



ARLINGTON LIBRARIES
FOUNDATION

2022 Annual Report

Investing in the libraries we love

Dear Library Supporters,

The Robbins Library and Fox Branch Libraries are truly unique civic institutions, welcoming all who come through our doors. We want to make sure that every resident who enters the library finds a book that brings joy, a program that engages the mind, and a genuine connection to neighbors.

Last year, your gift to Arlington Libraries Foundation supported the libraries' first collections diversity audit. This gave library staff the opportunity to learn more about our fiction and nonfiction collections, and identify areas where we might be missing the mark in telling stories and sharing histories and experiences of underrepresented populations. We're using the audit to find new materials to add to our collections, fill in gaps, and make sure that we open windows for readers looking to more fully understand the world.

The collections diversity audit is just one way that your donation has helped the libraries grow. Your support also:

- Significantly increased support for the OverDrive Advantage program, offering greater access to popular ebook resources;
- Helped expand the beloved Children's graphic novel collection for young readers; and
- Created a new Speed Read collection at the Fox Branch Library, bringing the most popular titles to East Arlington.

Support from generous donors like you has allowed us to set a path for the future, ensuring that we continue to offer something for everyone. Thank you for helping us to expand our library collections, add to our programs, and provide greater access for all Arlingtonians. With your support, all of these things are made possible.

With gratitude,

Patrick M. Hanlon

Patrick M. Hanlon
Chair, Arlington Libraries Foundation

Anna C. Litten

Anna Litten
Director of Libraries



You love our libraries!

2022 SNAPSHOT



CIRCULATED **936,396**
PRINT & ELECTRONIC ITEMS
490,189 Adult materials
449,207 Teen & Children's
materials



Top 5
in circulation
(Minuteman
Library Network)

BOOKED STUDY ROOMS
1,212 TIMES



PUBLIC MEETING ROOMS
USED **399** TIMES

NEW DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES ANNOUNCED

After seven amazing years as the Director of Libraries, we said a bittersweet goodbye to Andrea Nicolay as she departed to become the Executive Director of the Albany Public Library in New York. We are thankful for her innovative leadership that increased library usage exponentially, even throughout the pandemic when the physical libraries were closed for months.

After a competitive hiring process for a new director, Anna Litten was enthusiastically selected by the search committee. As the Assistant Library Director since 2018 she has been a dynamic leader, running the Arlington Reads Together program and spearheading the new library website. The Arlington Libraries Foundation is thrilled to welcome her into this new role.

HISTORICAL ARLINGTON NEWSPAPERS

Local history research just became a lot easier and more accessible in Arlington. Thanks to a gift to the Foundation from local historian Richard A. Duffy, the *Arlington Advocate* and other historical Arlington newspapers dating from 1871-2005 have been digitized.

The Historical Arlington Newspapers online resource is available at robbinslibrary.org and includes searchable full-page scans complete with photos and vintage ads. Users can search by topic or browse by publication or date. Entire pages of the newspaper or individual images and articles are downloadable. The Robbins Library's collection of historic newspapers includes the *Arlington Advocate* and the *Arlington Daily News*, as well as some short-lived local papers. Until now, microfilm was the only option for viewing them.

Says Duffy, "I'm very excited that so much more of Arlington's history now can be explored from anywhere in the world. We've got keys to deeper learning about our town, and I'm sure that users will discover content that is both informative and entertaining."

2022 YOUR GIFTS AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Your generous contributions, gifted to the library in a \$79,265 grant (plus a \$8,935 carryover from FY2021) help the libraries remain vibrant and relevant to the Arlington community.

\$45,000 Downloadable e-books and audiobooks

Library visitors continue to embrace downloadable e-book and audiobook formats. Increases in the budget have allowed library staff to add additional titles and reduce wait times, getting e-materials to patrons more quickly and efficiently.

\$16,200 Books and more for children, teens, and adults

Support for books and other materials beyond town funding ensures that library collections remain dynamic, engaging and fresh. In FY22 Foundation gifts helped purchase additional community read titles, children's books and graphic novels at both the Robbins and Fox Branch libraries, adult titles at Fox Branch Library, school summer reading titles for middle and high school students, and Teen Summer Reading prizes.

