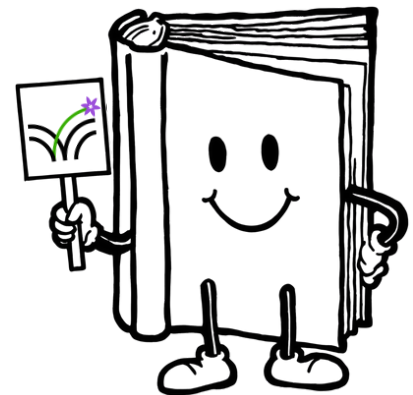




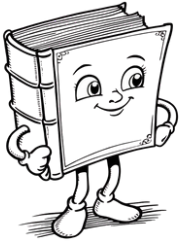
Baby Storytime participants and Library Associate Maria Martin on Halloween.

CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT



2024

OUR MISSION



The Camas Public Library is dedicated to serving our community with meaningful connections, engaging enrichment, and pathways to knowledge.



Outreach Librarian Elliot Stapleton at the Camas Farmer's Market.



Bridgerton Trivia Night winners.

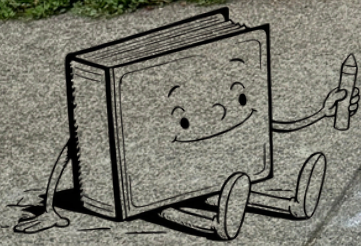


Reading Dragons enthusiasts.

CONNECTIONS

ENRICHMENT

KNOWLEDGE



2024: The Year of Flexibility

2024 Art Walk.

So many wonderful things happened in 2024! The bees are thriving, we have an expanded pollinator garden (thank you, Camas Earth Day Society!), and people are reading more than ever. Libraries are, of course, a place for learning, and we learned *a lot* about flexibility in 2024. Both of our construction projects hit snags, and in the case of the HVAC project, the snag caused us to close on many different high-traffic summer days. That undoubtedly affected our statistics this year. More importantly, it interrupted service at a time when people depend on summer reading or even just a cool place to relax. But we found ways to adapt our service, and our patrons continued to show their support. In fact, we received our highest satisfaction rating yet via the City's biannual community survey. I'm so proud of the Library staff for fostering an environment where all people are welcome to gather, learn, and connect. It's because of their passion for service and ability to adapt we remain the heart of the community.

The community survey is my highlight this year. Keep an eye out for the highlights of other staff, sprinkled throughout this report.

-Connie Urquhart, Library Director



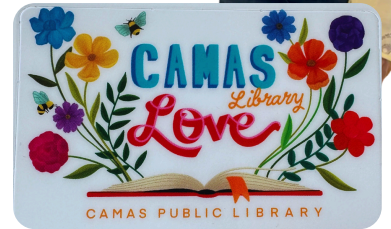
WELCOME TO THE LIBRARY!

BORROWERS

	2023	2024	CHANGE
ADULTS	22,279	21,614	-3%
TEENS	3,100	3,072	-1%
KIDS	2,891	2,742	-5%
TOTAL	28,270	27,428	-3%

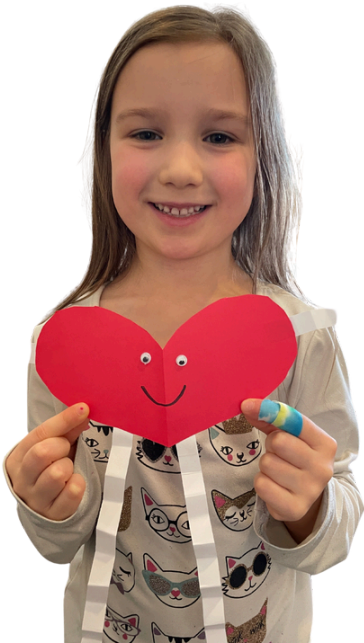


The new library card offered in 2024, designed by Hailee Parman (right).



VISITORS

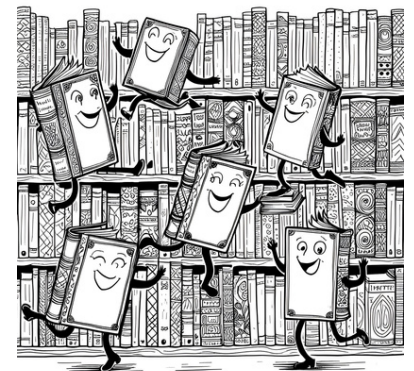
	2023	2024	CHANGE
IN THE BUILDING	146,856	149,686	+2%
CURBSIDE PICKUP	128	102	-20%
ON OUR APP	16,526	16,740	+1%
VIA OUR CATALOG	42,985	52,821	+23%
VIA OUR WEBSITE	99,639	90,618	-9%
TOTAL	306,134	309,967	+1%



A Family Storytime participant shows off the heart craft.

