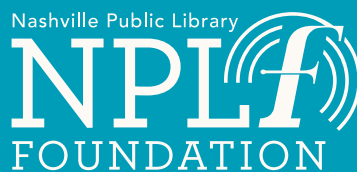




# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



LITERACY | LIFE SKILLS | CONNECTION FOR ALL



# New Opportunities for Growth & Gratitude

**We are fortunate to have so much good news to report.** Fiscal year 2024 was one of new opportunities for growth and gratitude.

The brightest news of the year is our launch of a major fundraising campaign to grow resources for early literacy at the library, for which NPLF received the largest gift in our history. **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library generously donated \$4.5 million and tens of thousands of its Imagination Library books to support NPL's groundbreaking early literacy initiative, Begin Bright.**

More than **\$1 million** was raised through fundraising **events** this year. Beloved author **Kate DiCamillo** joined us for a weekend of activities as the **Literary Award Honoree**. In celebration of her visit, we funded the creation of a new Wishing Chair Productions puppet show based on her book *La La La: A Story of Hope*.

In the spring, our Picnic with the Library brought together a **record number of families** to support children's programming and our active emerging leaders, Next Chapter Society, hosted a fabulous evening with the puppets of *String City: Nashville's Tradition of Music and Puppetry*.

This year, **1,370 donors and corporate partners contributed more than \$12.8 million.** As Terri's letter articulates, the Library employed these dollars to bolster and expand some of its most popular initiatives for Nashvillians of all ages.

We celebrated a remarkable fiscal year for public funding and advocacy for NPL! With the support of **181 NPL Ambassadors, we collected 750 thank you cards for the Mayor and Council** during our Thank-a-Thon and filled the Council Chamber for the reading of a Resolution honoring NPL workers during National Library Week. These efforts did not go unnoticed. In a flat budget year, NPL secured additional operating funds for Donelson Branch staff and translation services, as well as an unprecedented capital investment in major maintenance, two branch renovations, and planning for two new branches.

Our commitment to cultivating NPL's treasury 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, NPLF'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 our work.

Gratefully,



President  
Nashville Public Library Foundation





# Great things happen when a city and a library come together.

## **believe in the power and promise of public libraries.**

And when a community embraces a library the way Nashville embraces NPL, the possibilities are endless — and so is the joy. NPL's customers helped make the 2024 fiscal year a success.

They borrowed more than 6.5 million items from the library collection, attended more than 18,000 programs, visited our 21 locations more than 2.7 million times, and signed up for more than 49,000 library cards.

The June 24 grand opening of the new Donelson Branch Library was an especially momentous day, as more than 2,200 people came out to celebrate.

Meanwhile, thanks to our **Limitless Libraries** lending partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools, NPL took its books and materials to the campuses of more than **86,000 students, educators, and school librarians**.

What's more, last school year, NPL leveraged its books and materials purchasing power to **help Metro's school libraries save more than \$650,000**.

The Nashville After Zone Alliance served more than **2,800 students by funding quality afterschool** and summertime programs, all at no cost to Nashville's families.

**A traveling children's librarian** — a first for NPL — brought more than 230 early literacy programs to communities surrounding eight branches that do not have a dedicated, full-time children's librarian.

NPL's website, including the online library catalog, is **now available in Arabic, Burmese, Kurdish, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese**.

At the **Votes for Women Room**—one of its kind in the U.S.—people from across the city and nation came to participate in meaningful community programs on women's movements, voting, and gender.

The **Talking Library** offered an average of **732 hours of content a month**, as volunteers read books, read the news, and provided other audio programs to listeners who are blind, have low vision, cannot hold or turn the pages of a book, or have a certified reading disability.

At NPL, the joys of reading, learning, and coming together begin and end with our customers.

From the songs and laughter of story time to the transformational moments of tech classes for seniors, our customers fill NPL with hope and positivity with every visit.

Great things happen when a city and a library come together.

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 2024 fiscal year one of excellence.

We are grateful for you. And we look forward to serving you in 2025.

Gratefully,

*Terri M. Luke*

Terri M. Luke  
Interim Director  
Nashville Public Library



# Highlights

## Bringing Books to Life

BBTL equips parents and childcare center teachers with fun and practical ways to build pre-reading skills. In 2024, BBTL provided 941 workshops focused on improving early literacy skills to 14,610 attendees.

## Literacy



## Wishing Chair Productions

As a company, Wishing Chair Productions and Puppet Truck presented 960 programs to more than 75,000 attendees.

## Summer Reading

In Summer 2024, over 11,000 readers collectively completed 343,956 days of reading—an astounding 150% beyond the original goal.



## Life Skills



## Book-A-Librarian

This year, Book-A-Librarian allowed 2,800+ patrons one-on-one help with basic computer questions, job search and resume building, homework, proctoring, notary services, and more.

## StudioNPL

Studio NPL served over 15,500 students, and the results are impressive: 100% report increase in understanding of tech tools; 85% report an introduction to new careers and pathways; 72% report higher academic achievement.



## Digital Inclusion

In FY24, the Digital Inclusion program provided 505 technology help sessions, 118 in-person classes, and distributed computer devices to 236 older adults. As a result, 99% of participants reported feeling more knowledgeable about using digital resources.

## General Collection

Patrons borrowed 6 million books and materials from Nashville Public Library's collection in FY24.

## Conversations@NPL

Special Collections hosts quarterly Conversations@NPL. This season featured notable speakers and authors such as Arshay Cooper and Kathrine Switzer, who discussed how sports have shaped their lives.



## Connection

## Archives

In FY24, Metro Archives launched the Nashville Enslaved and Free People of Color Database, which connects individuals with their ancestral roots, preserves lost heritage, and honors Nashville's diverse identities.

## BeWell

In FY24, Be Well offered 3,900 wellness programs to over 32,000 participants, including physical and mental health, nutrition, lactation counseling, and garden education. The initiative provides nearly 4,000 free programs annually, ensuring equitable access to important health and wellness information. 85% of participants planned to make a health change based on what they learned.



# We are careful stewards of our donors' funds.

Total Foundation Revenue for 2024

**\$14.7**  
MILLION

## How Donations Are Used

**\$2.5M** PROGRAMS + COLLECTIONS + LIBRARY NEEDS

**\$8.5M** Restricted for **BEGIN BRIGHT** EARLY LITERACY

**\$1.3M** FOUNDATION OPERATIONS

NPLF is working to build a steady stream of resources so that NPL can not only launch groundbreaking initiatives, but sustain them into the future. Using donor contributions and earnings from the Foundation endowment funds, NPLF secured more than \$13.4 million to benefit Nashville Public Library.

As a department of Metro Nashville, Nashville Public Library receives the majority of its funding directly from the city. Nashville Public Library Foundation was created in 1997 to enhance the Library's programs, facilities, and collections beyond the city's budget.



To view the Library Foundation's annual audited financial statements, as well as our IRS Form 990, visit [www.nplf.org/annual-report](http://www.nplf.org/annual-report).

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

## Gifts of \$1,000,000+

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## Gifts of \$100,000 - \$999,999

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\* Denotes membership in the Carnegie Society

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*“As NPLF supporters, we not only help to perpetuate books that inspire, 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*

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## Read the full story.

Visit our website for NPL and NPLF full financial information, events recaps, program highlights, and branch facts.



Nashville Public Library Foundation is an independent registered 501(c)3 which raises private support for Nashville Public Library. Our mission is to fund, advocate for, and amplify Nashville Public Library to power literacy, life skills, and connection for all.

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

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