\$7,000 Hoopla

With no holds and no waits, Hoopla is a popular choice for instant streaming and downloadable access to books, comics, audiobooks, music, TV and movies. Foundation support allowed the library to raise the checkout cap to five items per month, supporting a 15% increase in Hoopla checkouts.

\$6,500 Arlington Reads Together author event

With *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Wisdom of Plants* as the focus, the library hosted Dr. Kyle Whyte, enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and George Willis Pack Professor at the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan for a presentation and discussion addressing critical issues facing indigenous peoples and environmental justice.

Additional 2022 Community Partners included The Friends of Robbins Library, Plug In, the Diversity Task Group of Envision Arlington, Arlington Public Schools, the Arlington Human Rights Commission, and the Cyrus Dallin Art Museum.

\$5,500 Sunday children's librarian

These funds make it possible to schedule a second librarian in the Robbins Library Children's Room on Sundays from October through May.

\$4,000 Readalong audiobooks for children

Additional readalongs – picture books with a built-in audio player – reinvigorated the library's children's audio collection. The impact? A 54% increase in children's audio circulation over the previous year!

\$3,000 Collections diversity audit

Robbins Library is committed to building collections that support and reflect our diverse community. The diversity audit gave librarians new insight into strengths and areas for improvement in fiction and nonfiction collections for adults. This will allow for more informed purchasing decisions and ensure that collections meet the evolving needs of our community.

\$1,000 Civic Engagement Series programs

Libraries are trusted sources of information. This free series connects Arlington with opportunities to learn about the key issues of our times. Last year, the library brought in eminent speakers for topics including resilience of infrastructure against increased rainfall, the war in Ukraine, and the national security impacts of cybersecurity. Bonus: two speakers were Arlington residents with roles at local universities!

\$28,316 Historical Arlington newspapers digitization

Thanks to a gift from local historian Richard A. Duffy, the *Arlington Advocate* and other historical Arlington newspapers dating from 1871-2005 were digitized. Preserving the aging microfilm collection and creating online access greatly expands research options for historians, genealogists and other researchers.

2022 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

INSIGHTS

- The majority of the \$173,486 in revenue was designated as unrestricted donations. These funds may be granted to the Arlington libraries to support initiatives the library leadership deems most appropriate beyond the municipal allocation.
- In FY2022, the Foundation received a \$33,056 targeted donation from Richard A. Duffy to support the digitization of the *Arlington Advocate* and other local newspapers. The majority of this donation was granted to the libraries in support of this project, with the remainder reserved for potential future related expenses.
- In FY2022, expenses were comprised of a \$79,265 grant to the libraries to support ongoing operations, a \$28,316 one-time grant to support the digitization of the *Arlington Advocate*, and operating expenses of \$19,052 which were primarily for the design, printing and fulfillment of marketing materials, software purchases and general business operating expenses. The Foundation operates with an all volunteer board.
- Financial assets of the Foundation typically peak at fiscal year-end ahead of the grant made to the libraries early in the following fiscal year (i.e., FY2023 grant was completed in August 2022, within the 2023 fiscal year).
- In FY 2022, the Foundation's endowed funds, which are invested in a conservative mix of equity and bonds, suffered a loss of \$8,550 due to adverse fiscal conditions in the latter part of the year.
- The Foundation keeps a prudent cash reserve to ensure liquidity and to support future Foundation operating investments as well as grant requests from the libraries.

REVENUE

Unrestricted donations	\$130,218
Eleanor D. Maskell Family Fund donations	\$8,600
Targeted donations	\$33,056
Realized investment income	\$1,337
In kind donations	\$275

TOTAL **\$173,486**

EXPENSES

Grant to libraries	\$79,265
Digitization grant	\$28,316
Misc fees/business expenses	\$3,307
Printing/mailing	\$11,104
Marketing	\$4,641
Unrealized investment losses	\$8,550

TOTAL **\$135,183**

YEAR END ASSETS

Cash accounts	\$176,469
Duffy-Rodriguez Fund	\$57,672
Eleanor D. Maskell Family Fund	\$23,712

TOTAL **\$257,853**

SUPPORT OUR LIBRARIES

Make your tax-deductible contribution online by credit card or mail a check to the Foundation directly. Legacy gifts and in-memoriam gifts are welcome.

CONTACT US

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BOARD MEMBERS

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