

The cover features a grid of four colored rectangles: cyan (top-left), yellow (top-right), purple (middle), and green (bottom-right). A small orange rectangle is in the bottom-left corner. The text is centered in the purple band.

Annual Report
of the Peoria Public Library

2016

HIGHLIGHTS

Peoria Public Library is the community common space where people meet, new ideas take hold and access to ideas and information are offered to all.

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- From the computer labs to the Gallery to meeting rooms, Peoria Public Library continues to be a hub of conversation, learning and innovation.
- Library meeting rooms were used 8,196 times for community groups, tutors, study groups and trainings for local organizations. A total of 42,683 people came to Peoria Public Library to attend meetings held by outside organizations, which is an increase of 28% over 2015.



- Peoria Public Library offered programs ranging from science lectures to historic film showings to book discussions with 4,876 people attending 329 programs. Children also enthusiastically attended over 544 free programs and 476 storytimes offered by Peoria Public Library. With more than 1,000 total programs offered, 9,056 children benefitted from educational experiences offered through library programming in 2016. The number of programs offered in 2016 represents an increase of over 16% as compared to 2015.



Peoria Public Library is a force for literacy in Peoria

- In addition to offering free access to our ever-evolving collection of almost a half million books, our staff helps people find new books to read, encourages children to keep reading and challenges adults to read and discuss important books.
- 2016 Summer Reading: We Dig It! brought about 3,500 people of all ages together in a challenge to read at least three hours per week for seven weeks during June and July. The program stops "summer slide" for students, who can lose several grade levels of reading skills over the summer break and brings families together. It challenges adults and seniors to keep reading and learning. Peoria Public Schools and Friends of Peoria Public Library as well as many community businesses provided support. The Summer Reading Party, an invitation-only event offered to those who complete the challenge, held at the Peoria Riverfront Museum and Caterpillar Visitor Center, was well attended by 950 summer readers.



- Peoria Reads! book discussions and programs were held in February, March and April to encourage people to read and discuss *The Things They Carried*, a book about the Vietnam War, by Tim O'Brien. Partners included Common Place Family Learning Center, Bradley University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and Illinois Central College.
- As a result of Peoria Public Library's participation in the Illinois State Library's two-year Targeting Autism initiative, Autism specific programming offered by the Library in 2016 included the Autism Resource Group, Between the Lines Book Club, Sensory Storytime and the Sensory Friendly Family Film Series. In addition, monthly sensory storytimes are being offered at three Peoria primary schools.
- A new monthly program for seniors with memory issues who reside at a local senior center was started and rapidly expanded. In addition there is now an offsite book club for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



- Business owners were offered an opportunity to learn how they can improve their business' impact and success for free using the Library's ReferenceUSA database. Small business participants learned how to use ReferenceUSA to find their current customers, study their competition, and design a business plan for financial backing.
- McClure Branch began offering computer basics classes twice a month, covering the basic skills needed to start taking advantage of a desktop or laptop computer, including basic terminology and navigation on the devices themselves.



- A Reader's Advisory Service is available for all who are looking for something new to read. After filling out a short questionnaire, staff return with a list of books. "What a great list from a fantastic service! I will tell all my book club friends about it. I'm so looking forward to digging into these books. Thank you!"



- Children spending the summer at The Dream Center benefitted from six weeks of programs designed and lead by a Master Degree Librarian, exposing them to books and ideas they may not otherwise have experienced.

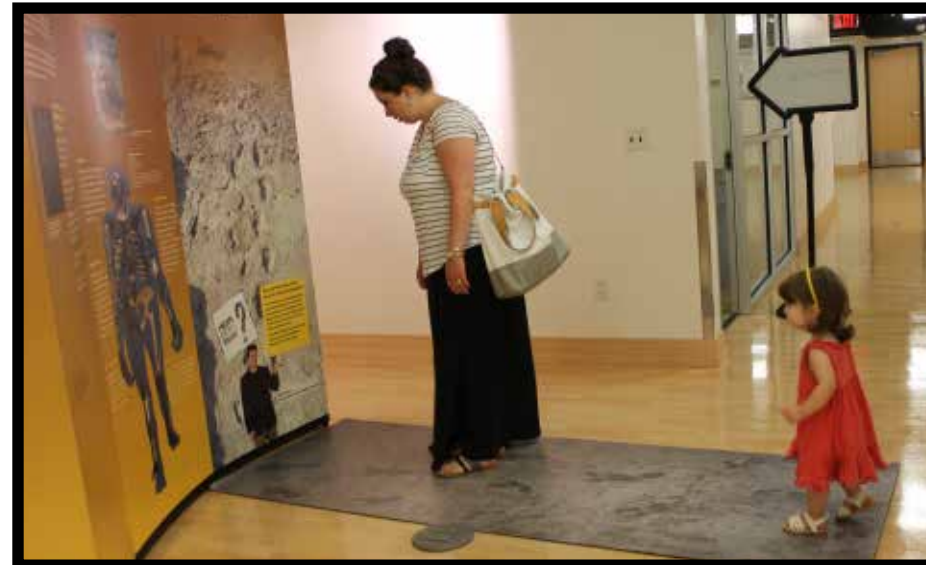


Arts, Science and a Connection to the Past Become Accessible and Provide Patrons With Meaningful Experiences



- Peoria Public Library offers displays in the Main Library Gallery and in a variety of other display areas throughout the system. Featuring visual arts, science and history, these exhibits bring a broad variety of information that is accessible to all, to the community.
- “Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to be Human?” was on display in the Gallery in June and July through a grant from Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in collaboration with the American Library Association. One of just 19 public libraries in the United States to host the exhibit, a partnership

with Dr. Fred Smith of Illinois State University brought additional displays about the latest finds in anthropology and archaeology to each branch. Along with hosting a traveling exhibit for a month, the library hosted two public programs presented by scientists from the Smithsonian and four public programs presented by Illinois scientists and offered tours to several groups. The well-attended exhibit and programs were meant to help the public gain an understanding of science as well as current discoveries.



