



DETROIT  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



2023 / 2024  
COMMUNITY REPORT  
A TESTAMENT



TO SERVICE



[www.detroitpubliclibrary.org](http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org)

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“Drop the mic moments” seldom happen very often! The Detroit Public Library experienced such a moment on August 6, 2024, when 85.8% of Detroit voters who went to the polls, and said “yes” to renewing our 10-year millage. Without question, this was an overwhelming validation and testament to the many valuable, vital, and vibrant services and programs we have provided over the past ten years.

We are pleased to highlight a number of activities, events and initiatives during the past two years that demonstrate our commitment to continuously enlighten and empower Detroiters by providing diverse and dynamic pathways to literacy and learning. Our financial statements clearly demonstrate that we have been good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

There is something for everyone at DPL. In recognition of the importance of technology, we offer laptops and hotspots that may be checked-out, access to 900 computers, free Wi-Fi, free computer classes, and support for online job searches. For Detroit’s children and teens, we are committed to providing engaging opportunities that encourage and enhance literacy. From Summer Reading to 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten to story hours, we always pursue opportunities that will encourage young people to develop a lifelong love of reading. Adults will always find a wide range of services and programs, including free tax preparation service, book clubs, author talks, musical performances, and art exhibits, designed for their recreation and growth.

Our creative, dedicated and skilled staff is passionate about providing services and programs that meet the learning and informational needs of all Detroiters. Every day we strive to make the Detroit Public Library a vital, valued and vibrant part of neighborhoods throughout the city of Detroit. Again, thank you for your unwavering support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Anne G. Mondowney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' and 'M'.

Jo Anne G. Mondowney  
Executive Director





*"The library is a place where there's no limits. It's a playground for people who are looking for more than they've been given."*  
jessica Care moore

## Library Millage

# Valued, Vital, Vibrant

On Tuesday, August 6, 2024, Detroiters recognized the value of the Detroit Public Library by passing Proposal L—our operational millage renewal. Proposal L is a 10-year millage of 3.9943 mills that generates approximately 85% of the library's operating funds. The overwhelming support illustrated that voters view the library as “valued, vital and vibrant.” Our library plays a crucial role in the community by providing services, technology, resources and programs that enrich the lives of Detroiters. The Detroit Public Library, its Main Library, 21 branches and the Mobile Library serve the people of Detroit.



EXIT

CASS AVENUE CONCOURSE

*"The library is a place where everybody can come, but everyone can get something different from it."*

Roland Coit

**2.5  
MILLION**

items include books, DVDs, video games, vinyl records, cookbooks, sheet music, graphic novels and more!

Take a computer class or get help with your online job search with our...

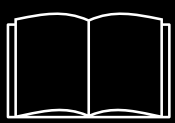
- **900** public computers
- **358** laptops to checkout
- **761** Wi-Fi hotspots



Access our rich collection of online resources like Ancestry.com, LinkedIn Learning Library, Mergent Intellect or Weiss Financial Ratings.



Download eBooks, audiobooks and even magazines to your tablet or phone. Stream popular movies, tv shows, documentaries and even music using services Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy.



Join a book club, attend an author discussion, enjoy a concert and other enrichment programs for all ages!

# Lego and The Michigan Science Center

The Detroit Public Library partnered with the Michigan Science Center to promote playful learning through Lego. The collaboration kicked off on June 24, 2023, with a fun event at the Children's Library including an inflatable obstacle course, photobooth, face painting, crafts, games, and of course, lots of Lego building. Throughout the Summer of 2023, all library locations hosted "Build the Change" challenges. These programs allowed children to creatively solve "real-world" challenges using Lego. And, these Lego kits are still being utilized throughout the library, with Lego clubs and building challenges. Additionally, the partnership included the purchase of playful learning toys for all library locations, including Lego, puzzles, screenless coding toys, and blocks and building kits.





