

2023 Annual Report

Kate Larsen, Director

April 30, 2024

Joint Study Session of City Council
and Tacoma Public Library Board of Trustees

tacoma public library

2024 Board of Trustees



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Mission

(Our purpose and why we exist)

We empower our community by bringing people together to discover, connect, create, learn, and thrive.

Strategic Priorities



Equity and Access

We are committed to racial equity and social justice. It guides our work in serving Tacoma's diverse communities, especially the most vulnerable and underserved.



Learning, Creativity, and Innovation

We will be the place for learning, discovery, and innovation.



Investment in Youth

We believe that youth are the future and we will prioritize services, programs, and partnerships that nurture and develop young minds.



Cultivate and Engage Community

We will be the center for connecting people, ideas, and places.



Responsible and Resilient

We will be an integral partner in a sustainable network that supports a thriving Tacoma.

Equity and Access

In response to the opioid crisis in our community, TPL partnered with **Tacoma Needle Exchange** to support patrons and staff with tangible resources:

- Naloxone available in all libraries
- Distribution machine at Moore Library that dispenses free naloxone and fentanyl test strips
- Provide peer navigation services to more than 40 patrons including crisis support, medical care, mental health care, transportation, and housing support - one family of two, expecting a child, who were homeless for nearly a year, received permanent housing and got a job thanks to the help of the peer navigator



More than 3,200 doses of naloxone were distributed in 2023.

Equity and Access

Free drop-in help, information, and resources from **Tacomaprobono** and the **Office of Equity and Human Rights** was made available in libraries with 51 tabling events.



Over 300 people received free legal help.

As the need for COVID-19 resources has continued, in 2023 TPL distributed more than:

- **23,000 COVID-19 Test Kits**
- **3,000 COVID-19 Care Kits**
- **1,900 N95 masks**

in partnership with **Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department**



Mobile Hotspot Kit Checkouts 304

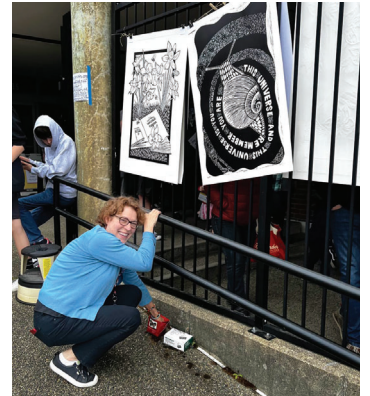


Museum and Local Attraction Pass Checkouts 4,200

Learning, Creativity, and Innovation

Tacoma Wayzgoose at Moore Library

Moore Library hosted the Tacoma Wayzgoose, a letterpress and book arts extravaganza, in partnership with **City of Tacoma's Office of Arts & Cultural Vitality and Write253**. Students and local print artists designed lino cut prints to be pressed by a steam roller.



Learning, Creativity, and Innovation

Coding Camp Workshops

Thanks to a partnership with the **Lifelong Kindergarten group at MIT Media Lab**, TPL offered seven Coding Camps throughout the summer where over 85 youth learned computational and problem-solving skills with an app called OctoStudio.



Washington State University 4-H program of Pierce County provided STEAM activities for grades K-5 at 13 events to explore robots, bottle rockets, hydraulics, and more.

Investment in Youth



The Pathway Partnership

The partnership between Tacoma Public Library and **Tacoma Public School District (TPS)** allows every TPS student (Pre-K–12) and teachers to have library access using their student or employee ID card.

New materials were developed in both English and Spanish to expand awareness of the Pathway Partnership and were distributed through Tacoma Public Schools to promote the service directly to students.



With support from the **Tacoma Creates** initiative, TPL partnered with **Greentrike** to offer **Play to Learn** weekly with more than **2521** attendees in 2023.

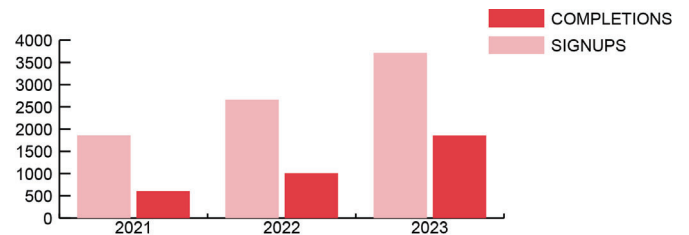


Investment in Youth

Summer Reading Challenge (All Ages!)

Participation saw a steady increase from the past year and a continuing increase since the return to in-person programming in 2021.

Summer Reading 2023
Total Registered 3717
Total Completed 1857



Staff handed out 400 free books and offered activities at the Verlo Playfield free lunch site.



An SRC raffle prize winner.



Attendees at Kobetich Library for the Reptile Man.

Cultivate and Engage Community



Tacoma Reads 2023

Home: housing insecurity in our community

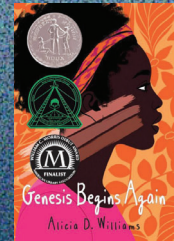
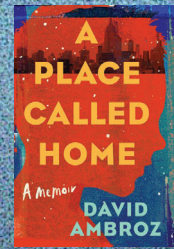


2023 saw the return to an in-person author event with author **David Ambroz in conversation with Mayor Woodards**, attended by 220 people and supported by partners and sponsors.

Photos: Brian Cox



Storytimes, arts activities, and live performances at the **Little Literary Fest**.



Cultivate and Engage Community

The Northwest Room and Community Archives Center

An IMLS National Leadership Award-funded the Northwest Room's Community Archives Center project with \$250K from 2021-2023. Community-centered digital content and over 200 oral histories and interviews are now available in this still-growing collection.

The NWR & CAC engaged in a variety of outreach and education activities to connect with the community in new ways in 2023, including:

- **Hilltop Story Fest**
- **Artists in the Archives**
- **Neighborhood preservation events**
- **Preservation station popups**
Full-day workshop for over 100 Tacoma Public Schools teachers



Hilltop Story Fest, photo by Mikayla Heineck.



Northwest Room staff provided in-class instruction for nearly 600 local students.

320 collections now available in Northwest ORCA

40 events and outreach activities

587 students reached through in-classroom instruction

Responsible and Resilient

Grants and Awards

TPL actively seeks to maximize available funding opportunities

City of Tacoma Heritage Grant

\$8,100



Humanities Washington Prime Time Family Reading

\$25,000



Department of Commerce
\$2,000,000
for Capital Improvements
\$96,500
to study Solar + Storage



Washington State Library Professional Development
\$5,000



Washington Library Association Professional Development

\$2,000



IMLS Building Equity Based Summers

\$500



Kiwanis
\$1,000
for learning furniture in Main's new children's area



National Archives National Historical Publications and Records
\$126,328



Responsible and Resilient

The Main Library refresh is under way and will update some of the aging infrastructure and better utilize the expansive building to create a community hub.



Technology upgrades in our IT Department continue to improve library services and patron experiences.



50 new Mobile Hotspot Kits added to circulation

Improved **public printing interfaces**

Created flexible **staff workstations** with dock upgrades

2023 Board of Trustees



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January–August
President,
September–present*



Sara Irish

*President, January–
August
Vice President,
September–present*



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*Trustee,
January–September*



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**Thank you.
Questions?**

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