



2025 Shaker Library **Annual Report**



Shaker
Library

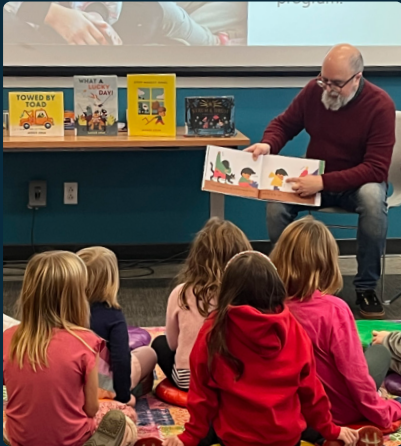


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Summary

This year was an exciting and productive one as we completed major projects in support of our strategic plan goals.

We debuted our new brand, which represents not just books and learning, but our greatest strength: our community. We completed a survey of community leaders, which highlights areas to focus on and prioritize as we plan services and programming.

We saw increased participation in many initiatives, including Summer Reading, reaffirming what a vital literacy resource we are for families. We look forward to our continued work building relationships with customers and collaborating with partners in the coming year.

— Director Amy L. Switzer



Mission

Shaker Heights Public Library strengthens our diverse community and transforms lives by bringing together people, information, and ideas.

Our Collection



125,146

Books



1,695,539

eBooks



623,807

eAudiobooks



15,237

DVDs and
Blu-ray



7,783

Recordings (physical
AV and Music CDs)



627,173

eMedia (streaming
music and videos)

Strategic Plan

Build a More Equitable and Inclusive Institution

Expand Visibility and Awareness of Our Value



Foster Connection

Unlock Power of Partners

Build a More Equitable and Inclusive Institution



We will:

- Foster an internal culture of growth, learning, risk taking, and innovation.
- Prioritize staffing, policies, and procedures that reflect the diversity of our community
- Engage an empowered staff by assessing our organizational structure and operations to ensure we are meeting current and future needs.
- Value and support staff and their individual strengths.

Expand Visibility and Awareness of Our Value



We will:

- Listen to community needs.
- Understand community perception of the value of Shaker Library.
- Lead or support community conversations that tie in to Shaker Library goals.
- Be good stewards of our resources. Provide fiscal and environmental sustainability. Ensure project sustainability (financial and staffing) through careful selection of priorities, community feedback, and piloting new ideas.
- Be an active participant in solving complex community problems.
- Share our story and successes.

Foster Connection



We will:

- Become known as the place for discovery. Promote the library as a place of individual transformation with unparalleled access to books, programming, and information/ resources.
- Be an exciting destination. Provide a platform for connection both inside and outside library walls.
- Celebrate community voices.
- Be radically welcoming. Go out of our way to make sure people feel this is a place for them.
- Build equitable and inclusive offerings that reflect a deeper awareness and empathy for all.
- Enhance the convenience and ease of using the library.

Unlock Power of Partners



We will:

- Renew our understanding of community aspirations and needs.
- Strategically cultivate new or deeper relationships with partners. Be seen as a part of community solutions.
- Redefine and invest in community engagement and partnerships.
- Pursue renewal after the pandemic. Renew connections and strategy and put people first.

Highlights

Compost Bins Installed

The City of Shaker Heights and the Rust Belt Riders installed compost bins outside of Main Library in April 2025. After a full year of use, the bins collected 31,556 lbs. of food scraps from 226 participating households, creating 70 yards of compost, offsetting 31,303 miles driven, and avoiding 27,769 lbs. of methane. A ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the compost bins was held April 22.



Art Exposed Returned

This year Shaker Main Library resumed its role as the host of Shaker Heights High School's annual art show, Art Exposed. (We took a hiatus from 2020 to 2024 during building renovation and pandemic closures.) Over 400 people attended the opening reception, which was held after hours on May 9. Staff worked cooperatively across many departments, including Adult Services, Circulation, Maintenance, Marketing, and Security, to make the evening a reality.



