

COBB COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

"Georgia Library of the Year"



MISSION

Cobb County Public Library is a place where we are committed to being a vital resource center by providing equal access to information, materials, and services to enrich people's lives.

VISION

To move beyond traditional library services by strategically integrating new technology services, creating engaging community centers, and providing life-enriching library and cultural experiences for all who enter our doors.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Cobb County Public Library has developed programs and services that enhance its role as a community hub and resource center, partnering with organizations that contribute to our goals.

*Helen Poyer
Director*



Helen Poyer
Library Director

We have a diverse, creative, knowledgeable, innovative, and experienced team that goes above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Staff are resilient and adapt well to the changing technologies, information needs, and community dynamics. They are public servants who are committed to and passionate about the role they play in promoting literacy at all levels and to all people. It is a joy, a privilege, and an honor to work with such an amazing team.

In 2023, some notable collaborations included providing free eye exams and glasses to students, health equity and prevention programs, art workshops with experts, and digital skill classes made possible through allocated funding and grants.

In addition to the various collaborations, the library introduced new services and technology, including new family passes, Books by Mail, a book club for underserved teens at the Marietta Regional Youth Detention Center, and an expanded community summer reading initiative.

Overall, the commitment to collaboration, equity, and accessibility, ensures that the library serves as a community hub where individuals of all backgrounds feel valued and empowered. Through collaborative efforts and innovative initiatives, the library is dedicated to enriching the library experience for every patron.



Cobb County Public Library is the 2023 Georgia Library of the Year

Cobb County Public Library (CCPL) has been recognized as The 2023 Library of the Year for its commitment to serving its community by partnering with numerous organizations within its county and statewide, and for efforts to expand access to materials and essential services to its community.

Cobb County Public Library received nomination letters from local elected officials, partnering organizations, school systems, and patrons who highlighted the library’s efforts across the community.

“This library has always been a safe haven and refuge from some of the confusing things about growing up,” said Jesse Quinton, Cobb County Public Library patron of over 15 years.

The Cobb County Public Library has developed programs and services that enhance its role as a community hub and resource center, partnering with organizations that contribute to its goals.



“*The Cobb County Public Library prides itself on providing excellent, responsive service to enrich people’s lives, support lifelong learning, and build to enhance our communities enhance our communities.”*”
Georgia State Senator,
Michael Rhett



Stepping Towards Safety with Falls Prevention

Cobb County Public Library received the Award for Outstanding Service presented by the Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory (IPRCE) for CCPL's Falls Prevention Awareness initiative for making "substantial contributions to reducing injury" in Georgia. CCPL has collaborated with Cobb Senior Services, Georgia Department of Public Health and other organizations to promote fall injury prevention since 2015.

The library partnered with the DPH and IPRCE, which is housed in the Emory School of Medicine, for the pilot launch of the Fall Prevention Nature Walk in the City of Kennesaw's Swift-Cantrell Park. DPH is promoting the Falls Walk, which consists of informational panels posted on a path, for future installations across Georgia. The Falls Walk is directly inspired by Story Walk installations organized by Cobb libraries.

"The Cobb library's injury prevention initiative is recognized as a model for public libraries and other community organizations." - Elizabeth Head, MPH, Deputy Director, Health Aging Manager - Division of Health Protection, Georgia Department of Public Health Injury Prevention Program



Partnership Promotes Health Equity



Morehouse School of Medicine Office of Community Engagement and CCPL have joined forces to tackle health disparities that exist in communities throughout Cobb County.

"We know that people engage with people they trust," Dr. Akintobi said. "Public libraries are at the heart of the community and essential for promoting meaningful healthy living."



EmpowerLit: A Book Club for Teens



Cobb librarians lead discussions for teens incarcerated in the Marietta Regional Youth Detention Center. The program aims to inspire young people, especially those facing difficult challenges, to think about the world around them and their place in it.



Empowering Education: Books2Keep Partnership with Cobb County School District

The Bookmobile team operates strategically, providing vital access to school learning materials throughout the year for Cobb County and Marietta City school districts. Their focus extends to children and families in areas facing challenges like transportation, internet access, and language barriers, which often isolate them from essential community support systems.



Unlocking Adventures: A Season of Literary Exploration

Cobb County residents immersed themselves in a summer of literary exploration in Cobb Library's Summer Reading Program. This captivating program not only enriched their reading experiences but also rewarded their participation with badges and offered opportunities to win grand prizes through drawings.

