

Report TO THE Community



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MISSION, VISION, CORE VALUES

OUR MISSION

We provide equitable access to information, ideas, and experiences that spark imagination and expand possibilities for all.

OUR VISION

Montgomery County Public Libraries are an essential component of a just and equitable community, where all can thrive and grow.



OUR VALUES

Discovery

We are champions of curiosity, exploration, and growth. We support members of our community to expand their knowledge, learn new skills, spark ideas, and make connections.

Intellectual Freedom

We believe in free, open, and confidential access to ideas and information for all as a cornerstone of a thriving democratic society.

Equity

We believe all residents of Montgomery County deserve equal and inclusive access to all the library's resources, regardless of race, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, income, education, language, disability, and/or immigration status.

Respect

We strive to treat everyone with kindness, provide a safe and welcoming environment for all, and honor the knowledge and lived experience of all members of our community.

Service

We connect members of our community with the information they want and need, as efficiently as possible. We anticipate and adapt to the changing needs, desires, and expectations of community members.

Community

We are the backbone of our community, a place to connect with each other. We forge strong, reciprocal relationships with residents, community organizations, and other county departments in service of our shared goals.

FROM THE MCPL DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members—

I am happy to present the Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) 2022 Report to the Community. As you review the report, you will see that FY 2022 was one in which your library system resumed full services as the impact of the Covid pandemic lessened.

By July 2021, we had reopened all of our branches for in person service. Reopening our facilities was a critical step in recovery from the pandemic for our system, and residents were very excited to access all of our in-person resources and services again. Although our Holds To Go materials pick up service, our wide range of digital resources, and our phone services allowed us to provide library materials and assistance while the building were closed, the ability to use our public computers, browse the shelves, and find a quiet place to study or work was very important to our library loving community.

In January 2022, MCPL began distributing free Covid test kits and N95 masks. To date, we have distributed close to 2 million test kits and over 2,200,000 masks, and we know the positive impact this has had on our residents. The ability to pick up the kits and masks free from any of the library branches has, in a small way, eased the financial impact of the pandemic on our community.

In February, we restored our full operating hours, including Sunday as a full day of service at most branches. Many residents are not able to visit the library with their families during the week, and we have received appreciative comments about the availability of library services all day on Sundays.

In collaboration with the County's Office of Innovation, we completed and released a new Strategic Plan that will guide our work for the next three years—available on our website.

Other highlights of the year included the reopening of the Maggie Nightingale (Poolesville) and Germantown libraries, the renaming of the library in Silver Spring as the Brigadier Charles E. McGee Library in honor of this outstanding County resident, the closure of the Potomac branch for its long needed refresh, a very successful Summer Reading Challenge and the migration to a new Integrated Library System.

We look forward to seeing what we will accomplish in FY2023. Thank you for your support of Montgomery County Public Libraries.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Anita Vassallo".

