



Annual Report 2025



INSPIRE | ENRICH | EMPOWER

Celebrating a year of new initiatives

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear Library Community,

Thanks to your support and engagement, 2025 has been a year of growth, innovation, creativity, and learning at the Portage District Library.

After expanding our Makerspace hours, we saw incredible energy and participation with over 1,000 visitors per quarter! The space continues to be a hub for discovery and hands-on learning. In 2025, we welcomed our first Maker-in-Residence, who led drop-in sessions, taught two classes, and compiled a community quilt that beautifully represents our shared creativity.



We have been inspired by art created right here in Portage. The Library has been alive with color and imagination as our café and atrium galleries featured talented local artists, while our Youth Services department exhibited young artists and collectors. Our three-part, multi-generational collage series brought people of all ages together to create and connect through art.

Our collaboration with Portage Public Schools continues to grow stronger each year. The PASS Card program ensures that every PPS student can seamlessly access library resources. Library staff have been visiting classrooms with STEM activities, storytimes, and special book deliveries to support the elementary schools in transition while construction is underway. We've also hosted PPS teachers for department meetings and professional development in the Makerspace. Programs like Book Buddies (where high school students volunteer to help with youth programs) and our partnership with Community High continue to enrich learning for all ages.



Outreach was a guiding theme in 2025. We expanded partnerships with Urban Alliance, Kalamazoo Youth Development, Healthy Babies/Healthy Start, and local senior communities, ensuring the library's resources and relationships reach beyond our walls. We also expanded our Home-based Services to include a Books by Mail option for those who have difficulty coming into the building.

You may have seen us out in the community, too. Our staff was actively connecting with local residents at the Kalamazoo Pride Festival, the Portage Farmers Market, and even on the Connecting Communities podcast, sharing how libraries connect people and ideas.

In 2025, The Friends of the Portage District Library generously purchased a *Charlie Cart*, a mobile teaching kitchen, which made culinary learning accessible and fun. Programs featuring local chefs, like The Candy Lady, Gretchen Kauth, and Casa de las Abuelas, were enthusiastically received and often filled to capacity.



From Tai Chi and yoga for adults, to Just Move Storytime and Rhythm Kids for youth, our programs and events kept the community active and engaged. We hosted lectures, authors, documentary and film clubs, book groups, maker programs, and cooking programs for all ages.

Thank you for being part of this dynamic, growing community. Whether you joined a class, checked out a book, volunteered, utilized the PDL Seed Library, or simply stopped by to read, your presence makes the library the welcoming and vibrant place it is. We can't wait to see what stories, creations, and connections the next year will bring.

With gratitude, the Portage District Library Board and Staff



<i>Tom Vance</i>	<i>Ken Baker</i>	<i>Cara Terry</i>	<i>Linda Whitlock</i>
<i>Jeanne Friedman</i>	<i>Michele Behr</i>	<i>Donna Vander Vries</i>	
Tom Vance Board Chair	Jeanne Friedman Vice Chair	Ken Baker	Michele Behr
		Cara Terry	Donna Vander Vries
			Linda Whitlock



2025 At a Glance



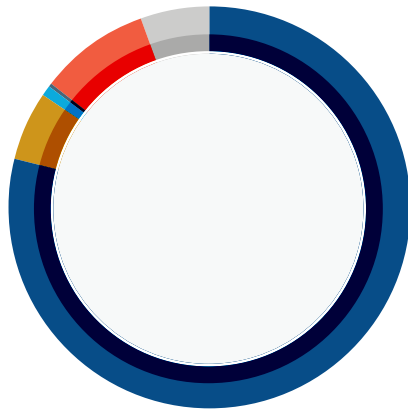
* All time statistical high



Financial Report

Total Revenue

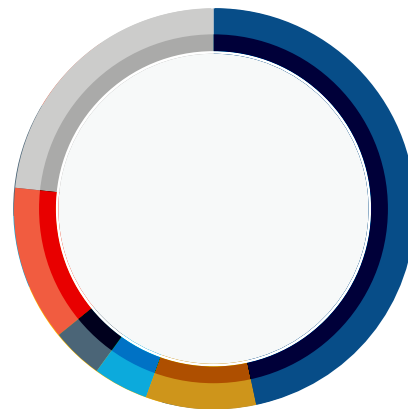
\$ 7,743,175



Library Millage	78.92%
State Aid	5.60%
Penal Fines	0.79%
Fines & Fees	0.35%
Other Revenue	9.01%
Grants & Donations	5.32%

Total Expenditures

\$ 7,743,175



Operating Expenditures	46.70%
Library Collections	8.90%
Building Overhead	4.54%
Capital Expenditures	4.30%
Bond Payment	12.40%
Funding of Future Initiatives	23.17%