



Ames<sup>TM</sup>  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024

# 2023/2024 By the Numbers



Over **998,190** items were **checked out last year.**  
(That's an average of over 2,734 items each day of the year!)



The library served more than **332,350 visitors.**



Over **45,695 people** viewed/  
participated in 2,167 online  
and in-person Library events.

# We ♥ Volunteers



**344 volunteers**  
contributed **11,707 hours**  
of assistance in 2023/2024.

Volunteers of all ages helped  
with a variety of projects in  
the Library, from pulling hold  
requests to delivering books  
to homebound patrons,  
and much more!

# Total Budget: \$5,414,578



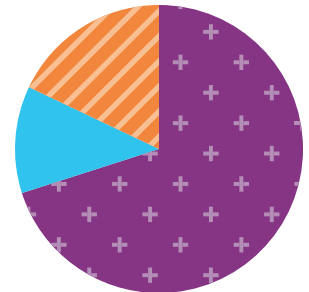
## Income

- City of Ames Property Tax — 89.2%
- Story County — 2.76%
- State of Iowa — 1.09%
- Grants and Donations — 6.57%
- Fines and Fees — 0.38%



## Expenses

- Wages and Benefits — 70.05%
- Materials — 12.01%
- Facilities and Operations — 17.94%



# Thank you Donors

**Grants & Donations:  
\$355,582**

Thank you to our generous donors and grantors for supporting projects including special collections, presenters, children's activities, Project Smyles, and more.




AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Friends Foundation

The Ames Public Library Friends Foundation conducts fundraising, operates the Literary Grounds bookstore, and holds book sales to support the Library.







# Engaging Programs




Over **3,324** people of all ages logged more than 6.9 million minutes of reading in the 2024 **Summer Reading Challenge**.



Over 5,132 attendees came to the Library for **493** programs for adults.

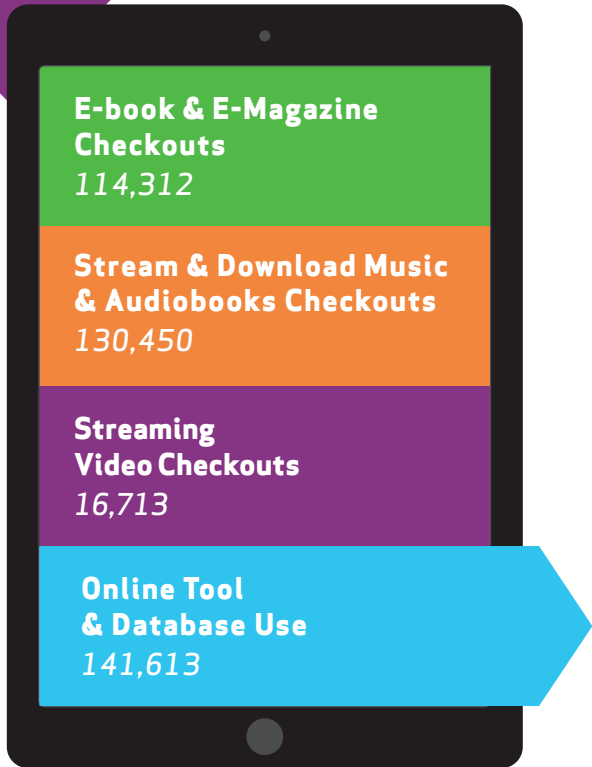


The Library had 40,866 attendees for **1,673** programs for youth and teens.



Project Smyles hosted over **731** children and caregivers from area preschools and daycares with Library tours and storytimes.





# Technology Access

- During this year the Library's public computers were used 46,695 times which is over 128 times a day.
- Library Wi-Fi was accessed 351,541 times and Wi-Fi Hotspots were loaned 940 times.

The Library offered free access to **premium online research and learning tools** including children's interactive books, genealogy software, language learning, informational tools for consumers, and more. Cardholders used these online resources an average of about **388 times a day!**

# Supporting Community

The Library helped combat childhood hunger by serving **5,318 free meals for children and teens** as part of the 2024 Summer Meals program.

Library staff and volunteers brought books to over **9,150 children** in daycares and preschools through 899 visits and storytimes with **Project Smyles**.

Library staff and volunteers made **829 deliveries** of books and materials to homebound citizens and centers through **Home Delivery**.

**Meeting and study rooms** were used 9,927 times serving **23,306 people**.





# Wrapping up the 2020-24 Strategic Plan

**Our 2020 Strategic Plan guided the library as we creatively adapted services during the pandemic. Four years later we are busier than ever!**

**Here are just some of the things we've accomplished:**

- Broke down barriers by going Fine Free.
- Amplified marginalized voices through special exhibits, the Black Arts Festival, and Ames PRIDE.
- Launched new services like the IDEA Center and Ames Seed Library.
- Hosted local social service organizations to support patrons in need.
- Fostered civic engagement through programs and partnerships.
- Expanded translation and world language materials.
- Built community connections with programs like Repair Café and Speed Friending.
- Reinforced staff development, outreach, and readers advisory.



# The Next Strategic Plan



## **We are gearing up for our next plan by gathering data and input:**

- Received nearly 600 survey responses from community members.
- Held 5 community stakeholder meetings.
- Hosted 4 community input sessions at the library and offsite.
- Held multiple staff, volunteer, and board member input sessions.
- Researched community data and library trends.

**Watch for the launch of a new plan in early 2025!**

# Iowa Center for the Book

**In 2024 Ames Public Library had the exciting distinction of being designated as the Iowa Center for the Book.**

Each U.S. state and territory hosts a Center for the Book, which serves as an affiliate of the Library of Congress and promotes literacy and reading in their state.

The Centers for the Book are also tasked with promoting their own state's literary heritage.

Visit [www.AmesPL.org/IowaCenterForTheBook](http://www.AmesPL.org/IowaCenterForTheBook) to find out more.





**Library Director:**  
Sheila Schofer

**Library Managers:**  
Brianne Anderson  
Tracy Briseño  
Alissa Dornink  
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**Library Board of Trustees:**  
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