

# LIBRARY 2024

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR



BUFFALO  
ERIE COUNTY  
**PUBLIC**  
LIBRARY

Profoundly  
**PUBLIC.**

In 2024, more than 411,000 people in Erie County carried a library card—a simple act that reflects deep trust in a shared civic institution. Across every branch, patrons borrowed over 7.2 million books, digital materials, and resources, while 2.3 million visits filled our libraries with learning, creativity, and connection.

Last year's visits reflect the equivalent of every resident visiting the Library more than twice. On the average, library cardholders each checked out 17 items – a reminder of the breadth of our collection, and how deeply this institution is woven into daily life.



These numbers underscore the vital role public libraries continue to play. Even as libraries across the country face growing pressures—from funding debates to challenges to intellectual freedom—our community's commitment has remained strong.

With steady taxpayer support, donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations; we strengthened our collections, continued enriching public programs, and invested directly in staff training, equipment, and library spaces that serve all who walk through our doors.

Across the country, more than 2,452 unique book titles were challenged last year (ALA, 2024), marking one of the most significant threats to public libraries in generations. Yet here, the mission endures: open access, free inquiry, and the right to read remain at the core of who we are.

In 2024, we also celebrated 60 years since the reconstruction and dedication of the Central Library. This downtown landmark was built to house the merged book and rare collections of the Buffalo Public, Erie County Public, and Grosvenor libraries – which together began operating as the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. As the oldest cultural institution in Buffalo, we have withstood challenges in many forms. For nearly 200 years, we have continued to serve the literacy needs with open doors in this community.

## **We commit to that service, today and tomorrow.**

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in the power of public libraries. Together, we sustain one of this region's most enduring public goods.

# Statistics 2024



**37** libraries and 2 mobile libraries

**411,746**

Library card holders



**7,256,779**

Total materials borrowed

**10,250,823**

Webpage visits

**2,210,451**



Digital  
materials  
borrowed

**2,350,095**

Library visits

**3,236,466**

Items in collection



**845**

Public computers

**310,441**

Virtual & onsite  
program attendees



**724,281**

WiFi sessions

**290,637**

Public computer sessions

**\$437,566**

Fundraising  
revenue



**36,158**

Social media friends,  
fans & followers



## 2024 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT

For fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2024

### Revenues

Library Property Tax	\$29,675,375
New York State Library Aid	2,510,702
Annual New York State Grants	625,005
Non-Recurring Grants and Member Aid	439,835
Municipal Support	282,558
Contributions/Fundraising	776,541
Library Charges	210,890
Other Revenues	1,216,147
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	\$35,737,053

### Expenditures

Salaries & Wages	\$17,791,300
Fringe Benefits	8,044,447
Library Materials	3,203,886
Utilities	847,967
Service/ Maintenance Contracts	1,286,243
Other Costs	3,008,555
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	\$34,182,400

Year End Surplus (Deficit) difference between Revenues	\$1,554,654
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# \$4.32

For every \$1 received in Erie County funding, \$4.32 was returned in services to the community!

Notes: Includes operating and grant revenue and expense for the entire Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, which includes the Central & Buffalo City Branches, Contracting Member Libraries, and Library System Services, Outreach and the *Library on Wheels* bookmobile.  
Does not include revenue and expenses for Capital Construction projects.

# 2024 Board of Trustees

## Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board of Trustees

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### Trustee Emeritus

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Sharon A. Thomas, awarded posthumously

## Buffalo & Erie County Public Library 2024 Administrative Staff

John Spears, Director  
Dorinda Darden, Assistant Deputy Director, Public Services  
Joy Testa Cinquino, Assistant Deputy Director, Development & Communications  
Judy Fachko, Assistant Deputy Director, Human Resources  
Emily A. Patronik, Assistant Deputy Director, Controller  
Maria Lowe, Assistant Deputy Director, Buffalo Libraries  
Samantha Purpora, Assistant Deputy Director, Buffalo Libraries  
Caitlin Goodrich, Assistant to the Director  
Jeannine Purtell, Deputy Director, Chief Operating Officer, through 10/2024

## Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT)

Martha Buyer, President

We gratefully acknowledge support from:

Erie County  
Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz and members of the Erie County Legislature  
City of Buffalo  
Library Foundation of Buffalo & Erie County, Jack Connors, President  
New York State  
Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly  
Thank you!

