



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022



DURHAM COUNTY
Library



Letter from the Director



Dear Durham Community,

Durham County Library is an essential element of our community. You utilize the libraries to read, study, learn, play, work, create, and so much more. We as Durham County Library employees continue to push ourselves to ensure all members of the community have access to library resources by navigating our way through the obstacles produced by the pandemic. We were thrilled to safely bring back in-person programming this year along with our virtual programming, and we continue to take steps to ensure the health and safety of both patrons and staff.



Watch video



Over the course of Fiscal Year 2022, our library team brought us the second annual Library Fest: The Food Edition, a hybrid event featuring both virtual and in-person experiences. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Take & Make kits, Women Run Durham, the cutting-edge and award-winning Innovation League, and many other wonderful programs filled our calendar this year. United by our devotion to enriching the lives of all Durham County residents, the library team works hard to serve the community. Our dedicated staff truly make the library what it is – a pillar of life in Durham. Here at Durham County Library, we practice 5 Star Customer Service, and I encourage you to share your feedback about your experiences at the library.

I invite you to explore this Annual Report and look back on this past year with us. I'd like to take this moment to sincerely thank the entire library team for the time and dedication they put into their work every day. Through both the good and the challenging times, please know that the library and our team are here to provide the information you need to help our community find the best way forward.

Thank you for another great year.

Best Wishes,

Tammy Baggett-Best

Mission: Encouraging Discovery

Durham County Library has enough books in its collection to fill many lifetimes with reading, but books are not all we do! Our fun and educational programs connect the community by bringing the joys of the library to children of all ages, teens, and adults. Following are just some of the wonderful programs Durham County Library staff ran this year! Be sure to check out DurhamCountyLibrary.org/events for all our programs to come!

Innovation League: Innovation League's mission at Durham County Library is to provide adaptable, themed learning experiences for underserved and lower-income youth throughout Durham. This year, Innovation League staff implemented four month-long sessions for a total of 83 students from fifth through twelfth grades. Staff decided the content for each of these sessions based on the educational needs and desires of the youth. Students enjoyed coding a video game, building resumes, and other activities that gave them creative freedom while also teaching them valuable skills. Staff reached out to local businesses and organizations like the Kramden Institute, the Museum of Life and Science, YMCA Triangle, and the Durham County Youth Home to host interactive and informative programs. Recognized this year with an award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its cutting-edge programming, Innovation League will continue providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for underserved youth throughout Durham through next fiscal year and beyond.





Watch Video

Seed Library: Among Durham County Library's best-loved and longest-running programs is the Digging Durham Seed Library, now entering its tenth year! Offering free vegetable, herb, and flower seeds for library patrons to take home and plant, the Seed Library helps to improve local sustainable food sources, enhance food security, develop local biodiversity, and boost Durham's food culture. Active from February through October annually, the Seed Library



distributed over 8,000 seed packets in the first half of 2022 in addition to providing training and informational materials. Seeds are available at all library locations in addition to the Bookmobile. Be sure to pick up your spring seeds in the new year!



Tween Gaming and Fun Hour: Launched in the fall of 2021, the Tween Gaming and Fun Hour creates a space for children aged 9-12 to play games, work on art projects, and socialize. Crafts, video games, and board games are all featured in this tween-centered program. This weekly event creates a space for tweens to foster creativity and imagination and forge connections with one another.



Full STEAM Ahead: Full STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Ahead is a monthly program and the result of a collaboration between Durham County Library's STEAM Services Unit and the Children's Services Unit at Main Library. Fun science experiments, coding and electronics with Ozobots and Makey Makeys®, and other activities encourage participants to explore themes related to science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

Digital Navigator Pilot Program*: Durham County Library's grant-funded Digital Navigator program helps members of the Durham community find affordable devices, access low-cost internet resources, and get help using technology. In partnership with local organizations like Digital Durham and the Durham Center for Senior Living, the Digital Navigator program reached over 100 people this year!

For more information or to schedule an appointment for technology help, call 919-560-0116.
*This program was supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-249980-OLS-21).



Watch Video



Storytime with Horses: Each month, librarians from Durham County Library head over to Brightleaf Stables for Storytime with Horses! This program targets children ranging from newborns through five years old and is typically attended by dozens of kids and parents. During story time, librarians read farm-themed classics, lead dances to fun songs, and teach barnyard-themed rhymes to those in attendance. Every once in a while, the library mascot Read A. Bull even makes an appearance!

Black History Month for Middle Schoolers: February is Black History Month, and just one of Durham County Library's programs that celebrated the event was the virtual Black History Month for Middle Schoolers. Offering a presentation by librarians of fiction and non-fiction titles related to Black history, this one-time program was attended by over 50 students from North Carolina Virtual Academy.

Teens and Tweens Make Origami: Local artist Erim Akpan taught Durham County Library teens the art of paper folding in this virtual program. After each attendee picked up a take-home packet containing ten sheets of origami paper from the Library, Erim used two cameras to talk to the participants while showing them how to make a variety of origami figures.

