



IT SPEAKS VOLUMES

Your support, amplified.

2024 IMPACT REPORT

TURN UP THE VOLUME



While there are many voices competing for attention in today's society, the Louisville community spoke in a unified voice on one topic this year: our libraries matter. From passionate and consistent advocacy to record generosity, you have been heard.

Thanks to your contributions, the Library Foundation raised more than \$5 million, allowing us to support critical library programs, increase the collection of books and digital resources across the Louisville Free Public Library system, and publicly launch the One Library, One Louisville Capital Campaign to expand and reopen libraries throughout Louisville. This banner year also allowed us to grant the first Thomas Fountain Blue Innovation Award and hire a new Community and Civic Engagement Coordinator to help us collaborate more closely with the community as we work to secure more public funding for our libraries.

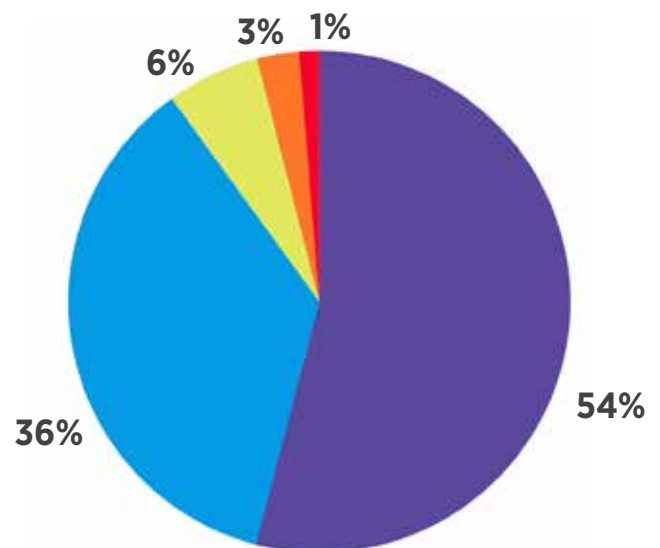
We are proud to amplify your love for the Louisville Free Public Library. It truly does speak volumes.

- Chandra Gordon, Executive Director

2024 LIBRARY FOUNDATION GRANTS TO LFPL

Using donor contributions and earnings from the Foundation's endowment funds, the Library Foundation provided over \$2 million in grants and program support to the Library. To view the Library Foundation's annual audited financial statements, as well as their IRS Form 990, visit www.LFPLFoundation.org.

- 54% Capital Support + Improvements
- 36% Books, E-magazines & Downloadables
- 6% Program Support
- 3% Promotional + Master Plan Support
- 1% Staff Support + Other



YOUR DONATIONS: AMPLIFIED



Every donation to the Library Foundation **speaks volumes**, and sometimes, we mean this quite literally.

Thanks to a \$20,000 donation from the Rodes Fund, an endowment fund managed by the Community Foundation of Louisville, the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) significantly increased their collection of accessible materials for patrons living with blindness, low vision, and/or learning differences this year. This expansion includes an additional **200 Wonderbooks** for kids and teens and **150 Playaway audiobooks** for all ages.

According to LFPL Content Manager Jody Hampton, Wonderbooks are the most popular accessible books in the library system.

“[Wonderbooks] are paper books that have a built-in audio player so children with visual disabilities like blindness or low vision, or with reading disabilities like dyslexia, can follow along with the story by listening to it,” says Jody. “Unfortunately, Wonderbooks are also very expensive; the average

price is around \$60 each. Since adding them to the collection four years ago, they have been collectively checked out more than 16,000 times. We can’t keep them in stock.”

Playaway audiobooks are also heavily utilized at the library. These small devices come preloaded with popular titles and provide a portable, all-in-one listening experience that requires no screens, Wi-Fi, or additional equipment.

The Rodes Fund donation amplifies access to literature at LFPL, ensuring that every reader can immerse themselves in a world of imagination. If this is music to your ears, check out the new Wonderbook and Playaway collections debuting on the shelves of the newly renovated Portland Library, set to open in 2025.

The Rodes Fund is one of the Community Foundation’s oldest endowment funds, established in 1989 by donors J. Clifton Rodes and Jeannette S. Rodes.

ONE LIBRARY ONE LOUISVILLE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

A BOLD VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF LOUISVILLE'S LIBRARIES



PARKLAND

The Parkland Library rises again, a beacon of hope and renewal for the resilient Parkland community, one of Louisville's oldest neighborhoods. This renovated space will restore vital services and foster connection, learning, and opportunity.

TOTAL COST \$6.5 MILLION
PROJECTED COMPLETION: SPRING 2025



PORTLAND

The historic Portland Library, a community cornerstone since 1913, is set for a much needed transformation. This expansion will double its size, improve accessibility, and create a welcoming space for all Portland residents to gather, learn, and connect for generations.

TOTAL COST \$10 MILLION
PROJECTED COMPLETION: SUMMER 2025



FERN CREEK

After closing in 2019, the Fern Creek Library is taking a big step forward. This fast-growing neighborhood will soon celebrate its first freestanding library, thanks to the tireless advocacy and determination of its residents.

