

CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

ENGAGE. INSPIRE. EQUIP.

About Us

Chelsea District Library (CDL) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to **Engage, Inspire, and Equip** through evolving services and resources. CDL currently serves 16,126 residents in the Chelsea library district—City of Chelsea, Lyndon and Sylvan Townships, and the portions of Lima and Dexter Townships outside the Dexter School District.

CDL is an access point for the internet and information including: books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, e-books, streaming content, subscription databases, toys & tools in the CDL Garage, and the Ingenuity Engine (a creative makerspace). As a community gathering place, Chelsea District Library strives to present timely, interesting, and high-quality programs and events to educate, entertain, and enrich the Chelsea community, schools, and stakeholders.

Chelsea District Library operates with the following core values:

- Equal, uncensored access
- High quality resources
- A safe, secure environment for all library visitors
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Fiscal integrity and accountability
- Free exchange of ideas
- Inclusion and respect
- High ethical and professional standards
- Superior customer service

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Word From Our Director



2024 was a banner year for the Chelsea District Library. The bond used to construct our facility was paid off, thus decreasing taxes collected from taxpayers going forward. The library celebrated the 25th anniversary of becoming a library district and the 75th anniversary of our Friends of CDL group.



LORI CORYELL

In 2024, we continued to regain ground lost to COVID-19. Patrons checked out 218,214 physical items and 60,360 digital items. 126,180 people visited our physical location (an increase of 2.4% from 2023), and 179,824 visitors checked in with us via our website—more than 30,000 more than the previous year. While patrons continue to visit us in person and check out physical items, the trend towards more virtual library experiences is evident.

Artificial intelligence and its impact on library services and operations continue to dominate discussions on the future of the public library. Our head of technology implemented strategies throughout 2024 to keep the board and staff informed on the subject and began developing a plan to include AI in staff and public programming.



Mobee, our library outreach vehicle, completed its first full year of service in 2024. Mobee expands access to the library's materials, staff, technology, and services. Visitors use it similarly to a trip to the CDL building. During a stop, visitors may browse the collection, check out items, get a library card, access the internet, and get answers to questions. Mobee also increases the library's visibility throughout its 110-square mile service area. Throughout the year, we adapted Mobee's operations based on past experience and community need. In addition to its regular monthly stops throughout the library community, in 2024, Mobee attended trunk-or-treat programs (totaling more than 300 costumed visitors), participated in parades, set up pop-up events at local sporting events, and was featured at the annual Detroit Book Festival where it engaged with almost 500 visitors. To protect this precious asset, in 2024 we began building a garage to house it year round. The garage will be completed in 2025.

2024–28 Strategic Plan

2024 was the first year of our new 2024–28 strategic plan, designed to ensure that the qualities that have made the library so valuable to the community remain viable for years to come. This new strategic plan focuses on sustainability. The word “sustainability” often conjures visions of compostable paper products or the three-arrow recycling triangle. While environmental sustainability is indeed one component of how CDL views the topic of sustainability, it also includes the investments and priorities needed over the next five years to sustain CDL’s success into the next 25 years and beyond. The plan is organized into three initiatives: services, operations, and finances.



Initiative 1: Reinforce Our Role as Community Leader and Convener

- 1.1 Provide a welcoming place for all.
- 1.2 Elevate the Library as a location for community building
- 1.3 Be the go-to resource in the district for information access and validity.
- 1.4 Get the word out about the great things happening at CDL!

Initiative 2: Position Library Operations for Long-Term Success

- 2.1 Plan for staff succession, and cultivate future library leaders.
- 2.2 Green the library.
- 2.3 Improve data used to evaluate library services and communicate value.

Initiative 3: Set the Table for Future Revenues

- 3.1 Prepare a strategy for the 2029 millage renewal.
- 3.2 Explore the viability of fundraising to expand Library space.



Strategic Plan Progress

- More than 19,000 people of all ages attended library programming throughout the year.
- Our Authors in Chelsea program featured celebrated authors Saadia Faruqi, Beth Vrabel, and K.A. Holt.
- Baseball legend Jim Abbott visited the library community in conjunction with *The Perfect Shot* exhibition. Abbott spent the day in Chelsea talking with students at Chelsea High School and the general public in an evening event.
- The Midwest Literary Walk featured memoirist & New Yorker Cartoonist Roz Chast, American Book Award author and poet Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, and 2023 Michigan Notable Book Award author Wade Rouse (Viola Shipman).
- The library hosted performing artists for CDL Song Fest with Gary Louris of The Jayhawks, and our Music in the Air program welcomed international brother and sister pianists Maddalena and Jacopo Giacomuzzi.



