



# Report to the Community

**MC** **Montgomery County**  
**PL** **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

“Our libraries remain one of Montgomery County’s most trusted public institutions.”



## Message From the County Executive

### Celebrating MCPL’s lasting impact on our community

Dear Montgomery County Friends,

It is my pleasure to present the fiscal year 2025 (FY2025) Annual Report for Montgomery County Public Libraries. This year, MCPL remained one of our County’s most trusted public institutions, welcoming millions of visitors, expanding access to information, and connecting people across neighborhoods, languages, and generations.

In July, the “Color Our World” Summer Reading Challenge engaged more than 20,000 participants in over 350 programs celebrating creativity and the arts. In November, we welcomed new leadership with the arrival of Director Darcell Graham, who brings a strong vision for equity, innovation, and community engagement.

In January, MCPL launched career services to support residents—including federal employees impacted by workforce cuts—with resume-writing workshops, interview coaching, LinkedIn profile reviews, and free professional headshot sessions. This timely initiative helped residents navigate a challenging moment with confidence and dignity, demonstrating how our libraries meet the community where they are.

And in April, during National Library Week, I was proud to proclaim April 8 as “National Library Workers Day” in Montgomery County, honoring the library staff whose dedication powers this incredible system.

Across FY2025, MCPL partnered with schools, cultural organizations, and County agencies to deliver more than 12,000 programs and support nearly 3.7 million visits, showing how vital public libraries remain to the life and strength of our County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Elrich'.

**Marc Elrich**

**Montgomery County Executive**



“Libraries are more than places to find information—they are places to find belonging.”



## Message From the Director

### Reflecting on a year of growth, creativity, and connection

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on my first year as Director, I am filled with gratitude and pride. Fiscal year 2025 (FY2025) was a year of curiosity, discovery, and connection, and it has been an honor to join this community and witness the impact of our libraries every day.

We began FY2025 with our “Color Our World” Summer Reading Challenge, which brought more than 20,000 children, teens, and adults together through books, arts, and community programs. From there, the momentum only grew—welcoming record visitors, launching innovative services, and expanding collaborations with cultural institutions, schools, local nonprofits, and county agencies.

During National Library Week, I was extremely proud to see our County Executive proclaim April 8 as “National Library Workers Day” in Montgomery County. It was a meaningful tribute to our incredible staff whose creativity and commitment are the heart of MCPL. Their dedication ensures our libraries are spaces where learning thrives, and everyone feels a sense of belonging.

As we look ahead to our 75th anniversary of MCPL in 2026 and the 250th anniversary of our County, I am truly excited about the future we are creating together. Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we write the next chapter of MCPL’s story—one rooted in equity, discovery, service, and community.

With gratitude,

**Darcell Graham**

**Director**

Montgomery County Public Libraries



# MCPL Year in Review: FY25 at a Glance

Fiscal Year 2025 was a year of creativity, connection, and growth for Montgomery County Public Libraries. The year brought new leadership, innovative programs that sparked curiosity and collaboration, and record community engagement. Throughout it all, MCPL continued to inspire learning and bring people together across Montgomery County.

## Preschool Play & Learn Expansion

Expanded this popular early learning program from Twinbrook to Marilyn J. Praisner, Germantown and Long Branch libraries, reaching more than 225 children and caregivers. Designed to spark curiosity and support school readiness, the program combines stories, songs and play-based learning in an interactive, welcoming setting.

## Poetry & Play with Robert Karimi

Part of our Contemporary Conversations series at Wheaton Library, this dynamic event blended poetry, storytelling and live Afro-Cuban jazz, drawing 85 attendees. It was co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, along with several other county equity offices and nonprofits.

## New Director Darcell Graham

MCPL welcomed new Director Darcell Graham, ushering in a chapter of equity, innovation and community engagement. Under her leadership, the library is focused on meeting residents where they are, expanding access to resources and reimagining MCPL as a dynamic hub for learning, creativity and connection.



2024  
JULY

2024  
AUG

2024  
SEPT

2024  
OCT

2024  
NOV

2024  
DEC

## Just for the Record: Vinyl Day

The Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library welcomed more than 3,500 visitors and 700 workshop participants for Vinyl Day, a celebration of music and culture featuring keynote speaker DJ Johnny Juice, along with partners FOLMC, Mid-Atlantic Scratch League, Levine Music, Urban One and C2C.