Anita Vassallo

Director

Montgomery County Library Board

Ms. Sonja Roberts
Chair

Ms. Laura Briskin-Limehouse
Vice Chair

Ms. Sana Ahmed Wilder
Ms. Andrea Christman

Dr. William Duval

Ms. Holly Fiery

Ms. Janice Levine

Mr. Timothy Lighter

Ms. Grace Manubay

Ms. Kathryn Miller

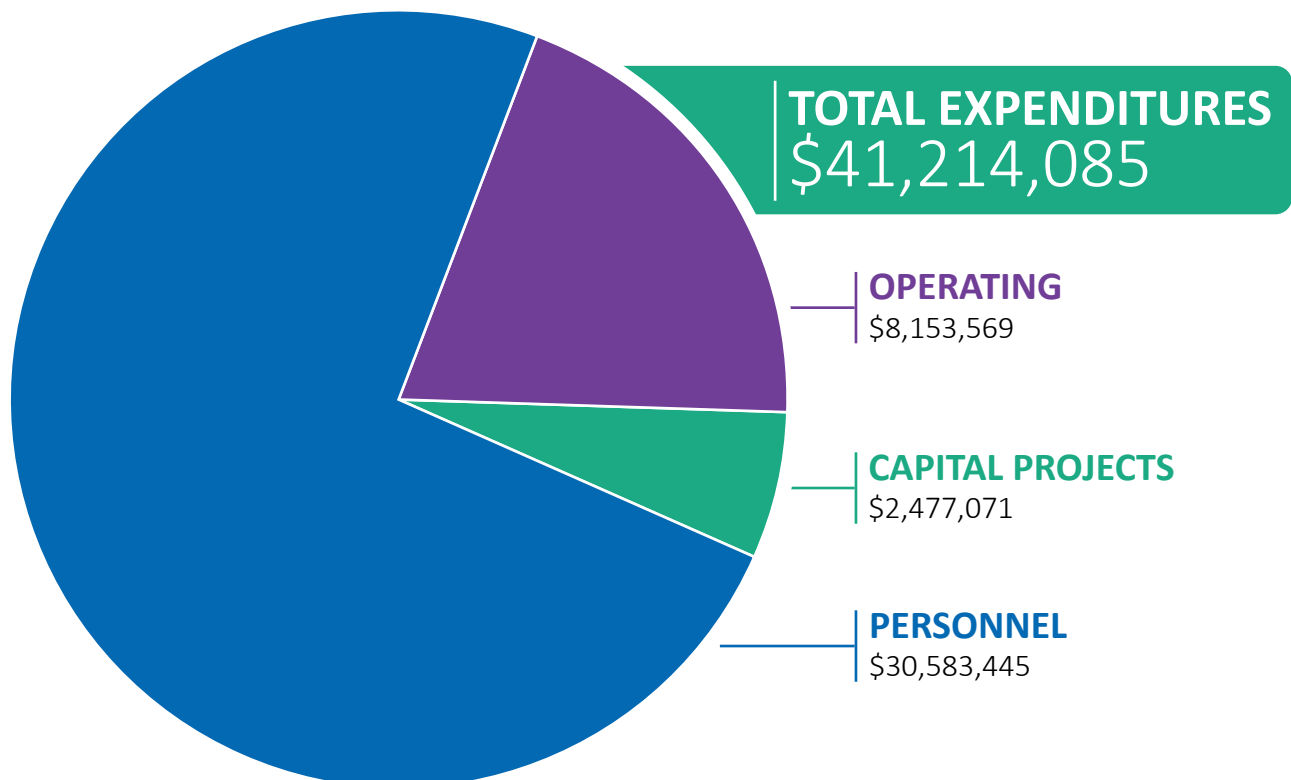
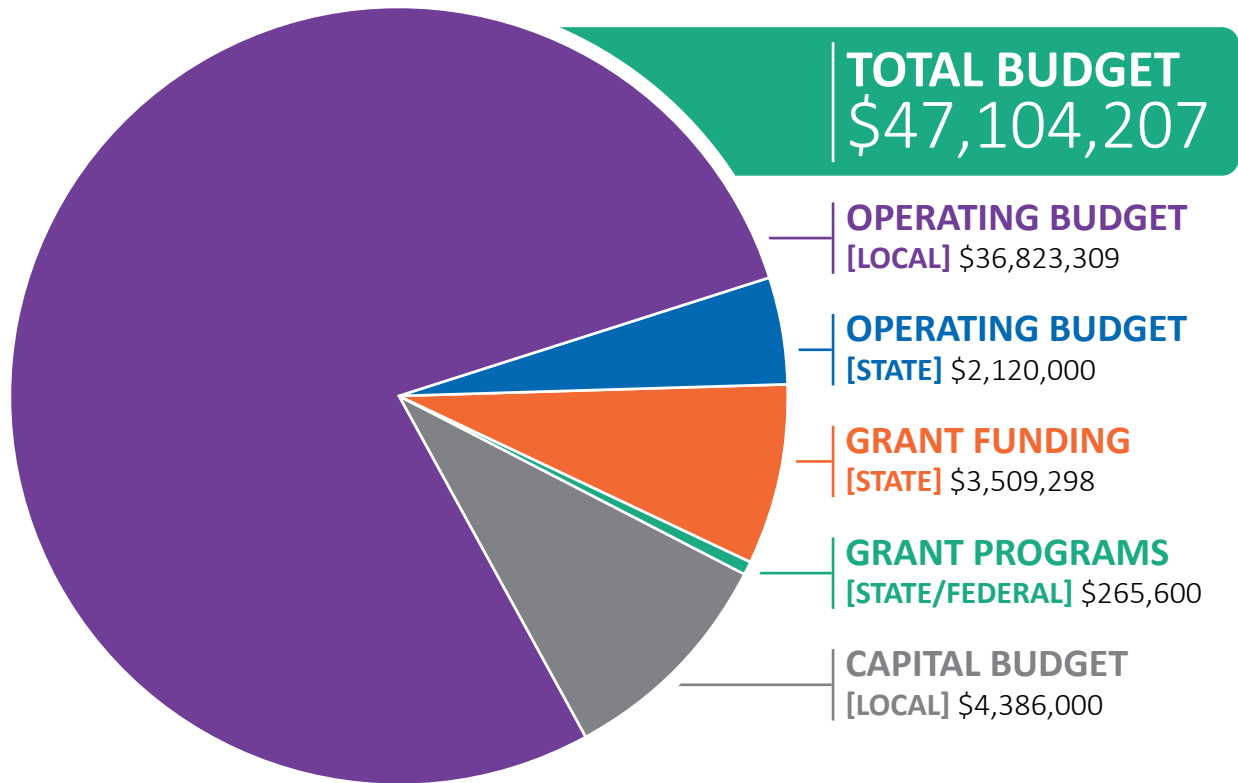
Mr. James Montgomery

