



2022 Annual Report



Prepared by
Amy McDonald

"Libraries are not made, they grow".

- Augustine Birrell



Western Allegheny Community Library (WACL) was founded over twenty-five years ago when four local residents came together with a shared dream to create a library that would serve the communities of Findlay Township, North Fayette and Oakdale Borough. Throughout the years we have continued to grow and 2022 was no exception. Last year, we welcomed over 54,000 visitors and provided them with 638 programs and countless services.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our community. The extraordinary financial support has allowed WACL to become a distinguished library and learning institution within the state of Pennsylvania.

Additionally, whether connecting visitors with volunteer opportunities, educational resources, or simply recommending a good book, our staff continues to demonstrate their commitment to each curious resident, reader, lifelong learner and independent thinker that comes through our doors.

Post pandemic, we are in a strong position. In most cases, weekly attendance has exceeded pre-pandemic levels and patrons of all ages are once again engaging with our events, programs and services. We are so glad to see our space filled with new and returning visitors.

The library is a place like no other, committed to both empowering individuals and strengthening the community through lively interaction and the animated exchange of ideas. As we work to continue to be so in the coming year we look forward seeing you!

Our Board of Directors

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The Team

Our staff is the heart of this library. They are the friendly faces that greet every visitor and provide all sorts of assistance on a daily basis.

Volunteers also provide a great service to the library and to the community.

Members of our Board of Directors (listed on page 2) continued to give their valuable time to attend board meetings, participate in legislative calls, and were in constant communication with the Library's Director.

We cannot forget all the time given by the members of our Friends of the Library. They partnered with other community-based organizations to brainstorm ways to get more books into the hands of our residents. The Friends also worked diligently to process *thousands* of donations and facilitated two book sales which, combined with their in-house book sale, raised nearly \$15,000 to support library programs and services.

STAFF

Amy McDonald, *Library Director*
Becky Proie, *Youth Services Manager*
Heather Auman, *Head of Library Services*
Laura Kulin, *Manager of Operations*
Marie Brajdic, *Bookkeeper*
Norene Ruggiero, *Circulation Supervisor*
Donna Shemon, *Assistant Circulation Supervisor*
Guendalina Guidotti, *YS Programming Specialist*
Stephen Auman, *Library Assistant & Maintenance*
Nancy Holston, *Library Assistant*
Julian Matucheski, *Library Assistant*
Susan Osborn, *Library Assistant*
Carli Oswald, *Library Assistant*
Mackenzie Partyka, *Library Assistant*
Shadan Rizvi, *Library Assistant*
Elaine Vattimo, *Library Assistant*
Laura Zottola, *Library Assistant*



FOTL BOARD

Elizabeth Shannon, *President*
Anne Miller, *Vice President*
Cindi Leszunov, *Membership*
Carol Bonicky, *Member at Large*

Mission, Vision and Values



Mission

The mission of Western Allegheny Community Library is to provide a safe, inclusive, and accessible community-centered library that is free to the public and empowers its residents' personal, educational, and professional growth through our collection, programs, and services.

Vision

Our vision is for West Allegheny to be a vibrant, inclusive, connected, and informed community that is committed to lifelong learning.

Values

Community Partnership

We understand the importance of collaboration to support a strong and growing community through teamwork, partnerships, and shared success.

Equity and Inclusion

We appreciate cultural diversity, varied lived experiences, and unique individual needs. We are committed to fair and inclusive access, a sense of belonging and dignity, and the reflection of all voices.

Excellence and Integrity

We respect the need for integrity and are committed to informed planning and responsible stewardship.

Intellectual Freedom

We believe in intellectual freedom and uphold the right to privacy as well as the right to seek, access, and express diverse points of view.

Literacy and Lifelong Learning

We recognize the importance of literacy and understand that the desire to learn and grow is lifelong.

Respect

We treat all patrons, staff, and community members with kindness and respect.

Core Services

The Library's core services make up the majority of its activity - circulation (checkout of materials), internet use, program attendance, etc. To determine the health of the library, WACL monitors the number of residents who actively use these services, how often the services are used, and resident satisfaction with the services. This year, as we continue to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the library continued to take steps to balance the health and services and to effectively pivot when necessary to meet the needs of our community.



