



# 2023

# Annual Report

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Prepared by  
Amy McDonald

# Letter from the President of the Board and Library Director



Dear Community Members:

We are excited to share with you our Annual Report for the year 2023. Within its pages, you'll discover insights into Western Allegheny Community Library (WACL), featuring an overview of our expanded Programs and Services.

Additionally, you'll learn about the outstanding contributions of our committed staff and volunteers, who embody our mission 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. We think you'll see why we are so proud of all of them.

At WACL, we recognize that the needs of our community are ever-changing. For us, this entails introducing innovative programs and essential services, with over 206,000 items circulated last year alone.

While change is constant, one unwavering support remains: that of our generous donors. We are incredibly fortunate to receive backing from various government bodies, foundations, businesses, and individuals who trust in the mission of the Western Allegheny Community Library. Your support means the world to us.

We understand that you have options when it comes to allocating your resources, and we're deeply grateful that you continue to choose to invest in WACL.

Michele Conti  
President, Board of Directors

Amy McDonald  
Library Director

## Our Board of Directors

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# Western Allegheny Community Library

Western Allegheny Community Library, an integral part of the Allegheny County Library Association, proudly serves the communities of Findlay Township, North Fayette Township, and Oakdale Borough. With a team of nineteen dedicated employees, we cater to over 24,000 residents, providing a diverse array of programs and resources, all accessible to our community members free of charge.



Western Allegheny Community Library is located at 181 Bateman Rd. in Oakdale, PA.

## Our 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.

## Our Vision

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

## Our Values

- Community Partnership
- Equity and Inclusion
- Excellence and Integrity
- Intellectual Freedom
- Literacy and Lifelong Learning
- Respect

# Highlights

## Library Services

**900+**  
Tax returns  
processed

**135**  
Patrons used  
WACL's  
notary  
services



**7054**  
Wi-Fi logins

**3192**  
Patrons logged  
into the public  
computers

**136**  
Patrons  
received free  
tech support

**3792**  
Reference  
questions  
answered

# Highlights

## Circulation & Use

**68,958**  
Annual  
visits

**206,369**  
Total  
circulation

(including physical  
and digital format)

**54,293**  
Electronic  
circulation

(e-books, video  
download, audio  
files)

**80,854**  
Circulation  
of children's  
materials

**148,546**  
Physical items  
circulated



# Highlights

## Programs



- Western Allegheny Community Library offered 823 programs that were attended by 15,732 patrons.
- 1419 Patrons attended a library offered STEM program.
- 53 Programs were offered for teens, which were attended by 613 individuals.
- 3800 Patrons attended 130 outreach programs.
- 196 Storytimes (consisting of Baby Rhyme Time, Littles Storytime, and Sensory Storytime) were attended by 4717 patrons.

# Highlights

## Preschool Outreach



7  
Preschools  
visited

105  
Annual  
Visits

2397  
Books in the  
hands of  
children



Through a partnership with Monark Student Transportation and West Allegheny School District, we were lucky to have received a *new* Book Bus last year. Our Book Bus, unveiled in August, now visits 7 area preschools and daycares throughout Findlay, North Fayette, and Oakdale each month. Miss Lexi visits 16 classrooms, bringing a movement filled storytime experience to over 400 children.