The Summer Reading program extended its reach to three predominantly Latino communities in Marietta, emphasizing inclusivity by providing information and resources in Spanish

"The commitment shown by Cobb County Public Library in supporting our weekly summer reading program has been nothing short of remarkable...What truly sets this collaboration apart is the library's willingness to adapt its summer reading curriculum to better cater to the needs and preferences of our local families, and specifically the Latino population, which is the majority in our neighborhood."

- Abbie Hanson, Community Coordinator, Uplift Georgia



Eyes on Success: Transforming Students' Futures with Vision To Learn

Cobb County Public Library partnered with Vision To Learn (VTL) for the sixth straight summer to provide eye exams and free glasses to children through mobile clinics at Cobb libraries. VTL was the recipient of a national award from the non-profit Let's Move in Libraries for its innovative collaboration with public libraries across the nation.

During summertime 2023, eight Cobb Library locations hosted VTL's trained staff who provided 694 eye exams, resulting in 484 children receiving new glasses.



"Although we have provided Vision To Learn service at libraries across the country, Cobb County was a pioneering partner in this work, and has continued to set the standard for using libraries as a critical resource in the community, not just for literacy, but for health and wellness."

- Peter Silberman, Chief Growth Officer, Vision To Learn

Library and Literacy and Justice for All



Cobb library staff members engage in promoting strategies for reading improvement in the community through the local Literacy and Justice for All initiative. In collaboration with Learn4Life, metro Atlanta's education partnership, and the Rollins Center for Language & Literacy, library staff are completing the center's Cox Campus free online courses to be trained in how to support actions child-facing adults can take for better literacy outcomes for cradle to career success.



Myles, age 6 months, and mom Anne. "Every child has the right to literacy. Every adult can help." - Cox Campus

"Cobb library workers are key community collaborators for enrollment in the Cox Campus courses and the Liberty and Justice for All Nonprofit cohort."

- Rebecca Parshall, PhD, Director of Strategy, Learn4Life

Cobb Collaborative: The Basics Cobb County & Beyond

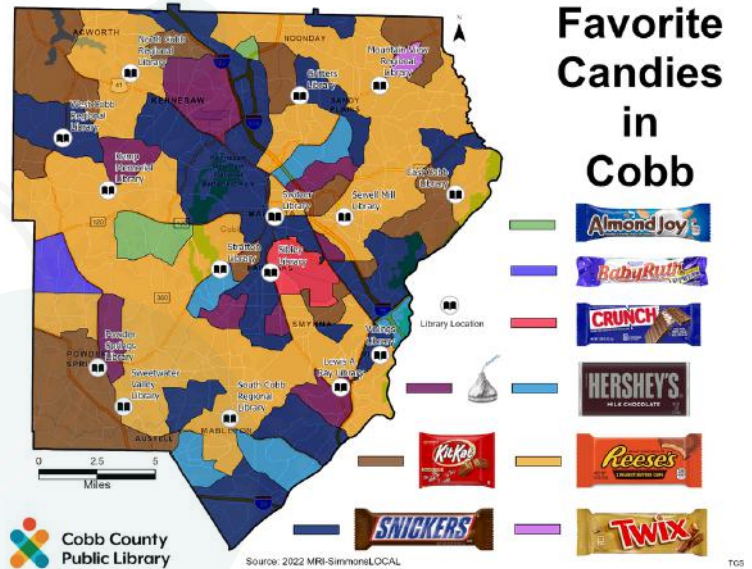
Cobb libraries serve as an anchor for The Basics Cobb, a community-wide literacy and health initiative led by Cobb Collaborative serving children through age 5 and their families with special storytime series at libraries, sharing The Basics themes with the public and more. The child development principles of The Basics are Maximize Love, Manage Stress; Talk, Sing and Point; Count Group and Compare; Explore Through Movement and Play, and Read and Discuss Stories.



"CCPL's commitment to enriching the lives of all residents of our community through a variety of programs, services and activities truly make a difference for individuals, families and organizations in Cobb County."

Mapping Knowledge: Harnessing GIS in Libraries

The GIS unit transforms existing data into visual representations, such as maps, to promote informed decision-making across the range of library operations, including events planning, library collection development and more.



AccessAbility Hub: Empowering Inclusivity

The (CLASS) Cobb Library Accessibility Special Services Unit provides inclusive programming to meet the needs of a range of ages and abilities. This year CLASS proudly debuted our Sensory Book Bundle, a collection of tactile board books, activities, and resources for young readers and their families, and introduced braille materials into the library collection.

