



# 2019

ANNUAL  
REPORT



*Moving  
Forward*



 The Public  
**Library**  
of Youngstown & Mahoning County

## A MESSAGE FROM AIMEE FIFAREK, LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If 2019 had a theme, it would be “Communication and Change.” We saw a lot of it in this busy year, with major work being done on library funding, building construction, and major changes to our community.



Regular visitors to our libraries saw many new faces this year, with 25 new staff members, including Youth Services and Programming Director Erin Phemester. Our Library Board welcomed two new Trustees: JoAnn Stock of Youngstown and Jamie Viano of North Lima. It was also the year we said goodbye to 16 staff, including long-time employee and Canfield Supervisor Linda Kucalaba and Trustee John Yerian of Poland.

Our community experienced a major transition when *The Vindicator* ceased operations after 150 years as our local newspaper. PLYMC hosted a Who's Who in local media session to introduce the community to new and expanded media services that appeared in the wake of that announcement, including the new *Vindicator* edition of the *Tribune Chronicle*, an expanded *Business Journal*, and the digital newspaper *Mahoning Matters*.

PLYMC was happy for the influx of news sources and gave them plenty to report on in 2019, including the Library Board giving the green light to the Main Library renovation project, the start of construction of the Cultural, Literacy, Workforce, and Community Center (CLWCC) which will house our new Campbell Library, and a successful levy campaign that will give us 5 years of reliable funding.

But with all of that going on, we didn't forget to take time out to read. Over 5,000 people participated in 2019's Summer Discovery program, and 600 of them celebrated their accomplishments by seeing Laura Numeroff of “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie” fame speak at Stambaugh Auditorium. Some 100 people attended the annual Literary Society Event to hear from author Andrew Gross. And 795 people participated in events for The NEA Big Read, culminating in a visit and reading from Luis Albert Urrea.

But the most important thing that happened to PLYMC in 2019 is you – all the people who came to programs, talked with our staff, checked out materials, and invited me to speak about the ways the Library works with partners and the community every day. Thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement, and input throughout 2019!

# THANK YOU FOR MOVING US FORWARD

Voters overwhelmingly approved a renewal levy in November 2019, helping to protect our community's libraries and keep them strong. Through careful strategic planning and good fiscal stewardship, our system operates debt free. The levy is critical because it accounts for over half of the Library's receipts used to sustain locations, services and programs offered throughout Mahoning County. The Library's levy is key to success, now and in the future.

The public showed their love of libraries at outdoor events like the Canfield Fair and the Boardman Park Oktoberfest.



## A MESSAGE FROM DR. DAVID RITCHIE, PRESIDENT, LIBRARY

The Library's Board of Trustees has always been forward-looking and takes the time to listen to what the community wants and needs from its library system. And 2019 was no exception. Community input on the renovation of our Main Library, which was gathered in 2018, became the basis for the project as it began to take shape in 2019. In April, the Board hired architects: Bostwick Design Partnership, working with RBF CoLab and Paul Hagman, and CT Consultants. In October, trustees brought on AMHigley Company as Construction Manager at Risk, with Dawn Incorporated. Our Library Executive Director Aimee Fifarek has dedicated herself to this project, working with the architect and a team of Library staff members. On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees, I can say with certainty that we share the community's enthusiasm for this important project. The Board is also appreciative of the strong passage of the Library's Levy in 2019. We thank you for your support.



At the Library, our goal is moving forward. Whether through traditional means, like quality collection and reference services, or with new initiatives like support for social service and mental health issues.

Regardless of what form it takes, the goal remains the same: to connect our community with reliable information that fosters learning and enrichment.

# MOVING FORWARD

The Library was fortunate to receive a number of literacy grants in 2019 which supported not only early learning but community-wide reading initiatives:



NEA Big Read Grant for Mahoning County to read 'Into the Beautiful North' by Luis Alberto Urrea. The Library along with LitYoungstown hosted events and an author visit.



Our new 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program helps to prepare children for success in school by encouraging them to read by the time they begin kindergarten.

1,000 books might sound like a lot, but these young 'Star Readers' show that it's not as hard as you think. We love to share in their reading success by posting photos on our social media pages for each 100 books read.



Kindergarten readiness training for librarians and the purchase of Early Learning Backpacks for families to borrow.

