



PETERS TOWNSHIP  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
OPENING BOOKS, DOORS AND MINDS

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**Peters Township Public Library**  
**616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317**  
**724-941-9430 • [www.ptlibrary.org](http://www.ptlibrary.org)**



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the beginning of 2022, we were fortunate enough to work with Procopia Nonprofit Consulting to create a new five-year strategic plan for the library. After an engaging discussion with many stakeholders about the library, as well as the community as a whole, we decided to focus on four strategic directions as we move into the future: increasing management and board capacity, updating our programs and services, strengthening community partnerships, and reevaluating our physical space. To read more about the library's strategic plan, and to see what steps we've already taken towards meeting these objectives in 2022, check out the feature on page 4. We are very thankful for the community support that allows us to set such high standards for the library and achieve our goals, and we can't wait to see what the future will bring.

Lacey Love  
Library Director

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

As the Peters Township Public Library continued to evolve and grow over the course of 2022, so too did the Library Board. Board members began the year participating in the development of the library's strategic plan alongside library staff and stakeholders. The final plan will ensure a higher level of engagement from the Board and push the library to even greater heights. We also welcomed two new members last year. Yvonne Weaver and Lauren Cantwell brought new ideas and fresh perspectives and did not hesitate to get involved in ongoing initiatives.

At the end of the year, our chair, Richard Easton, Jr., retired from the Board after serving for over 40 years. His wisdom and experience were a source of guidance for the Board, and he will be missed. Despite losing a valued leader, the Board is looking toward 2023 by expanding membership and supporting the library's vision with renewed energy. The Peters Township Public Library is a well-known treasure of our community, and the Board is excited and grateful to continue serving the library into the future.

Ian W. Parker  
Board Chair

*Our Mission:*

**Peters Township Public Library empowers individuals to learn,  
explore, and connect by providing enriching programs, services, and  
access to information.**



# ABOUT THE LIBRARY

## Library Staff

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Lacey Love, Library Director  
Illyanna Logan, Assistant Library Director  
Katie Marchand, Administrative Assistant  
Carrie Weaver, PR Coordinator  
Sydney Krawiec, Program & Outreach Coordinator  
Margaret Deitzer, Local History Librarian  
Stephanie Shultz, Reference Department  
Shannon Pauley, Head of Youth Services  
Linda Esposito, Children's Librarian  
Patty Hartenbach, Children's Assistant  
Beth May, Children's Assistant  
Morgan Meddings, Summer Reading Intern  
Mary Kipling, Head of Cataloging  
Nancy Lojek, Cataloging Assistant  
Dianne Finnegan, Patron Services Coordinator  
Sue Andrewson, Library Assistant  
Carol Johnson, Library Assistant  
Jamie Mack, Library Assistant  
Roz Rider, Library Assistant  
John Masilunas, Library Assistant  
Dani Mizia, Library Assistant  
Anne-Marie Shaw, Library Assistant  
Noreen Balach, Facilities Maintenance  
Sydney Gisoni, Page  
Matthew Pollock, Page  
Anna Stephenson, Page

## Board of Directors

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Ian W. Parker, Chair  
Scott Beinhauer, Vice Chair  
Yvonne Weaver, Treasurer  
Beth Markocic, Secretary  
Lauren Cantwell  
Margaret Verlato

