

Muncie Public Library Report to the Community 2023



Partnerships Abound in 2023!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." — Helen Keller

Muncie Public Library enjoyed a successful and productive year in 2023 and so much of that success can be attributed to partnerships! MPL worked diligently with community organizations and others to plan events and offer vital services to enhance the lives of everyone.

Partnerships allowed MPL to put books into the hands of thousands of children, some who may not have had any books of their own. Partnerships allowed us to help organizations, such as Open Door Connections and the Goodwill Excel Center, connect with the people they serve, all within the welcoming environment provided at the four MPL branches.

Keep reading to discover the many partnerships and collaborations in 2023 that allowed MPL to make the most of the resources provided through tax funding coupled with successful grants and other resources to provide a wide range of offerings that serve the residents of Muncie and Center Township.

Photo above: MPL employees at the 2023 annual Employee Development Day. Photos at right: A Ball State University student with an MPL card and a local artist installing an art exhibit.



MPL Mission Statement

Muncie Public Library will provide accessible and innovative services responding to the reading, informational, educational, and enrichment needs of the community.



2023 Highlights-Winter

The winter cold was made warmer by the efforts of local crafters who knitted, crocheted, and stitched hats for the Stitch Against the Cold project. Hats were free to anyone in need, with hundreds of handcrafted hats given away. The hat theme continued with Hat Not Hate, an anti-bullying campaign that gave blue hats to students along with messages of kindness.

MPL employees Tenisha Harris and Katherine Mitchell earned Notary Public Certifications to offer notary services at no charge, as a community service. These services are offered by appointment at Connection Corner and Maring-Hunt Library.

MPL programming throughout 2023 included zine (pronounced as zeen) workshops that guided participants in creating their own small magazines, story times, book clubs, Wild & Wacky Science, and more.

Photos (clockwise from the top) show Great Achievers Supervisor Gabby Sandefer with students wearing Hat Not Hate hats, MPL employees Tenisha Harris and Katherine Mitchell with their notary equipment, a zines display, and a slime-making program at Kennedy Library.



2023 Highlights-Spring

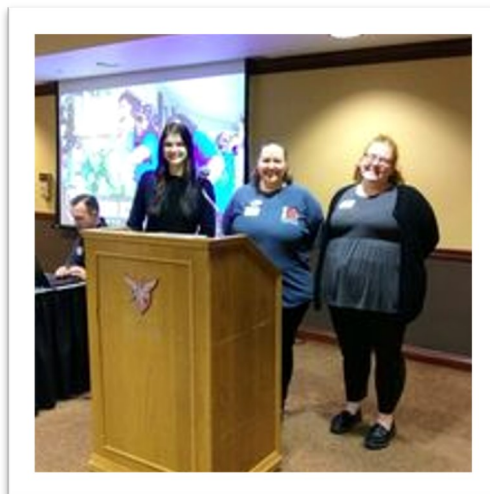
MPL participated in the annual Neighborhood I.D.E.A. Conference hosted by Muncie Action Plan and held at Ball State University. MPL Youth Services, Great Achievers, and Ready Readers employees discussed the importance of early literacy. MPL also hosted an information table at the event.

Muncie Public Library was named a Growing Home™ Certified Habitat by the Red-tail Land Conservancy for the Maring-Hunt Library Gardens. The certification means the space has all of the essentials for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover, and a place to raise young.

The MH Gardens have been a partnership project from the start. All of the elements of the space were made possible by working together with Ball State University, Lowe's Community Grants, the 8twelve Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, the Thomas Park Avondale Neighborhood Association, the Urban Gardening Coalition, the Sherman & Marjorie Zeigler Foundation, and many others.

The most recent addition to the space is a story walk that opened in 2022, made possible by the Zeigler Foundation. The walk features the pages of a children's book that can be read while walking from post to post along the path.

Photos (clockwise from the top) show MPL employees during a presentation at the I.D.E.A. Conference, MPL Library Director Akilah Nosakhere speaking with State Senator Scott Alexander at the event, a young visitor to the story walk, and the habitat certification for the Maring-Hunt Library Gardens.



2023 Highlights-Summer

The Summer Reading Program (SRP) was held in June and July to encourage everyone to keep reading throughout the summer. MPL hosted a Mud Mayhem Party to kick off Nature Play Days in partnership with the Indiana Children and Nature Network.

