

ANNUAL REPORT FY2023



BALTIMORE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY



BALTIMORE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

MISSION

Providing opportunities to explore,
learn, create and connect.

VISION

Empowered and engaged individuals for a more
inclusive and connected Baltimore County community.

WE VALUE

- Our customers and communities
- Equal access and intellectual freedom
- Flexibility and collaboration
- Diversity and inclusion
- Continuous improvement

[BCPL.INFO](https://www.bcpl.info)

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear Residents of Baltimore County,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the FY2023 Annual Report for Baltimore County Public Library. Our commitment to the organization's strategic plan, Building Community for a Better Tomorrow, remains steadfast in all that we planned and accomplished throughout FY2023. Remaining meaningful and relevant is imperative to our success. We are continuously evolving to offer new resources, programs and opportunities to meet the changing needs of our

communities. Digital equity, serving new Americans, embracing revolutionary technologies and providing safety net resources played a pivotal role in our FY2023 operational plan.

Today, the role of public libraries is more crucial than ever, particularly given the unprecedented attacks on our democracy and freedom to read. Baltimore County Public Library was founded in 1948 on the principle of intellectual freedom, which gives individuals unfettered access to ideas and information. This is still our cornerstone—circulating over 8.8 million items in FY2023. This past year, we commemorated 75 years of serving the residents of Baltimore County with anniversary celebrations, curated book lists, programs and other engaging memorabilia. As we embark on the next 75 years, you have our commitment to uphold the right to read freely.

The accomplishments of this past year would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions of our dedicated staff, Board of Library Trustees and Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library and our Friends groups. We thank the State of Maryland and Baltimore County Government for providing operating funds and supporting the library in fulfilling our mission, vision and values.

While there is much to celebrate, we are even more excited about the journey ahead. We are planning multiple capital projects around the county, which will begin to transform our branches into state-of-the-art facilities and allow the library to offer more innovative services. As we embark on this next stage of transformation and growth, it is an honor to lead this system, partner with staff and build relationships to provide a library system second to none for Baltimore County residents to appreciate and enjoy. Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of serving you. Your support of the library fuels our passion and inspires all of us at Baltimore County Public Library to reach greater heights.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Salcantara".

SONIA ALCÁNTARA-ANTOINE
CEO, BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

FY2023 IMPACT



Library Visits

Physical Visits

2,450,775

Virtual Branch

3,510,781



Collection

Physical Materials

1,192,832

Downloadable Items

212,043



Circulation:

Items Circulated

8,863,294

Adult Books

3,432,874

Children's Books

2,599,358

Downloads

1,751,9763

Media

1,079,086



Interlibrary Loan
Received

35,852

Lent

26,340



Accounts

Total Cardholders

374,514

New Cardholders

66,106

Student Accounts

125,760



Information Queries

566,181

Reference

152,026

General

414,155



Social Media Followers

Facebook

25,800

Twitter/X

4,601

Instagram

3,827

YouTube

2,002



Programs

6,556

Attendance

155,503



Internet Access

WiFi Sessions

577,232

Public Computer Sessions

405,057



Full-Time Equivalent Staff

461



STEM
ation

AC/DC Generator

A machine that generates electricity from mechanical energy. First developed in 1830s, electric generators provide most of the electricity we use today. They consist of a coil of copper wire that rotates between two magnets creating a magnetic field. This magnetic field travels through a wire coil and then towards the light bulb.

Try it Yourself!
Turn the hand crank on the generator and observe the light bulb. The light bulb will glow when the generator is turned.