Watch Video



Stoop Stories: Durham County Library's Business Services Unit, in collaboration with the Teen Services Unit, interview Durham's small business owners. This program asks local entrepreneurs what they do, how they do it, how they got started, and what advice they have for aspiring business owners. Among the featured entrepreneurs are recording artist Rissi Palmer, Sonic Pie productions founder Tess Mangum, and Wonderpuff founder Jackie Moran!

Durham Voices: Storytellers constitute an important part of Durham's cultural and artistic fabric. Some of those storytellers meet twice a month for a fiction critique group called Durham Voices, where authors submit and provide feedback on each other's work. Over the past year, one author from this group won a competitive Novel Slices contest and another received second place in the inaugural Harambee Literary Prize.

Mission: Leading in Literacy



Library Fest: Following last year's inaugural Library Fest, this year's edition saw the return of in-person events featuring almost 30 programs and over 1,800

total attendees over the course of the weeklong event. In line with this year's Food Edition theme, renowned chefs and restauranteurs Vivian Howard and Michael Twitty headlined Library Fest with free talks at the Carolina Theater of Durham. Other partners included the Durham Co-op Market that hosted a wine and cheese tasting and Durham Technical Community College that hosted a Taste & See event with its culinary arts students. Other programs included The Science of Coffee, How to Forage for Mushrooms Without Dying, Community Cooking: An Abolitionist Cooking Class for Teens, Classic Restaurants of Durham, and Kombucha with Homebucha. In addition, Durham County Library's partnership with Jewish for Good provided meals for over 20 households. The food theme helped library patrons explore so many aspects of Durham's dynamic culture in addition to promoting local small businesses. This year's Library Fest also featured a logo from contest winner Anh-Tuan Tran.

K-5 Junior Makers: This virtual program had participants pick up maker kits at the Library and meet over Zoom to share the fun of creating and experimenting with one another. One activity this program undertook was making edible playdough from frosting and powdered sugar. This program brought smiles to all participants!

Teen Lock-In: Drawing teens from across the library system, the 2022 Teen Lock-In was a night for teens to be themselves and get creative! This year's system-wide Lock-In was Durham County Library Teen Services Unit's first such event since the beginning of the pandemic. With over 40 teens in attendance to celebrate the end of the school year, this program featured the Scrap Exchange, the Poetry Fox, a painting corner, board games, music, video games, and cupcake decorating.



Watch video



This year saw Durham County Library's circulation exceed pre-Covid levels! We distributed almost three million books, e-books, movies, and other items for free throughout Durham County.



Watch video





Self-Love Social/Celebrando Amor Propio:

This bilingual program for teens was a partnership between local nonprofit Pupusas for Education and local business Durham Bottling Company. Pupusas for Education seeks to provide scholarships to undocumented and DACAmented students throughout the Triangle pursuing higher education. In celebration of Valentine's Day, this event featured a sticky note wall with prompts like "What does love mean to you?", "How do you practice self-love?", and "What does a healthy relationship look like?" Teens also made buttons and lavender satchels to take home!



Open Desk: Durham County Library's Business Services Unit provides some of Durham's most cutting-edge programming by connecting local entrepreneurs with aspiring and first-time business owners. These connections are the goal of the Open Desk program, which brings in local experts to answer topical questions hopeful business owners might have. Professionals from the fields of marketing, business law, and human resources have held exciting Q&A sessions at The Incubator space at Main Library.

On average, Durham County Library signs up over 65 people for library cards every day across the system!



Women Run Durham: Last year saw the momentous election of Elaine O'Neal, the first Black woman to become Mayor of Durham. At all levels of Durham City and County government, the leadership of dedicated women is on display. Honoring this historic moment was library program Women Run Durham, a conversation between Chair of the Board of County Commissioners Brenda Howerton, Durham City Manager Wanda Page, Chief of Durham Police Patrice Andrews, Durham County Interim Manger Claudia Hager,

and the newly elected Mayor O'Neal. The panelists, moderated by ABC 11 Anchor Amber Rupinta and supported by the Durham Library Foundation, discussed the importance of representation in the workplace, the effort toward normalizing women in positions they did not traditionally hold, the triumphs and trials of being a woman in leadership, the need to invest in the community and future generations, and their thoughts on how best to support and enhance the Durham community. Further Women Run Durham events are already in the works for next year!



From left: Brenda Howerton, Elaine O'Neal, Wanda Page, Claudia Hager, and Patrice Andrews. Women Run Durham photos by Steven Paul Whitsitt Photography

The Library Family



Board of Trustees

The Library Board of Trustees serves to advise the Library Director to make Durham County Library the best it can

be. Consisting of nine members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, the Board of Trustees listens closely to the needs of the community regarding the library system. Members of the general public are encouraged to apply for these appointments!