# Highlights

## Notable Achievements & Strategic Partnerships

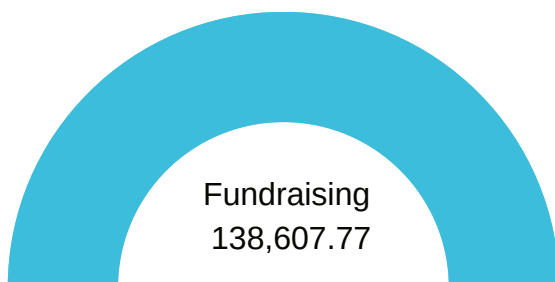
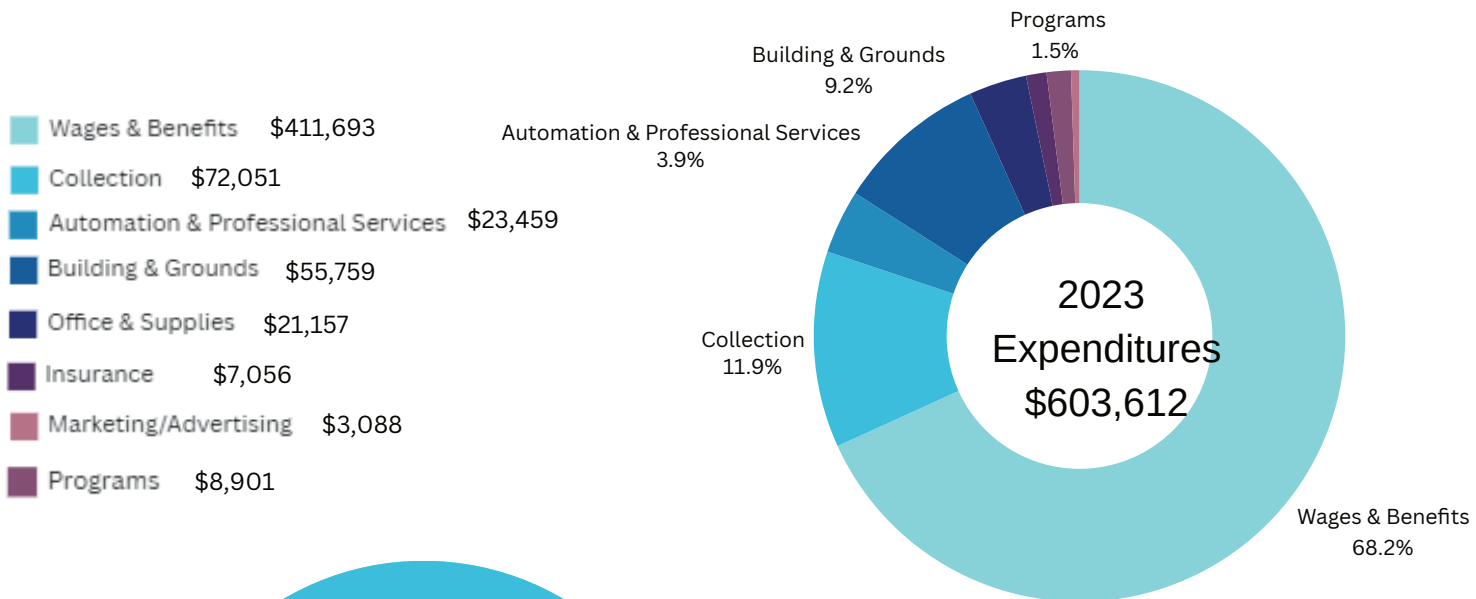
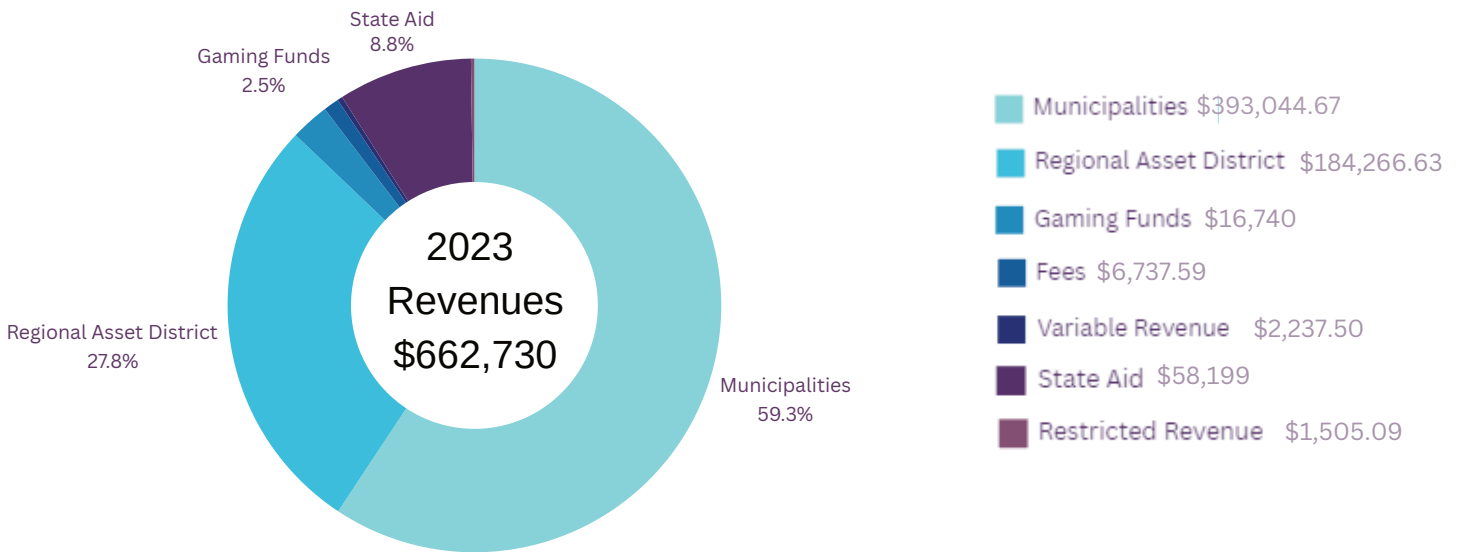
- Awarded the commonwealth's PA Forward Gold Star status for the fifth year in a row.
- The Library Director was named Ambassador of the Year for the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, for the second consecutive year.
- Fall for Your Library was yet again a success, raising over \$57,990.
- Awarded the Legislative “Celebrating Communities” Grant, which is being used to create sensory friendly kits for circulation as well as the creation of a Sensory Room for patrons.
- Renewed our designation as an Educational Improvement Organization through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development and was awarded \$3000 in funding via First Commonwealth Bank's Educational Improvement Tax Credits.
- Received Emergency Connectivity Funding to cover the cost of four additional hotspots for residents without internet.
- The Friends of the Library placed two more new Little Free Libraries throughout the community, which they restock and rotate on a regular basis. The libraries were created by students at the High School.
- Replaced the awnings at both the front and back doors.
- Replaced the last of our drainage pipes that had become damaged over time.
- Expanded our *Libraries Are for Everyone* programming series which intentionally creates programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities in mind.
- Partnered with Chatham University and hosted three Occupational Therapy Doctoral Student Interns during their fall semester.
- Launched the 100 Books Before High School reading program.
- Hosted field trips for the High School Life Skills Program and Resurrection Preschool.
- Partnered with over 35 local businesses and organizations for program offerings (including Museum of Natural History, BOK. Law & Mediation Services, Community College of Allegheny County, Huntington Bank, Chatham University, Pittsburgh Glass Center, and Dementia Friends).





# Financials

Western Allegheny Community Library is supported in part by the taxpayers of Findlay Township, North Fayette Township, and Oakdale Borough. Additionally, residents of Allegheny County provide support through a public grant from the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD). RAD works here.



# Library Donors



The library opens the door to so many new opportunities for the residents of our community, and it is with immense gratitude that we extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous supporters. Your contributions enable us to continue our mission of enriching lives through access to knowledge, education, and community engagement.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following financial donors for their exceptional generosity and unwavering support throughout 2023:

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