

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF
YOUNGSTOWN AND MAHONING COUNTY



For more than 140 years, The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County (PLYMC) has made our Valley stronger by serving all who pass through our doors—literal and now virtual—as we unite our communities around access to knowledge and information.

Throughout 2022, the Library expanded to meet the needs of our communities recovering from the challenges of the last few years. We adapted our services to better serve all Valley residents and invite new audiences to learn about everything we have to offer. From partnering with the Mobile Market to offer fresh produce and groceries in communities without convenient access to grocery stores to providing every classroom in Mahoning County with Back to School bags to showcase how the Library can serve as a resource for educators to finally unveiling our nearly two-year-long Main Library renovation project and welcoming more than 1,300 people to our historic downtown branch—and so much more—the Library is proud of the work we did in 2022 on behalf of our communities.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to your visit to our library locations.

AIMEE FIFAREK



Director and CEO, PLYMC

CAROLE WEIMER



President, Library Trustees

IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES...



PLYMC is an integral part of the communities we serve. In 2022, we reconnected with our patrons and doubled down on our efforts to imagine the possibilities that can take shape when utilizing Library services. We dedicated every day to reminding our patrons that no matter how you engage with us, the Library is here for you.

MAIN LIBRARY'S RENOVATION COMPLETED



In June, we celebrated the completion of Main Library's nearly 2-year-long renovation project with a Grand Reopening Celebration. More than 1,300 people visited the Library to see the brand-new, 125-person Event Space, state-of-the-art Culinary Literacy Center, and the renovated and restored Grand Reading Room with historical skylight.

In its first full year back after the pandemic, PLYMC's 2022 Summer Discovery program was a smashing success: 767 finishers with a 36 percent completion rate, up from 25 percent in 2021. We concluded the program with a beach party and a visit from popular children's author, Jerry Pallotta.

SUMMER DISCOVERY SUCCESS



IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES...



AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

In PLYMC's first major event in the restored Grand Reading Room, we pulled out all the stops with our annual author event.

The Literary Society hosted an evening with New York Times best-selling author Elin Hilderbrand. Hilderbrand mingled with the nearly 300 guests, toasted the beautiful renovation with champagne, and discussed her novel, *The Hotel Nantucket*.

“ I finally got to meet one of my favorite authors, the queen of beach reads, Elin Hilderbrand at the PLYMC. We talked about books, beaches, cities (including Youngstown and Nantucket), libraries and how HER books inspired me to travel to the Caribbean and Virgin Islands. ”

- Krystle K.

IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES...



SPECIAL DELIVERY

For over 50 years, the Library has provided qualifying residents with special services to meet their needs. In 2022, our Special Delivery team sent out 8,566 books and other Library materials, visited 14 senior care facilities and adult day cares and gained 201 new patrons—ensuring that there is nothing standing in the way of PLYMC providing services to every resident of Mahoning County.

POP-UP VISITS

The Pop-Up Library is always on the go, visiting communities and organizations to expand our outreach. In 2022, the Pop-Up made 351 stops around the community and engaged with 19,427 people! That means everything from saying, “Hi, we’re the Pop-Up Library!” to helping folks register for a Library card and check out materials.

IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES...



CREATING CONNECTIONS

PLYMC's children's programs continue to be popular with many locations reaching capacity for weekly programs. We hosted 285 children's story times in 2022 with 4,394 attendees.

With a \$171,122 grant from the FCC, PLYMC purchased 50 new mobile Wi-Fi hotspots and 150 iPads for patrons to use at home for free. These items continue to be extremely popular as hotspots and iPads were the #1 and #3 most circulated items in 2022.

EXPANDED IPADS AND MOBILE HOTSPOTS



CRACKING CRIME

Thanks to an LSTA Summer Library Program (SLP) grant, we kicked off a True Crime Series. The series included a deep dive into the Valley's mob ties with a standing-room-only discussion featuring Crooked City's producer Johnny Chechitelli, as well as local crime experts like former Mahoning County Prosecutor Paul Gains, former Vindicator columnist Bertram de Souza, and YSU Professor Emeritus of History Fred Viehe.

CONNECTING THE POSSIBILITIES...



PLYMC is a part of our communities and that means working with other organizations that serve our neighborhoods. We are proud to partner with a wide variety of entities that help us expand our reach.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BAGS



As part of our commitment to our community and our educators, we created Back-to-School Bags for every classroom in Mahoning County—that's 2,300 bags—to showcase the Library and how teachers can utilize our resources during the school year and beyond.

