The mission of Nashville Public Library is to inspire reading, advance learning and connect our community.

NPLF

Nashville Public Library Foundation funds, advocates, and amplifies Nashville Public Library to power literacy, life skills, and connection for all.
Nashville Public Library is a treasury of stories. From a child’s first visit to their branch to new worlds opened for a grandparent with their first tablet, each experience represents the multitude of riches within this institution. Beyond a place for books, we are a community that connects Nashvillians with the resources they need to grow, learn, find inspiration, and write their own adventures, every day. We are proud to share this with you –

ONCE UPON A TIME...
FROM THE DIRECTOR

I believe in the power and the promise of public libraries. And when a community embraces a library the way Nashville has embraced NPL, the possibilities are endless. We are so fortunate to have the support of people from across Nashville – customers, volunteers, staff, and the generous donors and corporate sponsors of the Nashville Public Library Foundation.

Together, as a library community, we made the 2023 fiscal year a success. NPL launched a new collection, called the Library of Things, and supported learners of all ages with education programs for every stage of life. Meanwhile, each time they joined a story time across the library’s 21 locations, NPL’s customers celebrated the joy that books and imagination provide. They came together to create respectful, welcoming spaces for open conversation about the pressing questions our community faces today. Finally, the library’s readers went on a journey of knowledge, discovery, and inspiration with NPL, as they borrowed more than 6 million books and library materials.

We will go even further in the 2024 fiscal year, with investments in:

• A team for the new Donelson Branch Library, set to open in 2024
• More staff capacity in NPL’s Equal Access division, which offers special programs for people experiencing hearing loss, vision loss, and deafblindness
• 250 more afterschool slots and an additional 100 summer learning slots for Nashville’s students through the Nashville After Zone Alliance
• Investments in NPL’s Votes for Women staff
• A new Limitless Libraries ambassador, who will serve Metro Nashville Public Schools through NPL’s school lending program
• Two new traveling children’s librarians, who will serve six Nashville zip codes that are home to an estimated 6,162 children aged 5 and younger
• Translating key portions of NPL’s website into Spanish, for greater accessibility

When a city and a library come together, great things happen.

On behalf of the NPL staff, I want to thank you for supporting the library – as customers, as volunteers, and as donors. Thank you for making the 2023 fiscal year one of excellence. We are grateful for you. And we look forward to serving you in 2024 as we read, learn, and create community, together.

Sincerely,

Terri M. Luke, NPL Interim Director
Generous donors supported NPL through gifts and grants.

New donors joined their neighbors who support the Library through charitable giving.

The result was an increase of $1.96 million in NPL’s Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget.

Almost $1 million was raised through fundraising events this year. Award-winning author Louise Erdrich joined us for a weekend of activities as the Literary Award Honoree. In the spring, our Picnic with the Library brought together a record number of families to support children’s programming.

1,578 donors and corporate partners contributed $2.8 million. These dollars were employed to bolster and expand some of NPL’s most beloved initiatives for Nashvillians of all ages.

Convened experts to help support and amplify NPL’s effort to build a comprehensive strategy to address early literacy skills for Nashville’s children.

Our commitment to cultivating NPL’s treasure of stories is not just about the volumes lining our shelves. It is also about the lives touched, the minds expanded, and the connections forged. With NPL’s innovative programming, NPL’s strategic partnerships, and your unwavering support, we have extended the reach of our library beyond its physical walls to power literacy, life skills, and connection for all. Thank you for being a part of that.

Gratefully,

Shawn Bakker,
NPLF President

Many of NPL's most popular and effective initiatives are made possible through generous private support of NPLF.
**OPERATING BUDGET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Donelson Library Site / Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richland Park Planning</td>
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<td>Hadley Park Planning</td>
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<td>Total FY23 Capital Budget</td>
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**CAPITAL BUDGET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>NPL Foundation Finances</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings</td>
<td>$2,379,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total FY23 Capital Budget</td>
<td>$43,544,138</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

As a department of Metro Nashville, Nashville Public Library receives the majority of its funding directly from the city. The Nashville Public Library Foundation was created in 1997 to enhance the Library’s programs, facilities, and collections beyond the city’s budget. We are pleased to share our joint fiscal story and showcase how a thriving partnership between local government and private philanthropy makes a difference for library patrons and the city of Nashville.

The Nashville Public Library Foundation is supported by generous community members dedicated to building a brighter future by empowering one of our city’s greatest resources – Nashville Public Library.

**REVENUE**

<table>
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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Contributions and Support</td>
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<td>Special Events net of expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Earnings net of expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<td>Teens</td>
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<td>Surplus/Deficit</td>
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*Audit in process at time of press. For full financials, please visit www.nplf.org.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total FY23 Non-Capital Budget</td>
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**NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCIALS**

The capital budget funds the library's physical footprint and uses bond proceeds to support construction, renovation, and large library maintenance equipment.

