



KENOSHA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

2019 Community Impact Report

A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

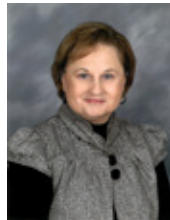
For over 120 years, the Kenosha Public Library has continuously played a vital role of Community Amplifier for the residents of Kenosha. Through our collections, spaces, programs, and expert staff, we magnify the impact of partnering organizations throughout the City. We add fuel to the flames of our local creative community, stimulate positive civic engagement, strengthen our social fabric, and foster an informed, literate, and educated populace. In short, **we enhance the quality of life for everyone in Kenosha in a myriad of ways.**

In our Strategic Plan, we promised you that we would **Strengthen Neighborhoods, Keep You Curious, and Inspire Learning.** We are using these promises as our guide to both discover the needs and aspirations of our community members, and experiment with and iterate new ways to deliver on our core mission. At every turn, we are keeping the public at the center of our decisions, while efficiently allocating our resources to support meaningful outcomes for residents of all ages and demographics. We are challenging ourselves to elevate our patrons' experience with the Library, delivering services that foster surprise, delight, joy, and a sense of pride and connection with the larger community. **We are committed to amplifying the best of Kenosha, and committed to the promotion of learning, community, and social connection through all that we do.**

On behalf of the Board, administration, and staff of Kenosha Public Library, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support of the Library's role in enriching the vitality of our community.



Barb Brattin
Director



Dianna Hodges, Ph. D.
Board President





You are Welcome Here.

Kenosha Public Library is a transformative and vibrant institution reaching every neighborhood in our city. Over 630,000 people visited the Library in 2019, which is over six times the population of our city. But people aren't just visiting. They are connecting. In each Kenosha neighborhood, our libraries serve as community anchors. They are trusted, free, and democratic. Their welcoming spaces offer books, technology, programs, and other resources—as well as access to highly-trained professionals who can help us more fully use this wealth of information.

This is why the Kenosha Public Library exists. We are dedicated to the curious. We are dedicated to you. Whether a scholar, a young parent, a teenager, a toddler, or a senior—Kenosha Public Library is there to ensure that all Kenoshans can engage in lifelong learning. We hope you will join us in celebrating the accomplishments seen in 2019, which benefit people of every age and background living and working in Kenosha. And we'll also celebrate you—the dedicated and the curious. Each of you helps make Kenosha Public Library truly exceptional.

VISION

The Kenosha Community is universally literate, civically engaged, and embraces a global future.

MISSION

The Kenosha Public Library is a ever-evolving interactive learning resource that enrichings our community.

VALUES

Intellectual Freedom

We uphold the public's right to intellectual freedom by ensuring that each person has equitable access to the broad spectrum of resources held by the Kenosha Public Library. We meet each person's information needs fairly, without judgment or censorship.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Through our commitment to ongoing staff education, we strive to implement creative, forward-thinking policies and services that promote inclusivity and maximize the Library's usefulness within the community. The Kenosha Public Library is committed to providing lifelong learning and outstanding service to all members of our diverse community.

Compassionate Professionalism

Our workplace culture is to support our patrons and each other by being helpful, respectful, compassionate, ethical, and kind in our daily interactions. The way we treat each member of our community is evidence of our service-minded professionalism.

Collaboration

As open-minded, flexible, and honest individuals, we are able to work as a team to reach our goals. Through collaboration with each other and our community partners, we provide our patrons with efficient, dependable services that build and maintain trust in the Library as a valuable community institution.

INSPIRING LEARNING

EARLY LEARNING

Birth to 5 are some of the most informative years in an individual's development. By empowering families to be their child's first and best teacher, the Library is working to right that trend and ensure that all children have the brightest possible start in life. In every neighborhood branch, families can find customized guidance, book recommendations, and fun programs that nurture young learners' brain development and build important pre-literacy skills. And, as of 2019, all 4 branches across the city are now home to Ready to Read Play Spaces designed to encourage young children and their families to follow their curiosity and explore new worlds together.

In today's world, STEAM skills—including the ability to creatively find solutions, effectively analyze information, and innovate—are and will increasingly be a crucial part of individuals' lives. That's why we offer hands-on, minds-on programs like Art Sparks, Coding Camps, and LEGO Robotics: to spark interest in STEAM learning for Kenosha's kids.



BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,322 active programs with 30,998 participants
- 4 branches with Ready to Read Play Spaces
- Introduced over 370 new free online classes through Gale Courses



SUMMER READING REPORT CARD

We surveyed parents and caregivers of participating youth and here's what they said:

- **92%** reported their child maintained or increased their reading skills.
- **79%** reported their child reads more often
- **86%** reported their child is a more confident reader
- **75%** reported their child uses the library more often

COMPUTERS

The digital divide prevents some Kenosha residents from fully contributing to our economy and civic life. But imagine a Kenosha in which every individual has the skills and resources they need to successfully access, navigate, and find opportunities on the Internet. Whether crafting a resume, applying for a job, or simply connecting through email—everyone can build crucial digital skills at a Library branch nearby.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 150,969 number of computer session
- 184,199 number of wifi sign ins
- 60 technology training classes





STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS PARTNERSHIPS

We are honored to collaborate with Kenosha organizations committed to improving the lives of all of our residents. The drive to constantly improve, to do better, to never be satisfied with the status quo is a hallmark of the Kenosha community. This year we embraced more community partnerships to meet the diverse expectations and needs of Kenosha residents. In this report, we highlight just a few of these partners across the city. Through collaborations, we can reach farther. Everyone deserves the opportunity to improve themselves through the various forms of literacy.

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Youth and Family Services staff worked with Kenosha Correctional Center (KCC) to offer a dialogic reading class called "Dynamic Dads." Through this class, residents of KCC were taught the importance of reading to and with their children in their lives, and how to read aloud in an engaging manner.

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BY THE NUMBERS

- 1600 copies of *Into the Beautiful North* in English and Spanish were distributed for the 2019 NEA Big Read
- 47 diverse programs, including 2 author visits, with over 1,100 participants

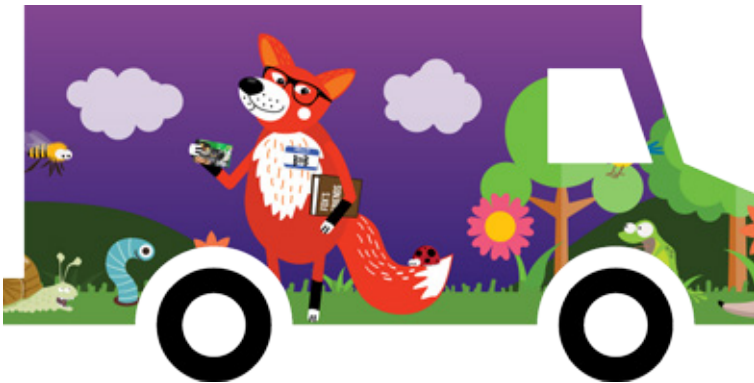
EXPANDED OUTREACH SERVICES

We know that getting to one of our branches isn't always easy to do. Whether your work schedule keeps you away or you are unable to leave the house due to health or wellness reasons finding the time and the transportation to the library can be challenging. We also believe that our resources and services are meant to be utilized by all of our community members. So this year we expanded our Outreach Services to the community in the hopes of making it just a bit easier for you to get the most out of your library right where you are.

With the addition of the Book Truck, KPL's newest mobile library, service was able to be provided to Bridges Community Center, a community-based recovery center for people with mental health or substance abuse issues

BY THE NUMBERS

- 931 bookmobile stops
- 618 home delivery visits
- 289 lobby stops





KEEPING YOU CURIOUS

DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

The great joy of childhood is that the world is new around you and ripe for exploration. Self-guided learning, where the learner propels themselves by interest or curiosity, is a foundational skill for future leaders. This year we created intentional spaces, programs, and collections that allow the child in all of our to discover and explore.

Youth and Family Services staff debuted Open Books, Open Minds reading challenge for K-8th graders. This year long program challenges children to read 100 books that explore diverse people, experiences, and genres of literature.

Space may still be the final frontier but this year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the moon landing with many diverse and engaging programs including Galaxy and Moon Watercolor Painting, Naked-Eye Astronomy, and an Observatory Open House through a partnership with Hawthorn Hollow.

Technology is always changing and can present a cost barrier. This year we grew our relationship with Kenosha Community Media, offering The Hub: Digital Media Lab as a place for nonprofits, local businesses, and community members to have full free access to professional video recording and editing equipment and software.

Bookmobiles bring the library to you! We were so honored Wisconsin Life did a segment on ours this year.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 3 new portable 3D printers added to the collection
- 233 people signed up for Open Books, Open Minds
- 5,243 Kenosha residents were issued library cards



We couldn't provide these great resources and services without the help of the Friends of the Kenosha Public Library and the Kenosha Public Library Foundation.

To learn more about how you can get involved or donate please visit www.mykpl.info/support.



Afterwords - the Friends of the Library Book Store located in the lobby of the Southwest Library.

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The Hannah Stocker Children's room at the Simmons Library received an update.

