



Annual Report 2016-2017

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Shaping your Digital World

Growing our Creative Collections

Experiencing Diverse Programs for All Ages

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Director's Corner

Dear Wilmette and Kenilworth residents,

This has been an interesting year of change and growth for the Library. After 12 years as director, and more than 20 years as a Library staff member, Ellen Clark retired at the end of December. We thank her for her excellent and dedicated service to this community. I became director in January 2017. I have 15 years of library experience including director at Midlothian Public Library, manager of Children's Services at Oak Park Public Library, and children's librarian at Oak Park and Chicago Public Libraries.

I am so excited to bring my enthusiasm and expertise to WPL. My top professional priority is to ensure outstanding library services through responsive customer service, meaningful programming, and powerful community connections. We offer everyone the opportunity to discover new interests, to learn something unique, to freely access digital and print materials, to explore cultural events, and to enjoy our shared space that is friendly and welcoming to all. Our Library is a safe place for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather together as a community of readers and lifelong learners who value literacy, diversity, equity, and inclusion. I like to think of us as a "Community Living Room."

At the culmination of this significant year for the Library, I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support of the Library, and for making the Library a part of your community.

Heather McCammond-Watts, Director



Engaging with our Community

We value being a part of the Wilmette community, inside our building and throughout the village. [Learn more about our commitment to reaching out to Wilmette.](#)

Shaping your Digital World

The Library experienced a major digital expansion in the '16-'17 fiscal year. [Learn more about broadening our digital horizons.](#)

Growing our Creative Collections

Over the past year, we've expanded our collections and made it easier than ever to find and borrow the materials you're looking for. [Learn more about our growing collections.](#)

Experiencing Diverse Programs for All Ages

The Library has continued our commitment to providing science, technology, and hands on programming for all ages. [Learn more about our programs exploring Maker, STEM, and more.](#)

Exploring Arts and Culture

Each year, the Library offers opportunities for patrons of all ages to take part in events that explore music, arts, and culture. [Learn more about the many ways we engaged with the arts.](#)

Library Finances

The Library is funded primarily through property taxes, with approximately 9% of funding coming from other sources. [Learn more about the Library's funding, expenses, and budget.](#)



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Engaging with our Community

We value being a part of the Wilmette community, inside our building and throughout the village. Our librarians took to the streets this past year, meeting patrons at the French Market, sharing programming at the Park District and Mather Place, and holding storytimes at parks throughout Wilmette. Our community partnerships, with organizations such as Go Green Wilmette, the League of Women Voters, the Wilmette School Districts, and the Wilmette Park District, have led to richer programs that focus on the issues, needs, and interests of our patrons. We continue to have a thriving partnership with the **Friends of the Wilmette Public Library** (link: <http://www.wilmettelibrary.info/about/about-us/friends>), who continue to support the Library with funds raised via the volunteer-run Books Down Under bookstore.

- Friends of the Library contributed more than \$40,000 to programs for children, teens, and adults.
- More than 1,600 adults and 900 children & families attended programs sponsored by the Friends.
- The Library's 2016-2017 community partners included Go Green Wilmette, The League of Women Voters, Mallinckrodt Community Center, New Trier High School, School District 39, School District 37, SCORE, the Village of Wilmette, the Wilmette Park District, and Friends of the Wilmette Public Library



Librarian Alice Joseph conducts a storywalk at Vattmann Park.



Friends volunteers at the Books Down Under bookstore.