**OPERATING BUDGET**

The operating budget is the annual amount approved by Metro Council to operate the Nashville Public Library System. This includes General Fund Appropriations (personnel, utilities, repairs, and other costs associated with operating NPL facilities), as well as support from the Nashville Public Library Foundation and State and Federal Grants.

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The library is a place for books and reading – and so much more. Literacy involves the development of essential foundational skills, fostering a love of stories, creating a base for understanding, access to knowledge, and mastery of skills.

**Battle of the Books**

"As a parent of two kids who have enjoyed participating in Battle of the Books (BoB), I am particularly grateful. This program offers kids the joys of being part of a team and the thrill and struggle of competition. For kids whose interests lie inside a book instead of on an athletic field, Battle of the Books can often be their first exposure to this critical opportunity for growth. My daughter really fell in love with reading when she joined her friends in preparation for competition. Since discovering BoB, she has become a voracious reader. Her team has been school champion every year since their 5th grade year – which was remote because of Covid. This year was their first chance to take part in the district competition at Main. They loved meeting the author and engaging with kids from other schools. It was an opportunity for them to enjoy the library on an entirely new level. Thank you for this uniquely wonderful program. I'm happy to support it with a gift to NPLF." ~Alex, BoB Parent

**Bringing Books to Life (BBTL)**

In addition to connecting early childhood educators to NPL’s rich resources and promoting the use of books in the classroom, BBTL is proud of the work done connecting teachers with the artists who create children’s books!

In FY23, BBTL hosted author Jessica Young for a special educator workshop. All participants left the workshop with tools and lessons they could use in the classroom and received a signed copy of one of Jessica Young’s books. BBTL received nothing but positive feedback. Everyone was so excited to hear about BBTL’s next educator workshop with an author.

"Enjoyed hearing about the process involved when Jessica brainstorms a book idea and how to make it accessible for children." ~Janelle

**Literacy**

549 Bringing Books to Life programs delivered critical early literacy lessons to Nashville’s children and the adults who care for them.

307 Wishing Chair Productions presentations fostered the love of stories in children of all ages.

68 Puppet Truck shows brought the delight of puppetry arts to schools, day cares, and senior centers all over Nashville.

66,353 Limitless Libraries books traveled the city and were delivered directly to kids and teachers in MNPS schools.

3,072 learners and educators accessed new skills through NPL’s Adult Literacy programs and Mobile Literacy Lab.

218,480 days of reading by Nashvillians during Summer Reading Challenge, helping over 7,200 readers—preventing summer slide for the youngest participants and reminding more seasoned readers why they love a good book.

**Adult Literacy**

The return of the in-person Spring Summit after three years was the most important event of the year. NPL’s Adult Literacy conferences are highly valuable professional development activities for adult educators in the community. It is a platform for knowledge exchange, skill enhancement, and networking opportunities. The structured programs allow participants to stay current with educational trends. Attendees also share peer-to-peer: best practices, challenges faced in the field, and creative approaches to adult education. Most of the time, exchanging ideas and thoughts lead to future projects that benefit both educators and their students.

"As a parent of two kids who have enjoyed participating in Battle of the Books (BoB), I am particularly grateful. This program offers kids the joys of being part of a team and the thrill and struggle of competition. For kids whose interests lie inside a book instead of on an athletic field, Battle of the Books can often be their first exposure to this critical opportunity for growth. My daughter really fell in love with reading when she joined her friends in preparation for competition. Since discovering BoB, she has become a voracious reader. Her team has been school champion every year since their 5th grade year – which was remote because of Covid. This year was their first chance to take part in the district competition at Main. They loved meeting the author and engaging with kids from other schools. It was an opportunity for them to enjoy the library on an entirely new level. Thank you for this uniquely wonderful program. I’m happy to support it with a gift to NPLF." ~Alex, BoB Parent
Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA)

The 2022-2023 school year saw 51 NAZA-funded after school partners in 32 schools and 9 community sites. These locations provided programming to students from 39 MNPS schools, which included middle schools, elementary schools, and charter schools. From those schools, 1,532 youth attended programming. NAZA partners provided 5-8th graders with engaging activities that develop social, emotional, and cognitive skills; co-created youth leadership opportunities; and aligned programming with the growth practices identified in Nashville’s Vision for Holistic Youth Development.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

1,500+ older Nashvillians acquired critical new skills for the 21st century via 604 Digital Inclusion programs.

98% of participants said that they intended to apply skills learned from a Digital Inclusion program.

2,500+ youth participated in NAZA afterschool and summer programs that supported their academic day, provided enrichment opportunities, served meals, and provided transportation.