Mr. Vikram Pant

Ms. Marilyn Schiff

Ms. Suzette Spencer

FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET



MCPL BY THE NUMBERS



22 LIBRARY BRANCHES
Including the Correctional Facility Library

23,403 hours



Meeting Rooms Use



184,560
Active Users



2,335,523

Circulation and in-house use by customers of physical materials

607,476

In-house use of physical materials

743,044

Adult materials circulation

1,592,479

Children and Teens materials circulation



364,501

Questions Answered



2,822
Programs

73,677

Program Attendees

1,984,179



Physical Collection Inventory



2,539,786
Library Visits

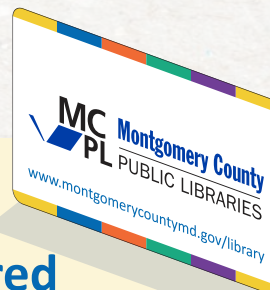


927,522
eBook/eAudiobook
Collection Inventory

2,050,400
eBook/eAudiobook
Circulation

33,725

Newly-Registered
Digital Cards Issued



38,140
Interlibrary
Loans Received



8,193
Interlibrary
Loans Fulfilled



1,893
Virtual programs

39,865
Virtual program attendees



6,011
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

FY22 HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAMMING



Summer Reading Challenge!

Summer Reading Challenge! is MCPL's annual signature system-wide event for children, teens, and families. It offers kids and teens a chance to fill their summer with great books and fun activities. Participants work together collaboratively towards community-wide goals in support of the theme.

This summer, in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and the Washington Nationals, MCPL registered 12,958 children and teens ages 0–17, who participated, and enthusiastically embraced the challenge to Save the Chesapeake Bay. As a result of participants completing missions:

- FOLMC supported the CBF in planting 500 trees along the waterways of the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- FOLMC and the CBF were able to plant 250,000 oysters into the Bay
- Healthy wildlife habitats throughout the Watershed were restored

Participants went home with a complementary book, and participated in almost 200 programs to complete the missions. Singers, magicians, storytellers, crafters, dancers, scientists, teachers and more were welcomed to lead in a wave of water-centered activities, from backyard puddles to streams, the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic Ocean—and don't forget the creatures who live in bodies of water—participants learned lots about them, too!

MCPL is grateful to The Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, MD and the CBF for their support of this partnership, and is very pleased that our young readers have made a tangible, positive impact on the local environment through their reading efforts.

We loved that this year, the mission is all about the bay and how to help keep it clean and healthy. What a fantastic idea!