*"Black Cowboys are an important piece of the historical legacy of the West that is often overlooked. We are excited to bring a piece of this rich heritage to the Detroit Public Library, and to provide the opportunity for young Detroiters to ride a horse. Many kids have never been close to a horse and I am excited to share this wonderful experience with the children of Detroit."*

**Halima Davis, Manager,**  
Children's Library/ H.Y.P.E. Teen Center

## Midwest Invitational Rodeo and Juneteenth

In June 2023, the Midwest Invitational Rodeo visited the Detroit Public Library for a Juneteenth Celebration at Main Library. The Midwest Invitational Rodeo holds an annual event at the Genessee County Fairgrounds with riders from all over the country to bring the tradition of Black Rodeo to the Midwest. The Library is honored to now host them yearly on the Cass Lawn. Families enjoy an afternoon filled with horse and pony rides, steer roping, line dancing, and good ole' fashioned fun!


*"Before a child enters Head Start, their journey to becoming a successful student begins with the simple act of being read to. The Detroit Public Library is here to support families in preparing their children for school by offering resources that nurture and develop young minds."*

**Vernadette McAllister,**  
Coordinator of Major Activity-Children's Services



## Early Childhood Literacy

The Detroit Public Library continues a partnership with 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, a national non-profit that promotes early childhood literacy through parent and child reading. Parents, grandparents and caregivers are encouraged to read to their newborns, infants and toddlers, with the simple goal of reading 1,000 books before the child enters kindergarten. Through the library, you can register and log titles as you read books to your child—receive a free book at the library for the first 25 titles logged! Each time you and your child read and log 100 books, you'll receive another free book to build your own home library. The Library's commitment to early childhood literacy includes dedicated children's librarians, large collections of picture books and early reader books, and storytime sessions at all of our locations.



*“Partnering with FoDACC allows the library to connect our patrons with trusted resources, encourage compassion, and support the well-being of both people and pets. It’s exactly the kind of community-centered, educational programming that shows how libraries can be more than just books.”*

**Kathryn Klaver,**  
Children and Youth Services  
Librarian/Assistant Manager  
Edison Branch

## **Friends of Detroit Animal Care and Control**

To celebrate National Pet Month in May 2023, Kathryn Klaver, assistant manager at the Edison Branch, partnered with Friends of Detroit Animal Care and Control (FoDACC) to offer customers a weekly Pet Ownership series that provided an opportunity for customers to speak to a vet, animal trainers, animal control and licensing experts, and receive a free bag of dog food. The Pet People program continues today as a popular monthly series with 35 – 50 people in attendance. National Pet Month 2024 was marked with a pet adoption event at the Main Library where 5 dogs went home with families! Storytimes at the Edison Branch and other locations bring adoptable dogs—reading to dogs allows children to increase their confidence.

*“Educators Night was a unique customer experience to K – 12 teachers in the area, allowing attendees to take advantage of the offerings from the library and cultural center’s institutions with an eye toward fostering new relationships between the organizations and the education community.”*

**Christopher Korenowsky,**  
Chief of Operations and Customer Experiences Officer



## Educators Night

During the second annual Educators Night on September 24, 2024, seven cultural institutions, including the Detroit Public Library, welcomed K – 12 teachers to learn about available educational resources. This free, immersive event sponsored by the Detroit Cultural Center Association, allowed the library to provide information on early childhood development and literacy, showcase student learning opportunities, highlight material to supplement curriculums, and work with teachers to organize field trips, workshops and summer camps to the library. Library community partners including PBS Kids, The Henry Ford, Brilliant Detroit and Huron-Clinton Metroparks were also present at the library to share information and resources.



## Noel Night

After a brief hiatus due to the pandemic, Noel Night returned to the Detroit Public Library in December 2023. Crowds streamed into Main Library for an evening of festive fun! The Detroit Youth Choir performed in the packed auditorium, there was a puppet show in the Children's Library, as well as arts and crafts, music and dancing. The tradition continued in 2024 with a performance by the Renaissance High School Symphony String Orchestra, a roller-skating musical performance of "The Rainbow Fish" from Dream Arts Co., plus ornament and jewelry making, and a special visit from Santa Claus and the Grinch!