LIFE SKILLS

NPL provides for individuals throughout their lives at every age and stage. Technology, language, wellness, and creative classes, teen after-school initiatives, professional development, resources for jobseekers, and connections to social services help patrons learn skills, expand their horizons, and reach their goals.

BE WELL

Be Well at NPL hosted meditation sessions at the Sarah Cannon Cancer Center. Not only did it provide help for people dealing with the challenges of cancer, but organizers helped patients sign up for library cards to access materials from NPL! Many of the nurses and staff commented that the program helped them too.

STUDIO NPL

This year, Studio NPL created its first “Teens Teach Tech Week.” Four teenagers were awarded paid opportunities to work with Studio adult mentors for one month to develop their own workshops. The teens were coached to create marketing materials, project examples, and recruit for their programs. The week of teen-led activities varied from vinyl cutting to jewelry design and creation, photography, and podcasting; the podcasting workshop had the highest participation ever! These kinds of opportunities are key for the Studio NPL model. Not only does it teach the technical skills that young people find relevant to their schooling, hobbies, or future careers, but it helps develop them as citizens, presenters, and leaders in their communities!

52,500 teens participated in Studio NPL or other NPL teen programming.

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NPL is a gathering place that connects individuals, not only to the ideas, knowledge, and resources they seek, but to each other and our shared heritage. Through special collections, archives, concerts, art shows, author events, and more, NPL is an essential community builder.

Nashville Public Library made international news and won Library Journal’s Marketer of the Year award with the launch of the “I Read Banned Books” library card. Nearly 5,000 customers signed up for this card. The nationwide response was incredible, with calls and emails flooding in from around the country asking for library cards, stickers, and more. The Foundation answered the call by launching a Banned Books fundraising campaign, raising more than $14,250 from 75 donors across 16 states, as well as an online merchandise collection that has brought in an additional $13,700 from customers as far away as Australia!

Next Chapter Society - NPLF’s emerging leaders group - was integral to the successes of NPLF this year. With 90 members and a 23-member Leadership Council, the group connected over 250 booklovers at their monthly book clubs; hosted three events that brought in more than $23,000; introduced more than 100 new donors to NPLF through their t-shirt partnership with local artist Elisheba Mrozik; donated countless hours volunteering for the Foundation; raised a total of $44,700 to advance the work of the library; and along the way forged a community of friends who care for the library.

“As a lifelong reader and a parent, I am not exaggerating how crucial the library is to a functioning democratic society. By protecting library access for people from across generations and social positions, of people of all genders and creeds, our community learns how to care for one another.”

~NPL Ambassador

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

“Thank you for an amazing experience at the Votes for Women exhibit yesterday! My team members and I were fascinated by all we learned about Nashville and Tennessee’s history in the suffrage movement, and how much of what happened over 100 years ago remains true today. We will continue to share the VFW and Civil Rights Room experiences to our groups.”

~Marie R. Sueing, Chief Diversity Officer 
Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp

“I support Chris, a man with special needs in his mid-fifties. One of his favorite activities is to go visit the Donelson branch. We pick up books and DVDs, and Chris spends hours at the Lego table. Ryan and everyone is so welcoming. We love going to the library!”

~A.J.

3,665 people attended a Special Collections program and learned about Nashville’s unique place in history.

8 Courtyard Concerts brought the joy of music to people of all ages.

90 Seed Exchange programs connected people and plants across 19 branches.


The NPL Collections Department became a trailblazer this year by partnering with the Middle East Cooperative Acquisitions Program in Cairo to become the only U.S. library to offer materials for adults in Kurdish. This intentional pursuit to respond to the needs of Nashville’s large Kurdish population is another example of how our Library strives to reflect and serve all. This new collection is 183 titles and growing!

BANNED BOOKS

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Generosity is at the heart of what we do. We are grateful for our many supporters who advance the work of the Library.

–Brock Kidd, Pinnacle Bank

GIFTS OF $100,000+
Amazon Inc.
Dollar General Literacy Foundation

GIFTS OF $25,000 to $99,999
Anonymous Corporate Contribution
Allianzinvestor
Lucie W. Cammack
Anne Davis and Karl Dean
Anne Davis and John Dean Advised Fund**
Dollar General
Economic Club of Nashville
ExpandED Schools, Inc
First Horizon
Carol and Robert Frist
Carol K.
Robert A. Frist M.D. Fund*+

GIFTS OF $10,000 to $24,999
Aladdin Industries Foundation, Inc.*
Annette Eskind*+
Jennifer and Billy Frist*+ Google Fiber
Leilie and Charles Higgins*+ Joan and John Hindle*+ Jackson National Life Insurance Company
Cathy and Clay Jackson*+ Robin and Bill King*+

GIFTS OF $5,000 to $9,999
Alignment Nashville
Ann and Robert Doolittle*+ Annette Eskind*+
Jennifer and Billy Frist*+ Google Fiber
Leilie and Charles Higgins*+ Joan and John Hindle*+ Jackson National Life Insurance Company
Cathy and Clay Jackson*+ Robin and Bill King*+

"As NPLF supporters, we not only help to perpetuate the inspiration that drives our work, but we also create a place where everyone is welcome to gather and immerse themselves both in the great works of ages past and current happenings."

