I remember attending arena and stadium concerts in my younger days. There was always a buzz of excitement in the crowd as the production crew put the finishing touches on the stage setup, and we all anticipated the arrival of the headlining band. While there wasn't a lot to see, you just knew that whatever came next was going to be exciting, fun, and memorable.

The leadership team and staff of your Library have spent a great deal of thought, time, and effort during 2017 setting our stage for an innovative, exciting, and fun future. While certainly the “headliner” for our stage may well be rooted in the Main Library facility, the opening acts have been remarkable in their own right. The Library has provided the community with the opportunity to meet and engage with renowned and award-winning authors whose best-selling works tie in closely with the issues we, as a society, face today. The smART box, located just inside the Main Library’s entrance, provides a fresh and ever-changing opportunity for experiential and hands-on learning. One Book, One Michiana challenges us all to expand our vision and reading preferences to experience something new with an author or subject that we might otherwise have skipped.

I am excited and filled with anticipation for what’s to come as we continue to move through 2018 and as we move closer and closer to the possibilities for improvements to the Main Library itself.

As I have in the past, I will close with a favorite Reading Rainbow quote from LeVar Burton: “But you don’t have to take my word for it!” Visit the Library and see for yourself!

Augie Freda Jr.
President of the St. Joseph County Public Library Board

St. Joseph County Public Library Board of Directors

Augie Freda Jr. President
Alan Feldbaum Vice President
Christine Pochert Ringle Secretary

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Libraries represent an extraordinary story in our country’s history. To imagine places of learning where anyone can have nearly unlimited access to ideas and information is a lofty goal. Over the years, it’s increasingly meant public libraries are one of the places where democracy shines.

At SJCPL, we’re committed to growing our community in ways that improve the quality of life for everyone.

Today, we’re bringing our community together for programs, events, classes, and discussions. What we do now sets the stage for an entirely new generation of learners who’ll need a community living room. Because we believe kids shouldn’t have to worry about overdue library charges, we offer the Youth Access card. Kids can have up to 5 items checked out at a time, but they never pay for overdue items. For nearly 6,900 young people, the Youth Access card works.

We’re designing programs and services along with you in ways that speak to your needs at this moment in time. In Studio 304 at Main Library, we offer recording spaces, a green screen for video production, 3D printing, virtual reality, and more.

smART box, our interactive exhibit space, is a way for you to enjoy and reflect on a wide variety of changing topics. With installations that change about every 6 weeks, we’ve made it possible for you to interact with other community members in a new way.

We believe everybody should have access to high speed Internet, along with tech help to apply for a job, pay bills, learn a new skill, or do homework. As providers of a fast WiFi network, standalone computers, and trained staff, we hope to meet the needs of all in our spaces.

Our Main Library project is never off our radar. The current building, built in 1960 and remodeled in 1990, was never designed for the wealth of programs, events, meetings, and training opportunities we provide today. The possibility of flexible spaces that can be modified for changing needs continues the promise of the Library as a space where our community can always come together for learning and connecting.

Thanks for reading!

Debra Futa | Executive Director
Grow and Sustain Readers

Reading can educate. It can entertain. It elevates us and introduces us to new perspectives. Reading is a lifelong passion that we all can share. Our mission at the Library is to offer services and programs that cultivate a love of reading in people of all ages and all backgrounds.

EARLY LITERACY

The enjoyment of books begins at birth. Storytimes offer enrichment and valuable early literacy skills to our community.

- **346** Storytimes
- **89** Special Storytimes
- **11,176** People attended Storytimes

SPECIAL STORYTIME ATTENDANCE

- Francis Branch Lapsits: **3748**
- Firefighter Storytimes: **474**
- Dino Day Storytime: **90**
- Sensory Storytime: **28**

563,607 children’s books CHECKED OUT

AUTHOR VISITS

The Library brings several popular authors to our community every year for free public lectures and book signings.

- **Elizabeth Berg**: 65 attendees
- **Leonard Pitts**: 500 attendees
- **Walter Mosley**: 234 attendees
- **READ Local Author Fair**: 78 attendees (30 authors)

Our first author fair provided readers with an opportunity to connect with local authors.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Reading for recreation all summer long.

- 3,157 children
- 505 teens
- 1,474 adults

OPEN BOOK WITH LAURA NUMEROFF

Celebrating the magic of stories for 16 years with this annual family event featuring a popular children’s book author, character visits, and fun activities.

