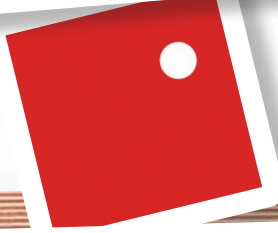
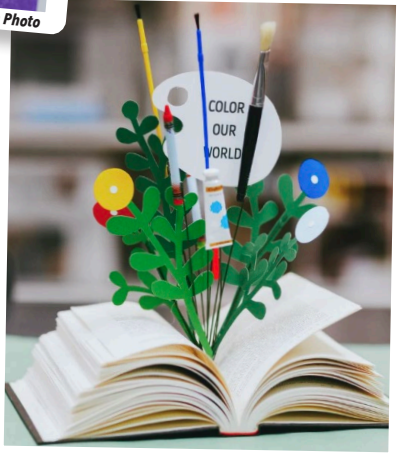




Unless otherwise noted, all image credits: Ann Dean Photo



LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY 2025 ANNUAL COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



Imagine more.

Annual Message from Your Library Director

Hi, Lawrence!

2025 was a landmark year for Lawrence Public Library. Building on projects that were initiated in 2024 to lower barriers to our collections, we successfully completed several key initiatives.

We expanded access to our physical collections by adding two new remote pickup locker locations. You can now have items delivered to Hy-Vee, Sports Pavilion Lawrence, or Prairie Park Nature Center, bringing library resources to every corner of Lawrence. Additionally, we simplified access to our digital collections by introducing digital card registration, which allows you to sign up for a library card without visiting the building in person.

At the downtown library, we debuted our new DIY Memory Lab. This upgraded space features expanded equipment to meet the community's digitization needs, including the ability to convert nearly any analog format—such as audio and video tapes, photos, and books—into digital files.

Finally, at the end of 2025, we began developing a Master Plan to chart the future of the library and our community for the next 20 years. I'm excited about the direction our city is headed, and the role the library, alongside its Friends & Foundation, will continue to play to help our community thrive.



Brad Allen, Executive Director



"I'm excited about the direction our city is headed, and the role the library, alongside its Friends & Foundation, will continue to play to help our community thrive."

—Brad



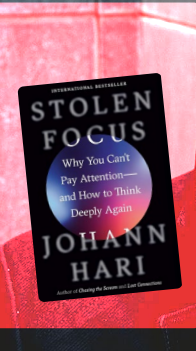
2025 Summer Reading Kickoff Party with live DJs from KJHK
PHOTO CREDIT: Ann Dean

\$525,700*

(2025 total given to the library)

Friends & Foundation
LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

IMAGE CREDIT: johannhari.com



**Beach Author 2025
Johann Hari**

Annual Letter from the LPL Friends & Foundation



Dear Friends,

In 2025, the Lawrence Public Library Friends & Foundation continued its great work to raise funds, volunteer, and advocate for the library. Together, we help sustain a vibrant, inclusive space where everyone can learn, connect, create, and grow.

Thanks to your generous support, the library provides access to information, strengthens digital literacy, inspires young readers, and offers programs and collections that reflect the rich diversity of Lawrence.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of taxpayers, donors, and the incredible dedication of our volunteers. We are so proud to be part of a community that believes in its public library.

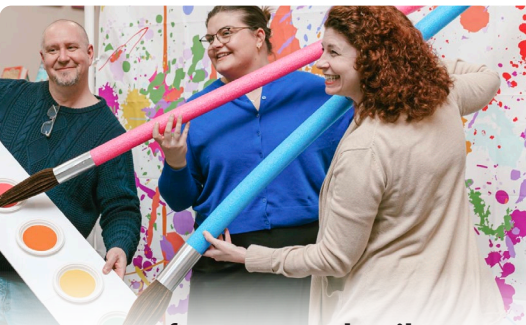
With gratitude,

Annamarie Hill

Annamarie Hill, Chair
Lawrence Public Library Friends & Foundation



**2025 After Hours at the Library
Fundraiser**



**2025 After Hours at the Library
Fundraiser**

2025 HIGHLIGHTS*

\$836,000

Raised through book sales, gifts, grants

\$131,000

Support for Summer Reading & Youth programs

\$110,000

Given for digital resources

\$100,000

Given for LPL Master Plan Study

\$50,000

Given for author talks & adult programs

\$309,913

Value of volunteer hours to library

**Unaudited total*

IMAGE CREDIT: Lawrence Public Library



Some of our Best "Friends" volunteers
(who really are our friends!)