- Art exhibits were held by the Peoria Historical Society, Congressman Darin LaHood, 22VA, The Illinois Art League, and other local artists throughout the year, providing a space for members of the community to exhibit work in a professional gallery that is also accessible and freely open to the public, encouraging the arts to flourish on a grass roots level.



- The Peoria Public Library also creates a bibliography for the Fine Arts Society to accompany their monthly programs, for which they have expressed their appreciation.
- Exhibits on Caterpillar Advertising Art by Mark Johnson and a showing of the restored film “Peoria Progress” helped Peorians look into the past of the city. “Peoria Progress” was of such interest that a second showing had to be held to accommodate the crowd.

- Other special-interest groups held smaller exhibits including art by participants in EPIC (Empowering Peoria. Inspiring Capabilities) who were given confidence by being able to participate in a professional exhibit. An educational exhibit was assembled by members of the Peoria Transgender Society who thanked the library for making them feel accepted.
- A series of twelve free monthly concerts, Music in the McKenzie, brought acoustic musical offerings to the community. The series is enjoyed by many, including those who are unable to attend concerts elsewhere. Other musical events included Adam Larson, The Way Down Wanderers, and Jeanie B! allowing the community to enjoy both nationally known and local talent.



The Friends provide support for programming and other extras not covered by the operating budget. They fund the Summer Reading Party each year, support author visits, provide materials and prizes for children’s programs and more.

In 2016 they granted a total of \$27,166 to Peoria Public Library including \$14,410 for the Summer Reading Program and \$5,000 for other children’s programs. These dedicated volunteers also sponsored 12 programs, as well as the Local Author Fair, providing a showcase for local writers.

Friends supported the Peoria Public Library with funds raised by volunteers through the Friendly Finds Bookstore and book sale shelves at branches. To learn more about the Friends, visit <http://www.peoriapubliclibrary.org>.

PARTNERSHIPS

In 2016, through an ongoing collaborative partnership with Peoria Public Schools, library staff increased efforts to make sure every Peoria Public Schools student had a library card, by helping to staff Registration Hubs, but also by offering library card registration and information at Parent Universities throughout the school year. The Bookmobile began 2016 with seven stops Peoria Public Schools during the school year and four Summer School stops, but by fall increased that number to 12 school stops. In addition, library staff took programs to the schools as public library staff met with and offered assistance to public school librarians and teachers and took programs like Sensory Story Time to the classrooms.



The Peoria Public Library partnered with the Mayor's Community Coalition Against Heroin to raise awareness of the heroin and opiates epidemic in the Peoria area. In addition to offering copies to borrow, the library distributed 500 copies of *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* to people to read and pass along to others. In addition, the library facilitated a visit by author Sam Quinones to Peoria where he gave a radio interview, met with law enforcement and public officials, and presented two public programs. In October and November four public discussions, led by a trained facilitator on the heroin and opiates epidemic, were hosted, thanks to an Illinois Speaks grant Peoria Public Library received from the Illinois Humanities Council.

Peoria Public Library worked with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to provide information and speakers on a variety of topics during study groups, learning sessions and tours, enriching learning opportunities for seniors.

Collaboration continued with the "Don't Shoot" program and Peoria Public Library hosted Naturalization Ceremonies and held a Latino Open House to familiarize members of the Latino community with library services

Other collaborations included: the Film Noir Festival with Steve Tarter of the Journal Star; Peoria Humane Society (PAWS); McClure Branch with the Center Bluff Neighborhood Association to provide appropriate programming; Friends of Clonmel for the sister city international book club; Peoria Astronomical Society and Peoria Riverfront Museum for International Moon Night; and Common Place.



Income

Local Government, City of Peoria property taxes: **\$6,505,907**

State Government: **\$581,392**

Federal Government: **\$7,400**

Other: Endowment, interest income, gifts, fees, etc.: **\$182,508**

Total : \$7,277,207

Expenses

Salaries, Wages, Benefits: **\$5,005,201**

Operating Expenses: **\$1,240,223**

Materials: Books, etc.: **\$826,006**

Capital Outlay: **\$131,112**

Total: \$7,202,542

Grants Awarded

American Library Association: Exploring Human Origins: **\$500**

E-Rate Grant: **\$17,932**

Illinois State Library Per Capita Grant Program, for books and other library materials: **\$88,653**

National Endowment for the Arts: The Big Read: **\$9,700**

Illinois Humanities Council: Illinois Speaks: **\$250**

Illinois Secretary of State: Project Next Generation: **\$6,531**

Total: \$123,566



Peoria
Public
Library

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