MPL worked closely with the City of Muncie Parks Department Summer Mentor and Employment program and with TeenWorks to provide work and learning opportunities for teens. The staff at Carnegie helped TeenWorks students learn about genealogy and research.

MPL was a proud sponsor of the Hoosier Shakespeare Festival at Minnetrista, where we distributed books from our MPL book bike.

Photos at right show Mud Mayhem, TeenWorks students, and the MPL book bike at Minnetrista.



2023 Highlights-Fall

MPL partnered with the Classroom Connection ECI book brigade to distribute free books at the BSU Homecoming parade.

The Delaware County Historical Society was presented with the Outstanding Collaborative Project Award from the Indiana Historical Society for the "Notable Women of Muncie and Delaware County Project." MPL is one of the project partners, and MPL employee Sara McKinley serves as the Library Coordinator for the project. *Photo below shows MPL's Sara McKinley, far right, with other project award winners.*



Focus on Indiana Library Federation Statehouse Day

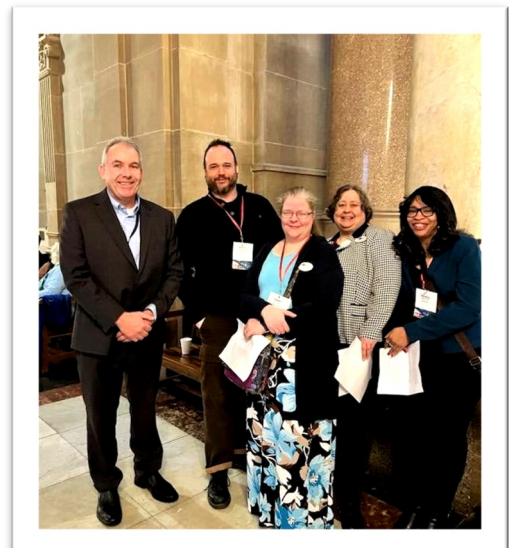
Each year, MPL staff attend the annual Indiana Library Federation (ILF) Statehouse Day. Library employees, board members, and advocates from across Indiana gather to demonstrate the important role that public libraries have in their communities.

Attendees gather at the Indiana State Library in the morning for a short training session, are given group assignments, and then walk to the statehouse with packets of information to present to assigned legislators. When not meeting with legislators, participants observe committee meetings, legislative sessions, or tour the statehouse. The ILF also hosts a display at the statehouse to share the role of today's libraries with the policymakers, their legislative assistants, and other visitors to the statehouse.

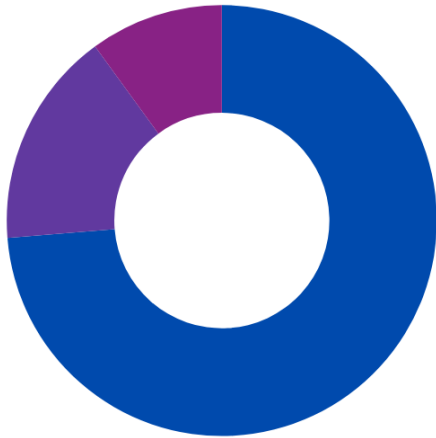
Muncie Public Library leadership encourages attendance at the ILF Statehouse Day to not only share the role of libraries with lawmakers, but to also help MPL employees see the significance of the work being done by libraries to help build better communities.

MPL recognizes the value of this annual exchange of ideas with legislators, and we were extremely pleased to see that our lawmakers also celebrate the opportunities that the day presents, as evidenced by State Representative Sue Errington featuring photos from ILF Statehouse Day in a legislative update.

Photo at right shows MPL employee Tenisha Harris and MPL Library Director Akilah Nosakhare with State Senator Scott Alexander. Photo at lower right shows a group of MPL employees with Alexander (at left). Photo below shows a partial page from a Sue Errington legislative update newsletter.