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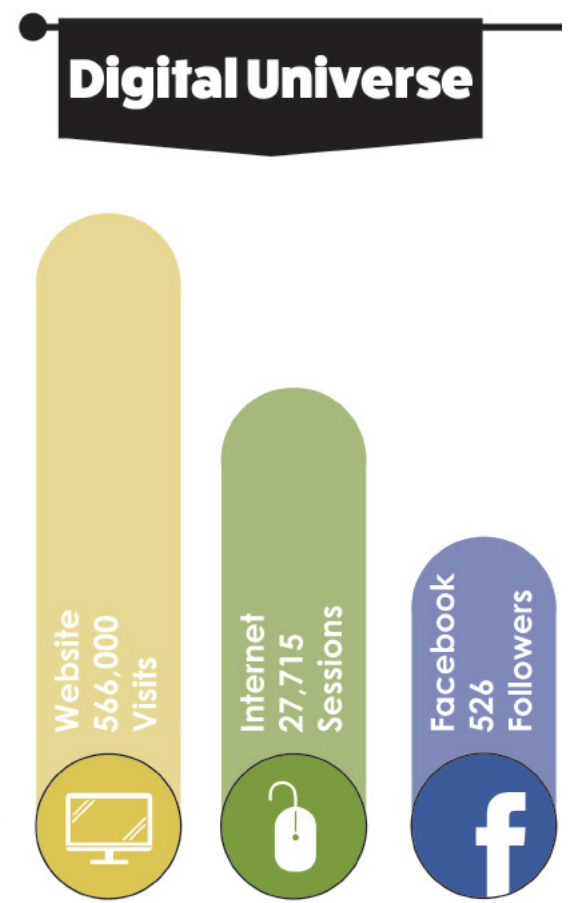
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Shaping your Digital World

The Library experienced a major digital expansion in the '16-'17 fiscal year. In the spring, we unveiled a new website, with a user-centered design that is easy to navigate, and emphasizes accessing our catalog and finding the programs you're looking for. Our interior digital services experienced an upgrade as well: computers throughout the building were replaced with state-of-the-art models, improving our ability to provide digital instruction and making it fast and simple to do work, browse the internet, or find items in our catalog.

- Our librarians had more than 150 one-on-one tech help appointments.
- 212 patrons took a Digital Universe or Microsoft class
- All 29 patron computers were replaced with 2017 models running Windows 10



Patrons in the Library computer room.



Tech support staff provide help to patrons all hours that the Library is open.



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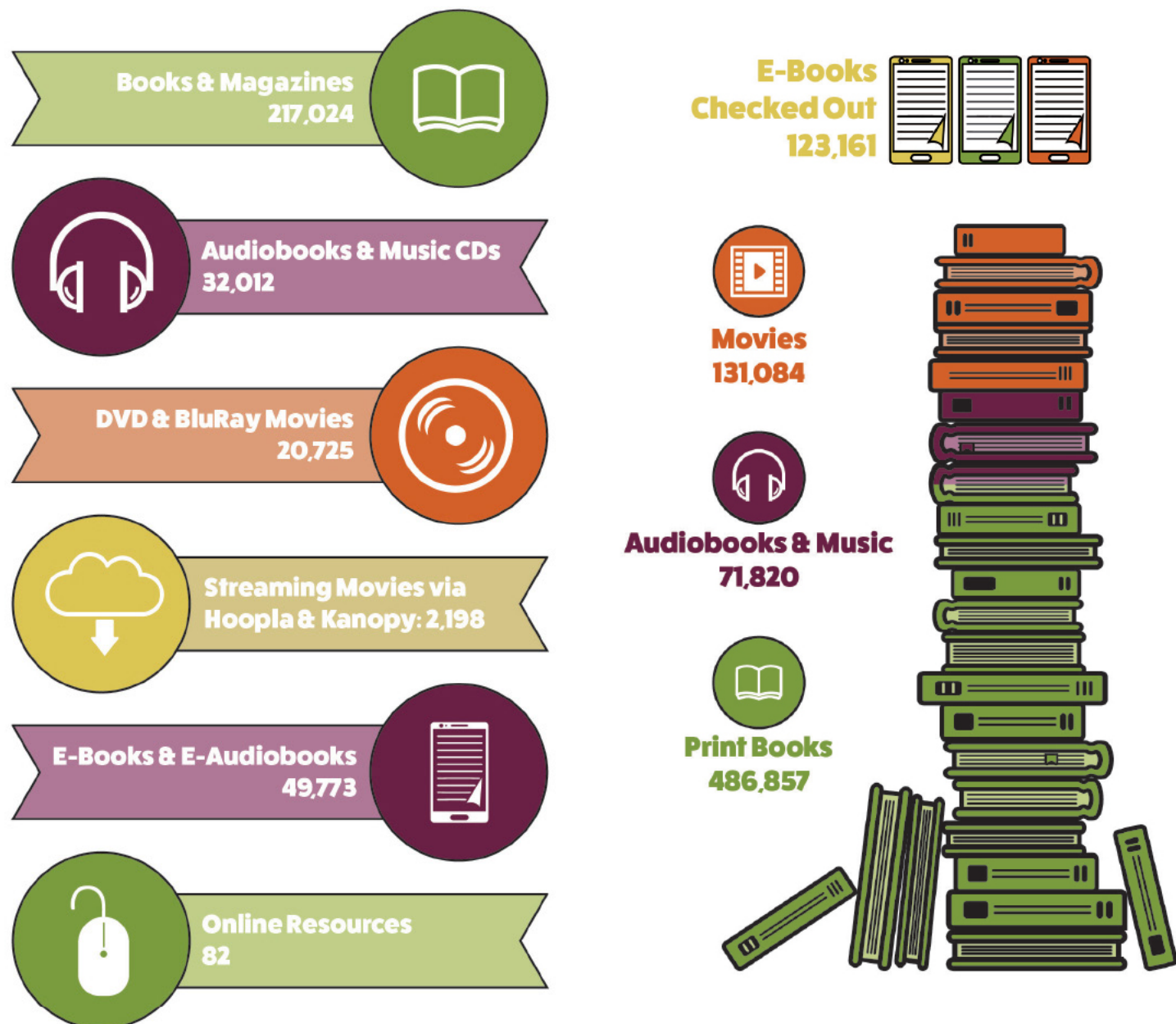
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Growing our Creative Collections