FY22 HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAMMING

Grandreaders

The one-on-one program pairs a Grandreader volunteer with a child from kindergarten to third grade to practice reading aloud.

MCPL welcomed back the Grandreaders Program at several branches this summer. In partnership with the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA), Heyman Interages Center, MCPL offered rising kindergartners through 3rd grade the opportunity to select books of interest and be paired one-on-one with older adults who are trained volunteers. The volunteers encourage and support the children as they read.

This program is designed to improve students' ability to read more fluently and with better comprehension and to keep their reading skills sharp during the summer.



By bringing together the generations through the love of reading, we hope both the children and volunteers build connections and discover that they have a lot to give each other as well.

RACHEL LANMAN
PROGRAM COORDINATOR, JCA

Outdoor Storytime

In FY22, MCPL held an array of storytimes for children—Baby, Toddler/Preschool, Family, Bilingual, and Outdoor. MCPL storytimes are 25–30 minute programs filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination.

During the pandemic, MCPL moved all in person programs to virtual programs. As the COVID situation improved in the County, MCPL implemented outdoor programming which included storytimes. During FY22, eleven branches held 294 outdoor storytimes with 15,713 attendees.



FY22 HIGHLIGHTS

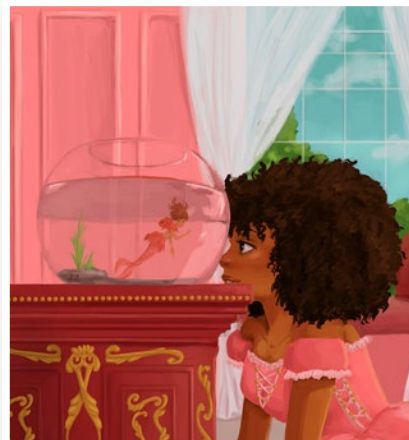
PROGRAMMING

MoComCon

MCPL hosted its sixth free comic convention, MoComCon, on January 15, 2022. All MoComCon 2022 events were held virtually due to the increased spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant.

Although the number of attendees was low due to the short notice of moving from a hybrid event to an all-virtual event, it did not stem the enthusiasm of the attendees who enjoyed superhero storytime, craft demos, toy design, gamer trivia, board games: the creative process, and the annual art contest slideshow.

The comic convention is an all-ages event celebrating all things comics, graphic novels, and fandoms.



Workforce and Business Development

Every month in FY22, MCPL offered free online workshops and one-on-one sessions geared toward assisting job seekers and entrepreneurs. Programs offered included:

- **H.I.R.E. (Helping Individuals Reach Employment) Sessions—** Confidential one-on-one with a career counselor for advice and assistance with job searching
- **Job Search Strategies (in a Pandemic)—** Best practices for conducting a job search in the current (pandemic) job market
- **How to Apply for Jobs with Montgomery County Government—** Everything you need to know about applying for jobs with Montgomery County Government
- **How to Prepare for your Virtual Job Interview—** Learn how to differentiate yourself from other candidates, be Zoom ready, package your experience, tell your story, be ready for challenging questions and feel more confident in your next interview
- **LinkedIn Boot Camp (Part I / Part II)—** Two-session/two-day workshop focuses on both the mechanics and strategy of using LinkedIn as a tool to conduct a successful job search
- **Introduction to Entrepreneurship—** The fundamentals of building a business and help to determine if you're really ready to become a small business owner

This is a wonderful service to the community... please continue.

I think this interviewing workshop was very helpful. I appreciate this one so much!