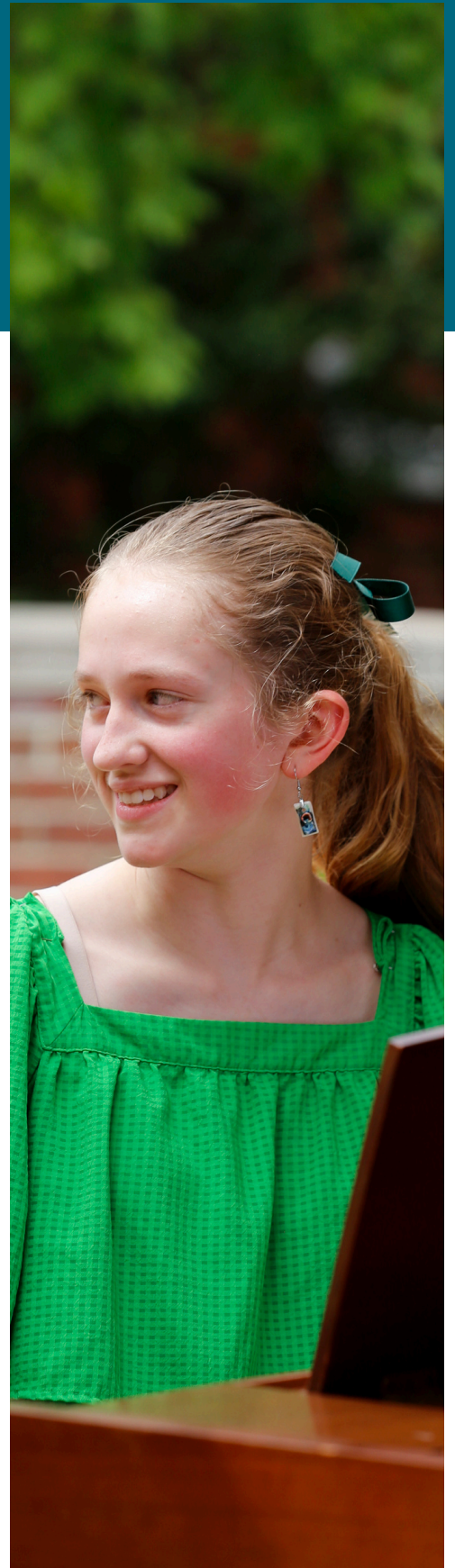
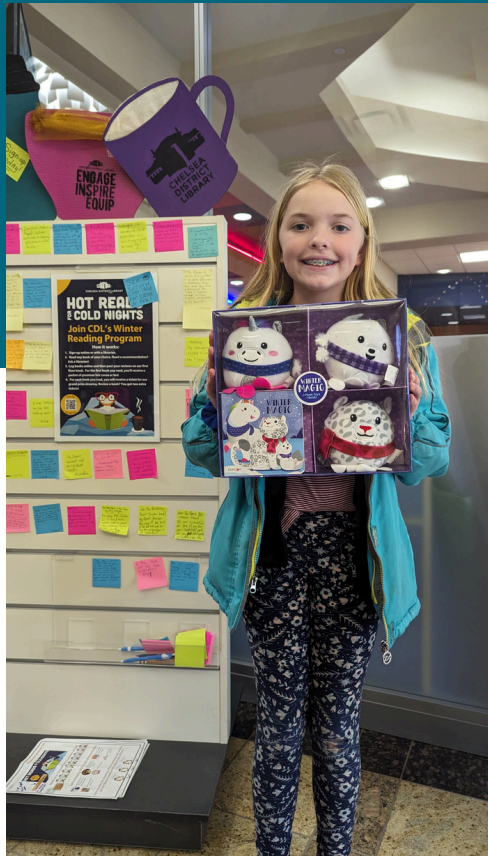
Our website presence was reenvisioned and replaced. This process resulted in an attractive, ADA-compliant, and much more user and mobile friendly site. CDL branding was refreshed and implemented throughout library operations creating a more visually appealing and cohesive presentation to the public. This cohesiveness was further reinforced by wrapping the unsightly utility boxes on the library's property in CDL-branded artwork.