Our collections play a central role in our service, and over the past year, we've expanded our offerings and made it easier than ever to find and borrow the materials you're looking for. We increased our loan limits for DVDs to three weeks, bringing them in line with our print collections. We also lengthened the loan period for new DVDs to one week and removed a charge to check them out. Our grab and go collections in Youth Services allow parents to quickly access a librarian-vetted selection of books, and a small collection of adult new-releases in our Youth Services department encourages parents to pick a great read for themselves, too. Our local author collection continues to flourish, and we hosted our first local author fair in the spring, highlighting the works of a dozen authors from Wilmette and the surrounding areas.

- The Hot Picks collection has about 1,100 items on average, with a total of nearly 20,000 circulations over the year.
- Popular grab-and-go collections allow busy parents to quickly select librarian-vetted books.
- The collections with most circulations per item are iPads, Hot Picks, youth paperbacks, and family feature DVDs.



Patrons browse the Hot Picks collection.



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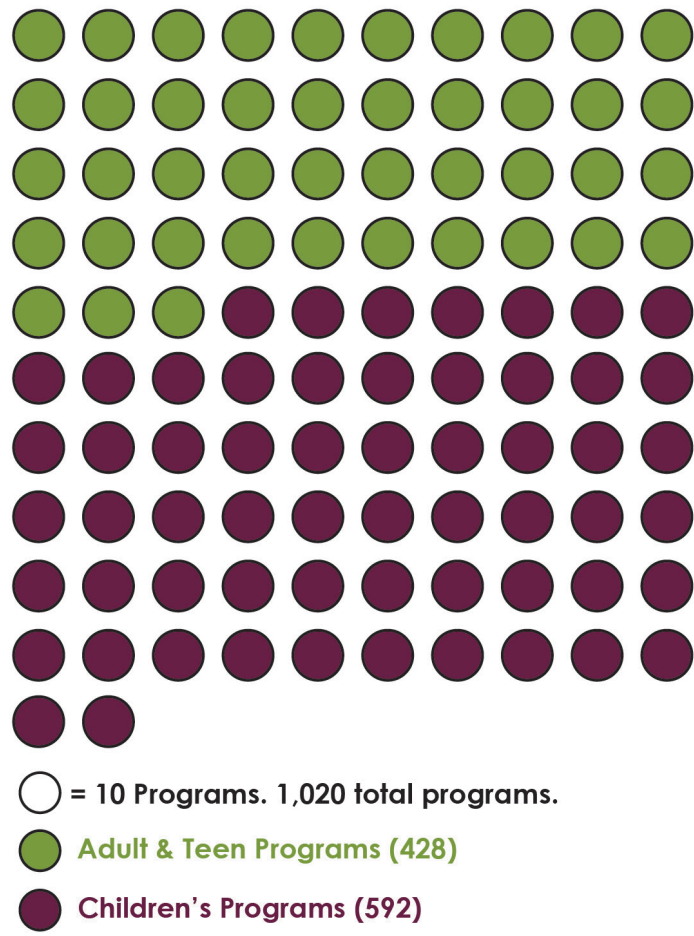
Library Finances