Financial Statements



Operating Revenue

Item	Amount	Percent
Municipalities	\$328,377.00	63.4%
ARAD	\$115,222.20	22.2%
Gaming Funds	\$16,422.00	3.2%
State Aid	\$49,643.00	9.6%
Fines/Fees	\$8,345.76	1.6%
Variable Revenue	\$179.90	0.0%
Total Revenue:	\$518,189.86	100%

Operating Expenses

Item	Amount	Percent
Collection	\$61,455.36	11.5%
Contracted & Prof. Services	\$24,080.80	4.4%
Marketing	\$2562.79	0.5%
Payroll & Benefits	\$366,489.08	68.2%
Programming	\$6,706.06	1.2%
Building, Grounds & Utilities	\$46,748.92	8.7%
Supplies	\$3,178.51	0.6%
Technology	\$26,210.53	4.9%
Total Expenses:	\$537,432.05	100%

Fundraising Revenue

Total Fundraising: \$145,766.37

Value

Item	Total	Average Price	Cost to Residents	Value Provided
Computer Users	3,287	\$18	FREE	\$49,166
WiFi Users	4,472	\$8		\$35,776
Reference Questions	2,493	\$20		\$49,860
Program Attendees	12,068	\$20		\$241,360
Children's Books Circulated	71,763	\$25		\$1,794,075
YA/Adult Books Circulated	62,161	\$25		\$1,554,025
Other Physical Items Circulated	3,283	\$40		\$131,320
EBooks & eAudiobooks Circulated	45,410	\$10		\$454,100
Digital Magazines Circulated	2,376	\$5		\$11,880

Total Estimated Value: **\$4,321,562**

Strategic Partnerships



Strategic partnerships make it possible for us to offer programs that are important to the residents of West Allegheny. Community members participate in programs promoting health, education, enrichment, personal finances, small business management, parenting, adult literacy, arts and culture, and much more. A special thanks to these community partners:



Notable Highlights



- Awarded the commonwealth's *PA Forward Gold Star* status for the fourth year in a row.
- With the help of the staff, board and community members, WACL leadership created and began the implementation of a five-year strategic plan.
- Staff presented to county libraries on Fund Development: Event Planning.
- The Library Director completed her Master of Information and Library Science.
- WACL was nominated by the Bridge to Learn Steering Committee to have some of our programs included in Allegheny County Department of Children's Initiatives' Summer 2022 Story Map.
- The Library Director was named Ambassador of the Year for the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Rachel completed the Foundations of Library Services course through Library Juice Academy. This 16-hour course focused on how library staff can support early literacy.

- The Library Director was presented with a Distinguished Achievement Award from the West Allegheny School District, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the students and the district.
- Through a partnership with VITA, the library provided over 800 residents with free tax preparation.
- Hosted our first Links for the Library Spring fundraiser, which raised nearly \$10,000.
- Fall for Your Library realized another record year, raising over \$66,000.
- Heather finalized our "Civic Empathy through History" project in partnership with the Heinz Center Affiliates Program and the Heinz History Center, funded by the Grable Foundation.
- Renewed our designation as an Educational Improvement Organization through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development and was awarded \$2500 in funding via Frist Commonwealth Bank's Educational Improvement Tax Credits.
- Awarded the Legislative Accessibility Grant which helped fund upgrades to our front doors and family restroom, which included three automatic door openers (\$14,180).
- Received the Legislative Workforce Development Grant to provide laptops for our workforce development programming, allowing WACL to provide hands-on lab style programs for jobseekers.
- Received Emergency Connectivity Funding to cover the cost of four additional hotspots for residents without internet.
- Youth Services recorded an interview with the State Library to include Teen Test Kitchen in the PA Forward® Virtual Program Collection on Niche Academy, earning the library a \$1,000 stipend.
- The Friends of the Library placed four new Little Free Libraries throughout the community, which they restock and rotate on a regular basis. Two of the libraries were created by students at the High School.
- The Friends Group created new partnerships with the West Allegheny Food Pantry and Lafayette Square.
- Completed a 10 Gigabit fiber install required for eiNetwork's high-speed upgrade.
- Completed repairs to the exterior stucco.
- Repainted the interior of the library.
- Replaced the awnings at both the front and back doors.
- Replaced the last of our drainage pipes that had become damaged over time.
- Partnered with Citizen Care, a social service agency that provides services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, launching our *Libraries Are for Everyone* programming series.
- Implemented an extensive Volunteer Program with Citizen Care, now welcoming 17 individuals on a weekly basis, helping them to develop job readiness skills.
- Partnered with Chatham University and hosted two Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student Interns during their fall semester.
- Launched the 500 Books Before Middle School reading program.
- Hosted field trips for the High School Life Skills Program, Resurrection Preschool, and the Girl Scouts.
- Collaborated with the Middle and High School staff to develop a process for improving student access to reading materials.

2022 Donors



The Library opens the door to so many new opportunities for the residents of our community, but we couldn't do it without our amazing supporters! On behalf of everyone served by the Western Allegheny Community Library, we are pleased to acknowledge the following financial donors for their generosity and support in 2022. In addition to those listed below, we also want to thank everyone who made an in-kind contribution throughout the year. Although too numerous to print, these gifts of time, talent, books, supplies, gift certificates, baskets, etc. are extremely helpful and very much appreciated!

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