

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS, INSPIRING
GROWTH, ENRICHING LIVES.



PATTENFREELIBRARY.ORG

LETTER FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear PFL Community,

As we look back on the 2024–2025 fiscal year, we are grateful for your support and proud of all we've accomplished together. Thanks to you, Patten Free Library continues to be more than just a library— we are a place where curiosity is sparked, connections are made, and our community thrives.

This year, our doors opened 124,787 times to visitors and we offered more than 700 programs for all ages—from early literacy storytimes to tech workshops and book groups. The Repair Café continued to grow, and our expanded remote work and study spaces proved more valuable than ever.

We also made important energy upgrades to make our library more comfortable and sustainable, including new air conditioning and heating systems, energy-efficient lighting, and rooftop solar panels.

None of this would be possible without your involvement. Whether you made a donation, volunteered, attended a program, or simply checked out a book—you helped us grow.

Thank you for being part of the Patten Free Library family.

With appreciation,



Lesley Dolinger
Library Director



Karl Albrecht
President, Board of Trustees



ABOUT THE LIBRARY

CURRENT STAFF

Director

Lesley Dolinger

Assistant Director

Elizabeth Manning

Development

Samantha Ricker

Kookie McNerney

Bookkeeper

Josephina Gasca

Technical Services

Shannon Stride

Programming & Outreach

Hannah Lackoff

History Room

Jack Martin

Children's Services

Mary Randall

Gia Charles

Meredith McGuire

Karen Richard

Lending Services

Stephanie Boyle-Nielson

Debra Burleson

Paula Price

Andrea Terry

Barbara West

Reference

Aurora Cobb

Laurel Cox

Sarah Maciejewski

LIBRARY BOARD

Karl Albrecht, **President**

Michael Mason, **Vice President**

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Peggy Kapisovsky

Dawn Lee

Laurie Martin

Leah Zartarian

Anita Brown, *RSU 1 Rep.*

Christopher Marks, *Bath Rep.*

OUR COMMUNITIES



1. Bath, 2. Arrowsic, 3. Georgetown, 4. West Bath, 5. Woolwich

MISSION STATEMENT

Patten Free Library transforms lives, inspires lifelong learning, preserves local history, and builds community through joyful, creative exploration and dialogue.



By the Numbers: A Year of Community, Connection, and Curiosity

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

705



in person
programs
for all ages

106,346



physical
material
check outs

891



study room and
work pod
reservations

124,787



patron
visits

928

new library
cards issued



15,111

digital content
check outs



10,768

reference
transactions



GRANTS AND NOTABLE DONATIONS

Time of Wonder - upgrades to the play boat in the children's room by Maine Maritime Museum

Bath Matters - **\$3,000**

2025 Summer Reading Program

Davenport Trust - **\$5,000**

Building-wide Energy Upgrades

EBSCO Industries - **\$55,000**

Rooftop Solar Panels

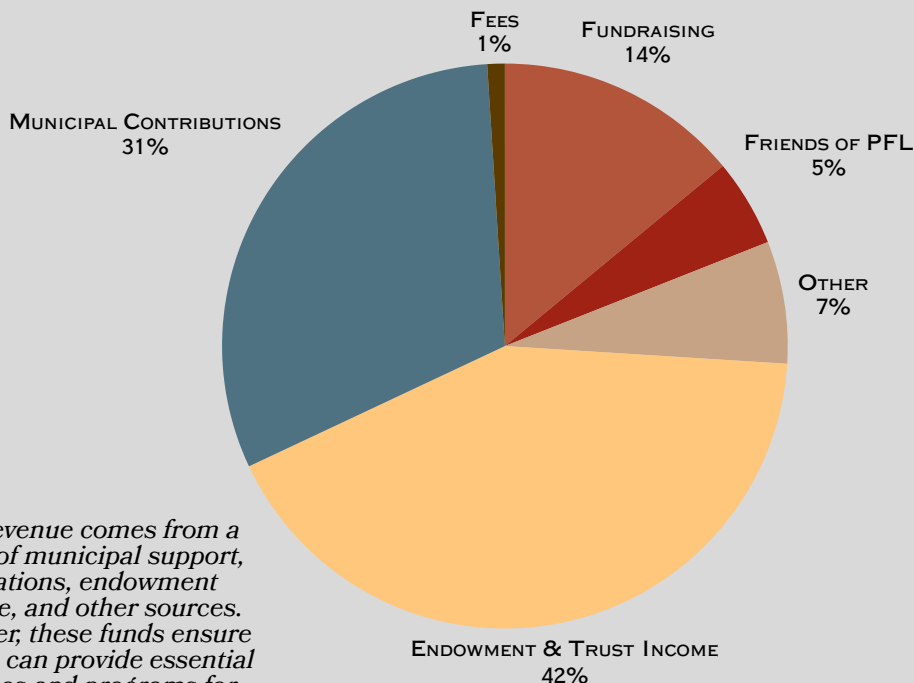
Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation - **\$50,000**