FINANCIALS

Expenditures

Salaries & Wages

\$24,925,475

Employment Taxes & Benefits

\$7,536,595

Circulation Materials

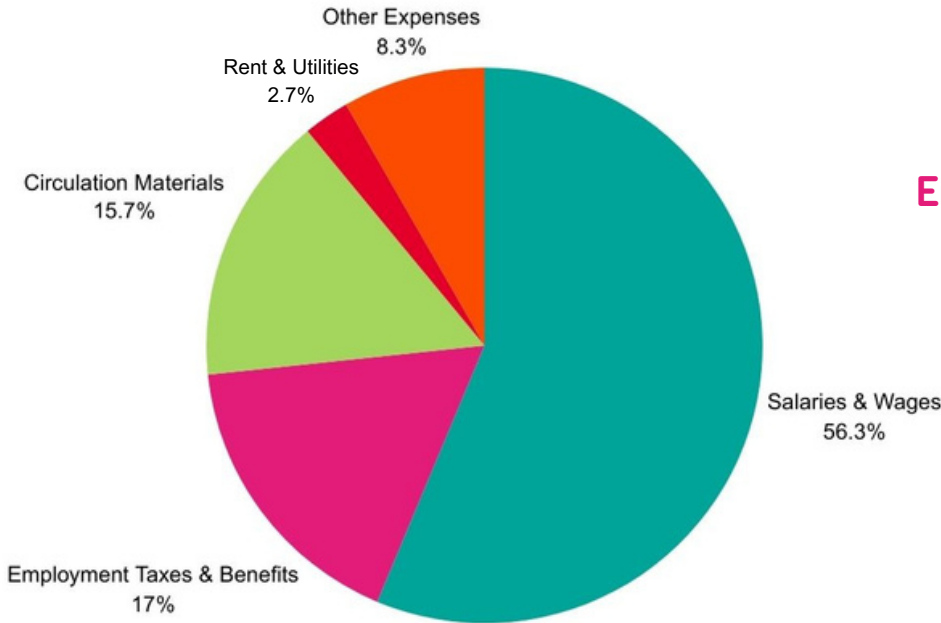
\$6,944,421

Rent & Utilities

\$1,187,812

Other Expenses

\$3,673,039



Revenue

General Fund

\$38,414,008

State Aid

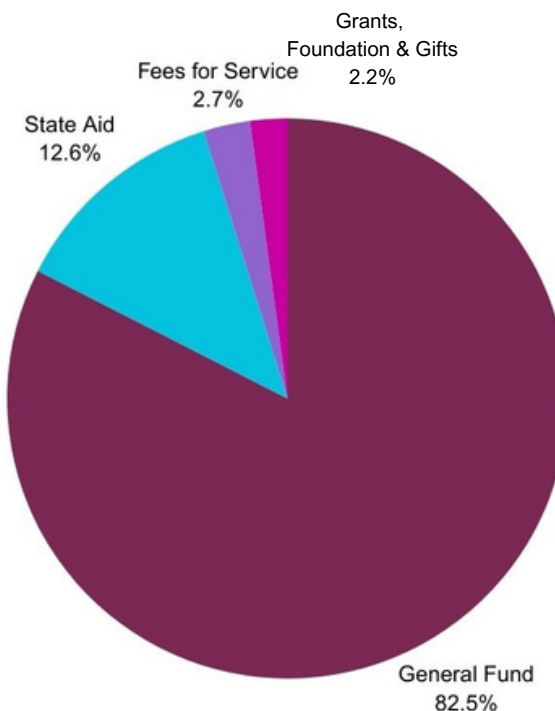
\$5,885,458

Fees for Service

\$1,251,089

Grants, Foundation & Gifts

\$996,361



TYPICAL DAY AT BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



BRANCH
VISITORS
6,982



WEBSITE
VISITORS
10,002



ITEMS
BORROWED
25,252



DIGITAL
DOWNLOADS
4,991



PUBLIC
COMPUTER USERS
1,154



WIFI
USERS
1,645



PROGRAM
ATTENDEES
443



STORYVILLE
VISITORS
214



CUSTOMER
QUERIES ANSWERED
1,613



NEW LIBRARY
CARDS ISSUED
188

In September 2022, the Board of Library Trustees approved the extension of Strategic Plan XI, Building Community for a Better Tomorrow, through fiscal year 2026. This was largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing the library system to pivot, delaying implementation of the operational plan to achieve goals and objectives.