– Brock Kidd, Pinnacle Bank
**GIFTS OF $1,000 to 1,499**

Emily and Jan Freitag
Mary Falls and Jim Cooper
Ashley and James Ewing
Crystal and Victor Evans
Brenda and Glynn Dowdle
Fletch and William Coke
Scott Chambers,
Megan and Bruce Barry
Bank of America,
Evadne and Mark Awh
Edley’s BBQ
Chicken Salad Chick
Chef’s Market
Big Events, Inc.
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
Scott C. Chambers Fund*
Robert K. Oermann
Private Bank
Linda and Ray Meneely
Jason Martin
Craig Martin
Cindy MacLean
Candy and Joseph Ledbetter
Susan and Greg Lanigan
Inglewood Neighborhood
Kathryn Hays Sasser
Meg and Alexander Harris
Kevin Hageman
Patricia and John Grillos
John Greer
Jeni’s Splendid Ice Cream
Gabby’s Burgers and Fries
Friendly Arctic Printing
Lane Motor Museum
Kernels Nashville Popcorn
Company, Inc.
Joyner • Hogan Company.
KMART Nashville Popcorn
Lane Motor Museum
Lomax Brothers
Little Art House
Mandolin
Three Rivers Museum

**LIBRARY SUSTAINERS**

Sustainers are the spine of the book. These supporters, through their generous monthly gifts, provide a steady stream of income for NPL and allow the Library to plan with confidence.

Elizabeth Affleck and Adam Underwood
Blythe and Tim Brown
Leslie Alderman
Liz Atack and Rachel Rosen
Learn Beyond
Stephanie Bolding
Mary Ann and Bill Blaudeau
Reid Berry
Susana Duggan
Patricia Boulie
Sammy and Brian Roark
Renata Soto and Peter Woman
Shelley and Fritz Spainhour
Kathie Thayer and Steve Teal
Charity and Victor Wooten
Jeniffer and Ryan Wooten
Charity and Victor Wooten
Francine and Andrew Wooten
Kathy Zanker
Adam Underwood and
Daniel Underwood
Elizabeth Affleck and
Adam Underwood

**IN-DKIN CONTRIBUTIONS**

Big Events, Inc.
Chef’s Market
Eli’s Famous Mini Chick
Dozen Donuts
Eli’s BBQ
Five Points Pizza
Flizah Raza Photography
Franklin Malts
Gabby’s Burgers and Brats
Jen’s Splendid Ice Cream
Joyner • Hogan Company.
KMART Nashville Popcorn
Lane Motor Museum
Lomax Brothers
Little Art House
Mandolin
Three Rivers Museum

**NPL or NPLF Staff Member**

Carnegie Society Member
Next Chapter Society Member
NPL or NPLF Staff Member

Sydney Mathews
Seth Kechley
Rebecca Hawkins
Kiah Haslett
Natalie Prass
Nicole Powell
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Advocating for public funding of the Library was identified as an NPLF priority in 2020. This year, under the leadership of volunteer Advocacy Task Force Chair, Paige Clancy, our vision to engage passionate library supporters in our work became a reality with the launch of the NPL Ambassadors program. We now have more than 150 NPL Ambassadors who share their library stories to convey the importance of our library system to Metro Nashville’s elected officials. From speaking at council meetings to sending emails and making phone calls, dozens of our ambassadors voiced their collective support for full funding of NPL in the FY24 Operating Budget. The result was an increase of $1.96M in NPL’s Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget.

What’s most exciting? We have only just begun!

We are grateful to have shared this year with you.
For all the ways you support Nashville Public Library, we thank you.

(NOT) THE END...
NPL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Terri Luke, NPL Interim Director
Joyce Searcy, Library Board Chair
Kate R. Ezell
Dr. Nadine De La Rosa
Charvis Rand
Keith B. Simmons
Katy Varney

NPL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Frank Loughlin
Terri Luke, NPL Interim Director
Alvaro Manrique Barrenechea
Tyson Moore
Mayor Freddie O’Connell
Cristina Oakeley
Brant Phillips
Senton Pojani
Maria Salas
Joyce Epsy Searcy
Renata Soto
Rhonda Taylor
Patrick Theobald
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