Experiencing Diverse Programs for All Ages

The Library has continued our commitment to providing science, technology, and hands-on programming for all ages.

Our youth services librarians have continued our goal of offering STEM programming for children of all ages, including SCRATCH programming and hands-on Maker events. Youth services encouraged interaction in other ways, as well, increasing our bilingual, special needs, and sensory friendly programming. Maker programming was expanded to our adult audience as well, first with all-ages Maker programs for children, families, and adults, and then with adults-only Maker after Dark programs. The popularity of these Maker events, and others such as our new Cookbook Book Group, where participants prepare and share recipes from a selected cookbook, show that patrons of all ages enjoy using their hands and minds in creative ways.

- 261 kids and adults attended 10 all-ages Maker programs.
- New Event: family playlabs attracted 264 kids and parents over 7 events
- New hands-on events for adults included Cookbook Book Group and Maker After Dark, and Make your Own Mug and Tshirt Tote Bags for teens.



Librarian Stephen Koebel assists a patron at a Maker After Dark event.



Multi-generational participation at a Family Tech Night.



A junior high patron takes part in a hands-on craft project.



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Each year, the Library offers opportunities for patrons of all ages to take part in events that explore music, arts, and culture. Concerts by artists including Petra Van Nuis and Bobby Lewis highlighted local musicians, while art shows put works from around the community on display. Several exciting series took in-depth looks at the city of Chicago, Hamilton: An American Musical, and this year's **One Book Everybody Reads** [link: <http://www.wilmettelibrary.info/events/spotlight/ober>] selection, Mischling, by Affinity Konar. Reading clubs encouraged patrons of all ages to explore new books, and our summer reading club had record high participation numbers.

Fast Facts:

- 450 patrons attended One Book Everybody Reads events exploring Affinity Konar's Mischling
- 650 patrons attended Discovering Hamilton events, including a performance featuring cast members from Hamilton Chicago.
- Our popular Chicago series, which began in the fall of 2016, was extended into the spring of 2017, bringing more than 500 patrons to 11 programs covering art, architecture, history, and politics.
- Youth Summer Reading Clubs saw highest completion rate ever, with 1,013 finishers (a 56% completion rate)



Two young patrons at an event in the Youth Program Room.