New Brand Launched

The Communications and Marketing Department debuted the new brand around the building on print assets. The new logo, colors, and fonts appeared on library literature, on signage around the building (including new end panels), and on new library cards. Work proceeded on the new website, with plans to transition the brand over to digital spaces in 2026.



Summer Reading Expanded

Numbers increased across the board for this year's Shaker Reads Summer Reading Program. We saw an increase not only in registrations but in completions and logged days. This was the first year we had community sponsors (in addition to the Friends of the Library), such as Loganberry Books, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, and Shaker Rocks. Families said they appreciated the local business involvement, Shaker-specific graphics, and a choice of prize baskets to put their tickets in.



Award-Winning Authors Visited

The Youth Services Department hosted two award-winning authors this year. In May, twenty teens and two dozen other community members enjoyed a talk by Quartez Harris, the author of *Go Tell It: How James Baldwin Became a Writer*. Harris won the 2026 Norman A. Sugarman Children's Biography Award. Then in December, about thirty children and their adults came to see Caldecott Honoree Jashar Awan, who read from *I'm Going to Build a Snowman* and led them in a craft.

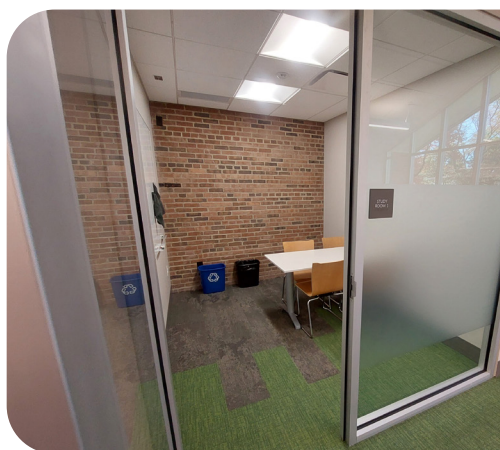


Community Leaders Survey Completed

The Community Engagement Team surveyed community leaders across six sectors (business, civic, education, faith-based, government, and non-profit) to develop an understanding of shared concerns and aspirations. The team found that residents' have shared concerns in the following areas: community building, youth well-being, economic development, safety, and environmental sustainability. Staff will continue to focus on these areas as we plan programming and services.



Statistics



7,387

Study Room Uses



3,155

Public Meeting Room Uses



27,106

Registered Cardholders



2,788

New Cards Created



268,028

Customer Visits



1,180

Public Programs



19,134

Program Attendance



69,425

Reference Transactions



5,277

Meals & Snacks Provided



72

Staff



765,052

Total Circulation



322,733

Digital Items Borrowed



47,062

Computer Sessions



501

Wi-Fi Hotspots Borrowed



462,618

Hours of Wi-Fi Use



976

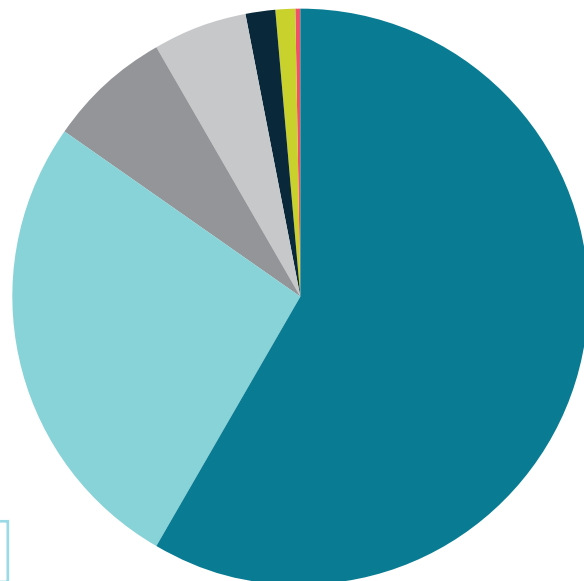
Laptops Borrowed

Financials

Revenue – General Fund

Property Taxes	\$4,281,272
Public Library Fund	\$1,922,343
Investment Earnings	\$508,767
Intergovernmental Incl. Homestead	\$397,337
Customer Fees and Fines	\$109,800
Miscellaneous	\$85,377
Gifts and Donations	\$10,817

