



BUCK CHRISTENSEN | PHOTOGRAPHY



COUNCIL BLUFFS
Public Library

Council Bluffs Public Library provides our community access to enrichment, connection, and discovery.

www.councilbluffslibrary.org

COUNCIL BLUFFS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Report
FY24



BUCK CHRISTENSEN PHOTOGRAPHY

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ANTONIA KRUPICKA-SMITH
Library Director

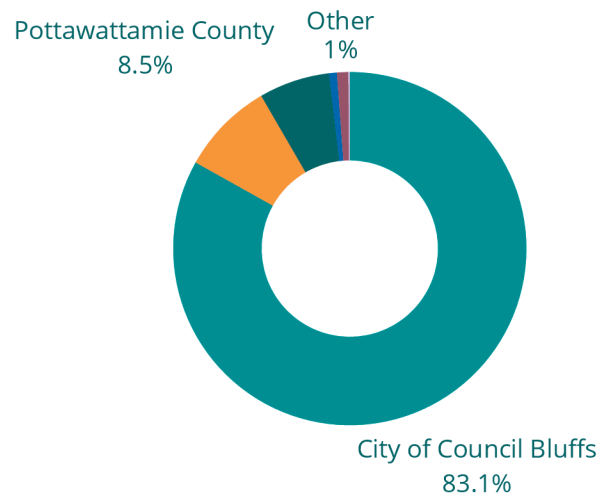
This past Fiscal Year has been one of great accomplishments in serving our community. Most notably the opening of the second location in Council Bluffs, the Cochran Library Kiosk. We have also updated technology to better serve the community including the replacement of the automatic material handler and the RFID material gates. We celebrated our 25th year on Willow and looked to the future with the completion of a 5 year strategic plan. We also continued to provide enriching and exciting programs that the community has come to love through reading programs, author visits, history programming, and technology and creative programming. I want to thank all of you for supporting and using the library and especially thank our dedicated staff, volunteers, and elected officials for all of the work to bring the great services of the library to the community. Read on through this annual report for more information on a snapshot of things accomplished this last fiscal year.

* Images on cover page and current page donated by Buck Christensen in memory of his grandmother, Betty Fields Majeski, an avid reader whose entire life was shaped by her love of the Council Bluffs Public Library.

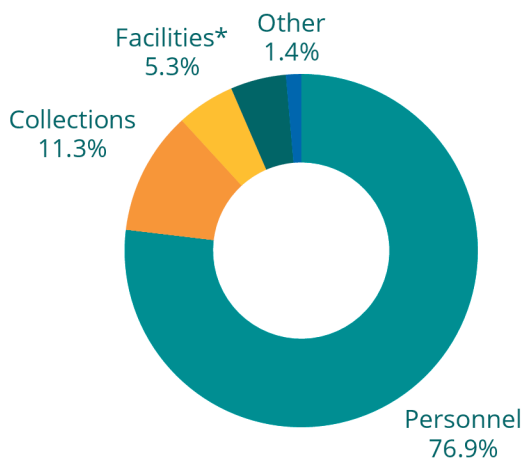
Year by the Numbers

Collection Size	308,729	Total Card Holders	52,687
Items Added to the Collection	17,665	New Card Registration	5,337
Physical Items Borrowed	218,664	Visits	174,609
Downloaded Items	291,195	Meetings by the Public	1,746
Homebound Items Delivered	3,259		
Interlibrary Loan Items	4,717		

Revenue



Expenditures



Program Attendance	38,652
Reference Questions	21,954
Summer Reading program Participants	1,032

*Many costs associated with the upkeep and repair of the Library property are reflected in the Building and Maintenance and Parks & Recreation budgets. This is not a full representation of the facilities expenditures.

Opening Of A New Location



The Cochran Library Kiosk was opened to the community in June 2024 with a grand opening in July 2024. This unstaffed, 24-hour location is located in the 51501 zip code of Council Bluffs which allows us to more equitably serve the residents and broaden access. Construction on the location of the kiosk began in Fall of 2022 with the installation of the FIRST AVE trail at 22nd street next to Cochran Park. A shelter for the device was installed in June 2024 shortly before the device was installed.

The location holds 235 items ranging in type from kids books to DVDs. The kiosk will also accept up to 500 items in the multiple sorting bins under the visual display window.

Along with the installation of the device, a mural was painted on the kiosk which was funded by the Iowa West Foundation and is part of the FIRST AVE Mural program. The mural was designed and installed by the artist Ilaamen Pelshaw. The design follows the theme of native prairie by incorporating native birds.

The entire project was funded with various levels of support from the Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation, City of Council Bluffs, Iowa West Foundation, Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library, and Community Foundation for Western Iowa. On-going operational support is provided by the City of Council Bluffs.

Service Highlights



New Technology to Serve you Better



New RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) gates were installed to ensure accurate checkout and return of library materials in the Fall of 2023.

