

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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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Board of Trustees

City of Chelsea, Jan Carr
Dexter Township, Bob Swistock
Lima Township, Patricia Garcia
Lyndon Township, Claire Sandler
Sylvan Township, Aditi Fox
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Chris Berggren, Administrative Assistant
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Brandon Leffler, Head of Technology Services
Shannon Powers, Head of Information Services
Amy Zoran, Head of Circulation Services

Word From Our Director

LORI CORYELL

In 2025, Chelsea District Library stayed focused on sustainability—the theme of our 2024–28 strategic plan—making thoughtful decisions that strengthened both our day-to-day services and our long-term future.

One of the most visible improvements was the completion of the garage for Mobee, our bookmobile. This investment supports reliable outreach service and positions us to expand how we connect with the community beyond our walls. That same spirit guided a broader shift toward outreach, now more formally integrated into the Marketing Department and centered on personal, relationship-based service.



Supporting our staff remains central to this work. A compensation study by Rahmberg Stover & Associates helped us align wages with the market, which strengthens our ability to attract and retain talented employees while supporting morale. We also continued to invest in professional development, from in-service training on communication styles and library finances to participation in national conferences. We took the appropriate steps to comply with the Earned Sick Time Act and the Youth Employment Standards Act. Welcoming a new head of technology and advancing a director succession plan further ensure strong leadership now and in the future.

Technology continues to shape how we serve the public. In 2025, we began orienting staff to the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence (AI), made progress toward digital ADA compliance, and implemented LibraryIQ to support more data-informed decisions. We also launched a regional Tech Talk Facebook group to share insights and strategies with peer organizations.

Behind the scenes, governance and financial stewardship remained strong. The Board engaged in a retreat focused on fiduciary responsibilities and updated its bylaws. We continued to invest funds carefully to support long-term stability and began preparing for the 2029 millage campaign.

Taken together, these efforts reflect a consistent approach: balancing today's needs with tomorrow's. By investing in people, technology, and community connections, the library is well positioned to remain a responsive and resilient resource in the years ahead.

2024–28 Strategic Plan

The 2024–28 strategic plan is 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 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

- Our Authors in Chelsea program featured celebrated authors Sarah Dillard, Karina Yan Glaser, and Jennifer A. Nielsen.
- Completed the migration to digital scheduling and timekeeping.
- Developed National Heritage Month display practice statement to ensure we are recognizing many different perspectives in our community.
- Midwest Literary Walk had record-breaking attendance for authors Shelby Van Pelt, Angie Kim, and Sarah Vowell.
- Expanded private study/meeting spaces with two new study booths.
- Hosted *Working America* exhibition sharing immigrant voices and stories along with local exhibit celebrating Chelsea businesses and their workforce.



- Received Google Ad Grant to help get the word out about library services and collections.
- Collaborated with Rotary Club of Chelsea to make Chelsea a certified Dementia-Friendly Community.
- Hosted Artist in Residence Joy Jan Jones to bring opera training to CHS choir students and opera performances to senior living communities.
- Improved accessibility of music cd and dvd collection for patrons to use self checkout machine.
- Hosted performing artists for CDL Song Fest with Freedy Johnston and special guest Joy Jan Jones, and our Music in the Air program welcomed international sibling pianists Maddalena and Jacopo Giacomuzzi.
- Library Director succession plan drafted.
- Collaborated with St. Louis Center to host an art exhibition of resident artwork.
- Opened Community Care Collection to offer accessible resources for community health.

Highlights



Highlights



Community Feedback

”

CDL truly is the best library! Great building but it is the staff that makes it outstanding! Thank you! ~ Rebecca

”



”

Thank you for organizing this event for the public to learn from and be inspired by these incredible authors!

”



”

[Re: Midwest Literary Walk] The town was filled! Such a great event by itself, but oh my! You also brought a lot of money into town for our retailers and restaurants! I'm sure they are grateful! Way to go! ~Sue

”



”

This community care collection is amazing and I am so proud to see this in our community. Thank you for continuing to innovate and think about ways to reach folks in need in our community. ~A Happy Chelsea Library Patron

”

”

I went there with my 5 kids yesterday(ages 1-9) and everyone had fun. My littles were occupied in their two play selections and the bigs loved the selection of books. It was decorated so cute inside & the ladies at checkout were so friendly! ~Rebecca via Google Reviews

”

Let The Numbers Tell the Story



7,323 CARDHOLDERS
(+345 FROM 2024)



126,993 LIBRARY VISITS
(+813 FROM 2024)



4,395 ENEWS SUBSCRIBERS
(+481 FROM 2024)



46,800 WEBSITE VISITORS



516 PROGRAMS & OUTREACH EVENTS OFFERED



220,190 PHYSICAL ITEMS CIRCULATED
(+1,976 FROM 2024)



11,760 DATABASES ACCESSED
(+ 8,582 FROM 2024)



18,957 PROGRAM ATTENDEES



79,054 DIGITAL ITEMS CIRCULATED
(+18,694 FROM 2024)

Grants & Donations

Thank you

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.