In partnership with A.C.T.I.O.N and Flying High, we welcomed the Mobile Market to PLYMC locations in neighborhoods classified as food deserts. Patrons and visitors could shop for fresh fruits, veggies, and groceries in the convenience of our parking lots.



MOBILE MARKET PARTNERSHIPS



IMAGINATION LIBRARY



PLYMC is doing its part to ensure every child in Mahoning County enters school with a love of reading. In partnership with the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides every child one book a month until the age of five—at no cost.

Our locations continue to do an excellent job of getting more involved in their communities. Our Springfield branch worked with local law enforcement and secured a visit from K9 officer, Officer Havoc, and his handler, Officer Glenn Corey to help the community learn more about the duties of a K9 officer. In Sebring, staff partnered with a local senior center to create “Take and Make” craft kits, which have quickly become a popular item in the community.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH (SPRINGFIELD, SEBRING)



CONNECTING THE POSSIBILITIES...



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES



In 2022, PLYMC continued its successful partnership with the Mahoning Chapter of the American Red Cross with its popular blood drives.

In an effort to promote civic engagement, PLYMC hosted a series of programs in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown (LWVGY) to help residents learn how elections work in Mahoning County. The Mahoning County Board of Elections (BOE) shared information on how votes are collected, counted, and secured through the entire voting process and answered questions from participants.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PARTNERSHIP



NURTURING POSSIBILITIES...



Main Library's brand-new Culinary Literacy Center is the crown jewel of its renovation. With 14 cooking stations, and the ability to offer interactive virtual classes, our culinary literacy specialist leads the development of food literacy programming in this one-of-a-kind space in the Mahoning Valley.

YSU FOOD SCIENCE CLASS



PLYMC teamed up with YSU, inviting Dr. Jeanine Mincher's Food Science Class to the Culinary Literacy Center to explore the space and learn their lesson for the day.

To promote healthy eating and the importance of family mealtimes, PLYMC partnered with EFNEP, CFAES, and the Ohio State University Extension office to provide Interactive Nutrition Education Classes for families and young adults. Participants learned about preparing healthy meals on a budget and received an electric skillet when they completed the class requirements.