TOTAL COST \$16.5 MILLION
PROJECTED COMPLETION: EARLY 2026



MAIN

The Main Library's transformation will honor its historic roots and expand its role as one of the state's busiest libraries. Renovations to the Carnegie building will reopen long-shuttered spaces, creating a vibrant hub for learning, creativity, and community.

TOTAL COST \$11.1 MILLION
PROJECTED COMPLETION: LATE 2025





The One Library, One Louisville Capital Campaign represents a bold vision for the future of Louisville’s libraries – and a wave of community support for this vision is resounding loud and clear.

Since the Fern Creek, Parkland, Portland, and Main library projects were announced nearly two years ago, the Library Foundation has raised **more than five million dollars** in private support. This past year, the Foundation also joined hands with community partners and elected officials to secure an additional \$2 million in public funding for these critical capital initiatives.

But we aren’t done yet. While the community “turned up the volume” on philanthropic support this last year, the Library Foundation is committed

to securing an additional \$3 million toward these projects. Thanks to a \$1.5 million matching grant announcement from the James Graham Brown Foundation in June 2024, the plan is halfway complete!

Libraries have always been more than buildings. They are vital spaces for civic engagement, providing free access to knowledge, technology, and nationally renowned programming. And while Louisville continues to lag behind peer cities in public funding and square footage per capita, our city is moving decisively in a positive direction by increasing library access across the city.

Join us as we open doors on new libraries and new opportunities in the coming year.

“At the Louisville Free Public Library, we pride ourselves on listening to the voices of our community and responding to the unique needs of each neighborhood. Thanks to the support of the Library Foundation and our incredible partners, we’ve been able to amplify those voices through the One Library, One Louisville capital campaign, which is moving full steam ahead. With Parkland and Portland opening in 2025 and Fern Creek and a major renovation of the Main Library set for completion in 2026, we’re building spaces to meet the needs of our community that reflect the aspirations of our city.

As these current projects are well underway, we’re excited to announce, very soon, a new Master Facilities Plan that will guide us through the next decade. This new vision ensures that every neighborhood library will evolve to meet the growing needs of our community. Together, with your support, we’re amplifying the impact of libraries in Louisville, making them places where everyone can thrive.”



Lee Burchfield, Director
Louisville Free Public Library

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Thank you to the businesses, foundations, and trusts that supported our library this year.

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AMPLIFYING THE CLASSICS

At the Library Foundation, we love turning the page on new and innovative programs for kids, but we'll never put a bookmark in the classics. Thanks to the generosity of donors and grant funders, library staff had the flexibility to creatively host more than 700 exciting programs this year while continuing to build on beloved staples like Summer Reading and Family S.T.E.A.M. Day.

The results? Through your generosity this year, more than 1,000 youth accessed free, high-quality collaborative learning opportunities through Family S.T.E.A.M. Day, while Summer Reading brought the joy of reading to 42,519 children and teens across Louisville! The new Children's Bookmobile also hit the road, delivering 27,000 free books to kids in under-resourced areas. Thank you for empowering library staff to keep delivering the classics.

TRIBUTES

HONORARIA



The Library Foundation is thankful to receive gifts to honor or memorialize family, friends, and loved ones. Individuals honored through a tribute are listed in bold type below.

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Vicki Williams
K. Michelle Weikel
C. Kenneth Wilson
Karen H. Wilson
Eleanor Wykle
Alan and Alesia Mullis

LEGACY PARTNERS



The following individuals chose to build on their legacy by bequeathing a portion of their estate to the Library Foundation this year.

Merle Gillespie

Marilyn Bierman

Kathleen Diane Bowling

Judith A. Eastland

**Elizabeth Wayne Helm
Hardwick**

Jean T. Hicks

Maj. Gen. Dillman A. Rash

Glenda Bussell

To learn more about supporting the Library Foundation in your will or trust, please contact our office. We're happy to assist you!

THOMAS FOUNTAIN BLUE FUND



This year, the Library Foundation awarded the inaugural Thomas Fountain Blue Innovation Award. Intended to uplift the voices of library staff and provide critical support for branch needs that might not otherwise be met, this new \$10,000 annual grant is awarded to a single, innovative project proposed by Louisville Free Public Library staff. Selection of the winning proposal is overseen by a committee of community volunteers via an equitable, community-driven scoring process.

The winning proposal for the 2024 Thomas Fountain Blue Innovation Award, submitted by Programs Coordinator Maggie Fixler, is titled "Innovation Through Culinary Literacy" and will transform the Activity Room at the Southwest Regional Library into a multi-functional space aimed at implementing culinary programs and addressing the need for innovative food literacy initiatives within the southwest Louisville community. A significant piece of this initiative includes the purchase of an all-in-one, hands-on mobile kitchen, including the tools and equipment, lesson plans, and storage space required for all-ages educational programming.

Named after trailblazing African American librarian Thomas Fountain Blue, this new award is a testament to the Library Foundation's belief in the pioneering spirit of Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) staff. For more information about the Thomas Fountain Blue Fund or to donate, please contact the Library Foundation.



Thomas Fountain Blue
INNOVATION FUND

INAUGURAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Phyllis Metcalf-Turner, Chair
Mariana Barzun
Peter Howard
Lan Nguyen-Colgate
Allison Strickland
Christine Tarquinio
Brittany Thurman

A heartfelt thanks to the inaugural Thomas Fountain Blue Innovation Fund Committee members!



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