Ohio Reading Corps offered free reading tutors at two Mahoning County libraries.



The Library brought in best-selling authors like **LAURA NUMEROFF** for kids completing Summer Discovery, **ANDREW GROSS** for the Literary Society Author Event, and teen author **NIC STONE** who came for Teen Read Week, in conjunction with ProjectLit Youngstown.

In 2019, a year of great progress, we moved forward with the renovation of the Main Library, which opened in 1910. The renovation's tagline says it all, "Bright History, Vibrant Future," capturing the strong foundation of this Carnegie library's history, as well as the innovations and technology which will become a part of the newly renovated Main Library. Bostwich Design Partnership.

Another building project was coming to fruition as work began on the Campbell Library, housed in the CLWCC (Campbell Cultural, Literacy, Workforce, and Community Center). Faniro Architects.

# A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES



In today's environment, access to accurate information is vital to a strong community.

Library Executive Director Aimee Fifarek spoke to Ohio Congressman Bill Johnson about the importance of Internet access for all when he visited Campbell Schools.

Throughout 2019, a couple of grants received allowed PLYMC to focus on strengthening both our library system and community:

- Community Support Specialist hired to work with patrons in social service and mental health areas.
- 'Mental Health First Aid' grant allowed mental health assistance training for both staff and the public.

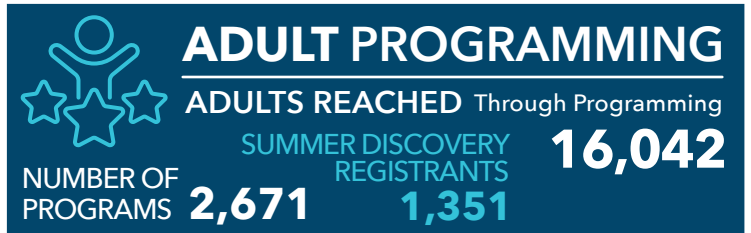
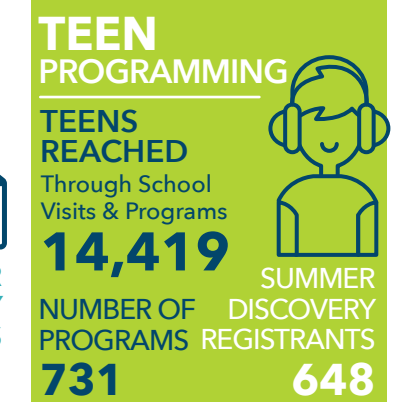
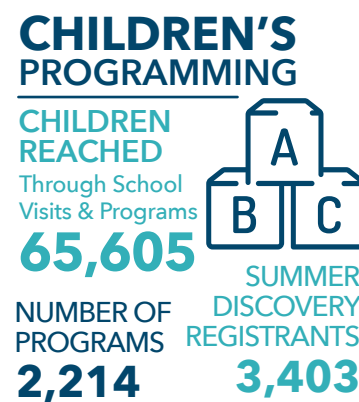
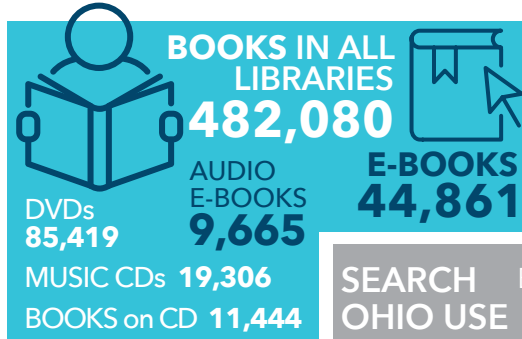
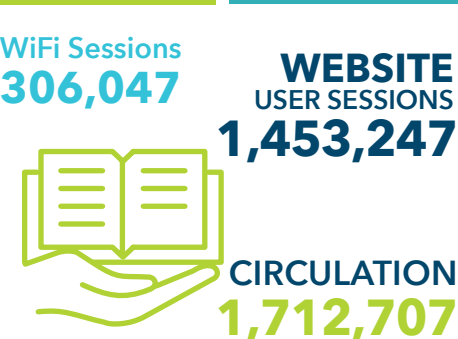


## MOVING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, the Library is proud of the commitment that the community, our partners and our staff make every day to connect, inspire and enrich.