- CDL hosted *The Perfect Shot: Walter Iooss Jr, and the Art of Sports Photography*. This nationally touring exhibit featured some of the most iconic and inspiring moments in sports history. From Muhammad Ali to Serena Williams, Walter Iooss Jr. brilliantly captures on film carefully crafted moments of anticipation, perseverance, triumph, disappointment, and reflection—universal emotions of athletes and non-athletes alike.
- In response to the increasing numbers of book challenges throughout the national library community, the management team and board reviewed, updated, and vetted through our attorney the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials & Programs Policy and the Collection Development Policy. Staff was educated on changes and the Information Services staff worked through a mock scenario, following all the prescribed policy steps. A new Library Relations and Media Policy was crafted and approved by the board as well.
- We expanded the role of our marketing director to encompass outreach, and hired a part-time marketing assistant. With an eye on succession planning, our head of circulation attended the rigorous Leadership Academy, facilitated by the Library of Michigan. Leadership began identifying staff for training to possibly assume greater responsibility at CDL in the future.
- We began laying the groundwork to digitize our timesheets and timekeeping. We expect to complete this process in March 2025. Our purchase orders, check requests, and credit card usage documentation were all digitized in 2024. Additionally, we began to prepare to convert most of our bill payments to ACH in lieu of check writing in 2025.

Highlights



Highlights



Community Feedback



So much love for CDL today - for Mobee, for the Literary Walk (Roz Chast!), for your facilities and collections - just super-grateful to have all these thoughtful resources supporting our community. Thanks ~David



[Re: Authors in Chelsea] I wanted to send out a big 'THANK YOU' to the CDL, Stacey Comfort, and K.A. Holt for another wildly successful author visit! I saw a lot of highly engaged students (so many questions!) getting excited about both writing AND reading. I don't think it could have gone any better. ~Sheryl, Beach Middle School



[Re: Midwest Literary Walk] "Equal parts laughter & tears! I loved them all, but Wade is something very special." ~anonymous



[Re: Jim Abbott visit] "Fantastic program - filled with great insights and laughter. I'm glad I attended, thank you!" ~Loreen

"It was awesome and very inspirational!" ~Heidi



Hello, I wanted to take a moment to thank the library for the diversity of books it has available to its patrons. My family so appreciates having access to LGBTQIA+ books, books written by POC, books by and about the immigrant experience and so much more. We love that CDL is a place that we can come to explore the world and have access to so many different viewpoints. Thank you for making the library such a welcoming place for everyone through your book offerings. ~Aditi F.



Let The Numbers Tell the Story



6978 CARDHOLDERS
(+570 FROM 2023)



126,180 LIBRARY VISITS
(+2.4% FROM 2023)



3,914 ENEWS SUBSCRIBERS
(+287 FROM 2023)



88,940 WEBSITE VISITORS
(+17% FROM 2023)



680 PROGRAMS & OUTREACH EVENTS OFFERED
(+173 FROM 2023)



218,214 PHYSICAL ITEMS CIRCULATED
(+.7% FROM 2023)



3,178 DATABASES ACCESSED
(-70% FROM 2023)



19,201 PROGRAM ATTENDEES
(+24% FROM 2023)



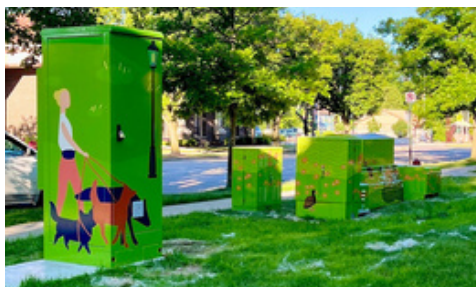
60,360 DIGITAL ITEMS CIRCULATED
(+14% FROM 2023)

Grants & Donations

Chelsea District Library acknowledges the great importance of grants, private gifts, and donations to the library's future development and growth. We give special thanks to the following for their generosity.

