



KENOSHA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY **2022**



A VISION FOR KENOSHA'S CHILDREN





FACING DOWN A LITERACY CRISIS

Children across the country are facing a literacy crisis, and Kenosha is no exception. 2021 test scores across Kenosha County for third grade math and reading proficiency showed a marked decline in both measures. Pre-pandemic reading proficiency for all third graders was measured at 38% and declined further to 27% during the pandemic shutdown. Hispanic children tested less favorably at 15%, and African American third grade males tested at 4% proficiency.

We're determined to do something about this. We're determined to do what libraries do best- provide children with the stories that spark their imagination, the answers to their burning questions, and a team of librarians who care about them and help them grow their minds in a supportive and nurturing environment.

KPL KIDS @ UPTOWN LIBRARY OPENING 2024

A new 7,632 sq. ft. Uptown Children's Library located on the ground floor of the Uptown Lofts residential/commercial building project will intentionally focus on math and reading skills with a strong STEAM component to exercise problem solving skills in children birth through fifth grade. Many of the children struggling the most academically live in or near the central Uptown neighborhood, an area hit hard by civil unrest in the summer of 2020. By focusing intentionally on this neighborhood with educational and job training initiatives, city leaders hope to reduce poverty and violence, raising up the next generation with a renewed sense of hope and inclusion in the Kenosha economy.

Intrigued? Follow our progress and learn how you can get involved at www.mykpl.info. And, as always, thanks for supporting your Kenosha Public Library!



2022 WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS

- We improved access to children's books by installing book vending machines at the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA using federal pandemic relief dollars.
- We hosted a Carthage College Social Work student at our libraries to refer people in need to programs that can help. The project was a terrific success, one we'll be looking to continue.
- We trained our staff in the social work concepts of Whole Person Librarianship, dramatically reducing our calls to KPD when dealing with people in crisis.
- Through the federal Emergency Connectivity Fund, we deployed 200 laptop/data hotspot kits to the community for remote learning and telecommuting and checked out another 100 units to the community.
- Our new Teen Space at our Southwest Neighborhood Library provides young people with supervised activities and social time after school, and we're hearing lots of praise from parents about this focus.

INSPIRING LEARNING

- We continued to partner in the Kenosha Parks Alliance summer programming in city parks, reaching hundreds of children through bookmobile visits and STEM activities.
- We redesigned our website, integrating more interactive features and book recommendations to help you discover all the library has to offer!
- We redesigned our spaces, making room for more collaborative and remote learning options as the need for free community meeting spaces increases.
- We partnered with UW Extension to host NIA: Pathways and Purpose for the Future, a mentorship program for young people.
- Partnerships with Aurora Health provided online health programs for caregivers, including live Q&A with a pediatrician!

KEEPING YOU CURIOUS

- Children's programs are back in person, and you beat pre-pandemic attendance records in 2022!
- We took Family Night Program boxes to the Shalom Center to provide fun family learning activities, offering some comfort in a period of intense stress.
- Park 'n Play Storytimes at Lincoln, Petzke, Schulte, and Columbus parks continue post-pandemic, allowing kids to soak up nature while hearing stories from their favorite librarians.
- Our Library of Things allows you to try out electronic devices, cookware, and sports equipment by checking them out with your library card.
- Day passes to Wisconsin State Parks and Mitchell Parks Domes joined the list of things available with your library card in 2022. Watch for new venues in 2023!

EQUITY/ DIVERSITY/ INCLUSION

- We hired more staff who represent the diversity of our community so that every community member understands they are truly welcome here!
- We audited our collections to be sure they represent a wide variety of viewpoints, experiences, and interests. (And we scored 3% higher than the national average!)
- We removed barriers to library service by reducing the charge for our fax service, implementing free notary public service, and continued our no-overdue-fines policy on children's books.

SUSTAINABILITY

- We replaced all our lighting with LED fixtures and bulbs, dramatically reducing our electricity bills and lowering our carbon footprint.
- All our buildings run on wind power!



OUR 2023 PRIORITIES

- 1. DESIGN AND BUILD A NEW CHILDREN'S LIBRARY IN THE UPTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD.**



- 2. WORK WITH COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS AND LOCAL CITIZENS TO DEVELOP THE NEXT KENOSHA COUNTY PLAN OF LIBRARY SERVICE.**



KPL **kids**



@ Uptown Library

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**



BIG READ

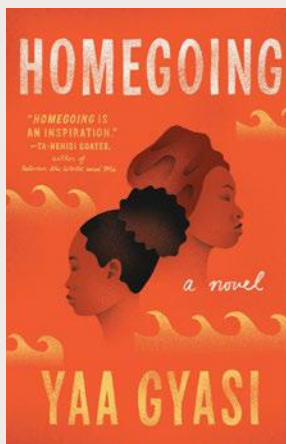
Managed by Arts Midwest

arts.gov/neabigread

3. REPLACE THE 2004 BOOKMOBILE WITH A NEW ELECTRIC (EV) MODEL.



4. HOST OUR 10TH NEA BIG READ IN APRIL 2023!



WE COULDN'T DO IT
WITHOUT YOU.

KPL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Georgia Owens, President

Nancy Humphrey, Vice President

Peter Touhy, Treasurer

Michelle Miloslavic

George Gregory

Atifa Robinson

Sonya Gaines

Chris Allen

Carlos Florez