- 1,473 children and adults
- 452 participated in countdown programs

New Logo!
Gather, Experience, Connect

Community is more than a shared location. It is shared interests and goals. It is a sense of belonging. The Library is for the whole community. We are a part of your neighborhoods. We are a place to learn, to relax, to come together.

PARTNERSHIPS

Working together makes us better and stronger as a community. The Library has made an effort to partner with a variety of local businesses and organizations.

- Indiana Black Expo Inc.
- Civil Rights Heritage Center
- Community Foundation of St. Joseph County
- IU South Bend
- SBCSC Adult Education
- South Bend Education Foundation
- South Bend Area Genealogical Society
- The Music Village
- Unity Garden
- University of Notre Dame
- Volunteer Lawyer Network
- Youth Services Bureau

2017 was the inaugural year for South Bend’s Best. Week. Ever.

730 people attended our Truck Rally on June 2, the kickoff to our Summer Reading Challenge.

PROGRAMMING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The Library strives to offer a diverse array of programs—from tech help to language classes—to meet everyone’s needs.

1,270 Programs | 281 Experiences | 51,528 People Reached

TYPES OF PROGRAMS IN 2017

YOUTH STORYHOURS 309
ADULT 413
TEEN 17
COMPUTER TRAINING 417

SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY

Monday, August 21, 2017

NASA’s live stream was aired in the Colfax Auditorium and people were invited to gather in the Main Library’s garden plaza and at branch locations to watch this spectacular natural phenomenon.

890 people.

300 free pairs of eclipse viewing glasses were handed out.

The true meaning of community: when the crowd exceeded the number of glasses available, people found ways to share.

SCIENCE ALIVE

For 35 years, Science Alive has been our community’s largest STEM event. Science-related organizations across the region come together to offer hands-on activities and to teach kids about dinosaurs, chemistry, physics, space, and engineering. This year, we introduced the Take Apart Program, which allowed kids to see the inner workings of everyday technology.

ONE BOOK, ONE MICHIANA

Every year the Library leads the community on a literary adventure. In 2017, we walked into the world of hard-boiled fiction with Devil in A Blue Dress by Walter Mosley.

27 programs including Jazz with Merrimans’ Playhouse Science Cafe: Crime Detection Brunch Discussion with Tricia Sloma

1,561 adults and teens participated
Guide the Digital Journey

This is a digital world. Technology impacts our work, our play, and almost every aspect of our lives. A core mission of the Library is to advance digital initiatives to help every single member of our community.

PLAY

Playaway Launchpad
Tablets for tiny hands and growing brains. The Library began carrying 11 Playaway Launchpads in December 2017. With no rental fee, no need for internet connection, and 4-hour battery life, these tablets are a popular addition to our collection.

In the first month they were available at the Library, they were checked out 11 times.

Teens @ SJCPL

Teen Full Access library cards were introduced, allowing Teens 14-17 to checkout Laptops and iPads.

Two additional Teen-only access computers were put in the Teen Area

Nintendo Switch introduced at the end of the year.

52 gaming sessions 591 attendees

CREATE

Studio 304 - (opened in 2014)
On the cutting edge of technology with new equipment and services:

- 8mm/Super 8 Reel Movie Digitizer
- HTC Vive Virtual Reality Station
- Carvey Desktop CNC Machine
- Squier Stratocaster Electric Guitar
- littleBits Code Kit
- Logic Pro X Digital Audio Workstation Software

HOW DID PEOPLE USE THE LAB?

- Civil Rights Heritage Center recorded its South Bend’s Own Words podcast.
- A family digitized over 200 reels of 8mm video from the 40s and 50s and added voice over commentary as a Christmas present for their children.
- 444 3D prints were made for gifts, mementos, and just for fun!
- Owner of a newly opened dance studio created a logo and flyers with lab equipment.

ACCESS

Technology Hub

Patrons logged 10,665,443 computer minutes (that’s over 20 YEARS)

- WiFi
  Our mission is to become the biggest provider of WiFi in St. Joseph County.

- Wireless internet used by 423,330 patrons. 84%↑

- Upgraded Wireless Access Points to offer the best and broadest coverage.
- Download speed of 5 gbps and 28 wireless hubs at the Main Library.

