

Director's Note

2023 wraps up a year of planning! After a process that included a survey with over 2,000 responses, focus groups with over 140 participants, and a Strategic Retreat with 26 Board, staff, and community members, the Board of

Library Trustees approved the High-Level Strategic Plan in August and the 2024 Work Plan in November.


Our focus now turns to the work on those goals—and that work has already begun. We're partnering with Downers Grove Grade School District 58 to get library cards into the hands of more kids. A building planning study began to examine improving Teen Central, creating a makerspace, adding a private space for nursing or sensory needs, and upgrading accessibility from the Forest Avenue parking lot. The Tween area of the Kids Room got a facelift with booth seating, a gaming area, iPads with games for this age group, and acoustic panels to dampen noise. The Personnel Policy updates approved in January include investing in our staff through tuition reimbursement and parental leave.

Look for more to come in 2024—from adding pickup lockers at another location to expanding the Memory Kit collection to creating a Teen Advisory Group. There's always more to discover, grow, play, and learn at DGPL!

About DGPL

 Number of staff: **110**

 Number of physical items in our collection: **246,833**

 Service population: **50,247**

Mission: Welcoming all to discover, grow, play, and learn

Vision: The heart of a diverse community providing inspiring ideas, community connections, and empowering opportunities

Our Values:

Inclusive and Welcoming Environment: We celebrate our individual uniqueness and create spaces where everyone is valued, represented, and included

Community Engagement: We listen and respond to the changing needs of our community

Equitable Access: We remove barriers and enable access for all

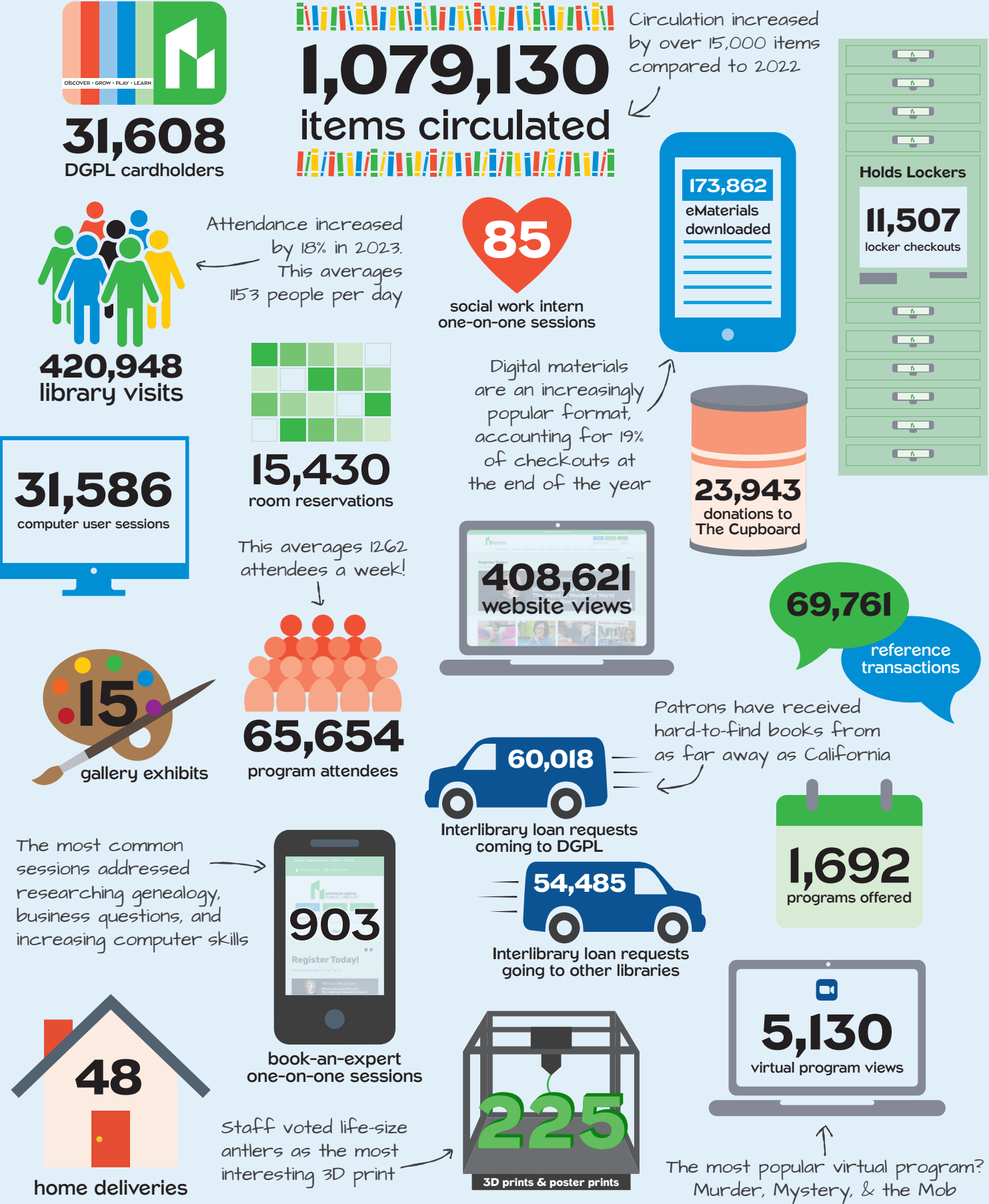
Intellectual Freedom: We provide a variety of programs, services, and materials so community members can customize their own library experience