FY2023 Highlights

By embracing new technologies, expanding our services and reaching out to the community in creative ways, the next pages feature some of the accomplishments that align with our strategic plan.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Fostering a Love of Reading and Discovery

- Battle of the Books
- Book Lovers Bash
- Library of Things (added camera kits, outdoor activities and updated early learning kits)
- Launched B Mobile app
- Virtual and in-person author appearances



Build Community

- Anti-racism discussions, story times and programs
- Celebrated library's 75th anniversary
- Dialogs on Race
- Teen Advisory Boards and programs



Enhance Economic Vitality

- Academia de emprendedores
- Community Shred Days
- Entrepreneur Academy for adults and teens
- Free headshots





Battle of the Books Participant

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
2025

Congratulations on participating in Battle of the Books 2025

Battle of the Books High School Participant

[Signature] *[Signature]*

Battle of the Books **High School**

Battle of the Books Branch Winner

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
2025

Congratulations on participating in Battle of the Books 2025

Battle of the Books High School Branch Winner

[Signature] *[Signature]*

Battle of the Books **High School**

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Enhance School Readiness and Student Achievement

- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Early Learning Activity Centers in branches
- Improved teen spaces in branches
- Library at Lunch
- Story times
- Storyville
- Vision To Learn

Cultivate 21st Century Literacies

- Health programs, wellness fairs and clinics
- Financial programs and tax workshops
- My Librarian appointments
- Small business counseling





1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
presented by
BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

EQUITABLE ACCESS

Connect Customers to Services

- Lawyers in the Library
- Library at Lunch
- New Americans initiatives
- Social Worker in the Library

Improve Customer Experiences

- \$7 million renovation of Catonsville Branch began
- Capital improvements including furniture, shelving and painting
- Community input meetings for future Woodlawn Branch renovation.
- New customer service philosophy and recognition program

Reduce Barriers to Access

- Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) signups
- Chromebook giveaways
- Long-term lending of Chromebooks and hotspots





LEADERS



Baltimore County Public Library Board of Library Trustees

Maureen Walsh David, President
Yara Cheikh, Vice President
Jane Eickhoff, Treasurer
Anne West, Secretary
Havaca Ganguly
Mike Netzer
Aaron Slater

Baltimore County Executive John A. Olszewski, Jr.

Baltimore County Council
District 1- Councilman Pat Young
District 2- Councilman Izzy Patoka
District 3- Councilman Wade Kach
District 4- Councilman Julian E. Jones, Jr.
District 5- Councilman David Marks
District 6- Councilman Mike Ertel
District 7- Councilman Todd K. Crandell



**BALTIMORE COUNTY
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RECOGNITION

Throughout FY2023, Baltimore County Public Library and its staff were honored and recognized for innovation and outstanding library service by several organizations.

Association of Builders and Contractors Award

Reisterstown Branch Renovation

Urban Libraries Council Innovations Award

Digital Equity and Virtual Services Department
Honorable Mention for ACP Adoption Events and Kits

**Communicator Award of Distinction
From the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts**

Media Creation Services Department

2023 Entrepreneurship and Libraries Pitch Competition

Karly Feinberg, Small Business Consultant for Adult and Community Engagement Department
Clean Start Pitch

Citizens for Maryland Libraries

Shirley Mason, Outstanding Employee Award

Maryland Library Association

Jake Ciarapica and Kevin Jayce, Margaret Carty Emerging Leader Award
Conni Strittmatter, Outstanding Member Award
Teonja Jung, Outstanding Support Staff Award

**The Daily Record Top 100 Women
Baltimore Business Journal Leader in Diversity
Public Library Association President-Elect**

Sonia Alcántara-Antoine



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