

Muncie Public Library Report to the Community 2020

2020 was a year unlike any other. And while the COVID-19 pandemic shut MPL down for a few weeks in late March and early April, our employees quickly regrouped to tackle the unknown challenges ahead. Our questions were many.

How could we continue to provide the services so integral to our mission when we could not physically be together as a work team? How could MPL continue to serve as a vital link to bring diverse people and groups together in our community? What resources did MPL have that could make a difference and help others in our community? How could we reimagine and safely deliver our programs and services in a socially distanced world?

Read on to discover the answers to these questions and find out how the challenges presented in 2020 will continue to change the ways that MPL operates in serving our community.

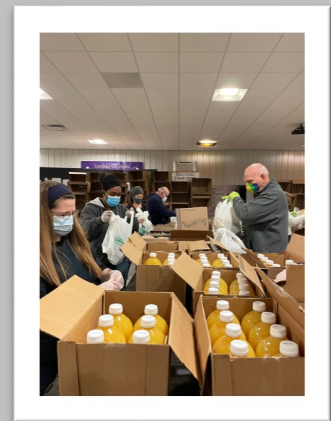


Photo above: Customers wearing facemasks walk through Kennedy Library. The doors of all MPL branches reopened in early September 2020 for quick, Grab & Go visits. Top photo at right: MPL employees volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank. Bottom photo: An MPL employee preps 2020 Census packets to encourage participation.



MPL Mission Statement

Provide accessible and innovative services responding to the reading, informational, educational, and enrichment needs of the community.



Library Statehouse Day

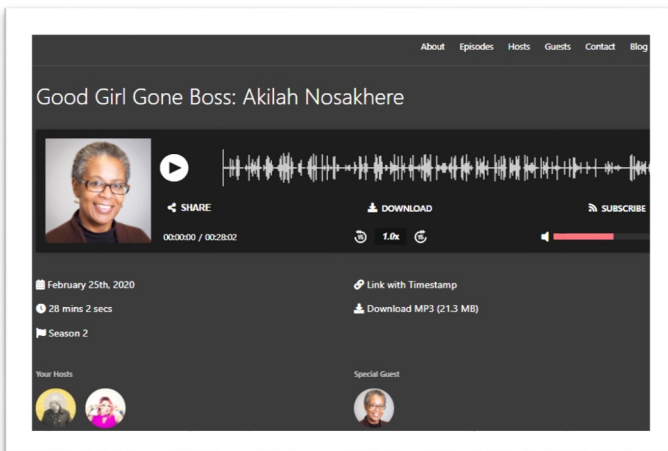
Hosted and organized by the Indiana Library Federation, Library Statehouse Day is an opportunity for librarians and library advocates to meet with legislators and leaders at the Indiana Statehouse to



discuss issues vital to public libraries. A contingent of Muncie Public Library employees attended the February 2020 event. They met with State Representatives Tim Lanane, Sue Errington, Melanie Wright, Ann Vermilion, and more. When not meeting with legislators, library representatives observed committee meetings and a legislative session, networked with other library representatives, and toured the statehouse.

MPL Director Featured on Podcast: *Good Girl Gone Boss*

MPL Director Akilah S. Nosakhere was a featured guest on the weekly *Good Girl Gone Boss* podcast, created and hosted by Angie Rogers-Howell and Matt Howell, both of Farmhouse Creative. Nosakhere used the opportunity to share the state of the library, future plans, and special grant projects. Check out the podcast at: <https://www.goneboss.com/episode58>



Racial Equity Collection

MPL was awarded a grant from Indiana Humanities with funds from Lilly Endowment Inc. to build a Racial Equity Collection. “Our goal is to help Hoosiers think, read, and talk about racial injustice and systemic racism and to support libraries as key public humanities organizations in this work,” said Keira Amstutz, president and CEO of Indiana Humanities. MPL was awarded \$1,000 to purchase fiction and nonfiction titles for children, teens, and adults in multiple formats that promote racial equality and social justice. These items are available for check out now at MPL!