FY22 HIGHLIGHTS

RESOURCES & SERVICES



New Catalog Launch

Aspen Discovery, a brand-new library catalog providing customers with a new suite of features and a better online experience, was launched by MCPL in October 2021. With Aspen Discovery, customers are able to:

- Access the public catalog via any mobile device
- Search the E-book and print collection simultaneously
- Browse all formats (print, e-book, audio book etc.) of a title within one search result
- Receive suggestions for other related titles to check out while waiting for a hold to be filled
- Review current checkouts, renew materials, and place holds online for physical and electronic materials
- Manage their own privacy settings for reading and search history
- View and pay fees online
- Save search alerts for arrival of new materials
- Select and change notification preferences (text, email)
- Add star ratings to titles
- Make purchase suggestions online
- Create, manage and share lists of favorite books
- Seamless integration of news, events and other communication

Sunday Service Hours

On February 27, 2022, MCPL expanded hours of branch service to include Sundays. All branches with the exception of Maggie Nightingale and Noyes libraries have 10 AM to 6 PM Sunday hours of operation. This expansion of hours increased residents' access to the resources and services provided by MCPL.

“Thank you! The library is my happy place!”

MARIAN L.

FY22 HIGHLIGHTS

FACILITIES

Germantown Library Refresh

The Germantown Library reopened with a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration in October 2021. The refresh for the library, under the Library Refurbishment Level-of-Effort initiative in the County's Capital Improvements Program, included:

- New ergonomic sit-stand circulation and information desks
- Renovation of the public restrooms
- New paint, carpet and other floor finishes
- New furniture throughout most of the library
- Upgraded lighting with improved energy efficient and brighter LED lamps
- Drinking fountain with bottle filling station
- New shelving in teen area
- New interior signage and exterior building name sign
- Sound attenuation acoustic panels in the rotunda
- New VOIP phone system
- And ADA accessibility upgrades throughout



FY22 HIGHLIGHTS

FACILITIES

Silver Spring Library Formally Renamed for Brigadier General Charles E. McGee

County Executive Marc Elrich, Council President Gabe Albornoz, and Councilmember Will Jawando joined family members of the late Brigadier General Charles E. McGee on June 18, 2022, in an official ceremony to rename the Silver Spring Library the “Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library.”

Brig. Gen. McGee served as a fighter pilot and member of the 332nd Fighter Squadron, famously known as the “Tuskegee Airmen,” an all-Black unit in World War II. He later flew combat missions in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Brig. Gen. McGee, a County resident, fought against racism and for equality. He served as a role model both locally and nationally.

The renaming ceremony followed an executive order signing by County Executive Elrich on February 28, 2022. The signing event honored the life and achievements of Brig. Gen. McGee, who passed away at age 102 in January 2022.



FY22 HIGHLIGHTS

FACILITIES

Reopening Refreshed Maggie Nightingale Library

The Maggie Nightingale Library, located in Poolesville, reopened on May 21, 2022, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration. The refresh of the library included:

- The replacement of all flooring
- New shelving in select areas
- A new service desk
- Painting throughout
- Additional lounge seating
- Replacement of the entry doors
- Work to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act



Refresh of Potomac Library

The Potomac Library closed on May 22, 2022, to undergo interior improvements under award-winning Library Refurbishment initiative. The project includes:

- Replacement of flooring
- New shelving
- A new service desk
- Painting
- New furniture
- A redesigned children's area
- Work will also be performed to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The refresh project is scheduled to take approximately eight to ten months.

SALUTING MCPL STAFF

Montgomery County Public Libraries has awesome staff. Through all of the challenges of FY22, they worked harder to provide materials, services, programs, and information to community members in person, by phone and virtually. Montgomery County Public Libraries is the heart of the community – MCPL staff keeps it beating.



“Our library system and employees have been an invaluable asset to our COVID response and recovery efforts over the last two years. They have successfully adjusted their operations, schedules, and how they serve the community. Most recently, their efforts to help us distribute take home rapid tests and N95 masks was a demonstration of their effectiveness and dedication to our residents.

MARC ELRICH
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Serving the community



ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

Mr. Marc Elrich
County Executive

Mr. Gabe Albornoz
President,
County Council, At-Large

Mr. Andrew Friedson
County Council, District 1

Mr. Evan Glass
Vice President,
County Council, At-Large

Mr. Tom Hucker
County Council, District 5

Mr. Will Jawando
County Council, At-Large

Mr. Sidney Katz
County Council, District 3

Ms. Nancy Navarro
County Council, District 4

Mr. Craig Rice
County Council, District 2

Mr. Hans Riemer
County Council, At-Large



www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library