To view a complete list of 2024 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library donors,  
visit [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org).  
Library Info: 716-858-8900 [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org)

The 2024 Annual Report was produced by the  
Development & Communications Department of the Buffalo & Erie County Public  
Library. Call 716-858-7182 or email [communications@buffalolib.org](mailto:communications@buffalolib.org) with any questions.

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# [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org)

## Library Locations

Alden Ewell Free Library 13280 Broadway, Alden	716-937-7082
Amherst Public Library	
Main Library at Audubon 350 Audubon Pkwy	716-689-4922
Clearfield Branch Library 770 Hopkins Rd, Wmsv	716-688-4955
Eggertsville-Snyder Branch 4622 Main, Snyder	716-839-0700
Williamsville Branch 5571 Main, Wmsv	716-632-6176
Angola Public Library 34 N. Main, Angola	716-549-1271
Aurora Town Public Library 550 Main, E. Aurora	716-652-4440
Boston Free Library 9475 Boston State Rd, Boston	716-941-3516
Central Downtown Library 1 Lafayette Square, Bflo	716-858-8900
Cheektowaga Public Library	
Anna Reinstein Memorial Library 2580 Harlem Rd.	716-892-8089
Julia Boyer Reinstein Library 1030 Losson Rd, Chktg	716-668-4991
Clarence Public Library 3 Town Pl, Clarence	716-741-2650
Town of Collins Public Library 2341 Main St, Collins	716-532-5129
Concord Public Library 18 Chapel St, Springville	716-592-7742
Crane Branch 633 Elmwood Ave, Bflo	716-883-6651
Dudley Branch 2010 South Park Ave, Bflo	716-823-1854
East Clinton Branch 1929 Clinton, Bflo	716-823-5626
Eden Library 2901 E. Church St, Eden	716-992-4028
Elaine M. Panty Branch 820 Tonawanda St, Bflo	716-875-0562
Elma Public Library 1860 Bowen Rd, Elma	716-652-2719
Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch 1324 Jefferson Ave, Bflo	716-883-4418
Grand Island Memorial Library 1715 Bedell Rd, Grand Island	716-773-7124
Hamburg Public Library	
Hamburg Public Library 102 Buffalo St, Hamburg	716-649-4415
Lake Shore Public Library 4857 Lake Shore Rd.	716-627-3017
Isaías González-Soto Branch 280 Porter Ave, Bflo	716-882-1537
Lackawanna Public Library 560 Ridge Rd, Lackawanna	716-823-0630
Lancaster Public Library 5466 Broadway, Lancaster	716-683-1120
Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch 1187 E. Delavan Ave, Bflo	716-896-4433
Marilla Free Library 11637 Bullis Rd, Marilla	716-652-7449
Newstead Public Library 33 Main St, Akron	716-542-2327
North Collins Public Library 2095 School St, N Collins	716-337-3211
North Park Branch 975 Hertel Ave, Bflo	716-875-3748
Orchard Park Public Library S-4570 S Buffalo St, Orchard Park	716-662-9851
City of Tonawanda Public Library 333 Main St, Tonawanda	716-693-5043
Town of Tonawanda Public Library	
Kenilworth Branch 318 Montrose Ave, Tn of Ton	716-834-7657
Kenmore Branch 160 Delaware Rd, Kenmore	716-873-2842
West Seneca Public Library 1300 Union Rd, West Seneca	716-674-2928
Library on Wheels Bookmobile & Library 2GO	716-858-7157

## Library Info: 716-858-8900