Building-wide Energy Upgrades



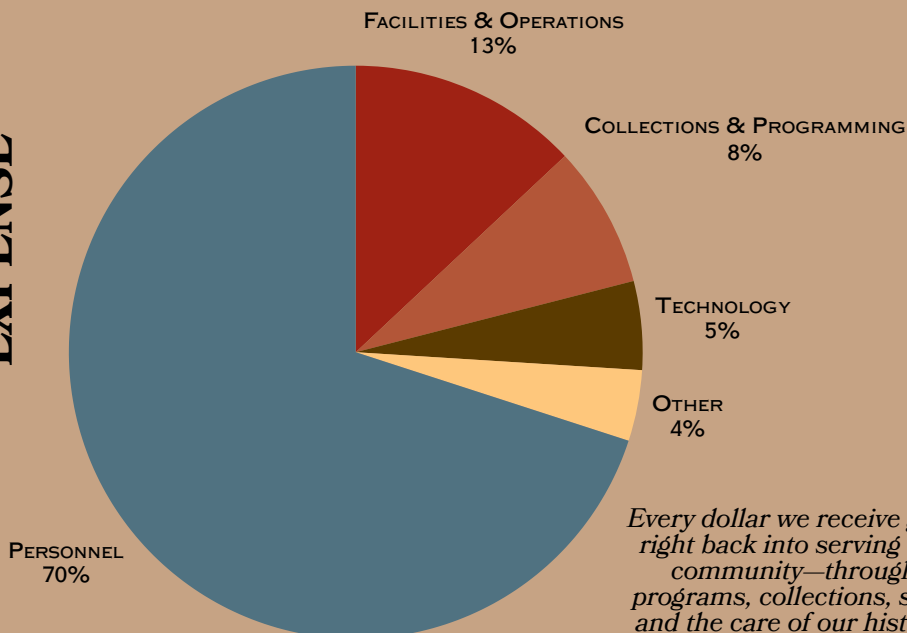
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE



Our revenue comes from a blend of municipal support, donations, endowment income, and other sources. Together, these funds ensure that we can provide essential services and programs for our community.

EXPENSE



Every dollar we receive goes right back into serving our community—through programs, collections, staff, and the care of our historic building. This chart shows how we put your support to work.

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

CHAMPIONS

Karl and Barbara Albrecht
Carolyn Bancroft and Demetri Blanas
Lori Benson and Ken Borgendale
Fidelity Charitable
Carol and Marty Eckstein
Edgard & Geraldine Feder Foundation
Terry and Sally Gray
Sally Haggett
Roger and Sukey Heard
Josephine Howell and John Kmetz
Catherine and Jeff Jacobs
James and Mabel Jacobs Family Trust
Richard Kessler and Pamela Cox
James and Michelle Rines
Linda Skernick and Yves Feder
Vanguard Charitable
Laurel Walsh and Justin Schuetz
Leah and Gary Zartarian
John Zittel

MAJOR BENEFACTOR

Stephen and Marcia August
Dr. Susan Beegel
Megan Bendson
CLYNK - Count & Crush LLC
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Neera Harmon and Michael Tetreault
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Susan Landry and James Wright
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Antoinette Mercadante
Lora Soling and Steve Bartlett
Mark Wheeler

BENEFACTOR

Linda and Dan Wood
Frances Morse and William Bowen
Juliana and Rick Cliffe
DAFGiving360
Anne Dunham and Michael Danehy
Betsy and Mike Fear
Alfred Fick
Friends of Patten Free Library
Randy Howell and Peg Duhamel
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Maine Community Foundation
Joanne and Richard Marco
Kenneth and Nancy Martin
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William Savedoff and Amy Smith