## Maryland STEM Festival

In partnership with the Maryland STEM Festival, MCPL sparked curiosity and hands-on learning through 35 programs engaging 835 participants, including 626 youth, across the county.

## Winter Reading Challenge

Engaged more than 2,500 participants—a 69 percent increase—with a countywide kickoff pep rally at the Wheaton Library and Recreation Center that drew more than 400 attendees.







### MoComCon

Expanded to two days across two locations—the Germantown Library and BlackRock Center for the Arts—MoComCon, MCPL’s annual pop culture convention, draws fans from across Maryland. This year’s event welcomed more than 4,000 attendees for cosplay parades, workshops and family fun celebrating creativity and community.

### Damascus Library Renovation

Damascus Library closed to begin a full modernization that will create a brighter, more accessible and technology-forward space for the community. The renovation marks a major investment in expanding access, improving resources and enhancing the customer experience for residents of all ages.

### National Library Week

Honored staff as the county executive proclaimed April 8 “National Library Workers Day” in Montgomery County, recognizing their creativity, dedication and impact on the community.

### Stories to Broaden Understanding

Hosted virtual Middle Eastern American author talks in partnership with the Middle Eastern American Advisory Group, Office of Community Partnerships, and the Baltimore–Luxor–Alexandria Sister City Committee, engaging 90 participants.

2025  
JAN

2025  
FEB

2025  
MAR

2025  
APR

2025  
MAY

2025  
JUNE

### Library Lovers Month with FOLMC

Celebrated longtime partners Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC), whose support funds community programs, staff development, technology and equipment across the system. The month kicked off with a lively Ms. Niki concert at Olney Library, bringing families together through music and fun.



### Summer Reading: “Color Our World”

More than 20,000 participants explored self-expression through the arts in more than 350 programs, featuring new partners such as Levine Music, Olney Theatre Center, the Arts and Humanities Council and Bruster’s Ice Cream, along with returning partners FOLMC and the Washington Nationals. Artie the Blue Crab stole the show!







## Breaking Barriers: Building an Equitable Future

Equity drives everything we do at MCPL. Our libraries remove barriers to opportunity, helping residents access the resources they need to thrive. This year, MCPL expanded workforce programs supporting those facing uncertainty, especially federal employees affected by workforce cuts—offering résumé clinics, career coaching and headshots to help residents move forward with confidence.



## A Second Chance, A First Diploma

MCPL's Career Online High School gives adults a second chance to earn an accredited high school diploma online—at no cost—while building career skills for the workforce. Since its launch, dozens of county residents have graduated and advanced to college or new careers.

Among them is Eneshal Galloway-Miller, who overcame homelessness to earn her diploma with support from MCPL mentors. Today, she's a health worker giving back to her community—proof that libraries change lives.

**Watch her story:**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdtDSvXx6U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdtDSvXx6U)



“  
Much appreciation to MCPL for offering this resource for those of us exploring this fork in the road!



**17,093**

Teen Volunteer Hours



**496**

Workforce Programs



**8,186**

Workforce Program  
Attendees

## Supporting Residents Through Career Transitions

When federal workforce cuts disrupted Montgomery County early this year, MCPL stepped in to help. Libraries became trusted spaces for professional guidance, practical tools and hope. MCPL hosted programs to help federal employees transition to the private sector, including Résumé Writing for Federal Employees in Transition led by Kathryn Troutman, CEO of The Résumé Place. Additional offerings included job search workshops, mock interviews, LinkedIn profile reviews and a free headshot clinic at Rockville Memorial Library—giving job seekers the confidence to move forward.

MCPL's priority is clear: to stand by our community during times of uncertainty—because the library doors are always open to all.

### Program Highlights

- Teen Mental Health Awareness Kits—Distributed systemwide to support teens during Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Social Security Programs—Partnered with SSA to help residents access benefits and services.
- Tax-Aide Program—Offered free tax preparation for residents of all ages.

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I really enjoyed Kathryn's presentation! It had very tangible, useful tips. I will definitely visit her website—and borrow her book from the library as well.