Celebrating 25 Years of Service on Willow



In September 2023 we celebrated 25 years of service on Willow. The building opened to the public in September of 1998 with cutting edge services which included a public computer lab to the world wide web. We continue to proudly serve the community from the Willow address with many new service offerings.



A new AMH (automatic material handler) was installed in the early Spring of 2024.

A new AMH (automatic material handler) was installed in the early Spring of 2024. This machine includes a new feature of "bulk separation" which allows multiple items to be sorted and checked in at one time. The previous machine (Arnie "Sorts" enegger) retired and a community contest named the new machine "AMH-y" Sort-cerer.

Planning for the Future

After months of planning, focus groups, surveys, and workshops the library staff completed a 5 year strategic plan to look to the future of the library in Council Bluffs. Some highlights from the plan include data driven decision making, community-led programming, and raising awareness of the library and positioning ourselves to serve future populations.



Program Highlights

1000 Books Before Kindergarten



In August 2023, the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten early literacy reading program in memory of Shelley Bishop, was launched. This program is focused on creating a habit of reading in families prior to kids heading to kindergarten. The program is funded in part through the Shelley Bishop Memorial Fund through the Community Foundation for Western Iowa and the Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library.

Teen Snack Program



Through a focus of reducing barriers to access, Teen Central launched the Teen Snack Program to remove the barrier of hunger and unregulated behavior. This program provides nutritious after-school snacks to teens each day which are supplied through generous donations and grants.



Auto Renew
is Here!



Automatic Renewals were implemented to better serve the community.

This allows patrons to keep their materials longer, without worry, if they need to while also getting materials into the hands of patrons faster through placing HOLDS on titles they are interested in.

Our Community Reads: Water Connects Us All



The Our Community Reads: Water Connects Us All kicked off in Spring 2024 with three selections for the community to engage with and read. This year we were able to gift a copy of the youth title to every 2nd grader in Council Bluffs through funding from Raise Me to Read. Every 2nd grader also was able to meet and see the author speak. Funding from the Iowa West Foundation supported every 6th grader receiving a copy of the teen book and meeting and seeing that author. This is the 3rd year of the program.

Foundation Speaker Series



The Foundation Speaker Series kicked off with Kate Quinn in November 2023 and continued with Mitch Albom in December 2023, and Wil Haygood in February 2024. This series is generously provided with funding from the Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation and in partnership with The Arts Center on the Iowa Western Community College Campus.

Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library



"The Friends of the Public Library is a nonprofit organization run by dedicated volunteers who are passionate about supporting and advocating for our CBPL. We raise funds through memberships, public donations and book sales from our annual book sale and bookstore, which is also run by volunteers. The money raised is used to help fund the many services and programs provided by our amazing library. The Friends of the CBPL also takes great pride in being able to award several scholarships each year to teen volunteers to help further their education and their love of the library. We are excited to be able to continue this partnership into the future with our ideas always growing."

-Theresa Martin, Friends Board President

Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation



"It is again the privilege of the Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation to support your public library. Your tax-exempt gifts to the foundation compliment the city funding with the goal of having a State-of-the-Art Library for the community. The library foundation was able to support a substantial number of library projects this year. Notably:

- Cochran Library Kiosk along FIRST AVE at Cochran Park
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Library Programming including Community-Wide programs such as Our Community Reads: Water Connects Us All
- Technology Updates like the New Automatic Material Handler and new staff computers
- Author visits from Kate Quinn, Mitch Albom, Wil Haygood, Stacy McAnulty, Ben McGrath, and Jennifer Holm.

Friends of the Library Board

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J.R. Woltemath, Treasurer
Dave Wise
Jessica Johanns
Elizabeth Hunter
Traci Drescher
Tisha Moore
Denise Hoag
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Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation Board

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Michelle Lee, Treasurer
Steve Krohn, Secretary
Francis Clark
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Kathy Tisher
Donna Schoeppner, Board Secretary

These projects helped bring library services to an underserved area of the city, encouraged reading for new and young readers, supplied interesting programming, new and updated essential equipment, and brought prominent authors to our community for your enjoyment.

We hope that you use and visit your library often and enjoy these gifts. We will continue to help with projects that enhance the library for this community."

-Kathleen Pyper, Library Foundation Board President

To learn how you can support the library thru this non-profit Foundation visit the library web site councilbluffslibrary.org/about/library-foundation



The Council Bluffs Library is recognized as a primary community resource for educational support, self-directed learning, cultural development, advancing literacies, and building public prosperity and well being.

The Council Bluffs Public Library:

- Offers superior customer experiences
- Encourages learning and discovery
- Is inclusive and provides access to all
- Cultivates collaboration and innovation
- Believes in the freedom to know
- Fosters a positive work environment
- Provides wise stewardship of public resources

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