James Steuernagle

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Victoria and Robert Tanko

Gwen and Francis Zaborowski

SPONSOR

Michael and Darreby Ambler

Valerie Angeloro and Arthur Pinkerton

Ash Point Fund

Tom and Judy Barrington

Robert Bernier

Mary Louise Blanchard

Vivian Bolt

Susan Bonis

Catherine Buotte

Mary and Greg Caron

Dave and Patty Crump

Lauren and Will Cunningham

CR and Marla Davis

Julia DeBery

"There are few things more important in a community than a public library. Now that I know it's a 501(c)3, I will be contributing."
Anonymous Patron

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Paul Dumdey
Charles Durfee and Jennifer Oddleifson
Cindy and Mike Fahay
Kathryn Flannery
David Fluharty and Linda Hjortland
Anne and Walter Gamble
Peter Goodwin and Danielle Westcott
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Malcolm Hamilton
Eileen and Tim Harkins
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Mike Sussman and Alexis Mann

Gary Thorne
Francie and Jim Tolan
Katherine and Larry Totten
Lambert Walker III
Carrie Werner
Joyce Wilson
Victor Zarougian and Judith Saryan

*"Now You're Cooking supports PFL for the vital role it plays in bringing our community together. We're impressed by the wide range of free, creative programs that offer fun and learning for all ages—on top of the many resources they provide."
Owners, NYC*

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

CHAMPIONS

Bath Bath Savings
First Federal Savings and Loan
Town Fair Tire Foundation
Wilson's Drug Store

LEADERS

MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital
Now You're Cooking

BENEFACTOR

Country Farm Furniture
Data Defined
Derecktor Robinhood
Modern Edge Metal Fabrication
Nason Mechanical Systems
Reed and Reed
The Reny Charitable Foundation
West Bath Historical Society

SUSTAINER

Bath Brewing
Bath Natural Market
Belly Dance with Josephina
Centre Street Arts Gallery
Chocolate Church Arts Center

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

David Matero Architecture
Five County Credit Union
Flight Deck Brewing
G&E Roofing
John Ater Painting
Jorgensen Landscaping
Judy Metcalf Law
Just Framing
Lisa-Marie's Made in Maine

Long Reach Kitchen and Catering
Maine Maritime Museum
Midcoast Orthodontics
Midcoast Senior College
Osprey Strategy Group
Pine Tree Engineering
Sisters Gourmet Deli
Woodex Bearing Co.

BUILD OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN DONORS

The Library conducted a thorough analysis of its facilities and developed a comprehensive energy reduction and infrastructure improvement project. This initiative reflects the Library's steadfast commitment to both environmental and financial stewardship. Learn more at pattenfreelibrary.org/buildourfuturephase1

These donors gave to this project during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. To see all campaign donors visit the website listed above.

Barbara and Jim Atherton
Stephen and Marcia August
Lauren Bray and Ernie Freeberg
Juliana and Rick Cliffe
Betsy and Mike Fear
Eileen and Tim Harkins
Roger and Sukey Heard
John and Sheila Hewitt
Linda and Ted Hoch
Elizabeth Hughes

Mary Ellen Kazimer and Andrew Barber
Richard Kessler and Pamela Cox
Dawn Lee
Laurie and Dana Martin
Michael Mason and Peter Murphy
Michael Plaisted and Maggie Webbert
Mary Anne Schneider & Charles Eldridge II
Sandra and David Weiss
Mark Wheeler
Leah and Gary Zartarian



Starting in September 2024 the Library began construction to replace the aging roof, install heat pumps, and place 55 solar panels on the new roof. The air conditioning turned on over the summer, much to the delight of patrons and staff.



CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

A new family moved to Bath with four kids, all looking for something to do. Their first stop was our local library, where each child got a library card and pamphlets filled with upcoming programs. One child was especially excited about Minecraft Monday, proudly announcing he would “bring a whole Xbox to play.” We all laughed—but he meant it. Sure enough, a week later, the family returned, the eldest lugging a full gaming system. After receiving praise from the librarians for his dedication, they headed upstairs, and the club went off without a hitch. Afterward, the volunteer who runs the club came down to say the kids were thrilled by the setup, and they had even figured out how to stream the game on our AV system so everyone could watch.

The whole family was delighted and has returned many times for all kinds of programs. We're lucky to have such enthusiastic patrons and proud to offer a space where kids can share their interests and joy with others.



