



ANNUAL REPORT



2022-2023



www.patten.lib.me.us



207-443-5141

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Lesley Dolinger

Assistant Director

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Patten Free Library continues to be a vibrant, thriving community hub for the City of Bath and the Towns of Arrowsic, Georgetown, West Bath, and Woolwich. In FY22-23 we saw an increase in the number of visits to the library, items circulated, reference transactions, and people using our small meeting spaces and free Wifi.

In July 2023, the Library went fine free for most items, thanks to a generous grant from the Davenport Trust. This is our effort to eliminate barriers to borrowing library materials for all.

Since the pandemic, we have seen an increase in the amount of people using the library to work remotely. To that end, we have secured a \$100,000 ARPA Remote Work in Libraries Grant to provide better access to the physical building, enhance the technology offerings in our Community Room for meetings and hybrid presentations, and to create additional spaces for remote workers.

We are also working on a plan to improve the energy efficiency of the building and to finally have a HVAC system that will provide both heating and cooling throughout the building. Stay tuned for these exciting projects!

Finally, I want to acknowledge the hard working PFL staff and volunteers, the Friends of PFL, and all the donors who make it possible for PFL to thrive. Thank you!

Lesley Dolinger
Library Director



ANNUAL DONORS

\$500 or more. View full donor list on our website.

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Society

COMPANY PROFILE

MISSION

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

By the Numbers July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

The library had a total of **143,003** patron visits, with **810** individuals utilizing the group study rooms. The wireless usage reached **4,751** connections, while the adult circulation accounted for **48,838** checkouts and the children and young adult circulation recorded **41,571** checkouts. Reference transactions amounted to **8,152** interactions, and a diverse range of **400** in person programs were conducted. Additionally, there were **14,320** checkouts of eBooks and audiobooks, and **772** new library cards issued. The library also processed **26,477** interlibrary loan books and added **3,863** materials to its collection.

VISION

To be an essential part
of our communities'
intellectual and
cultural life.



IMPACT STORIES

BATH DAILY TIMES DIGITIZATION PROJECT

Phase 1

The Sagadahoc History and Genealogy Room at the Library has hundreds of newspaper microfilm reels covering Bath history from 1820 to present day. Visitors have access to view and print from the reels on a microfilm reader, but these thousands of pages of newspaper film are almost entirely unsearchable. With the help of some generous donors, we digitized the first batch of 55 of the 220 reels of Bath Daily Times that the Library has in its collections. With digital access to the Bath Daily Times, the Library is offering an incredible, free resource not only for PFL patrons but also for outside users with a love of Bath history.

REPAIR CAFE

This collaborative program between PFL and Curtis Memorial Library is a huge success! Repair Café is part of a larger movement which encourages people to repair items instead of buying replacements. The libraries invite community volunteers to share their skills in electronics, lamp repair, sewing, computers, and more. On the designated day, people with items in need of service drop into the program and see what the volunteers can do. Volunteers have helped fix a lot of lamps, a belt, a coffee maker, clothing, several laptops, a carpet steamer, and more.



SPELLING BEE

The Patten Free Library's first ever adult Spelling Bee fundraiser brought together teens and adults for a spellbinding event, raising funds for library programs while fostering literacy and multi-generational community engagement. 10 teams, ages 16 and up, competed for the coveted "Best Speller" award, and helped raise \$7,800 for the Library.

FRIENDS OF PFL

The Friends of PFL continue to dedicate their time and energy promoting the resources and services of the library, sponsoring programs, and generating financial support. Our largest monetary contribution to the library is raised by the library bookstore; during fiscal year 2022-2023 we raised \$24,472.76 in net revenue.

Smaller, single event fundraisers, which included the Spring and Heritage Days Book Sales and the Luminary Night Bake Sale, yielded a total revenue of \$12,373.90. Our third source of income is May Membership Month. This year members' dues, coupled with generous donations, totaled \$4,215. This income allowed us to cover our Library Pledge of \$14,000.

The Friends donated \$1,000 to match gifts made to Patten Free Library on GivingTuesday, helping double the impact of several gifts made by lapsed and new donors. A \$500 donation sponsored gifts given to winners of the PFL Writing contest. Additionally, we gave 250 bookstore gift certificates to the PFL Summer Reading Program. Several library bookstore volunteers have mentioned how much they have enjoyed seeing young people come in with their gift certificates to pick out books.

VOLUNTEERS

Our dedicated volunteers generously contributed **over 3,300 hours** of their time. Through their efforts, volunteers assisted with various tasks, such as covering and shelving books, packing ILL orders, operating the bookstore, and sitting on committees.

Their invaluable contributions not only enhanced the overall experience for library visitors but also showcased the power of volunteerism in creating a thriving and vibrant community hub.

The Library extends their heartfelt gratitude to these exceptional volunteers for their unwavering dedication.



FINANCIALS

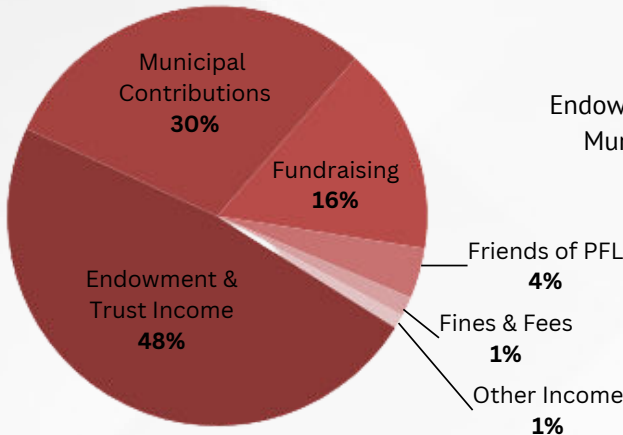
Revenue: \$988,690

Expenses: \$958,833

Difference: \$42,991*

**Carried forward to fiscal year 2023-2024 for operating expenses*

REVENUE



Operating Revenue

Endowment & Trust Income **\$474,029**

Municipal Contributions **\$293,115**

Fundraising **\$157,973**

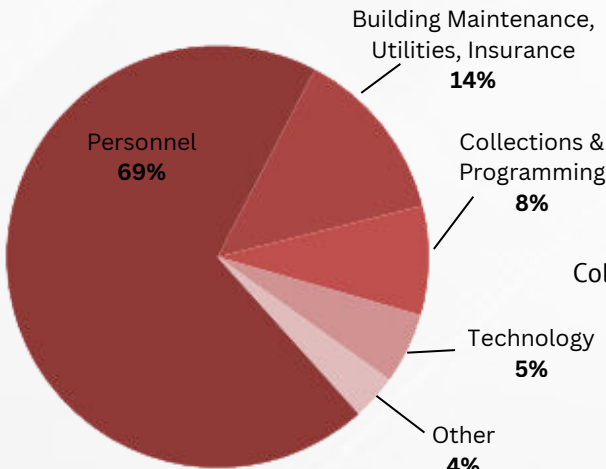
Friends of PFL **\$38,487**

Fines & Fees **\$14,666**

Other Income **\$10,420**

Total Income \$988,690

EXPENSES



Operating Expenditures

Personnel **\$655,274**

Building Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance **\$127,490**

Collections & Programming **\$78,986**

Technology **\$51,359**

Other **\$32,590**

Total Expenses \$945,699

GRANTS

Anonymous - \$20,000 (General Operating)

Bath Matters - \$3,000 (Children's)

The Alfred Senter Fund - \$3,500 (Technology)

TD Charitable - \$630 (Board Training)

Davenport Trust - \$7,000 (Fine Free)