## DPL Galleria at Main Library

*"The DPL Galleria came to life organically and we soon became known as the 'community's art' exhibition space. Over time, we purposefully developed a space to display and engage our community to experience quality art in a comfortable, casual and non-intimidating environment. We focus on artists from the community who aren't necessarily famous or even known, but who are extremely talented and deserving of their art being showcased."*

**Atiim J. Funchess,**  
Assistant Director, Marketing & Communications



Desiree Kelly returned to the Detroit Public Library in December 2023 with a brand-new exhibit of portraits in “Encore.”



“The Color of Sci-Fi” curated by DMJ Studio now in its second year, is a group exhibit celebrating people of color in science fiction.

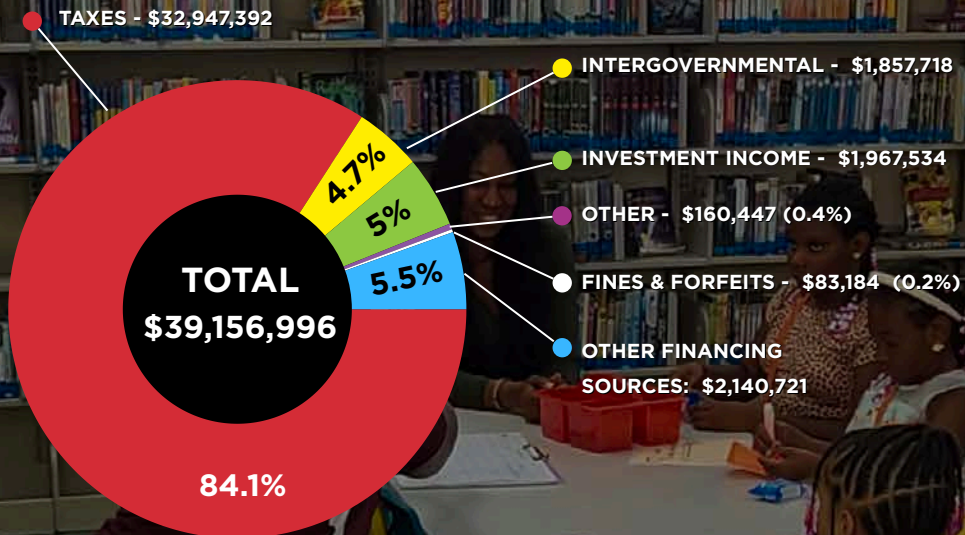


The Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis presented “The Original Americans: A Native American Story in Art” featuring Native American artists from Michigan and Indiana.