## What's Inside

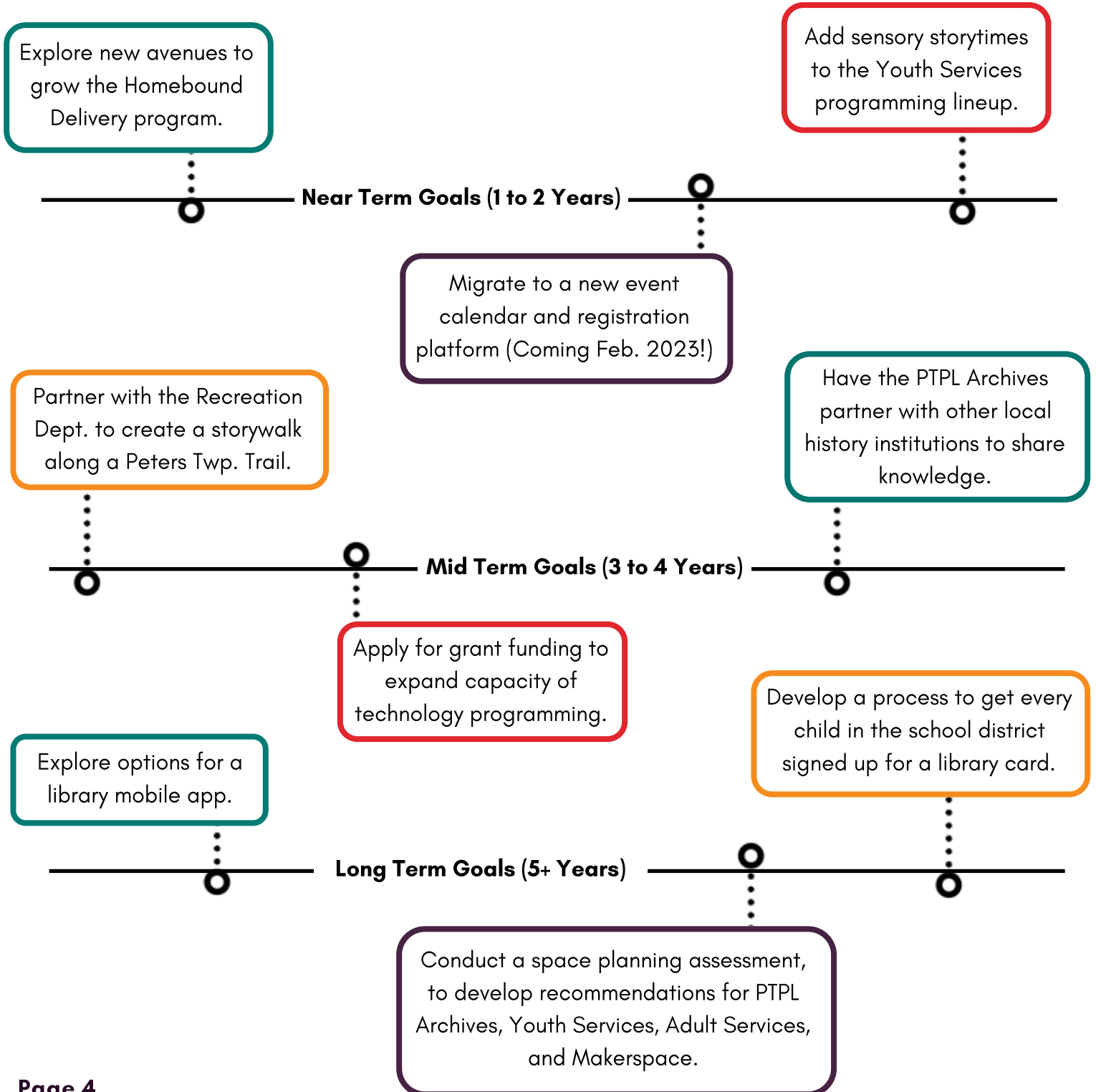
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# A NEW CHAPTER

From January through April 2022, the Peters Township Public Library convened a Steering Committee tasked with overseeing the creation of the library's first strategic plan. Working with Procopia Nonprofit Consulting, the intent of this process was to galvanize the library's staff and volunteers to work cohesively in pursuit of serving Peters Township residents, and develop goals and objectives for the next five years. Feedback from more than 30 stakeholders, including board, staff, Council, community partners, patrons, and Foundation members led us to four overarching themes: increasing management and board capacity, updating our programs and services, strengthening community partnerships, and reevaluating our physical space. Check out a small selection of our future goals below!