Anonymous	Carolyn Hughes	Robert & Kelly Ozmun
Allison Albright	Julie A. Jaworski	Doug & Cheryl Pagliarini
Aten Trust Fund	Scott & Cheryl Johnson	Patricia Paulsell
Casey & Mark Bain	William & Barbara Jordan	Purple Rose Theater (via Chelsea Community Foundation)
Kathy Baker	Raffi Kalousdian	Marcia Quilter
Helen Bareis	Cathy Kamil	Mary & Jim Randolph
Rhonda Biedlingmaier	Kiwanis Club of Chelsea	Dave & Wendy Reinhardt
Keith Bloomensaat	David Klink	Rosewind Family Giving Foundation Grant
Janice L. Carr	Fred & Sue Klink	David M. & Deborah A. Schaible
Chelsea Area Garden Club	Bob & Dee Koengeter	Mallory Simpson & Gregory Schatzle
Chelsea Children's Co-Op	Lisa Koengeter	Paul Schissler & Anne Nauts
Chelsea Masonic Lodge (Olive Lodge #156)	Kurt Krug	Mary Spaan
Chelsea Rotary Club	Richard Kuehl	Joseph Spiegel
Chelsea Young Adult Program	Lake Trust Foundation	The Sprinkle Family
Dave & Laurie Clouse	Theresa & Daniel Lancaster	Carol Strahler
Debbie Colesa	Ken & Marie Lawrence	Mike Sweet
Robert M. & Karen V. Cone	Alice Leisinger	Tim & Patti Sweeny
Henry & Iracema Crawford	Linda M. McCalla	Wes & Marilyn Thomsen
Mitch & Sheila Cumberworth	Sheila A. McDonald	Jean Vargas
Andy & Michele Dengler	J. David & Nancy L. McKinnon	Gene & Alice Wahl
Stephanie Diebold	Barbara McMahan	Kevin & Arlene Walz
Joan Doop	Karen & Ira Meislik	Brenda Hoelzer Warman
David & Elizabeth Easterwood	James T. & Anne Merkel	Kindra Weid
William Franks	Pat & Sandy Merkel	William J. & Susan E. Wescott
G. Timothy & Judy B. Flint	Gary & JoAnn Munce	Veretta Whitaker
Friends and Family of Henry Cox	Nancy Murray	Nancy Whitelaw & Jan Benson
Friends of CDL	Ruth Ann Musbach	Laurie Williams
Marjorie German	Larry & Melanie Odom-Groh	Kathy Young
Cathy Gillem	Janet & Toby Olsen	Jane Zawistowski
Mary A. Green	Lacey & Mary Lou O'Quirk	Gary Zenz
Don Hall		
Mary Hellner		
Daphne Hodder		

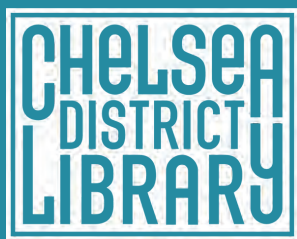
2025 Audited Financials

2025 Audited Financial Statement		
Governmental Funds Balance Sheet Fiscal Year January 1–December 31, 2025		
Assets	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$133,164	\$133,164
Investments	\$2,064,645	\$2,064,645
Assets Held by Foundation	\$48,737	\$48,737
Receivables (Taxes)	\$2,360,263	\$2,360,263
Prepaid Items	\$42,231	\$42,231
Total Assets	\$4,649,040	\$4,649,040
Liabilities	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Accounts Payable	\$47,665	\$47,665
Payroll & Other Liabilities	\$38,855	\$38,855
Total Liabilities	\$86,520	\$86,520
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Unavailable Revenue—Taxes	\$2,516,825	\$2,516,825
Fund Balances	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Nonspendable/Prepaid Items	\$42,231	\$42,231
Committed Capital Improvements & Reserve	\$1,082,562	\$1,082,562
Unassigned	\$920,902	\$920,902
Total Fund Balance	\$2,045,695	\$2,045,695
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources & Fund Balances	\$4,649,040	\$4,649,040
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for Year Ended 12-31-2025		
Revenue	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Property Taxes	\$2,383,692	\$2,383,692
State-Shared Revenue (State Aid)	\$17,520	\$17,520
Local Community Stabilization	\$78,714	\$78,714
Local Contributions (Donations, Grants, Friends)	\$78,278	\$78,278
Charges for Services (Fines & Fees)	\$7,559	\$7,559
Fines & Forfeitures (Penal Fines)	\$12,034	\$12,034
Investment Income	\$116,901	\$116,901
Total Revenue	\$2,694,698	\$2,694,698
Expenditures	General Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Recreation & Culture:		
Personnel Wages	\$1,222,131	\$1,222,131
Payroll Taxes	\$89,009	\$89,009
Fringe Benefits	\$58,175	\$58,175
Board Expense	\$4,055	\$4,055
Supplies	\$17,669	\$17,669
Telecommunications	\$31,947	\$31,947
Professional Services	\$61,663	\$61,663
Automation Services	\$46,890	\$46,890
Collection	\$248,775	\$248,775
Programming	\$151,992	\$151,992
Volunteer	\$3,000	\$3,000
Promotional Materials	\$78,923	\$78,923
Continuing Education	\$24,400	\$24,400
Insurance	\$25,116	\$25,116
Utilities	\$75,948	\$75,948
Repairs & Maintenance	\$155,681	\$155,681
Total Recreation & Culture	\$2,295,374	\$2,295,374
Capital Outlay	\$245,335	\$245,335
Debt Service - Principal Retirement	\$10,587	\$10,587
Debt Service - Interest & Fiscal Charges	\$1,214	\$1,214
Total Expenditures	\$2,552,510	\$2,552,510
Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan Endowment		
Assets Held by Foundation		
Balance as of 1-1-24	\$103,147	\$103,147
Contributions	\$1,300	\$1,300
Investment earnings (unrealized gain)	\$14,628	\$14,628
Balance as of 12-31-24	\$119,075	\$119,075



THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING CDL!



ENGAGE.
INSPIRE.
EQUIP.



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chelseadistrictlibrary.org



hello@chelseadistrictlibrary.org

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