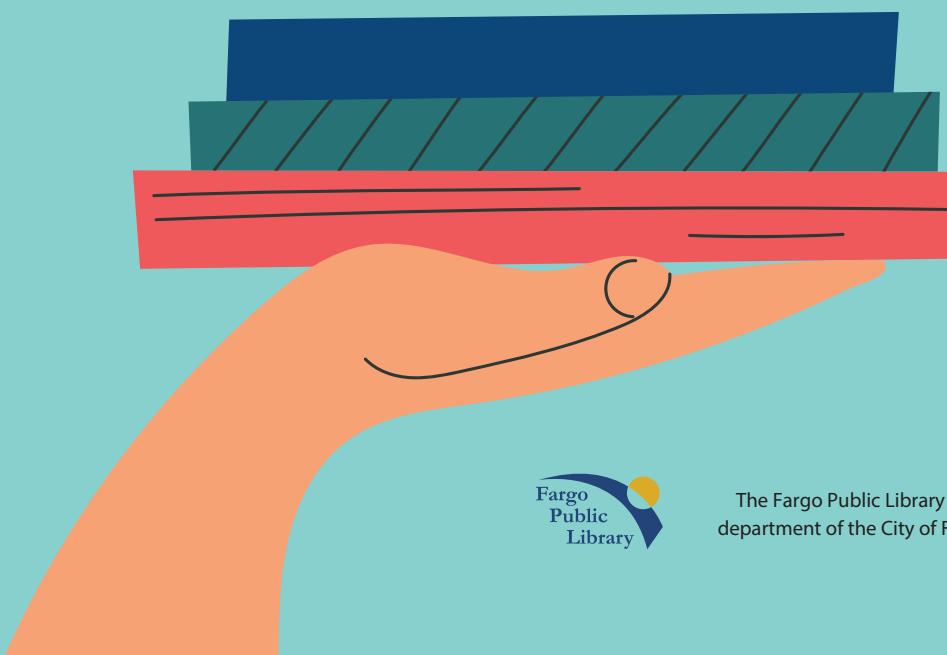
101 4th Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 241-1472

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



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