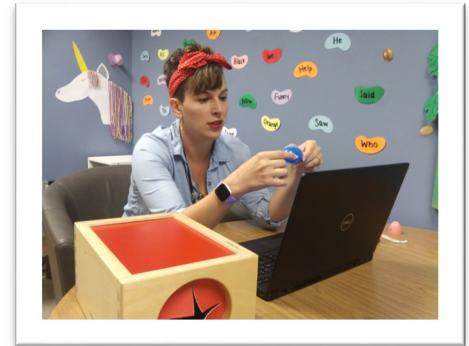


Academic Enrichment: Ready Readers & Great Achievers

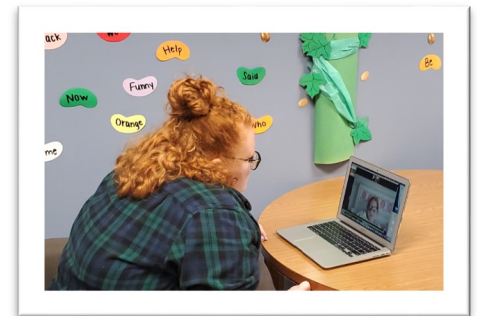
MPL Ready Readers is an early literacy program that provides free one-on-one reading tutoring to children ages 1-9. Children learn and practice skills through different age appropriate



games and activities. When the pandemic hit and things began to shut down, Ready Readers staff had to think about how they could best continue to serve and support the families in the program, while keeping themselves and the program participants safe. They very quickly created virtual tutoring sessions using Zoom and though there were a few kinks to work out, Ready Readers was able to hold hundreds of virtual sessions with the nearly 50 children signed up for the program.

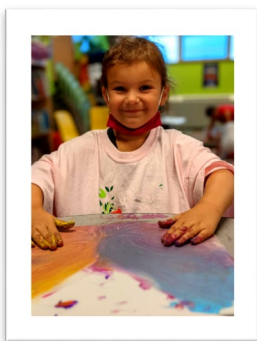


Instead of holding the program back, the pandemic made staff realize that technology could help them reach more children through the virtual sessions, and through video content they created featuring literacy games and activities. According to Ready Readers Program Director Katie Lehman, “We have always been dedicated to serving our families, no matter the circumstance, and will continue to do so!”



Photos above: Ready Readers staff interact with children during virtual learning sessions. Though the program previously used only hands-on activities, staff and students adapted quickly to online literacy sessions. Photo below: A Great Achievers student enjoying art activities.

Great Achievers (GA) is the MPL afterschool program for students at South View Elementary. The program helps students at risk of academic failure through homework help, tutoring, and positive experiences. It meets Mondays through Thursdays during the MCS academic year. GA staff work closely with South View Elementary administration and teachers to identify students in need of extra academic support. GA staff walk with the students from the school to Maring-Hunt Library and the children are later provided with bus rides home. The program provides nutritious snacks, individualized attention, and remedial support for every student. GA is helped immensely each year by volunteers from the Ball State University Student Voluntary Services.



Despite the pandemic, Great Achievers met in-person whenever possible with masks and social distancing, while the BSU SVS volunteers provided help virtually. GA is a 21st Century Community Learning Center funded by the Department of Education.





Responding to COVID-19

Though MPL doors were closed to the public for several weeks due to health and safety guidelines issued by local, state, and national health leaders, the Library found creative and innovative ways to serve the community and to provide traditional services in new ways, such as curbside service, which will remain a part of MPL offerings.



MPL extended Wi-Fi hours which meant community members could access free Wi-Fi in our parking lots from 6am until 10pm daily. We also expanded access to digital resources to

support online learning and information sharing. MPL staff answered lots of online and phone inquiries from community members whose cards had expired or who had never gotten a card. We found ways to help everyone gain digital access to many of the resources at MPL.



A Ball Brothers Foundation Rapid Grant allowed MPL to purchase Wi-Fi hotspots that were checked out to families who needed Wi-Fi at home for their students to participate in eLearning. *(Top photo at left: A parent checks out a hotspot.)* Staff created educational and entertainment resources for all ages. Check out MPL's YouTube channel for a selection of story times, literacy tutorials, lunchtime activities, and 'brain breaks' created by our talented and dedicated staff. *(Bottom photo at left: Virtual story times on YouTube.)*



Databases on the MPL website increased their offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic. This increased the number of free music, online movies, and e-books that customers

could borrow from hoopla, OverDrive, and a variety of other databases. Due dates for physical materials (such as books and DVDs) were extended to accommodate the stay-at-home orders. No fines were accrued during the health emergency, putting customers' minds at ease during this stressful time.

Partnering with Muncie Community Schools, the Delaware Co. Health Department, and the BSU Office of Community Engagement, MPL used our 3-D printer to produce face shields for caregivers at local nursing homes. Employees also joined other volunteers to sew cloth masks using kits from JoAnn's Fabrics. *(Photos at right: 3-D printed shields.)*

Still other employees were able to continue to order materials for our collections, process and catalog new books, and receive shipments and mail.