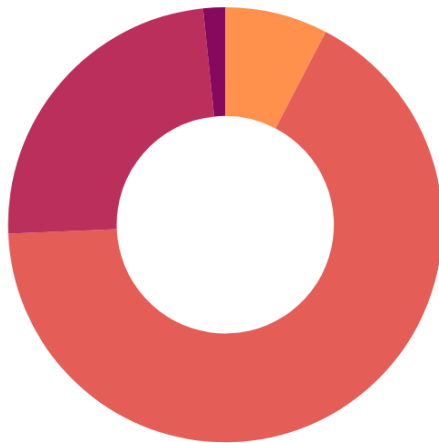


2023 Muncie Public Library Financials



Operating Revenue

● Property Taxes	3,324,712.72
● LIT (Local Income Tax)	755,146.00
● Other	435,104.07
Total: \$4,514,962.79	



Operating Expenditures

● Capital Outlays	314,074.78
● Personnel	2,528,486.40
● Other Services	994,564.79
● Supplies	76,245.50
Total: \$3,913,371.47	



Photos (clockwise from the top) show facepainting at the Scarecrow Fest, MPL employee Callie Marsh with a Wi-Fi hotspot, Open Door Connections at a Summer Reading Kick-Off Party, and an Author Talk event with “Cold Case Muncie” co-authors, Keith Roysdon and Douglas Walker.



Muncie Public Library Board of Trustees 2023

Mary Louise Buck
Olon Dotson
Traci Lutton
Denise King
Billie Sheppard
Ren'a Wagner
Jennifer Warrner

Officers 2023

President: Mary Louise Buck
Vice-President: Traci Lutton
Secretary: Denise King

Photo above, left to right: Board members Traci Lutton, Ren'a Wagner, MPL Assistant Director Katherine Mitchell, Board members Billie Sheppard, Mary Louise Buck, Jennifer Warrner, Denise King, Olon Dotson, and new MPL Library Director Alan Kornblau.

MPL Library Director Search

MPL Library Director Akilah Nosakhere announced in 2023 that she would retire in 2024. The national search for a new director was led by MPL Board of Trustees member Traci Lutton, who invited community stakeholders to assist in the search. *A new MPL Library Director, Alan Kornblau, was hired in early 2024.*

2023 Statistics

Collections

266,447

Includes all items, print, audio-visual, etc., and all Muncie Community School and Motivate Our Minds (MOM) items in the shared UCAT catalog.

Circulations

422,960

Includes all circulating items at all branches, and checkouts through the shared catalogs. OverDrive digital checkouts were 109,405 and are included in the circulations total above.

Database Use

86,138

Includes all database checkouts from 14 databases, including Hoopla streaming services.

Card Count

49,931

Includes expired cards, Resident, Non-Resident, Student, PLAC, Reciprocal cards, and READ cards. The READ Card Project puts special library cards into the hands of students, teachers, and staff at participating organizations.

Card Registrations

4,253

Includes registrations and renewals for all card types.

Door Counts

164,423

Total door counts at all branches.



MPL Branches

Carnegie Library

301 E. Jackson Street, Muncie, IN 47305

765-747-8208

Historic Carnegie houses the Local History & Genealogy collection and has public use computers, Wi-Fi access, programs, and a community meeting room.



Connection Corner

1824 E. Centennial Avenue, Muncie IN 47303

765-747-8216

Connection Corner is a high-tech community resource center with Wi-Fi access, public use computers, video production, a sound studio, 3D printers, programs, tech tutoring, a community meeting room, and notary service by appointment.



Kennedy Library

1700 W. McGalliard Road, Muncie, IN 47304

765-741-9727

Kennedy Library is a full service library with a large collection of books, digital media downloads, magazines, CDs, DVDs, Wi-Fi access, public use computers, story times, programs, tech tutoring, and a community meeting room.



Maring-Hunt Library

2005 S. High Street, Muncie, IN 47302

765-747-8200

Maring-Hunt Library is a full service library with a large collection of books, digital media downloads, magazines, CDs, DVDs, Wi-Fi access, public use computers, a study room, tech tutoring, story times, programs, a community meeting room, a health track & story walk, and notary service by appointment.



MPL Administration

2005 S. High Street, Muncie, IN 47302

765-747-8228

MPL Website: www.munpl.org

The Friends of Muncie Public Library

Thank you to the Friends of Muncie Public Library for their volunteer service! The Friends group is a separate 501 (c)(3) dedicated to supporting Muncie Public Library. The group holds book sales to help support programs and services at MPL.