# DISCOVERY

## Igniting Curiosity: Inspiring Discovery at Every Age

Discovery is at the heart of MCPL. Every day, our libraries help residents learn new skills, spark ideas and build connections. Thousands of programs invite people of all ages to explore something new—early literacy, art, fandom and civic dialogue. By creating space for curiosity and creativity, MCPL connects neighbors to new worlds of learning—and to each other.

## Stories for Every Child

### In partnership with ReadAbility

Launched in September 2024, MCPL's ReadAbility pilot brings multisensory storytelling to neurodivergent children and their families, making reading more engaging, inclusive and fun. Since its debut, 175 children and caregivers have enjoyed books paired with tactile props, music and movement. Supported by local volunteers and student clubs, the program fosters inclusive learning and inspires young readers. After its success, MCPL plans to expand ReadAbility to additional branches next year.



4,678,122

Children's Circulation



2,766,523

Adult Circulation







## When Beloved Books Come to Life at the Library

More than 250 excited young readers—some traveling from as far as Loudoun County—packed Gaithersburg Library this fall for a magical afternoon with the creators of the bestselling Dork Diaries series. Children got a behind-the-scenes look at the authors’ creative process, asked questions about their newest book and got “Dorkafied” with themed portraits and photo ops. Laughter and excitement filled the branch as kids watched their favorite fictional world spring to life. For many, it was their first author meet—and a spark to become storytellers themselves.

“The children loved the stories—and the sensory props that came with them.

### Program Highlights

- Preschool Play & Learn Expansion—Expanded to more branches, helping 225 children build early skills through play.
- Hatchlings Relaunch—Early literacy workshop engaging 550 infants and caregivers through music, movement and stories.
- Active Aging Week—Partnered with county agencies to connect 500 older adults through health and wellness events.





## Innovating for Impact: Responsive Services That Evolve

Service is at the core of MCPL. In FY25, 3.68 million people visited and borrowed more than 7.4 million items. To meet growing demand, MCPL expanded digital access, refreshed in-branch systems and launched projects to build the library of the future—offering residents convenience, flexibility and connection in every interaction.



**67,038**

Digital cards issued



**1,285,214**

eBook Checkouts



**3,971,542**

Digital Collection Inventory



**314,268**

eVideo plays

**DOWNLOAD THE  
Montgomery County  
Public Libraries App!**

iOS Google Play

MCPL Montgomery County  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

## A Library That Moves With You

Launched in April 2025, the new MCPL mobile app makes it easier than ever to use the library. Residents can browse the catalog, place holds, manage accounts, register for events and access eBooks and audiobooks—all in one place. With thousands of downloads and glowing reviews, the app is transforming how residents connect with the library—anytime, anywhere.