Expanding Access & Library Spaces

Digital Library Cards, Lockers & the DIY Memory Lab

2025 saw new digital library cards and the successful installation and launch of remote hold pick-up lockers at Hy-Vee, Prairie Park Nature Center, and Sports Pavilion Lawrence to increase equitable access to collections. The library also cut the ribbon on the highly popular DIY Memory Lab, which allows patrons to digitize physical photos, slides, and VHS tapes for free.

Master Plan Kickoff

After a nation-wide search, the library selected Margaret Sullivan Studio to create a Master Plan for Lawrence Public Library. This is the first time in 20 years that the library has conducted a comprehensive study of its facility, services, and programs. Look for the results in the Summer of 2026.

Memorable Events & Programming

A Sold-Out Booktoberfest

Nearly 1,100 participants attended 10 different programs, all of which hit registration capacity and required waitlist. 95 surveys yielded glowing feedback from very happy patrons.

SOUND+VISION Presents Concerts

The library launched this free, intimately-scaled live music series funded by an anonymous donor, which featured performances by Califone, David Lowery, and Eric Bachmann.

Ross & Marianna Beach Author 2025

Thanks to the Beach Family, the library hosted bestselling author Johann Hari, for a free author talk and book signing at Liberty Hall. It drew over 300 attendees.

Youth Services' Native American Heritage Month

In November, the library's Youth Services team produced a robust slate of programs to explore and celebrate Native American culture. Highlights included a celebration featuring two Tribal Princesses from Haskell Indian Nations University, as well as a "Hive Culture Night" hosted in partnership with Wadulisi's, a local producer of Indigenous food.

Kevin Young Comes Home

In partnership with the Kansas Book Festival and Humanities Kansas, award-winning poet Kevin Young shared his *Night Watch* collection of poems with a capacity crowd. Young is the author of 15 books of poetry and prose, Poetry Editor of the *New Yorker*, former Director of the Smithsonian's African American History Museum, and proud Topeka, Kansas native.



Alexa Boyd

Hannah W. (age 6)

Alycia Earhart

Record-Breaking Engagement & Growth

Library Card Sign-ups

In August, the library reached 779 new library card sign-ups, marking the highest number of sign-ups in a single month over the last two and a half years. This was bolstered by the successful launch of a new digital library card and record-setting month for Dottie the bookmobile, which issued 77 new cards.

Summer Reading Success

Summer Reading 2025 was a huge success, with 4,345 kids, teen, and adults finishing the program. Our Readers' Services team reported a record 1,546 finishers, surpassing 2024's total by almost 200 people.

Meeting High Customer Satisfaction Goals

In early 2025, the Board of Trustees congratulated the library for meeting its strategic goal of an average Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 85. This metric gauges customer satisfaction by asking, "How likely are you to recommend the library to a friend or family member?" The library continued to see high satisfaction levels, achieving an impressive NPS score of 90 in October.

Cultivating Community & Free Services

Beyond Books—Cultivating the Community

10,936 seed packets were given away in 2025 (up from 8,431 in 2024). The library also processed 214 free notary sessions in a single month.

8th Annual How-To Festival

The library program that encourages the community to "learn something new from their friends and neighbors," brought in 715 people who walked away with fresh idea from more than 30 presenters (and perhaps some new hobbies!)

New Library Card Design Competition

The Marketing and Communications team launched a public library card design competition in the summer of 2025. The winning designs were selected, then revealed on September 1st in celebration of National Library Card Sign-up Month.



Library patrons **digitized over 35,000 slides** in the first 9 months of the DIY Memory Lab opening!