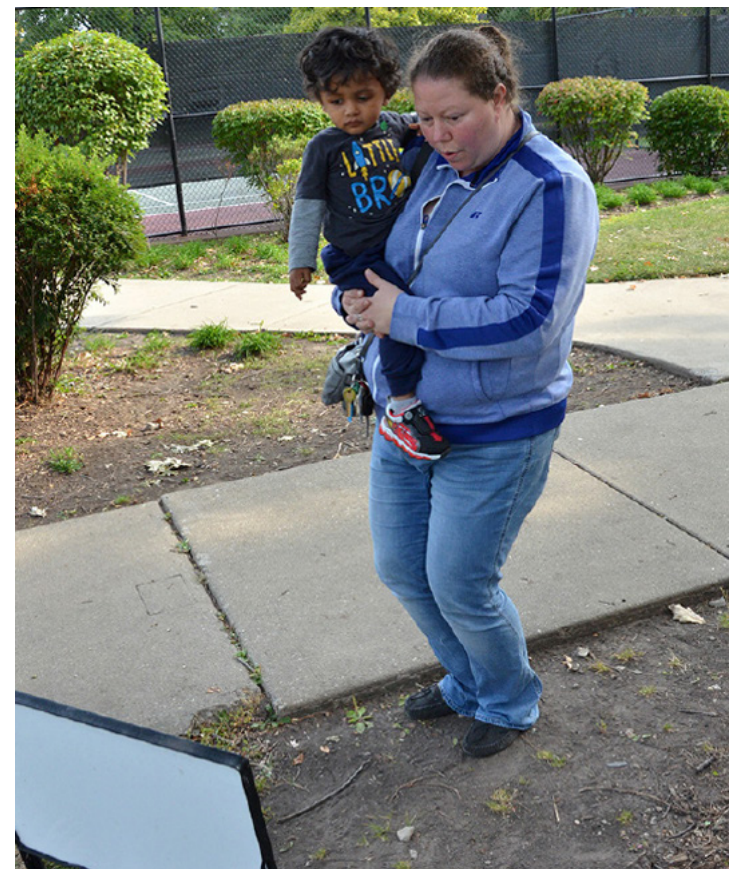
Third Sunday String Band plays in the Auditorium.



2017 One Book, Everybody Reads author Affinity Konar signs copies of her book Mischling.



Ian Weinberger, associate music director of Hamilton Broadway, was joined by performers Joseph Morales and Carl Clemons-Hopkins, for a Discover Hamilton performance.



Two patrons enjoying the Vattmann Park Storywalk.



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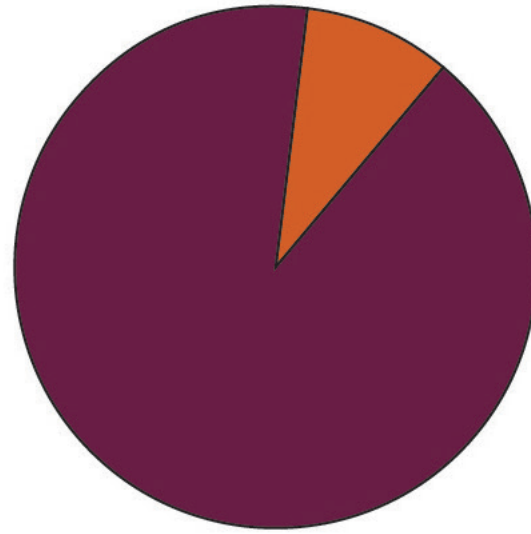
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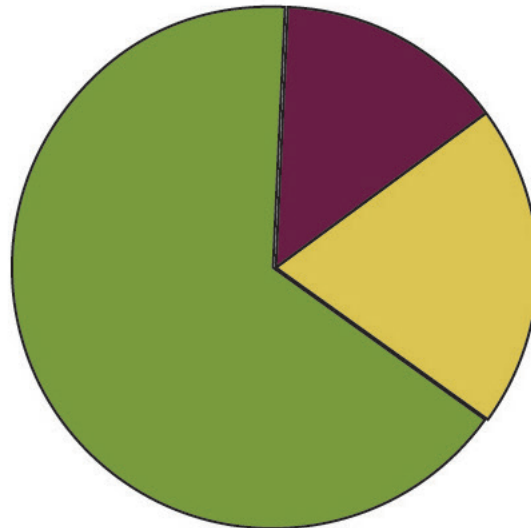
Library Funding is less than 5% of your annual tax bill. Non-tax funding includes investment interest, fines, gifts from the Morrow Family Trust, Friends of the Wilmette Public Library, and generous donors throughout the Wilmette community.

To learn more about 2016-2017 fiscal year finances and expenses, please visit the **Library budget** [link: <http://www.wilmettelibrary.info/administration/budget/WLbudget16.pdf>].



Finances

- 91% Property Tax
- 9% Other Income



Expenses

- 66% Personnel
- 14% Operations
- 20% Patron Materials and Services