Renate Elliott, Department Supervisor, was named the 2023 GLS Ambassador of The Year for her efforts to increase awareness and enrollment in Georgia Library Services for the Blind and Print Disabled. Ms. Elliott was also a finalist for the East Cobb Civitan Club's Servant's Heart Award in recognition of CCPL's commitment to serving patrons of all abilities.



Books by Mail: A Service for Homebound Library Cardholders

The free service, Books By Mail, was crafted to cater to the needs of library cardholders facing challenges in accessing physical library facilities. Tailored for individuals dealing with disabilities, illness, or transportation limitations, this innovative program ensures that no one is excluded from the joy of reading.



Preservation Place: Preserving Heritage, and Fostering Creativity

Cobb Library began offering digitization services in 2023 for the public to preserve treasured memories and historic materials at the two Preservation Place locations, The Georgia Room in Switzer Library and the Creative Studios in Sewell Mill Library and Cultural Center. Digitalization services are offered for free to library cardholders for converting analog materials from various sources, including photographs, documents, videocassettes, audiocassettes, artwork, scrapbooks and other items.



Sustaining Summers: Georgia's Nutritious Meals Initiative

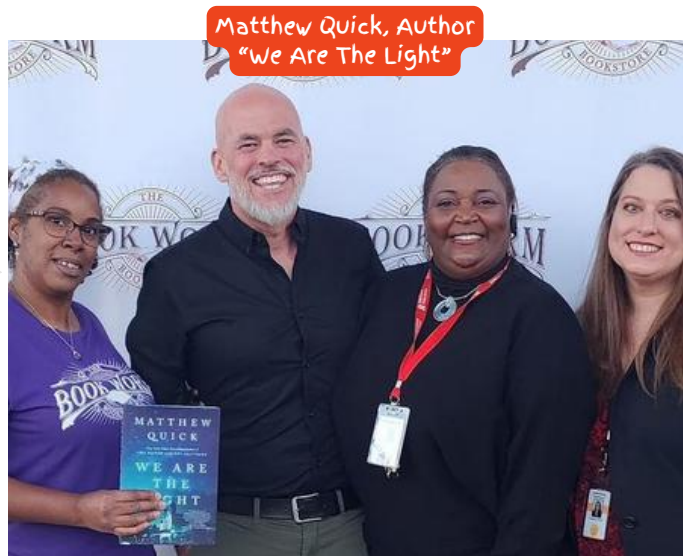
Cobb Library teamed up for the fourth year with Georgia Educational Resources Inc., a Mableton-based non-profit organization to provide summer meal service at Cobb libraries. In 2023 the program provided breakfast and lunch meals.



One Book, One City: A Community Celebration of Literature

The Powder Springs Public Library, The Book Worm Bookstore, and the City of Powder Springs partnered in 2021 to create a city-wide reading experience: One Book, One City (OBOC). This program encourages community members to engage in conversations about the themes and implications of a chosen book.

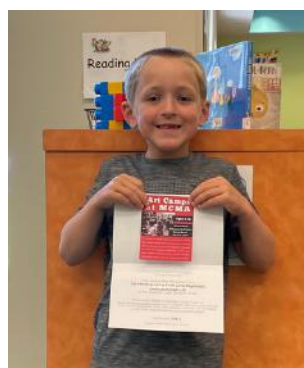
OBOC gained immense popularity within the Powder Springs community. The 2023 One Book One City event included “We Are the Light,” by Matthew Quick for adults in the Spring and “Wildseed Witch,” by Marti Dumas for teenagers in the Fall.



Artful Connections for Community Enrichment

Cobb County Library successfully collaborated with the Marietta Museum of Art to formulate a comprehensive annual curriculum comprising diverse art-related events.

- Art Lectures
- Makerspace activities
- Booth at the Annual Chalktoberfest
- Family Passes
- Art Summer Camp Passes