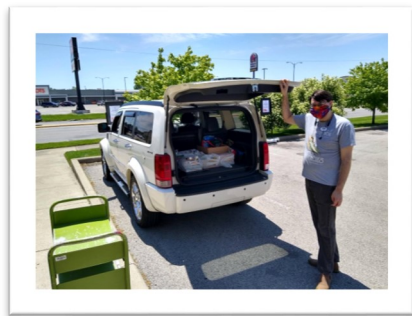
Special thanks to all MPL staff for their dedicated and courageous service to the Muncie community!





Documenting Life During the Pandemic

In a collaborative effort, Ball State University Libraries Archives and Special Collections, the Everyday Life in Middletown Project, and the Muncie Public Library asked community members to document life during the COVID-19 pandemic through diaries, journals, photos, artwork, and more. The items will be archived to illustrate and preserve the pandemic experience. *(Photos: MPL submissions to the project.)*



MPL Documentary *Carnegie Library: A Community Treasure*

MPL received grant funding to produce a special documentary in 2020. It was funded by a Historic Preservation Education Grant from the Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks. It was produced entirely “in-house” using Muncie Public Library staff talent and technology resources to write, shoot, edit, and produce the documentary. A shortened version of the documentary debuted at the Muncie Delaware Co. Chamber of Commerce July 2020 Muncie on the Move event.

The documentary will serve as a focal point of a Carnegie Restoration Campaign, planned for the near future. The film makes the case for the importance of preserving historic landmarks. *(Photos: Documentary postcard and the documentary debut at MOTM.)*

See the documentary on the MPL YouTube channel at:

www.youtube.com/munciepubliclibrary



Shared Catalog Statistics

Muncie Public Library is in a shared catalog agreement with Muncie Community Schools and Motivate our Minds. Numbers represent the total statistics of this shared UCAT Catalog.

Collections

277,963

Includes all items, print, audio-visual, etc.

Circulations

274,702

Includes all circulating items.

Card Count

47,611

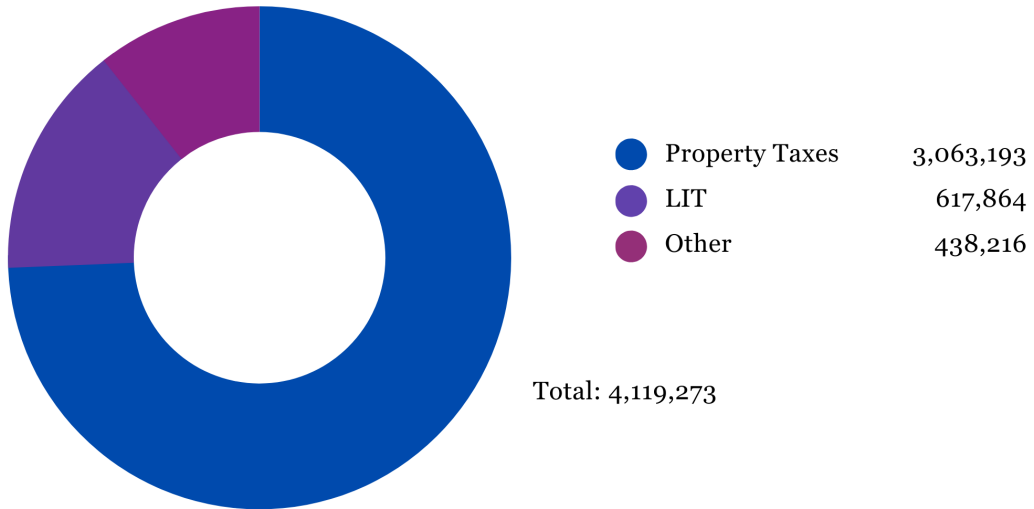
Includes Resident, Non-Resident, Student, PLAC, and Reciprocal Cards. The UCAT Catalog Project included the creation of a special card issued to every MCS student and MCS & MOM teacher!