1,160,202
TOTAL ITEMS CIRCULATED

745,613
Books, CDs, DVDs & More



383,288
Digital Audio, Video & eBooks

940 FREE LIBRARY EVENTS
100% funded by the LPL Friends & Foundation

403,404
Total in-person visits

1,500,000
Total website visits

2,537
LPL Con attendees

36,196
Total questions answered in person and by phone

33,752
Total number of attendees at free library programs/events

21,806
Kids & Teens attended programs

4,345
Total Summer Reading finishers

32,197
Total books read by Kids & Teens during Summer Reading

16,091

46,518
Cardholders

6,970
New library cards made

48,891
Library blog page views

325%
Increase in digital magazine checkout with Libby Magazines

650
Total attendees at our 2025 Summer Reading Kickoff party

8,699
Total Storytime attendance

2,640,805
Minutes read at Summer Reading

\$25,040
Amount raised with the LPLFF Basket Raffle

VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED



\$525,700*

Total amount given to the library from generous private gifts and library book sales.

LIBRARY REVENUES*

Intergovernmental	\$6,771,476
Charges for Services	\$30,251
Fees & Lost Items	\$25,151
Donations & Grants	\$653,199
Other	\$111,270

Total Revenues \$7,591,347

LIBRARY EXPENDITURES*

Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$5,170,308
Library Materials	\$849,890
Library Programs	\$93,085
General Operations & Bldg Maintenance	\$874,423
Capital Improvement	\$74,411

Total Expenditures \$7,505,301

*Figures are based on unaudited 2025 Revenue and Expenditures and Outside and Private Funding statements.



ALL FUNDED BY PRIVATE DONATIONS & BOOK SALE PURCHASES

- ACT/SAT practice tests
- Bibliotele
- Book Lockers
- Booktoberfest
- Caliphone concert
- Community Resource programs
- Data Axle database
- Digital Library support
- DIY Memory Lab equipment
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Dottie giveaway books (554!)
- Dottie Outreach
- Dr. Bob READs giveaway books (846!)
- Feed the fish
- Goldenberg Duo concert
- Health Spot refresh
- Honor with Books
- How-To Festival
- Johann Hari Beach Author Series Talk
- Junior Author Camp
- Kansas Book Festival support
- Kansas Reads to Preschoolers
- Kanopy movie streaming service
- Kevin Young poetry program
- Kindle Book Club in a Bag
- Library Master Plan
- Library Staff Day
- LPL Con
- Marketing support
- MLK Day of Service
- Music Storytellers
- Outdoor/Nature programming
- Read Across Lawrence
- RetroActive program for older adults
- Seed Library
- Sing and Rhyme storytime
- SOUND+VISION Studio equipment
- Staff birthday coffee cards
- Storytime puppets
- Summer Reading prizes and performers
- Tech upgrades
- Tutor.com
- Urban Library Council membership
- Wakarusa Wetlands Celebration
- Weave A Tale storytelling workshop
- Yoga @ Your Library

Made possible because of YOU.

2025 LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



James Pavisian
Chair



Mandy Leibold
Vice Chair



Allison Friend Mazzei
Secretary-Treasurer



Alex Carvalho



Kelly Hart



Sean Hunt



Ryann Tacha



Brad Finkeldei, Mayor

2025 LIBRARY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annamarie Hill (Chair), Nancy Hambleton (Vice Chair), Frankie Haynes (Secretary), Joan Golden (Treasurer), Brandon Eisman, Mary Gage, Blanca Herrada, Mandy Leibold, Janie Marples, Curt Marsh, Kassie Nieters, Cindy Penzler, Rachel Rademacher, Brad Allen (Ex-Officio), Alice Ann Johnston (Board Member Emerita).

ABOUT LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lawrence Public Library (LPL for short) is a community hub that believes in the power of connecting with each other through shared knowledge and resources. Located in the heart of Downtown Lawrence, Kansas, we're committed to providing a space where everyone can learn, connect, create, and grow through access to our vast collections, resources, services, programs, and knowledgeable staff. The library is supported by tax dollars, the Lawrence Public Library Friends & Foundation's record-breaking book sales and philanthropic efforts, and dedicated efforts of hundreds of volunteers.

LIBRARY HOURS

MON-THU 10 AM-8 PM • FRI-SUN 10 AM-6 PM



All are welcome.