# LIBRARY STATISTICS



The committee for the 'Ladies in Little Black Dresses for Literacy' event held another successful fundraiser benefitting The Literary Society fund.



Children are reading superheroes at the Library.

Erin Phemester (left) joined the Library in 2019 as the new Youth Services and Programming Director.

## GENERAL FUND

12/31/19

Encumbered Balance	\$743,411.17
Balance Forward	5,196,684.94

### RECEIPTS

Public Library Fund	8,761,283.15
Property Tax	8,912,695.46
Intergovernmental	1,094,783.78
Patron Fines & Fees	179,999.61
Interest Income	366,575.87
Rental/Lease Income	45,242.50
Miscellaneous	109,876.07

<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS and BALANCES</b>	<b>\$25,410,552.55</b>
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### EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$10,000,351.81
Supplies	634,878.93
Purchased & Contracted Services	2,564,772.10
Library Materials	1,921,716.31
Equipment	67,422.17
Other Objects	46,960.16
Transfers to Other Funds	3,610,000.00
Encumbered Balance Forward, 12/31/19	617,736.88
Balance Forward, 12/31/19	5,946,714.19

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES and BALANCES</b>	<b>\$25,410,552.55</b>
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## BUILDING/REPAIR FUND

12/31/19

Encumbered Balance	\$28,445.70
Balance Forward	37,497,217.39

### RECEIPTS

Interest Income	435,893.68
Contributions	279,850.59
Miscellaneous	-
Transfers from Other Funds	2,610,000.00

<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS and BALANCES</b>	<b>\$40,851,407.36</b>
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### EXPENSES

Investment/Banking Fees	\$11,445.30
New Buildings	18,617.70
Building Improvements	417,289.10
Equipment	-
Encumbered Balance Forward, 12/31/19	1,166,039.31
Balance Forward, 12/31/19	39,238,015.95

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES and BALANCE</b>	<b>\$40,851,407.36</b>
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### MAIN LIBRARY

305 Wick Avenue  
Youngstown, OH 44503  
Phone: 330-744-8636

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## TECHNOLOGY and DEVELOPMENT FUND

12/31/19

Encumbered Balance	\$18,285.43
Balance Forward	737,773.68

### RECEIPTS

Interest Income	\$19,657.59
Miscellaneous	-
Transfers from Other Funds	1,000,000.00

<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS and BALANCES</b>	<b>\$1,775,716.70</b>
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### EXPENSES

Investment/Banking Fees	\$179.87
Equipment	210,937.47
Encumbered Balance Forward, 12/31/19	104,509.39
Balance Forward, 12/31/19	1,460,089.97

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES and BALANCES</b>	<b>\$1,775,716.70</b>
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## LIBRARY FOUNDATION

12/31/19

Balance Forward	\$762,034.05
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### RECEIPTS

Distributions from Trust Funds	126,482.24
Contributions	92,687.21
Miscellaneous	-
Interest and Investment Income	10,784.81

<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS and BALANCE</b>	<b>\$991,988.31</b>
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### EXPENSES

Books and Related Purchases	\$46,808.07
Audit Fees	-
Legal Fees	3,375.00
Marketing Costs	36,456.81
Miscellaneous	2,266.20
Memorial Gifts	-
Balance Forward, 12/31/19	903,082.23

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES and BALANCE</b>	<b>\$991,988.31</b>
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## Board of Trustees -OFFICERS

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President
- **CAROLE S. WEIMER**  
Vice President
- **MARK J. MROFCHAK**  
Chief Fiscal Officer\*
- **TINA MCBANE**  
Deputy Fiscal Officer\*
- \*Non-Voting
- **AIMEE FIFAREK**  
Executive Director\*

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- Timothy Bresnahan
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- Ronald Strollo
- Jamie Viano
- John H. Yerian III
- Ralph T. Meacham  
Mahoning County Auditor (Nonvoting)
- The Honorable  
Jamael Tito Brown  
Mayor, City of Youngstown (Nonvoting)

## Library LOCATIONS

- Main Library
- Austintown
- Boardman
- Brownlee Woods
- Campbell
- Canfield
- East
- Greenford
- Michael Kusalaba Branch
- Newport
- Poland
- Sebring
- Springfield
- Struthers
- Tri-Lakes
- Special Delivery
- Pop-Up Library Mobile Service