## THE PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Peters Township Library Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for the library with financial and volunteer support. The Foundation raises funds to fill in the gaps for projects that are beyond the library's normal operating budget. Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who made gifts to the Foundation in 2022 through the annual mailer, honor and memorial gifts, Novel November ads and sponsorships, and the WCCF Day of Giving.



Our annual Novel November event brings a nationally known author to our community for an evening of conversation. In 2022, approximately 400 people joined us in welcoming best-selling science fiction author Andy Weir. We are excited to announce that this year we will be hosting V.E. Schwab, the author of *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*, on November 2nd, 2023. Tickets go on sale in September.

The Foundation generously funded and supported a wide variety of library projects in 2022, including:

- ◆ Tent rentals and speaker fees for Read Local Eat Local
- ◆ Strategic planning consulting fees
- ◆ A new touchscreen AWE computer for Youth Services and a laptop for the PTPL Archives
- ◆ Tent rentals and prizes for the Summer Reading Program
- ◆ Matching funds for the Archives newspaper digitization project



### 2022 Foundation Board

Maura Kelly, President   Shar Campano, Vice-President   Marji Dickson, Treasurer   Diane Lioon, Secretary  
Sue Freyder   Kathleen Gallant   Linda Hlavinka   Meghan Greenwood  
Maggie McCauley   Kay McEvoy   Matt Siconolfi



# YOUTH SERVICES

2022 was a year of many changes for the Youth Services Department. For the first half of the year, we offered a mix of some in-person programs, as well as pre-recorded storytimes on our YouTube channel. In the fall, we returned to our weekly in-person storytime programs, including Book Babies, Mother Goose, Tiny Tunes, Toddler Tales, Preschool Storytime, and Bodies in Motion. The registration for these popular programs quickly fills up each week.



We were thrilled to partner with several local organizations for special events this year. The Carnegie Science Center brought a planetarium program, the Pittsburgh Puppet Works performed a Halloween puppet show, and the National Aviary came to talk about their feathered friends. The Youth Services Department worked closely with PTSD kindergarten teachers to bring back the annual Kindergarten Tea, which is a great collaboration between the library, kindergarten and preschool teachers, and the Intermediate Unit. We were also able to restart our outreach to local schools by participating in Open House events, classroom storytimes, and Read-a-Thons.



Although storytimes did not resume until the fall, the department was very busy throughout the year with events like Family Lego Nights, Chess with a Champion, Family Bingo, Maker Monday, Wild Kratt Wednesdays, Nights with WQED, book clubs, and more. In January, the very popular Preschool-a-Palooza event returned, where 99 patrons had the chance to learn about the community's various preschools and daycares, and representatives were available to answer any questions. We ended the year with beloved holiday programs like Elf on the Shelf, Edible Holiday Treats, and the Holiday Kick-Off at the Community Rec Center.







We kicked off our summer reading program, “Oceans of Possibilities,” with an outdoor performance from Josh and Gab, a meet and greet opportunity with Bubbles from the PBS Kids TV series “Splash and Bubbles,” as well as games and crafts for 350 patrons of all ages. Throughout the summer we offered a wide variety of ocean-themed programs for our families. Some highlights include a Save the Manatee program where children learned about manatees and built their own stuffed manatees to take home, a weekly Backyard Storytime with stories and activities highlighting the theme, and a visit from the Pittsburgh Zoo to learn about the Sea Turtle Second Chance Program. Our Reading Challenge was once again held completely through the Beanstack app, where more than 400 readers logged 419,000 minutes and 6,100 books!

## TEEN SERVICES

Teen and tween programming launched into 2022 with a full slate of in-person events. Our cooking classes were a new addition to the calendar this past year and were especially well-received. We made cake pops in winter, macarons in spring, strawberry shortcakes in summer, and no-bake pumpkin caramel cheesecakes in fall. When our tweens and teens weren’t baking, they were making Zen gardens, learning how to quill paper, crafting their own jewelry, making bath bombs, doing macramé weaving, concocting Halloween potion bottles, and much more.

