



Portage District  
**LIBRARY**

# Annual Report

## 2022



# From Vision to Reality: Celebrating a Year of Transformation

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are thrilled to present this year's annual report, highlighting the incredible journey of the Portage District Library as we transformed our vision into reality throughout this momentous year. Over the course of 2022, we have strived to make notable achievements in redefining our services and experiences for our patrons.

One of our major achievements this year was the successful completion of an ambitious remodel. By revamping our physical space, we created an environment that fosters curiosity, collaboration, and engagement. This transformation has allowed us to extend a warm welcome to both longtime patrons and new visitors, strengthening the sense of community and connection within our walls.

With an unwavering commitment to access for all, our Library Board voted to no longer charge overdue fines. We are proud to join fine-free libraries across the country. We look forward to welcoming back patrons who have stopped using the library as a result of fines.

In 2022, our team dedicated extensive efforts towards shaping a forward-thinking strategic plan for the next five years. We began by listening to the voices of our community to align with their ever-evolving needs. This guiding vision will serve as a beacon for our endeavors, propelling us forward in our mission to inspire, enrich, and empower.

As we reflect on the outcomes of this past year, we take pride in witnessing the genuine appreciation and enthusiasm from our community. The alignment of our vision and actions has shown in the invaluable positive change experienced by our patrons. From the youngest learners discovering the joys of reading to intellectual explorers delving into a wealth of information, we have fostered an environment where minds are empowered to flourish.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our patrons and partners for their support on this remarkable journey. As we embrace change with open arms, we eagerly look towards the future, where we continue to redefine horizons, making the extraordinary possible at the Portage District Library.

**Christy Klien**  
Library Director



# 2022 At a Glance



## 2022 Library Board

Michele Behr - **Chair** | Jeanne Friedman - **Vice Chair**  
Ken Baker | Tom Vance | Donna VanderVries | Linda Whitlock





# Year in Review



## Renovations & Reopening

Undertaking the renovation project while ensuring continued library services was no small feat. Throughout this ambitious endeavor, the Library managed to provide limited services off-site at a temporary location. For over a year, the library operated from this interim space until February 2022. At that time, the library staff to begin the enormous task of moving over 800,000 items back to the fully renovated and expanded building at 300 Library Lane.

The Library's building renovation project, aimed at modernizing infrastructure and accommodating our growing community, reached a significant milestone with substantial completion in 2022.

A Grand Re-opening Ceremony and ribbon-cutting took place on May 9, 2022, marking the library's return to its upgraded facility.

Notable improvements include a two-story addition on the building's eastern side, to provide space for the Creation Station / Makerspace on the main level and a new Teen Room on the lower level, relocation of the Heritage Room to the main level, and a renovated Youth area. The remaining renovation tasks are projected to be fully completed by 2024.

Following years of fluctuations caused by the pandemic and the renovation project, the community's excitement for the library was evident. In August 2022, we witnessed the highest circulation of youth materials ever recorded in the library's history.



## PDL Goes Fine Free

The Portage District Library is pleased to announce that we are permanently a fine-free library. In addition to removing the barrier of overdue fines, the Library Board has reconsidered other lending policies to be sure library materials are returned on time and available for checkout to other patrons. They have also increased limits so patrons can access more items.

The belief that overdue fines motivate patrons to return their materials has guided library policy for many years. However, research has shown that those who incur late fees and are able to pay will keep visiting and borrowing while those who are unable to pay simply stop using the library—and in some instances fail to return overdue materials.



## Strategic Planning

In 2022, the Library worked with consultant, Amanda Standerfer and her exceptional team at *Fast Forward Libraries*, to develop a new strategic plan. This strategic planning process, undertaken every five years, presented an invaluable opportunity to assess the library's role and significance within the community.

Throughout the year, Amanda and her team worked closely with our dedicated staff and community members to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the library's current standing and impact. By delving into the unique needs of the community and fostering meaningful partnerships, we sought to identify areas where the library could play a pivotal role in addressing common goals.

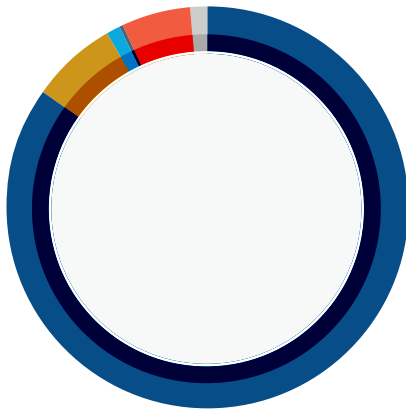
The strategic planning process was a collective endeavor, with both the board and staff actively contributing their insights and expertise. Together, we have crafted a dynamic set of goals and activities that will form the bedrock of our strategic plan for 2023-2026.



# Financial Report

## Total Revenue

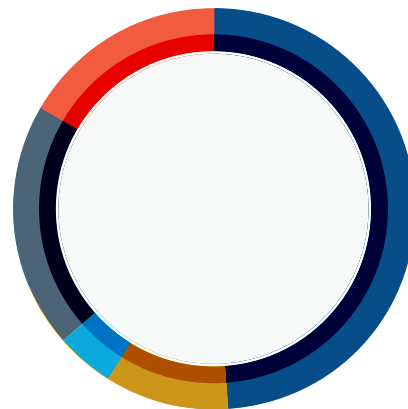
\$5,847,272



Library Millage	86.86%
State Aid	7.06%
Penal Fines	1.12%
Fines & Fees	0.33%
Other Revenue	-2.21%
Funding From Reserves	5.47%
Grants & Donations	1.37%

## Total Expenditures

\$5,847,272



Operating Expenditures	45.44%
Library Collections	10.18%
Building Overhead	5.57%
Capital Expenditures	30.09%
Bond Payment	1.02%