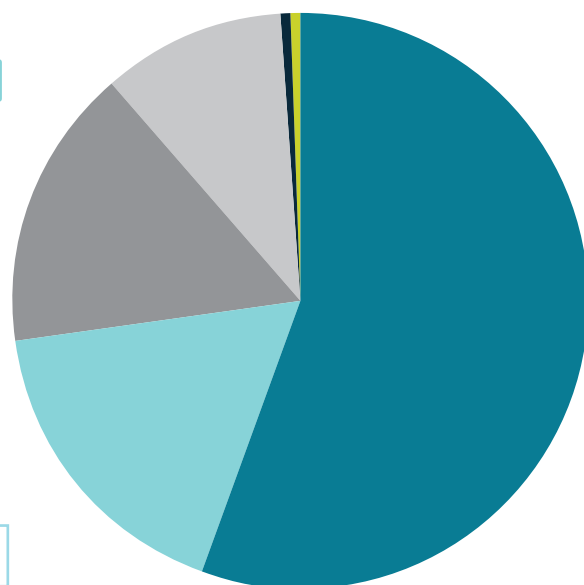
Total	\$7,315,713
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Expenditures – General Fund

Salaries and Benefits	\$3,765,612
Transfers Out	\$1,162,086
Contracted Services	\$1,053,418
Library Materials	\$697,659
Supplies	\$43,016
Miscellaneous	\$25,388

Total	\$6,747,179
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Cash Balances – All Funds

Description	Beginning Cash Balance	Revenues	Transfers/ Advances In	Expenditures	Transfers/ Advances Out	Ending Cash Balance
101 General Fund	\$10,527,298	\$7,315,713	\$0	\$5,585,093	\$1,162,086	\$11,095,832
204 Walter N. Lawson Trust	\$10,281	\$458		\$828		\$9,911
205 Elaine Boots Fisher Trust	\$962	\$37		\$246		\$753
206 Sheldon Skip Baumel Trust	\$999	\$442		\$0		\$1,441
207 Barbara Luton Art Fund	\$26,998	\$1,243		\$0		\$28,241
208 Bertram Woods Branch Fund	\$9,535	\$474		\$252		\$9,757
209 Marilyn Kammer Memorial Fund	\$421	\$401		\$383		\$439
210 Frances Belman Fund	\$1,402	\$270		\$3		\$1,669
211 Friends Of Shaker Library	\$4,785	\$11,942		\$13,138		\$3,588
212 Mycomm – Ost Grant	\$14,295	\$0		\$0		\$14,295
219 Ruth Levenson Fund	\$17,206	\$792		\$0		\$17,998
401 Building and Vehicle Fund	\$1,440,315	\$55,048	\$200,000	\$345,256		\$1,350,107
403 Technology Fund	\$755,754	\$31,168	\$100,000	\$158,939		\$727,983
405 Facility Financing Fund (Main)	\$430	\$61	\$666,200	\$666,200		\$491
407 Bertram Woods Branch Note Retirement	\$10,764	\$0	\$195,886	\$206,650		\$0
Total All Funds	\$12,821,445	\$7,418,049	\$1,162,086	\$6,976,989	\$1,162,086	\$ 13,262,505



Leadership

Board of Trustees

Shaker Library is overseen by a seven-member volunteer Board of Trustees. The Board sets goals for the library and charts a course for staff to achieve them. They oversee the financial operations of the library, adopt plans for the library's growth and improvement, and act as advocates for the library.



Laura Barnard
President



Bruce Rogan
Vice President



Rajani Tendulkar
Secretary



Mario Bynum



Emily Cole-Kelly



Milton Alan Turner



Dylan Yépez

Library Administration



Amy Switzer
Director



Jessica Smith
Deputy Director



Susan Ritchey
Fiscal Officer



Lynne Miller
Branch Manager