TEEN SPACE

One of our hopes for the teen space is to empower teens to take the lead in planning and running their own programs, and we were lucky to see that vision come to life when Kai Chretien approached us with an idea for a Minecraft club. While the library already offers a Minecraft program for younger kids, Kai wanted to create a space for slightly older players, specifically ages 8–12—an age group that often falls between the children's room and the teen space. It was a perfect opportunity to support a teen-led program while also serving a group that doesn't always have targeted offerings.

Kai handled nearly everything himself: he chose the dates and times, set a clear goal, created a dedicated email account for communication, and even designed and posted his own flyers around town. With a mix of in-person and digital participation, the group met in the teen space every other week for six sessions. We're so proud of what Kai accomplished and hope to see the program return in the fall.

PROGRAMMING

"I JUST WANT TO BE INVOLVED. IT'S JUST ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S RIGHT IN THE WORLD!"
-AMY, REPAIR CAFE VOLUNTEER



At our first Repair Café in November 2022, Juniper brought in a broken handheld gaming device. Volunteers offered guidance, and though it couldn't be fixed that day, she left with next steps—and a spark of inspiration. Over two years, Juniper turned the project into a homeschool engineering challenge, returning often for help from volunteer mentor Oscar. Today, her mom Amy volunteers too, mending knitted items and giving back to the community that supported them. For both, the Repair Café has become more than a place to fix things—it's a place to grow.

HISTORY ROOM

One of the primary focuses for the History Room over the past year has been revisiting the ways in which the archive engages with its community partners and contributes to the library's mission. In September of 2024, the History Room partnered with the Brightfield School for a two week long unit teaching students about genealogical and historical research and how to utilize primary and secondary sources. The occurrence of the 21st annual Town History Series also precipitated discussions around how best to update the event to meet the contemporary needs and interests of the service area communities while preserving the essence of the lecture series which has become a pillar in PFL's programming schedule.

Brightfield School students learning genealogical and historical research skills and the use of primary and secondary sources.



VOLUNTEERS



*Home Delivery, Repair Café &
Spelling Bee volunteers*

Volunteers are essential to our mission. Whether helping shelve books, support programs, or assist with special events, volunteers keep the library running smoothly. Their time and energy strengthen daily operations and help the library extend its impact far beyond its walls—creating a place where everyone can connect, discover, and grow.

131 PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED 6,111 HOURS!

The value of a volunteer hour was \$34.79 in 2024. That's a value of \$212,602 for PFL.

“Volunteering gets me out of the house and into the community. The City of Bath is all about building community and connections. At the heart of this sacred mission is the Patten Free Library. What is there not to like in this contribution?” Denis, Friends Volunteer

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

BOARD

Maggie Webbert, **Acting President**

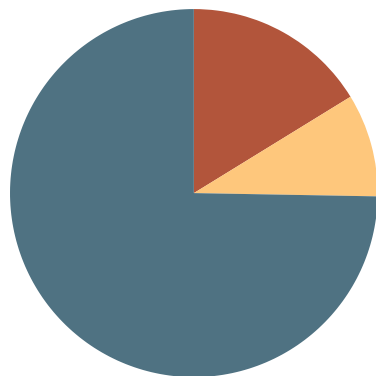
Vicki Tanko, **Vice President**

Julie Carleton, **Treasurer**

Jim Atherton, **Secretary**

The Friends provide vital support through fundraising, volunteerism, and advocacy. For fiscal year 2024-2025 they pledged a \$17,000 donation to the Library, and all the profits of the Friends operated year-round *library bookstore* (located on Front Street in Bath). To achieve their pledge they held a successful membership drive, organized popular events like the Spring into Summer and Heritage Days Book Sales, and supported annual fundraising events *A Night at the Patten* and the *Spelling Bee*—raising essential funds for the library programs. **The Friends play a vital role in our success.**

- BOOK SALES
- MEMBERSHIPS
- BOOKSTORE



Total Raised - \$67,427



PATTEN FREE LIBRARY

33 Summer Street

Bath, ME 04530

443-5141

pattenfreelibrary.org

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 10am-5pm

Tuesday: 10am-7pm

Wednesday: 10am-7pm

Thursday: 10am-5pm

Friday: 10am-5pm

Saturday: 10am-4pm*

Sunday: Closed

*1pm between Memorial Day and Labor Day