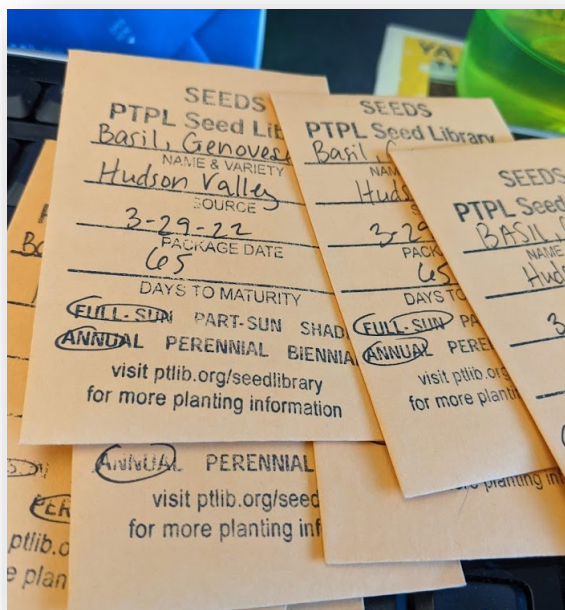


Our teen and tween Writer’s Clubs continue to grow this year, with the teen group doubling in size, and the tween group averaging 12-15 participants per meeting. Both groups participated in National Novel Writing Month this past November. Our teen and tween book clubs have also been very successful, choosing a variety of genres in their book selection each month. We love to see how much our younger patrons enjoy reading and writing!





# ADULT SERVICES



In March of 2022, the PTPL Seed Library opened and set into motion a spring and summer of growth in the community. A seed library serves to distribute seeds for free in the community, reduce waste by repacking seeds into smaller quantities, and provide information about how to successfully grow your plants. Patrons checked out over 1,200 fruit, vegetable, herb, and pollinator flower seed packets to take home and plant. Over 200 individuals participated in eight gardening programs throughout the year, hosted in collaboration with the Washington County Master Gardeners, Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens, and Peters Township Environmental Quality Board.

After being unable to host the event in recent years due to COVID, in August of 2022 the library was finally able to bring back Read Local Eat Local, our annual fair featuring local authors and food trucks. We decided this year to move the event outside under tents to create an area with author booths, space for eating, and three food trucks. After the keynote from bestselling author J.D. Barker, more than 300 people turned out to meet 20 local authors and grab lunch at the food trucks. Join us on September 9 for Read Local Eat Local 2023!



Patrons continue to come to the library to socialize and learn with our nine library-sponsored clubs. With clubs focused on topics from photography to crochet to WWII, there's something to interest everyone. At the end of 2022, we added a new group for adults, "The End Game" chess classes, led by a chess grandmaster. These classes have been very popular and have quickly filled up each month. In addition to learning from our clubs, patrons have attended lectures and workshops on topics as diverse as tarot cards, home buying, birds of Western PA, and suicide prevention.



# ADULT SERVICES



IT and Makerspace programming in 2022 included nearly 80 group workshops and 40 individual training sessions. Programming highlights included a visit from the Carnegie Science Center's Mobile Fab Lab, where over 100 children got to participate in a day long maker experience, a virtual visit to the brand new Moonshot Museum in Pittsburgh to discover our city's past and current contributions to space exploration, and a presentation exploring the science behind self-driving vehicles.

During 2022, the PTPL Archives continued to reach out to the community through programs and displays, sharing historical photos and documents. We hosted two Stories from the Archives programs, about the early years of the village of McMurray and the history of the McMurray Dairy Bar. More than 1,300 people watched these programs via Zoom and YouTube. Patrons could also take a look at archival displays at the library throughout the year, including one centered on the history of Trax Farm, with many items donated by the Trax family.



