

A note from the Cleveland Public Library Foundation President and Chief of External Relations & Development.

We thank you for supporting Cleveland Public Library Foundation in 2024! Thanks to your support, we were able to serve more people, expand our programming in reading literacy, digital literacy, and arts and culture, and enhance the facilities at our branch libraries.

We hope you enjoy perusing this report, which summarizes much of the work of the Cleveland Public Library Foundation. We thank you again for your generous support. Your contributions give our community the gift of literacy and lifelong learning that changes lives.

As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Main Library Building in 2025, we reflect on all the Library has accomplished this past century and look forward to your investment in our next 100 years!

In gratitude,



LaRese Purnell
President, Cleveland Public Library Foundation



Dr. Shenise Johnson Thomas
Chief of External Relations and Development



THE CONTINUING IMPACT OF Cleveland READS



The 2024 calendar year brought exciting growth to the Cleveland READS campaign's second year. The eight-week summer reading program exceeded prior year participation levels by serving more than 4,000 scholars, newborns through age 18.

Providing a particularly vital resource at a time when the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) was unable to offer a summer program of its own for all grades, the 2024 program welcomed students and families from CMSD, private, charter, and parochial schools.

All Cleveland READS programming is evidence-based in its approach to promoting literacy and guided by the "Science of Reading" seeks to improve literacy proficiency and school readiness using research-informed strategies for teaching and learning.

Feedback gleaned via a survey of participating households expressed strong satisfaction with the program, explicitly citing:

- 91% "learned something new from what they read or experienced."
- 82% expressed a desire to use the library more often.
- 77% said they enjoyed reading more.
- 76% said they read more often as a result of their participation.

MEETING THE COMMUNITY On the Road to Reading

August 2024 saw the debut of Cleveland Public Library's colorfully-wrapped On the Road to Reading van. Designed to be dynamic and inclusive, On the Road to Reading activities are facilitated by dedicated CPL staff who model best practices in early literacy promotion. They enthusiastically distribute books for home libraries, offer library card sign-ups, and share a range of engaging experiences for young readers and their caregivers at various locations.

During 2024, the On the Road to Reading van:

- Served 4,874 patrons and distributed more than 5,100 books at two dozen community events and appearances.
- Provided a 38 weekly storytime sessions at four Cleveland childcare sites;
- Conducted 33 visits to pediatric settings that reached 289 children and caregivers.



THE GRAND OPENING OF Studio 525

Opened in Spring 2024, Studio 525 created a safe space in Downtown Cleveland for teens hang out after-school while encouraging them to explore technology and build digital literacy for tomorrow's career fields.

An 8-week session in November kicked off with students diving into technology through hands-on STEM activities. This equipped youth for academic growth and career possibilities, helping to build the future Cleveland workforce.

Special thanks to Pricewaterhouse Coopers, PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., and Huntington Bank for supporting Studio 525.



EMPOWERING SENIORS Golden Gala

The Golden Gala, held on October 11, 2024, was a celebration focused on honoring our senior community while providing essential technology resources.

255 attendees participated in interactive breakout sessions aimed at enhancing digital literacy and empowering seniors to navigate today's tech landscape while connecting with fellow seniors from across the area.

Many thanks to AT&T for sponsoring this program and to our community partners for helping make this interactive event come to life.



Black White & REaD CELEBRATING LITERACY

On October 25, 2024, the Cleveland Public Library Foundation hosted its signature event, the Black White & REaD Celebration, spotlighting the Library's efforts to enhance reading and digital literacy.

The festive evening featured an author showcase with book signings by beloved and renowned local authors Paula McClain, Quartez Harris, Alan Dutka, Abby Vandiver, Thrity Umrigar and Derf Backderf.

Thank you to OverDrive and all of our sponsors, attendees, and CPLF Board members who supported this wonderful event!

Stay tuned for the next Black White & REaD Celebration in Fall 2025 at the Main Library as CPL celebrates its 100th Anniversary!



REIMAGINING LIBRARIES Glenville Campus Renovations

In another win for the Glenville community in 2024, we launched renovations on the new Glenville Campus, which will house the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Workforce and Senior Digital Innovation Lab, made possible by a generous gift from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation.