Alice Baldwin
Donald J. Baldwin
Kathy Baker
Jan Carr
Chelsea Area Garden Club
Chelsea Children's Co-Operative
Chelsea Education Foundation
Chelsea Masonic Lodge (Olive Lodge #156)
Anne Colone
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Paul & Glenda Dailey
John & Nancy Daly
Sally & Fred Dickinson
Jose & Mary Elordi
Diane & Dennis Flicker
G. Timothy & Judy B. Flint
Friends of CDL
Marjorie A. German
Mary A. Green
Deborah Harris
Daphne Hodder

Nancy K. Hopkins
Raffi Kalousdian
Kiwanis Club of Chelsea
Mary & Steven Knickerbocker
Lake Trust Credit Union
Ken & Judy Linhares
Merkel Employees
Robert & Kelly Ozmun
Pierce Lake Condo Second Wednesday Reading Club
Elinor Saunders
David M. & Deborah A. Schaible
Scott & Deb See
Sylvan Crooked Lake Association
Robert & Kathy Trudell
Kristin Van Reesema
Jean M. Vargas
Rocky & Judy Ward
Nancy A. Whitelaw
Jane Zawistowski



thank you

2024 Audited Financials

2024 Audited Financial Statement			
Governmental Funds Balance Sheet Fiscal Year January 1–December 31, 2024			
Assets	General Fund	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$995,221		\$995,221
Investments	\$909,795		\$909,795
Assets Held by Foundation	\$42,691		\$42,691
Receivables (Taxes)	\$2,290,214		\$2,290,214
Prepaid Items	\$107,941		\$107,941
Total Assets	\$4,345,862		\$4,345,862
Liabilities	General Fund	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
Accounts Payable	\$20,786		\$20,786
Payroll & Other Liabilities	\$32,828		\$32,828
Total Liabilities	\$53,614		\$53,614
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Unavailable Revenue—Taxes	\$2,388,201		\$2,388,201
Fund Balances	General Fund	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
Nonspendable/Prepaid Items	\$107,941		\$107,941
Committed Capital Improvements & Reserve	\$1,076,127		\$1,076,127
Unassigned	\$719,979		\$719,979
Total Fund Balance	\$1,904,047		\$1,904,047
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources & Fund Balances	\$4,345,862		\$4,345,862
<i>Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for Year Ended 12-31-2024</i>			
Revenue	General Fund	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
Property Taxes	\$2,209,173	\$548,393	\$2,757,566
State-Shared Revenue (State Aid)	\$16,458		\$16,458
Local Community Stabilization	\$55,832	\$21,592	\$77,424
Local Contributions (Donations, Grants, Friends)	\$58,615		\$58,615
Charges for Services (Fines & Fees)	\$9,429		\$9,429
Fines & Forfeitures (Penal Fines)	\$14,578		\$14,578
Investment Income	\$87,942	\$4,576	\$92,518
Total Revenue	\$2,452,027	\$574,561	\$3,026,588
Expenditures	General Fund	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds
Recreation & Culture:			
Personnel Wages	\$1,139,699		\$1,139,699
Payroll Taxes	\$82,663		\$82,663
Fringe Benefits	\$61,147		\$61,147
Board Expense	\$3,664		\$3,664
Supplies	\$15,024		\$15,024
Telecommunications	\$32,056		\$32,056
Professional Services	\$86,243		\$86,243
Automation Services	\$44,508		\$44,508
Collection	\$195,996		\$195,996
Programming	\$148,131		\$148,131
Volunteer	\$2,493		\$2,493
Promotional Materials	\$78,671		\$78,671
Continuing Education	\$27,244		\$27,244
Insurance	\$22,839		\$22,839
Utilities	\$60,759		\$60,759
Repairs & Maintenance	\$123,486		\$123,486
Total Recreation & Culture	\$2,124,623		\$2,124,623
Capital Outlay	\$249,692		\$249,692
Debt Service - Principal Retirement	\$10,004	\$650,000	\$660,004
Debt Service - Interest & Fiscal Charges	\$1,558	\$8,938	\$10,496
Total Expenditures	\$2,385,877	\$658,938	\$3,044,815
Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan Endowment			
Assets Held by Foundation			
Balance as of 1-1-24			\$91,305
Contributions			\$2,000
Investment earnings (unrealized gain)			\$9,842
Balance as of 12-31-24			\$103,147



THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING CDL!



**ENGAGE.
INSPIRE.
EQUIP.**



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**The vision of the Chelsea District Library is to be a vibrant hub
bringing together and enriching all communities.**