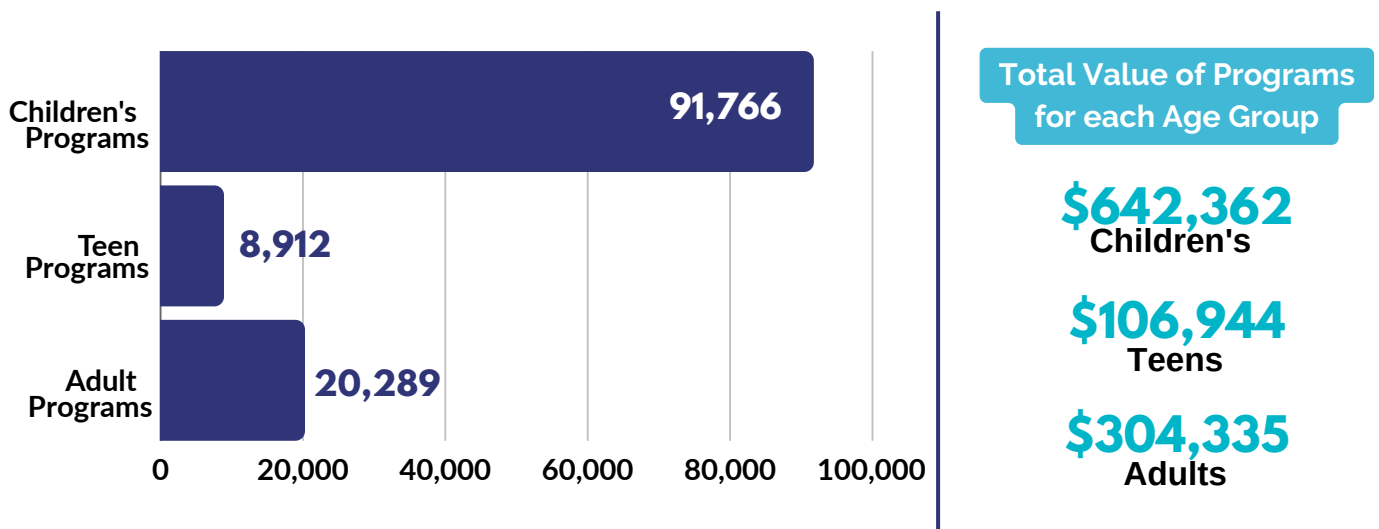


Value of Cobb Library: A Closer Look at Usage



VALUE OF PROGRAMS

Each of the 15 libraries and the bookmobile offer programs suitable for all age groups. According to the graph below, most programs offered in 2023 were for young and school-aged children. The total value of all programs offered is **\$833,982**.



 **4,138** The amount of passports processed in 2023 was 4,138. The total value of this service was \$144,830.

COBB LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Cobb County Public Library Board of Trustees is a nine-member volunteer board made up of local citizens appointed by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. Each trustee serves a 3-year term and may serve successive terms. The trustees set library policy and advise on activities. The Library Board holds regular meetings at various library locations on a rotating schedule and are open to the public.



Dr. Tony Le



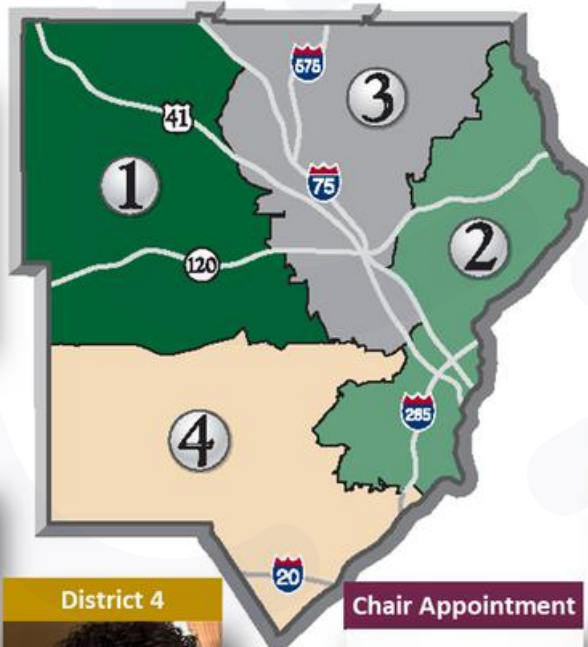
Abby Shiffman
Trustee Board Chair



Peggy Pool



Peggy Holbrook



Martina Goscha



Rachel Gray



Olye Davis



James Coleman



Jon Jordan

COBB LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

The Cobb County Public Library administration and leaders plays a crucial role in overseeing and managing the operations of the library system in Cobb County in order to ensure the smooth and effective functioning of the library services.