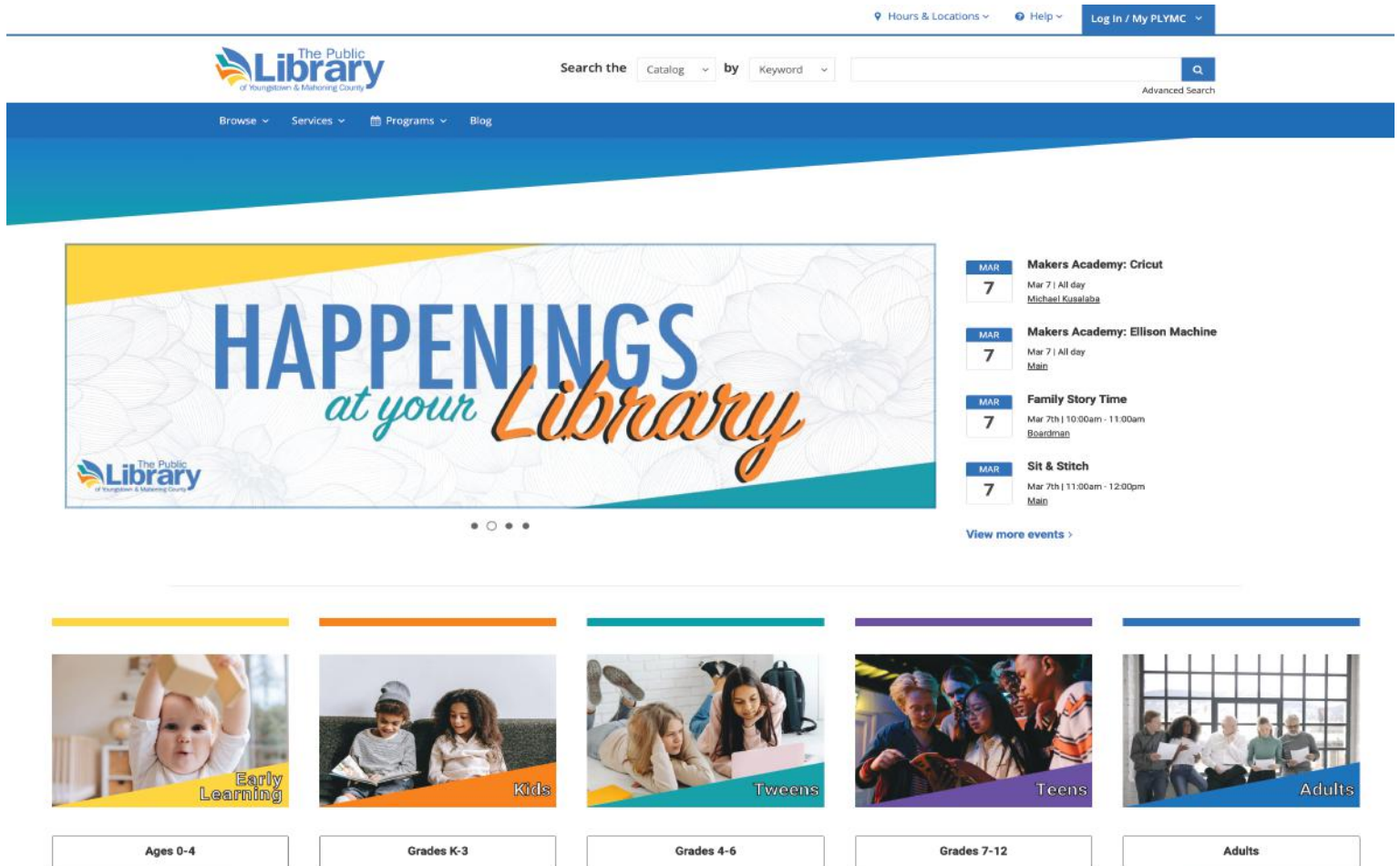


OHIO STATE EXTENSION OFFICE NUTRITION CLASSES

CREATING POSSIBILITIES...



As we continued serving our patrons, we also celebrated the successes that took place out of the spotlight.



A NEW PLYMC WEBSITE

In June, PLYMC unveiled its website redesign which offers an even better user experience for our patrons. With a fresh design, popular features, and easily navigated categories, patrons can explore the services PLYMC offers 24/7.



YEARS OF SERVICE



2022 was a banner year for many PLYMC employees, including our Chief Operations Officer (COO) Deborah McCullough, Education Manager Diane Vicarel, and Maintenance Chief Dave Foster who celebrated big anniversaries this year. Together, they have 125 years of service!

In 2022, PLYMC welcomed three new members to our Board of Trustees: The Chief Financial Officer for The Muransky Companies Angela Duskey, the retired Executive Director of Organizacion Civica y Cultural Hispana Americana, Inc. (OCCHA) Mary Lou Reyes, and Account Executive for Cardonex Sales Mariel Sallee. The new trustees filled spots left vacant by the passing of Dr. David Ritchie, the Library's Board President, who passed away in July of 2021, the retirement of long-time member, Richard Atkinson, and the resignation of T. Sharon Woodberry, who moved out of state.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



SUPPORTING POSSIBILITIES...



While PLYMC is a publicly funded institution, we also rely on community generosity to support many of the initiatives that help us go the extra mile for our patrons. We are forever grateful for the funding from the following community members and organizations in 2022.



THE SCHMUTZ FAMILY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE RESTORATION OF THE GRAND READING ROOM AT MAIN LIBRARY

Reid and Judy Schmutz, who is also a PLYMC Board of Trustee member, donated \$100,000 from The Schmutz Family Foundation for the restoration of Main Library's Grand Reading Room as part of Main Library's Capital Campaign project.

“PLYMC has a long history of serving the Valley as a community hub for connection, learning, and discovery, and it is our hope that with the restoration of this beautiful space, generations of readers, learners, and innovators will enjoy the historic Grand Reading Room for years to come.”

-Judy Schmutz

The Youngstown Foundation donated \$100,000 for Main Library's entryway renovation.

“We are proud to contribute to Main Library's renovation project and support its next chapter of providing accessible services to residents across the Mahoning Valley.”

-Lynnette Forde



THE YOUNGSTOWN FOUNDATION DONATES \$100,000 FOR THE NEW ENTRYWAY AT MAIN LIBRARY

SUPPORTING POSSIBILITIES...



THE J. CRANDALL FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE CHILDREN'S AREA AND PLAYHOUSE AT MAIN LIBRARY

The J. Ford Crandall Foundation provided \$50,000 for the Children's Area and Playhouse in the Family Engagement Area at Main Library.

"The J. Ford Crandall Trustees feel that having a vibrant library is vital in promoting culture, literacy and education...Today, PLYMC advances all of those things and more. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding library system here. It's truly an investment in our community and in our future."