22

Library Branches



44,115

Interlibrary Loans Received



14,519

Interlibrary Loans Fulfilled



7,444,645

Total Circulation



1,624,267

Physical Collection Inventory



446,538

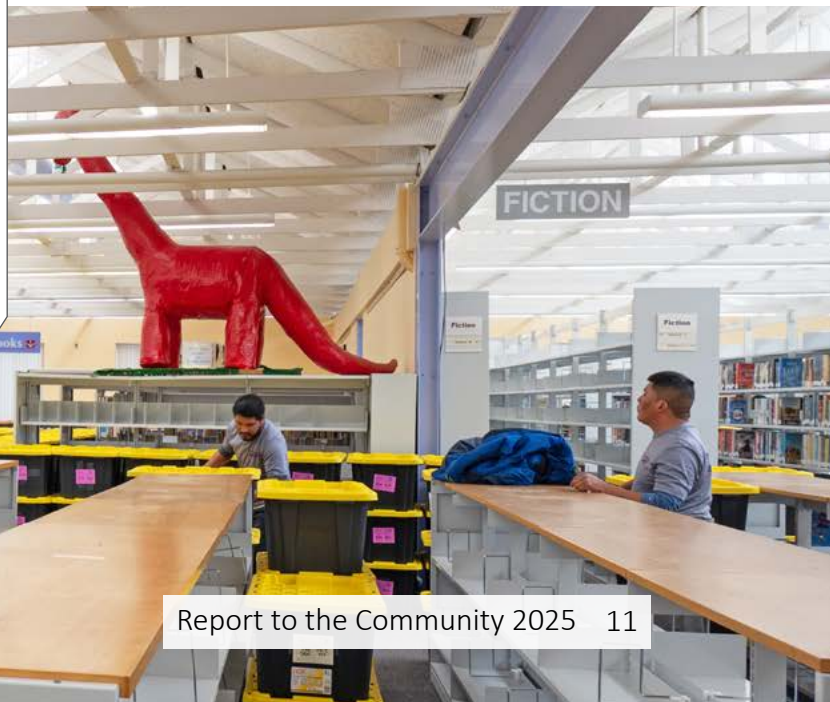
Magazines

## Building a Library for the Future

In January, MCPL began the long-anticipated renovation of Damascus Library, temporarily closing the branch to launch a full modernization. The project will transform the building into a flexible, collaborative and technology-rich community hub with upgraded infrastructure, expanded children's and teen areas, refreshed interiors and new study and meeting spaces. When Damascus Library reopens in 2026, it will serve as a cornerstone for learning, creativity and connection—designed to meet the evolving needs of Montgomery County residents for decades to come.

## Program Highlights

- Print System Refresh Campaign—Introduced new mobile and remote printing tools for easier in-branch access.
- Meeting Room Reservations—Expanded availability and streamlined scheduling for community use.
- Senior Planet Digital Skills Series—Offered technology training to help older adults build confidence and stay connected.





# COMMUNITY



**3,680,840**  
Library Visits



**123,075**  
Meeting Room Use



**12,032**  
Programs

**329,692**  
Program Attendees

## A Place to Connect

Community is at the heart of MCPL. In FY25, libraries partnered with cultural institutions, nonprofits and county agencies to host events that celebrated Montgomery County's diversity, creativity and curiosity. From storytimes to STEM festivals and arts workshops, these collaborations brought neighbors together and strengthened MCPL's role as a trusted community hub.

## Exploring Identity Together

**In partnership with Sandy Spring Museum, Montgomery Writers Underground, and The Olive Branch Church**

This year, MCPL participated in the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read, featuring *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi—a novel exploring Black history, identity and legacy. With our partners, MCPL hosted 11 Big Read programs, including book discussions, writing workshops and a documentary screening and talkback with filmmaker Saaret E. Yoseph. More than 100 free copies of *Homegoing* were distributed in English and Spanish, sparking countywide conversations on race, heritage and belonging.







## Bringing the Community Together on the FLASH Corridor

This fall, MCPL partnered with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to bring their eye-catching Monster Truck bus to Twinbrook Library—a vibrant celebration of community connection and cross-county collaboration.

The event highlighted MCDOT’s FLASH bus service along the Veirs Mill Corridor while transforming the massive vehicle into a family-friendly Halloween haunted house.

Families from across the area toured the decorated bus, joined bilingual storytimes hosted by MCPL librarians, and enjoyed festive activities that made public transit and libraries feel fun and accessible.

The event drew strong turnout and enthusiastic feedback, and MCPL and MCDOT plan to expand the celebration to Germantown next year.



### Program Highlights

- Read Across America—Intergenerational reading event with JCA Heyman Interages Center and County Executive Elrich.
- Animation, Cartooning and Graphic Novel Workshops—More than 15 programs led by artist Leila Cabib.
- One Maryland One Book—Statewide shared reading experience featuring *What Storm, What Thunder*, hosted across MCPL branches.