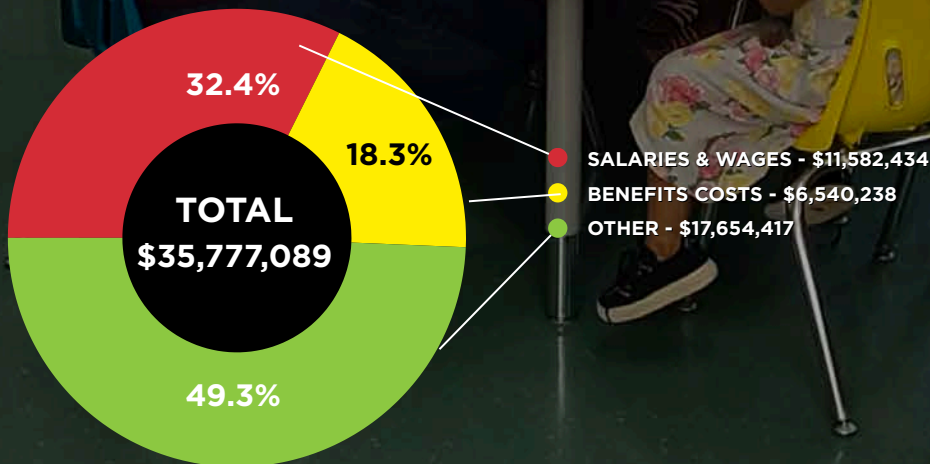
# Fiscal Year 2023

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

## REVENUES



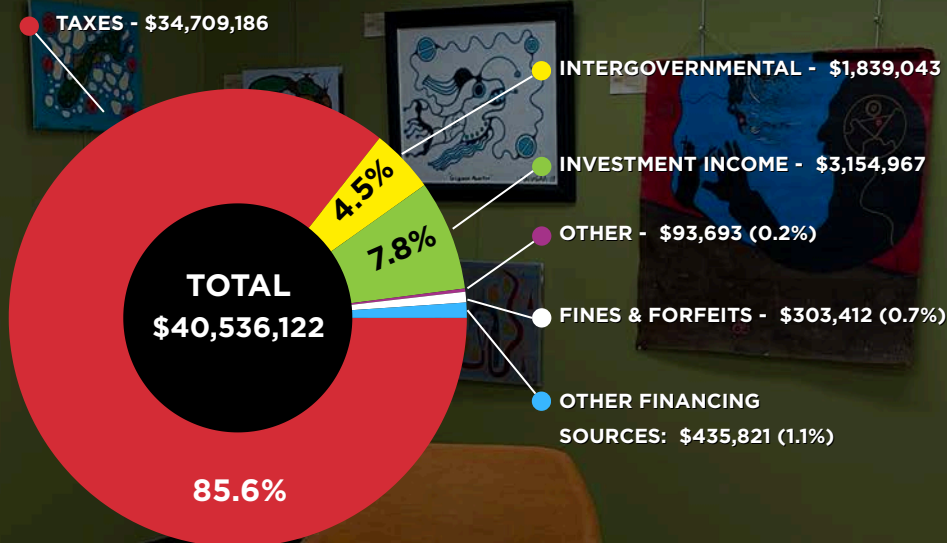
## EXPENDITURES



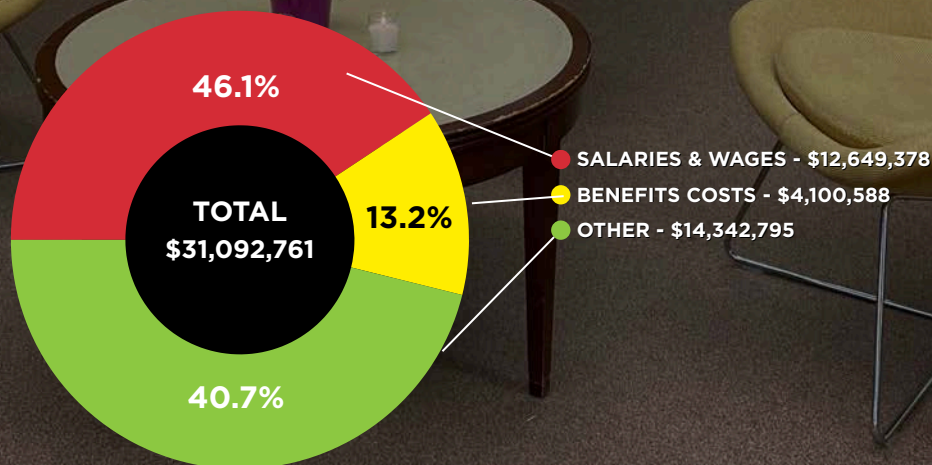
# Fiscal Year 2024

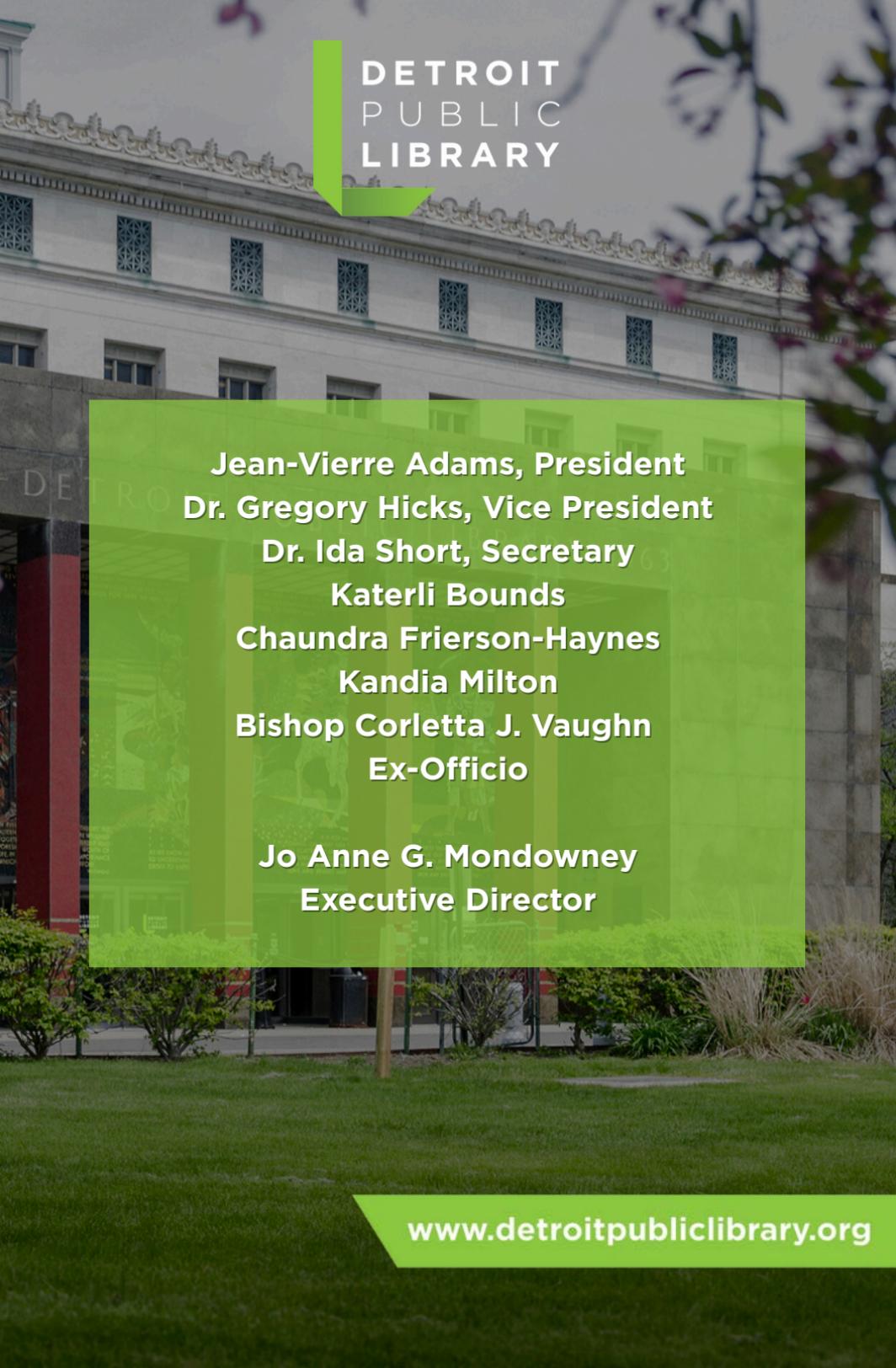
July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

## REVENUES



## EXPENDITURES



A photograph of the Detroit Public Library building, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with multiple windows and a decorative cornice. The building is partially obscured by a green overlay. In the foreground, there is a green lawn and some bushes. A green banner is at the bottom of the image.

**DETROIT  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

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