Jatunn Gibson
Public Services
Agency Director



Helen Poyer
Library Director

“*I could go on and on about what the Cobb library system does to make the entire Cobb community a place where our citizens can access books, information, arts and crafts, entertainment, recording studios, national speakers, access to health resources and so much more. There is not enough space or time to show all that the Cobb library system does for our city, state and our country.*”

– William “Bill” Tanks, Executive Director Public Services, Equity and Inclusion,
City of Powder Springs



Shelley Zhang
Division Director of
Technical Operations



Teresa Tresp
Division Director of
Branch Services



Sheila Jacobs
Business Manager



Slone Williams
CUE/Communications
Manager



Tom Brooks
Communications Specialist



Dinah Bonesteel
Library Support Assistant



Janice GillPatrick
Department HR
Representative

COBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners is the duly authorized governing authority of Cobb County and as such shall exercise the powers, duties and responsibilities vested in and imposed upon said officers by the above act and amendments. BOC consists of five (5) members of which four (4) members are known as commissioners and one (1) is known as Commission Chair.

COBB COUNTY CORE VALUES

Commitment

Diversity

Integrity

Teamwork



Lisa Cupid
Commission Chairwoman



Keli Gambrell
District 1



Jerica Richardson
District 2



JoAnn K. Birrell
District 3



Monique Sheffield
District 4



Dr. Jackie R. McMorris
County Manager



Jimmy Gisi
Deputy County Manager

COBB LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The (CLF) Cobb Library Foundation is an organization that provides support to the Cobb County Public Library System by raising funds and seeking other contributions from the community and business partnerships. Annual CLF events include: Booked for the Evening Gala, honoring NY Times Best Selling Authors, themed Casino Nights, and Booked for Lunch, featuring NY Times Best Selling Authors

Foundation Officers

Rebecca Duvall, President
Nona Lacy, Vice President
William Tanks, Treasurer
Mark Justice, Secretary
Joe Murphey, Attorney

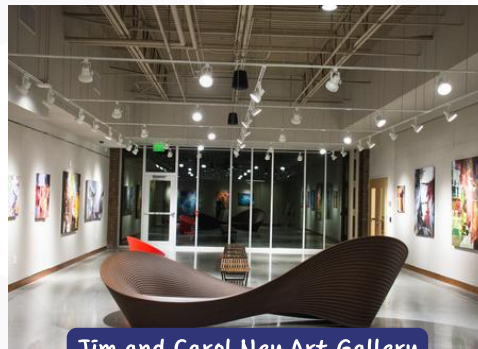
Board Members

Jim Ney
Carol Ney
Dr. Gilles LaMarche
Abby Shiffman
Natalie Rutledge
Ria Thakkar

Executive Administrator

Sandra Morris

Booked for the
Evening Gala Fundraiser



Jim and Carol Ney Art Gallery

New furniture at the
Vinings Library



Storytime Tour with
Author, Brian Lies



The Cobb Library
Bookmobile



Teen BOOK'D Bags at
North Cobb Library



VISIT US AT ONE OF OUR 16 LIBRARY LOCATIONS:



East Cobb Library
4880 Lower Roswell Rd.
Marietta, GA 30068



Gritters Library
880 Shaw Park Road
Marietta, GA 30066



Kemp Memorial Library
4029 Due West Road
Marietta GA 30064



Lewis A. Ray
4500 Oakdale Road
Smrna, GA 30080



Mountain View Library
3320 Sandy Plains Road
Marietta, GA 30066



North Cobb Regional Library
3535 Old 41 Highway
Kennesaw, GA 30144



Powder Springs Library
4181 Atlanta Street, Bldg. 1
Powder Springs, GA 30127



**Sewell Mill Library &
Cultural Center**
2051 Lower Roswell Rd.
Marietta, GA 30068



Sibley Library
1539 South Cobb Drive
Marietta, GA 30060



South Cobb Regional Library
805 Clay Road
Mableton, GA 30126



Stratton Library
1100 Powder Springs Rd SW
Marietta, GA 30064



Sweetwater Library
5000 Austell-Powder
Springs Road, Suite 100
Austell, GA 30106



Switzer Library
266 Roswell Street
Marietta, GA 30060



Vinings Library
4290 Paces Ferry Road
Atlanta, GA 30339



West Cobb Regional Library
1750 Dennis Kemp Lane
Kennesaw, GA 30152



Cobb Library Bookmobile
cobbcat.org/bookmobile
Instagram @CobbBookmobile

Use the "Cobb Library" app today!

Available on:



LEARN MORE AT COBBCAT.ORG

contactus@cobbcat.org
linktr.ee/cobblibrary



2023 STAFF



WE ARE COBB

IN-SERVICE



COUNTY LIBRARY!



*"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers,
a librarian can bring you back the right one."*

-Neil Gaiman

Crafted and Authored by:

(CUE) Community and User Engagement Unit
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