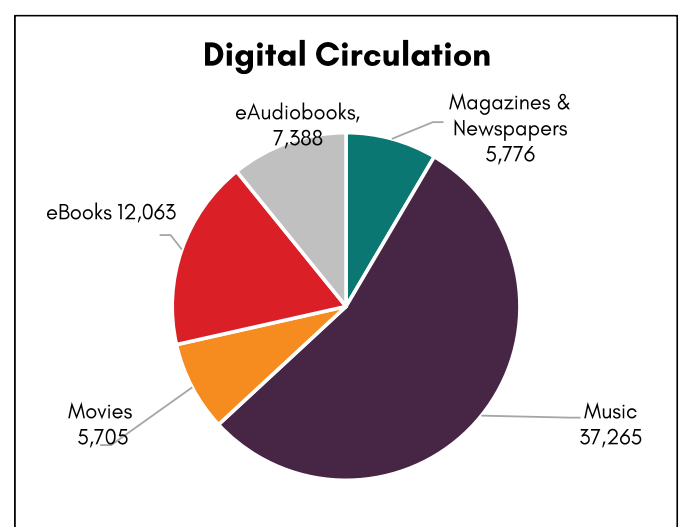
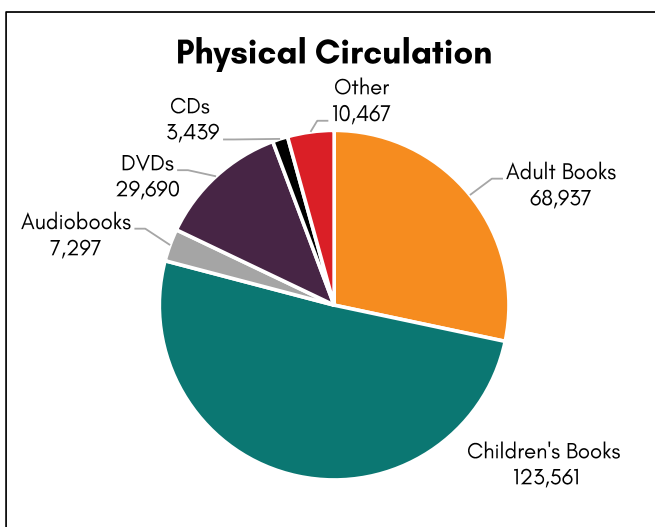
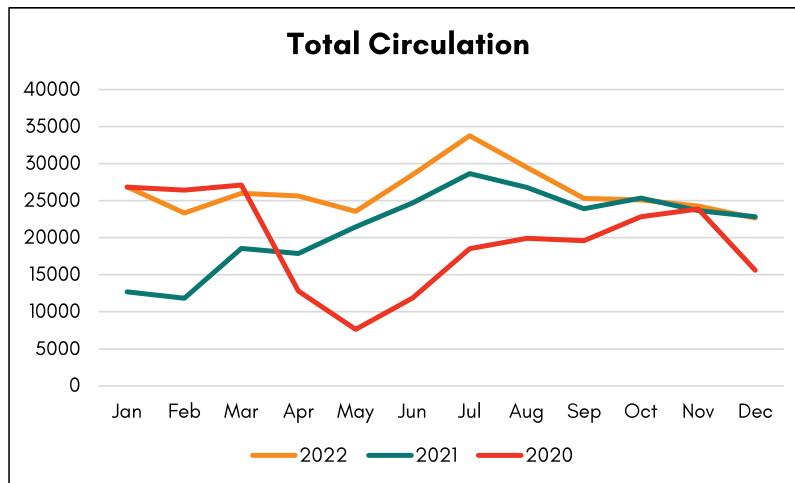
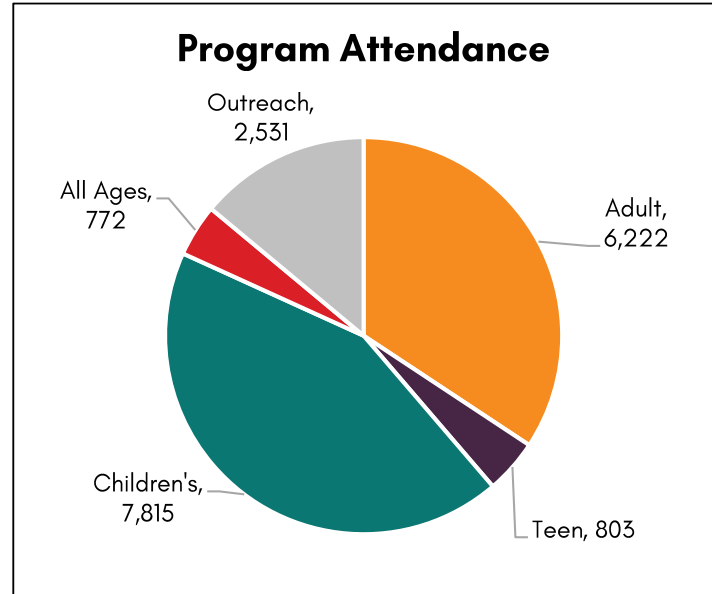
In May 2022, the Archives focused their efforts on the PHMC Historical & Archival Records Care Grant that we received for \$3,450, which The Foundation generously matched. This grant supports the purchase of equipment to digitize six oversize and extremely fragile materials in the collection. By the end of 2022, five bound volumes have been digitized, and the work to edit over 1,000 scanned images was underway. Two of these works, journals from 1889-1894 by Rachel Ann Bell, are now available to the public online through PA Photos & Documents. In total, the Archives submitted 121 new digital images to PA Photos & Documents this year, accessible through the Resources tab at [ptlibrary.org](http://ptlibrary.org).