- Andrew Bresko

The family of the late Diane M. Blasko donated \$10,000 for the Children's Area at the Springfield Library.

THE BLASKO FAMILY SPONSORS THE CHILDREN'S AREA AT SPRINGFIELD LIBRARY



"My mother, Diane Blasko, supported the Library in many ways over the years: Working at book sales, attending Library-sponsored teas, and various events. Her connection with the Library started when she arrived from France in 1947 and did not speak English, only French and Italian. The Library on the square of downtown Youngstown, gone for many years now, is where she got help with dictionaries and easy readers...As I grew up on the south side of Youngstown, she would often accompany us to the Southside Library, on the corner of Market and Willis. Mom loved children, and it seemed natural that we would choose the children's area as the place to honor her."

- Michele DeRhodes

FINANCIALS



GENERAL FUND 12/31/22

Encumbered Balance	\$1,339,230.91
Balance Forward	10,478,961.16
Receipts	
Public Library Fund	10,684,816.34
Property Tax	9,225,612.25
Intergovernmental	1,060,339.50
Patron Fines & Fees	89,195.31
Interest Income	193,338.37
Rental/Lease Income	6,387.50
Miscellaneous	49,812.80
Total Receipts & Balances	\$33,127,694.14

Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$11,238,930.81
Supplies	737,105.74
Purchased & Contracted Services	2,496,154.06
Library Materials	1,562,458.68
Equipment	116,682.89
Other Objects	54,011.98
Transfers To Other Funds	3,500,000.00
Encumbered Balance Forward, 12/31/22	1,027,133.25
Balance Forward, 12/31/22	12,395,216.73
Total Expenses & Balance	\$33,127,694.14

BUILDING & REPAIR FUND 12/31/22

Encumbered Balance	\$8,961,306.43
Balance Forward	15,998,948.47
Receipts	
Interest Income	155,842.89
Contributions	113,824.30
Miscellaneous	-
Transfers From Other Funds	2,750,000.00
Total Receipts & Balance	\$27,979,922.09

Expenses	
Investment/Banking Fees	\$10,562.24
New Buildings	-
Building Improvements	7,976,537.74
Equipment	750,897.48
Encumbered Balance Forward, 12/31/22	1,321,043.62
Balance Forward, 12/31/22	17,920,881.01
Total Expenses & Balances	\$27,979,922.09



TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND 12/31/22

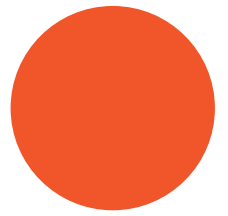
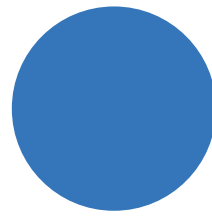
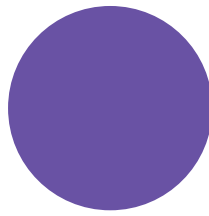
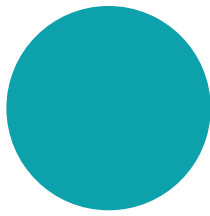
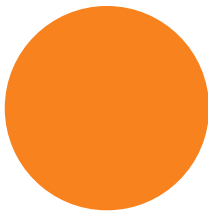
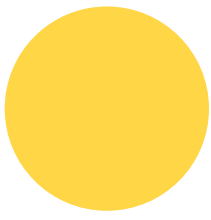
Encumbered Balance	\$114,162.61
Balance Forward	2,730,032.89
Receipts	
Federal Grant/E-Rate	\$58,350.00
Interest Income	217.06
Transfers From Other Funds	750,000.00
Total Receipts & Balances	\$3,652,762.56

Expenses	
Investment/Banking Fees	\$553.92
Equipment	289,306.41
Encumbered Balance Forward, 12/31/22	18,536.02
Balance Forward, 12/31/22	3,344,366.21
Total Expenses & Balances	\$3,652,762.56

LIBRARY FOUNDATION 12/31/22

Balance Forward	\$1,275,146.59
Receipts	
Distributions from Trust Funds	131,312.30
Contributions	123,936.91
Miscellaneous	-
Interest & Investment Income	15,432.21
Total Receipts & Balance	\$1,545,828.01

Expenses	
Books & Related Purchases	\$118,384.89
Audit Fees	9,700.00
Legal Fees	-
Marketing Costs	6,014.45
Miscellaneous	3,745.49
Memorial gifts	-
Balance Forward, 12/31/22	1,407,983.18
Total Expenses & Balance	\$1,545,828.01



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