For more details, visit CPL.org/reimagine



The PRISM Project

As Cleveland Public Library continues to serve the Cleveland community, it finds itself working to balance tough issues, such as book bans and rapidly declining literacy rates, with the need to end longstanding social ills including and resulting from mass incarceration. The Library has explored the use of public art to frame critical dialogues and catalyze the transformation of its patrons, community and the library itself.

Our commitment to Cleveland's residents put us in a place to accept funding from the **Art for Justice Fund** and **George Gund Foundation**, to commission artworks that address mass incarceration. Probing these complex questions and unraveling so many more is *PRISM: Seeing Beyond Mass Incarceration*, Cleveland Public Library's first-of-its-kind examination of the role of the library in efforts to help end mass incarceration. This program is a three-pronged approach that encompasses art, programming and advocacy initiatives.

With PRISM, Cleveland Public Library and its Office of Arts and Culture have established a compelling new model for library-community dialogue and an inclusive social justice initiative uniquely positioned to catalyze interdisciplinary inquiry, groundbreaking artistic expression, and what promises to be transformative civic impacts.

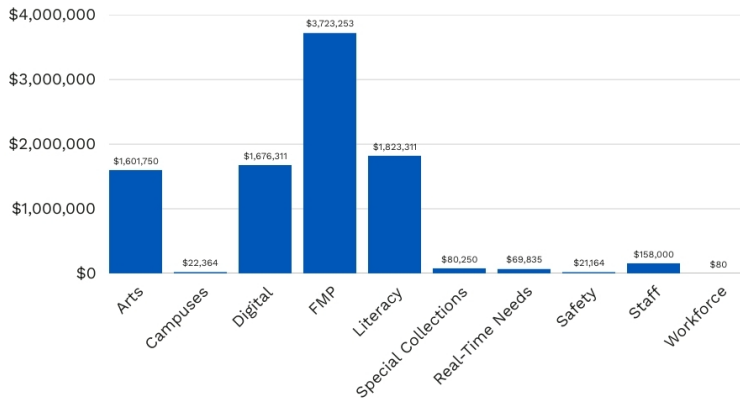
Learn more at CPL.org/PRISM

In partnership with:

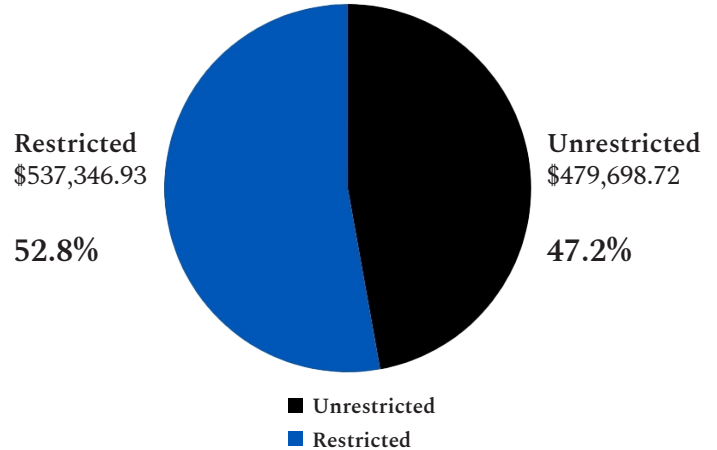


CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY Foundation Financials

Together, the Library and the Foundation raised \$1,017,045.65 dollars in gifts in 2024, thanks to many generous donors. Since 2017, \$9,176,318 has been raised and is illustrated here by strategic priorities the funds support.



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Special Thanks

The Cleveland Public Library Foundation is honored to have received a generous multi-year gift from an anonymous donor supporting youth literacy. Your contribution is truly making a difference.



DONATE

All of these stories reflect the impact of your private gifts to Cleveland Public Library Foundation. The Cleveland Public Library Foundation exists to raise philanthropic funds for Cleveland Public Library beyond what taxpayer dollars support.

Your gifts make a tremendous impact by giving our community the gift of literacy and lifelong learning that will help them succeed.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Main Library Building in 2025, please help us continue to serve Clevelanders for the next 100 years by giving a gift today!



Library Giving Day is Tuesday, April 1, 2025, so please consider supporting Cleveland Public Library Foundation now.

Cleveland Public Library Foundation
325 Superior Ave E
Cleveland, OH 44114



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