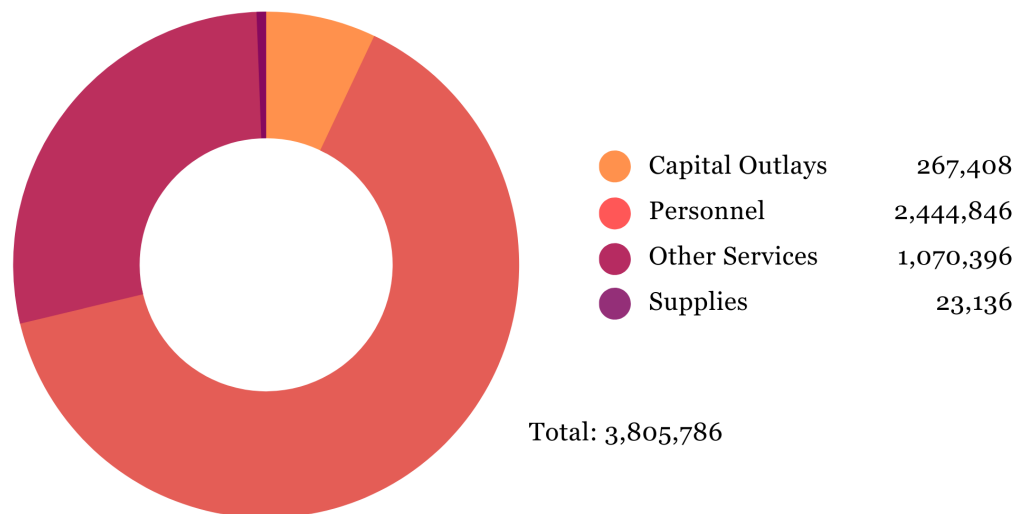


Muncie Public Library Financial Information 2020

2020 Operating Revenue



2020 Operating Expenditures





MPL Board of Trustees 2020

Phil Boltz

Mary Louise Buck

Patrick Ferguson

Traci Lutton

Royce Mitchell

Billie Sheppard

Daniel Stallings

Photos: An emergency mandate by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb allowed governing boards to temporarily suspend board meetings or to hold them electronically. Once emergency stay-at-home orders were lifted, the MPL Board of Trustees was able to conduct socially distanced meetings to provide governance and community input in the operations of Muncie Public Library.

Note from the Library Director

A watershed year, 2020 challenged MPL to become flexible and creative at a time when our community needed information services most. The COVID-19 quarantine immobilized our programs yet inspired new online programming rooted in the foundational goal of information service. MPL staff determined the best approach was to keep moving! Keep reaching out to connect other human service organizations to reassure our community that public libraries are an essential part of our personal and public lives. MPL employees wasted no time converting outreach to digital programs and maintaining a general sense of hope in our community. Staff volunteered to prepare food deliveries, loaned hotspots to families without internet, and delivered books to waiting cars. Our Board of Trustees encouraged and praised our actions to safely provide services and to reopen library buildings to the delight of all. With a renewed vision and a growing network of library supporters, we move forward to a bright future!

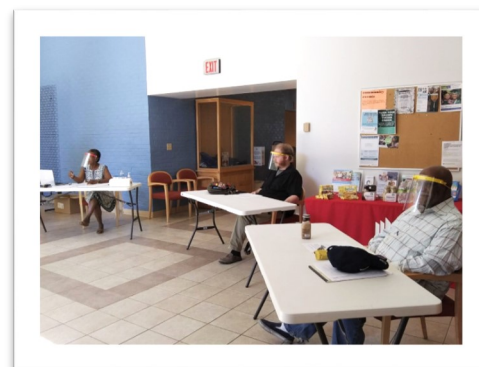
Akilah S. Nosakhare

Officers 2020

President: Billie Sheppard

Vice-President: Patrick Ferguson

Secretary: Daniel Stallings



MPL Branches



Carnegie Library

301 E. Jackson Street
765-747-8208

Historic Carnegie houses the Local History & Genealogy collection and has a computer lab, wireless access, programs, and a community meeting room.



Connection Corner

1824 E. Centennial Avenue
765-747-8216

Connection Corner is a high tech community resource center with wireless access, a computer lab, laptops, ebooks, video production, a sound studio, a 3-D printer, computer classes, programs, and a community meeting room.



Kennedy Library

1700 W. McGalliard Road
765-741-9727

Kennedy Library is a full service library with a large collection of books, digital media downloads, magazines, CD's, DVD's, wireless access, an open computer lab, story times, programs, and a community meeting room.



Maring-Hunt Library

2005 S. High Street
765-747-8200

Maring-Hunt Library is a full service library with a large collection of books, digital media downloads, magazines, CD's, DVD's, wireless access, an open computer lab, a small study room, idea studio tech center, story times, programs, a community meeting room, and the Gateway to Gardening Pavilions.



Administrative Offices

2005 S. High Street
Muncie, Indiana 47302
Phone: (765) 747-8228

<https://www.munciepubliclibrary.org/>

The Friends of Muncie Public Library

Thank you to the Friends of Muncie Public Library for their volunteer service! Although no book sales were held in 2020, the group continued to support MPL and looks forward to future fundraising book sale efforts! Friends memberships are \$15 for individuals, \$5 for students, and \$25 for a family membership. Become a Friend today! Find out more on the MPL website: www.munciepubliclibrary.org