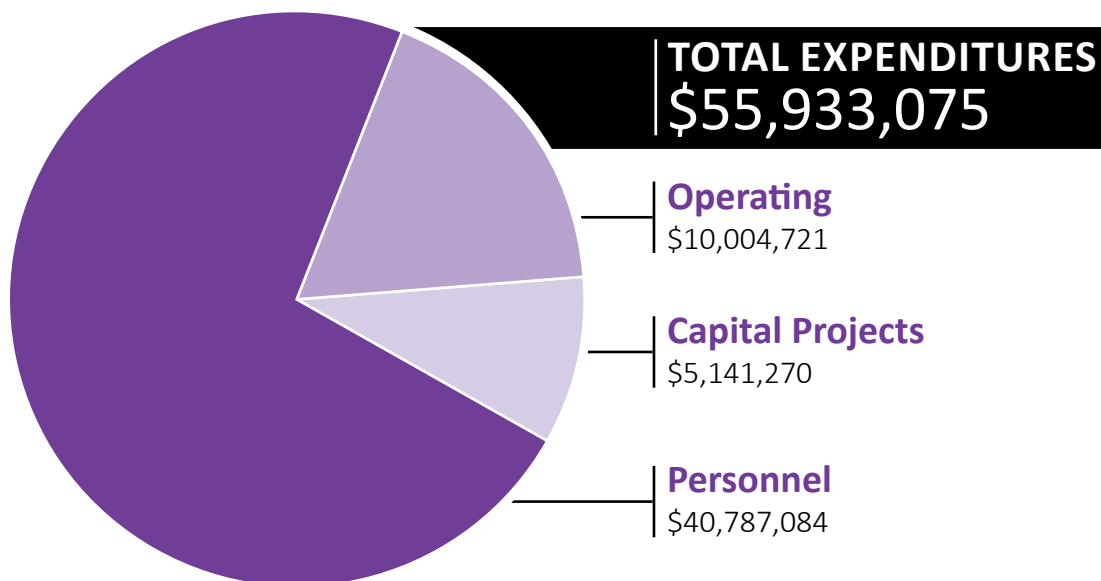
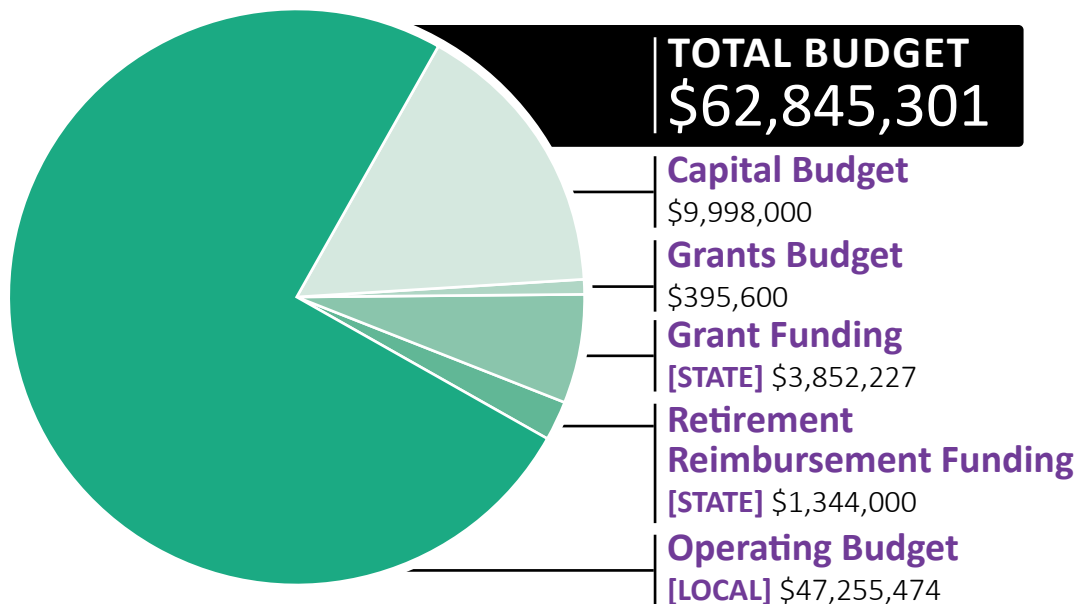


# FINANCIALS

## Investing in Access, Innovation, and Community

MCPL's FY25 budget supported the work of 22 branches and systemwide services reaching more than one million residents. County and state funding enabled us to expand programs, refresh collections, upgrade technology and maintain welcoming facilities, while targeted grants and partnerships helped pilot innovative new initiatives.

Every dollar invested in MCPL helps deliver free access to learning, literacy, and opportunity—building a stronger Montgomery County for all.











## Library Board Members

Tim Lighter,  
Chair

Grace Manubay,  
Vice Chair

Lindsay Bouie

Wilma Brier

Abby Clouse-Radigan

Melanye Johnson

Janice Levine

Kavita Mohan

James Montgomery

Marilyn Schiff

Steve Solomon

Suzette Spencer

Holly Van Puymbroeck

Candice Will

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## County Councilmembers

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Evan Glass

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Laurie-Anne Sayles