Lifelong Learning: We are always learning and encourage our community to be curious and continue to learn throughout all stages of life

Integrity: We advocate for and uphold ethical library practices and responsible financial stewardship



How People Use the Library: A Year in Numbers



Popular Picks

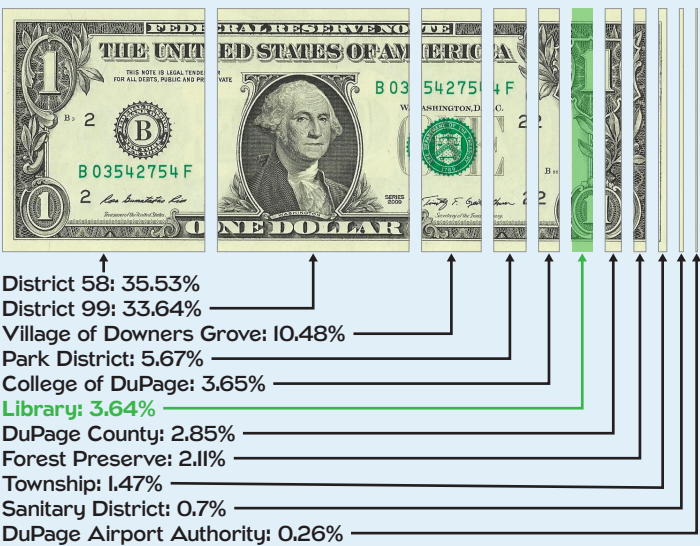
- Picture Book**
The Thank You Book by Mo Willems
- Kid Fiction**
Cat Kid Comic Club, Vol. 1 by Dave Pilkey
- Adult Nonfiction**
Spare by Prince Harry
- Adult Fiction**
Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin
- Teen Fiction**
The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han
- Music**
Lover by Taylor Swift
- Movie**
Everything, Everywhere, All at Once
- TV Show**
Yellowstone: Season Five
- Audiobook**
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- Anything**
Emporium Roku (with Apple TV+, Disney+, & Netflix)

New & Notable in 2023

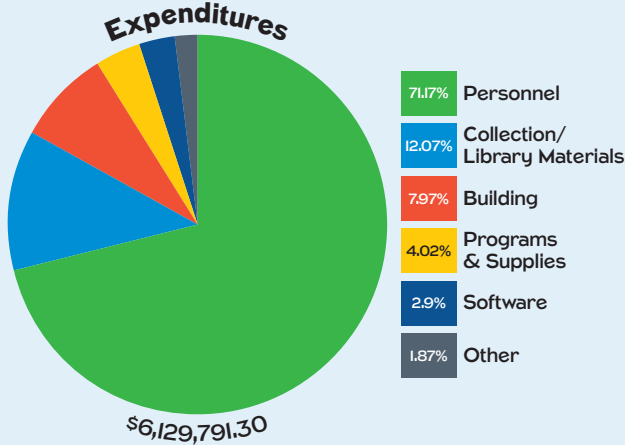
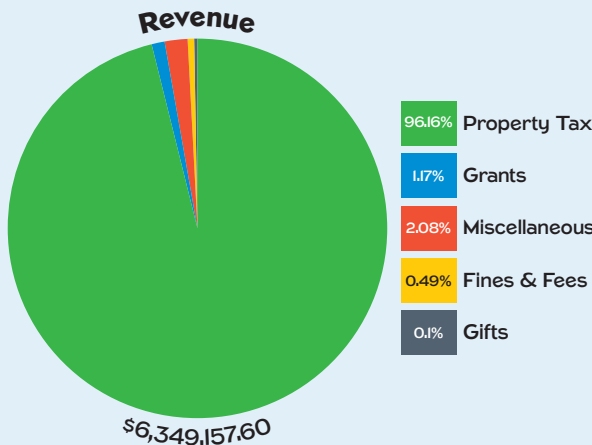
- Accessibility Kits
- Community Celebrates program
- Legacy Project exhibit
- Local Author Fair
- Lote4Kids database
- Real Reads Book Discussion
- Rising Reads collection
- Social Work Sessions
- Stellar Reads Book Discussion
- Strategic Planning
- And more!

Finances

Property Tax Bill:



Library Budget*:



*Budget information is from the unaudited end-of-year December 2023 data.

For more details, visit dglibrary.org/transparency



Our Year in Photos

Captions start in the top left, moving clockwise:

1. Painting with Cars
2. DGPL Outreach at **Pride in the Parking Lot**
3. A Staff Picks VIP Bundle raffle winner
4. The Legacy Wall
5. STEM Buddies with their giant cup tower
6. Octo-fun program participants
7. Ballon drop during Noon Year's Eve Party
8. Donations received for The Cupboard
9. Locker Buddies Craft
10. Some of the Staff Picks team
11. DGPL Board of Trustees members meeting Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulis
12. Teens building Cardboard Forts



**DOWNERS GROVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
1050 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-960-1200 • dglibrary.org