HOLDINGS

	2023	2024	CHANGE
PHYSICAL ITEMS	97,469	100,601	+3%
PURCHASED	7,997	6,485	-19%
DONATED	486	1,455	+199%
WITHDRAWN	8,855	6,282	-29%

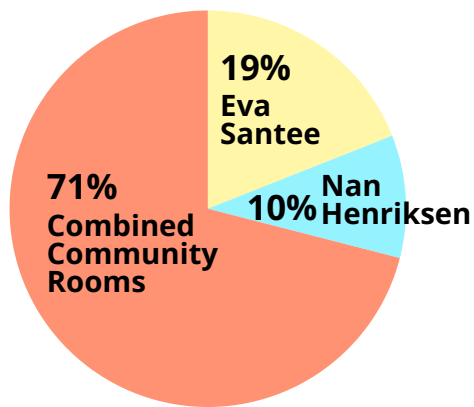




COMMUNITY ROOM USE

	Meetings/ Events	People Attending
Library Programs	85%	91%
Non-Profit/Community Groups	10%	4%
Government/Education	4%	3%
Private Rentals	1%	1%

Statistics include events inside the Eva Santee Room, Nan Henriksen Room, or the two rooms combined. Events held elsewhere in the Library are excluded.



HOW THE ROOMS WERE BOOKED

	2023	2024	Change
Meetings	903	922	+2%
Attendance	22,221	21,870	-2%

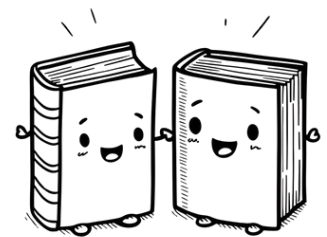


COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



- AARP Tax-Aide
- Artisans' Guild of Camas
- Camas Earth Day Society
- Camas School District
- Camas Washougal Community Chest
- Chess Club
- Downtown Camas Association
- Friends & Foundation of the Camas Library
- Great Decisions
- Master Gardeners
- NatureScaping Wildlife Botanical Gardens

- Poetry Street PNW
- Project Holiday Hope
- Ripple Wellness
- Talking Sleep
- Virtual Mindfulness
- Washington State Library



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Left to right: Library Associate Maria Martin delivers donated food to the Family-Community Resource Center; Employees of Hewlett Packard volunteer in the Library's Pollinator Garden.



WAYS TO GIVE

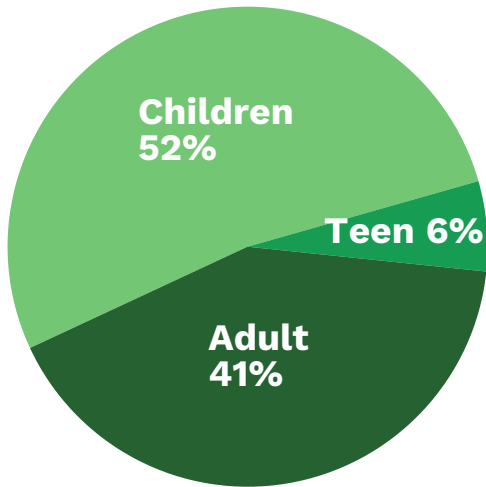
Patrons have indicated that they look for ways to give back at the Library, whether that is learning about philanthropy or advocacy at a Library program, volunteering at the Library or with one of our community partner organizations, or by donating through one of several drives we host throughout the year.

AND GIVING SPACE TO GIVE BACK

CIRCULATION

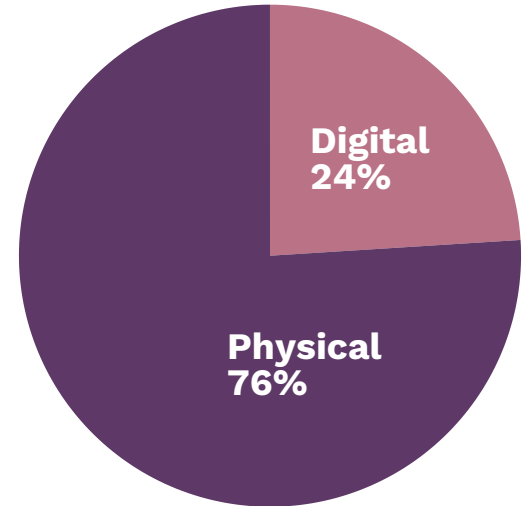


	2023	2024	CHANGE
Total Checkouts	578,998	607,524	+5%



AUDIENCE

Use of the Children's collection decreased by 3%, use of the Teen collection stayed even, and use of the Adult collection increased by 3%.