Chair: Hank Kinsley
Vice Chair: Willis Whichard
Mrinmay "Moy" Biswas
Miguel Jackson
Katie Kaefer

Ann McLain
Camilla Meek
Luis Olivieri-Robert
Kynita Stringer-Stanback



DURHAM LIBRARY FOUNDATION

durhamlibraryfoundation.org

The Durham Library Foundation

was founded by devoted community members who shared the simple belief that public libraries

are among the most important institutions in our society. By supporting Durham County Library programming with grant funds, the Durham Library Foundation contributes to making Durham a county with a world-class library system. Among the programs supported by the Durham Library Foundation are Library Fest: the Food Edition, the Digging Durham Seed Library, and Women Run Durham.

President: Ann Craver
Vice President: Arthur Rogers

Treasurer: Leta Loyd
Secretary: Liz Gustafson



fodlnc.org

The Friends of the Durham Library

support the library in multiple ways:

programmng grants, ongoing programs, and staff scholarships. Over the course of their 40-year history, the Friends of the Durham Library have raised over one million dollars through secondhand book sales and memberships. 2022 saw the Friends return to in-person pop-up sales at library locations in addition to online and in-person sales at their bookstore, Books Among Friends. Be sure to look out for more in-person sales, and check out ShopFODLNC.org for all the best deals on used books!

President: Jane Kuhar
Vice President: Joel Lerner

Treasurer: Joe Kowalski
Secretary: Kammie Michael

Grants Awarded

Durham County Library applies for external grant funds to support unique projects. Among the grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2022 was a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Project Grant from the State Library of North Carolina to support Teaching Technology: The Cutting Edge Made Mobile*, a project to re-fit Durham County Library's Tech Mobile with updated equipment. With the goal of bridging the digital divide, the Tech Mobile is outfitted with laptops, 3D printers, and WiFi hotspots to serve schools and communities throughout Durham County. Also from the State Library was a Bright Ideas Grant to support Sprucing Up Memory Lane*, a project that purchased reminiscence therapy kits for adults living with dementia. Spearheaded by Durham County Library's Older Adult and Shut-In Services (OASIS), this project will make kits available to senior living centers, community organizations, and individuals.

*These programs were supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant numbers LS-249980-OLS-21 and LS-252476-OLS-22).

Since becoming a fine-free library system, Durham County Library has seen a decrease in late returns!

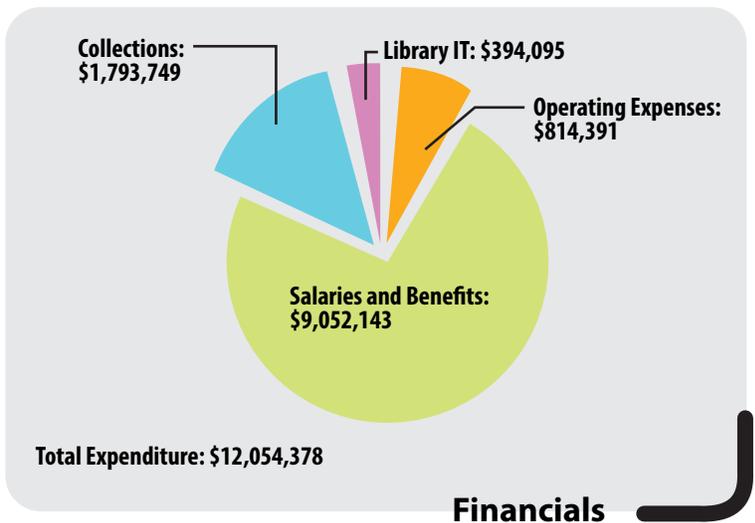
PAST DUE



Executive Leadership Team



1. **Tammy Baggett-Best**, *Library Director*
2. **Stephanie Fennell**, *Library Deputy Director*
3. **Sandra Lovely**, *Assistant Director for Planning & Facilities*
4. **Kathy Makens**, *Resources and Finance Officer*
5. **Stephanie Bonestell**, *Public Relations Officer*
6. **Matthew Clobridge**, *Technology Management Administrator*
7. **Lakesia Farmer**, *Library Human Resources*



Locations



1 Main Library
300 N. Roxboro St., Durham, NC 27701
919-560-0100



2 East Regional Library
211 Lick Creek Ln., Durham, NC 27703
919-560-0203



3 North Regional Library
221 Milton Rd., Durham, NC 27712
919-560-0231



4 South Regional Library
4505 S. Alston Ave., Durham, NC 27713
919-560-7410



5 Southwest Regional Library
3605 Shannon Rd., Durham, NC 27707
919-560-8590



6 Bragtown Branch Library
3200 Dearborn Dr., Durham, NC 27704
919-560-0210



7 Stanford L. Warren Branch Library
Temporarily Closed (reopening late 2023)
1201 Fayetteville St., Durham, NC 27707
919-560-0270

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