- Main Library added a charging station in the First Floor Café and charging dongles to each public access computer.
The Library is part of a big, beautiful, diverse community. We strive to make this a better place to live by being here for you in the ways that you need it most. Whether you are inside the Library, out in the community, or at home, the Library should be easy to use and accessible to all.

**OUR COLLECTION**

From the latest graphic novel or must read biography to the greatest works of classic literature, we work hard to keep our collection relevant and accessible.

- **740,101** items in our collection
- **1,735,413** items checked out
- **287,057** electronic content used

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Library doubled down on its commitment to community outreach in 2017 with the creation of the Community Engagement Department with 4 full time positions.

- **183** Outreach Programs
- **10,546** Outreach Attendance
- **105** Library Cards Made at Outreach Events

Our Community Engagement Department brought library books to the Juvenile Justice Center, Food Bank of Northern Indiana, and B.A.B.E Store.

**HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT**

- **Ask A Lawyer**
  - Free legal advice from the Volunteer Lawyers Network
  - **129** people served

- **Homebound**
  - Delivering library materials to those who need it most
  - **2,437** people served
WE ARE ALWAYS Open ONLINE

Social Media Followers

- Facebook: 6,390 (21%)
- Twitter: 2,942 (57%)
- Instagram: 657 (71%)

Average Daily Engaged Users

- Facebook: 183 (66%)
- Twitter: 11 (57%)
- Instagram: 24 (71%)

Best Posts of 2017

Most engaged post

- 1,061 likes, shares, comments

Books that flew off the shelf in 2017

- Milk & Honey by Rupi Kaur
- Origin by Dan Brown
- Unbelievable by Katy Tur
- Instantpot Cookbooks

Our #LibraryShelfie post was shared by New York Public Library!

Libraries showing their hometown pride

SJCPL Facebook Posts in 2017

1,061
The 7th Annual South Bend Symphony Holiday Concert included a visit from the new Maestro Alastair Willis. Hundreds of listeners added messages of peace to decorate the tree.

Showed a strong commitment to embrace diversity and inclusion. Partnered with the community to offer a Chinese New Year and Eid Ramadan Celebration.

Facilitated registration for reduced lunches and textbook rental for the 2017/18 school year with representatives from the South Bend Community School Corporation.

Held scavenger hunts and other fun programs at area schools, including Our Lady of Hungary and Monroe Primary Center.

Pre-Parade Playtime entertained over 125 kids with bubbles, chalk, and other fun activities before the 94th Annual West Side Memorial Day Parade.
# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE LIBRARY

2,276 people in the door

27 new library cards registered

5,540 items borrowed

789 digital downloads

410 items cataloged

639 public computers used

2,958 website visits

1,163 WiFi uses

313 GB of WiFi used

31 people attended storytime

1 item added to Michiana Memory

106 program attendees

3 museum passes checked out

1,941 people visited this unique space during its first two exhibits, *Thankful* and *Light*.

A new interactive public space opened at the Main Library. Over a year in the making, smART box debuted in November.
$55,727 raised from 461 GIFTS

The largest number of individual gifts for all of St. Joseph County.

189 Staff Members

364,650 reference questions answered

688 books logged during Staff Reading Challenges

MAY 9, 2017
GIVE LOCAL
St. Joseph County

Faces of SJCPL
## FINANCIALS

### Revenues
- Local Government: $12,658,751
- State Government: $1,000,847
- Federal Government: $159,180
- Fines & Fees: $584,549
- Donations & Grants: $151,005
- Other Income: $120,885
- **Total Revenues:** $14,675,217

### Expenses
- Personnel: $7,314,202
- Collection: $2,511,941
- Other: $2,223,117
- **Total Expenses:** $12,049,260

### Give Local
- Donations: $41,795
- Endowment: $39,713
- **Total Give Local:** $81,508

### DONORS

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- Brent and Carolyn Banulis
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Zen Cafe

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to the many contributors who joined our fundraising efforts in 2017. Your support of our Annual Fund, Science Alive, One Book, One Michiana, Open Book Family Festival, and Summer Reading Challenge is greatly appreciated.

For any errors or omissions please contact us at 574.282.4646.
WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE LIBRARY?

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

COMMUNITY TECH HUBS

LIFELONG LEARNING

MAIN LIBRARY RENOVATION

304 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SOUTH BEND, IN 46601
SJCPL.ORG