# LIBRARY STATISTICS

By the fall of 2022, our circulation statistics made a return to pre-pandemic numbers with more than 314,000 items circulated throughout the year. In total, Peters Township check-outs made up almost 35% of the total circulation for the WAGGIN consortium.

This past year also saw more than 15,000 community members attend library programs, virtually and in person. We provided library services and programs to another 2,500 patrons through outreach and community events.

In March 2022, we were able to add hoopla to our library databases, increasing our digital offerings of eBooks, eAudiobooks, movies, comics, and music by over a million titles. Patrons have jumped on the new collection with more than 3,000 digital checkouts from this service in 2022.





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## 2022 Library Revenue



■ Fines, Program Fees, & Contributions — 2.4%

■ State and County Funding — 11.1%

■ Township Support — 86.4%

## 2022 Library Expenses



■ General, Admin, & Training — 2%

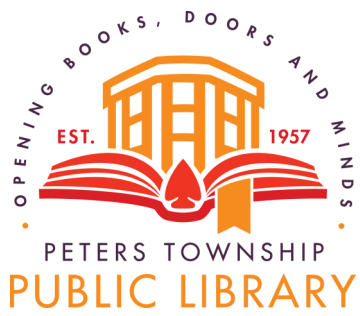
■ Building & Facilities — 11.4%

■ Collection, Databases, & Programs — 20.3%

■ Personnel — 66.2%

All libraries in the WAGGIN system (a consortium of 20 public libraries in Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties) have agreed to permanently remain fine-free. Under this agreement, each library still collects fees for lost and damaged books, but does not charge patrons for overdue fines. The Peters Township Public Library is fortunate that much of our revenue comes from government support, including \$920,000 from Peters Township, as well as \$118,600 from the county and state. Public libraries are a valuable community asset, so please make sure to advocate for adequately funding libraries at the local, county, and state level! We are anticipating a 15% increase in state funding next year, thanks to across the board advocacy efforts directed at our PA legislators and the House Appropriations Committee.

Some notable financial highlights in 2022 include a \$3,450 HARC grant to digitize oversized and fragile archival materials and a \$3,000 anonymous contribution that will be used to digitize our historic collection of Peters Township newspapers. The library was also one of 62 organizations chosen nationwide to participate in the 2022-2023 NEA Big Read—a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. The library will be awarded a \$10,000 grant in 2023 to offer a month-long slate of programming revolving around the novel *Circe* by Madeline Miller.



616 E McMurray Road  
McMurray, PA 15317

Return Service Requested



### ***Mission Statement***

*The library strives to enrich and empower every patron  
by fostering a love of learning.*