FORMAT

Digital use increased 3% in 2024, while use of physical items decreased by 3%.



1. Adult Fiction Includes: Physical and Digital Fiction, Large Print, Audiobooks, Book Kits, and Lucky Day.

2. Read-to-Me Books Includes: Books meant for caregivers to read to children, i.e. Picture Books, Board Books, Readalongs, and Concept Books.

3. Adult Nonfiction Includes: Physical and Digital Fiction, Large Print, and Audiobooks.

4. Children's Fiction

5. Children's Early Readers Includes: Beginning to Read and Chapter Books.

6. Children's Nonfiction

7. Children's Graphic Novels

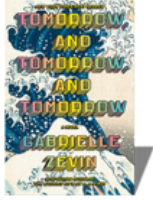
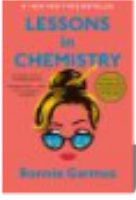
8. Teen Fiction

Most Checked Out Collections



THE JOY OF READING

Top Titles: Adult



LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY
BY BONNIE GARMUS
(SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR)

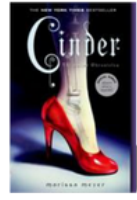
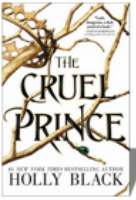
THE WOMEN
BY KRISTIN HANNAH

FOURTH WING
BY REBECCA YARROS

IRON FLAME
BY REBECCA YARROS

TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW
BY GABRIELLE ZEVIN

Top Titles: Teen



THE CRUEL PRINCE
BY HOLLY BLACK

THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES
BY SUZANNE COLLINS

CINDER
BY MARISSA MEYER

SHATTER ME
BY TAHEREH MAFI

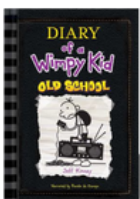
A COURT OF MIST AND FURY
BY SARAH J. MAAS

Top Titles: Children

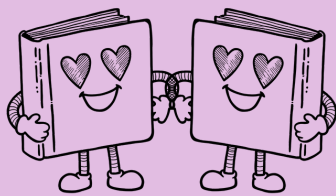
All top five checkouts in the children's collection were graphic novel series



1. *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey
2. *The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey
3. *The Baby-Sitters Club* by multiple authors
4. *Big Nate* by Lincoln Peirce
5. *Phoebe and Her Unicorn* by Dana Simpson



The top five Children's Fiction titles were all from the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, by Jeff Kinney



BOOK CLUBS



The Meet Cute Book Club.

2024 BOOK CLUBS

FOR KIDS & TEENS

- Beginning Readers (K-1st Grade)
- Story Explorers (2nd-3rd Grade)
- Page Turners (4th-5th Grade)
- Teen Book Club (6th-12th Grade)
- Rainbow Reads (6th-12th Grade)

FOR ADULTS

- Cover to Cover
- Meet Cute
- Killer Reads
- Silent Book Club
- Stranger Than Fiction

“ My highlight of the year is being a facilitator to 3 of the adult book clubs. We have had so many insightful, funny, and joyful conversations in 2024. I've also seen so many friendships formed within each club, and it warms my heart to see community being built around the love of reading and books. ”

-Leah Burch, Community Librarian



READING DRAGONS



Reading Dragons
& Friends

	2023	2024	Change
Number of Participants	505	399	-21%
% of Program Finishers	85%	100%	+15%

While the number of participants in both the Reading Dragons and Summer Reading programs decreased in 2024, the percent of participants who finished the program increased. Finishing a reading program (as opposed to registering only or partial completion) can have the potential outcomes of improved reading skills, better critical thinking skills, increased interest in reading, enhanced comprehension skills, expanded vocabulary, increased confidence, and an overall improved academic performance. Way to go, kids of Camas!



Little Dragons
Infants - 4 years old

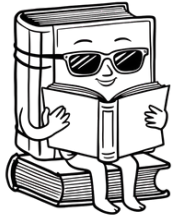
The Library debuted a new reading program for our youngest patrons this year. Little Dragons encourages caregivers to spend time reading with their little ones, from birth to 4 years old. In a series of incentives which include stamps and stickers, once the Little Dragons tracker is full, it can be exchanged for a free book.

Reading Dragons for all in the Makela family!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM



Science Circus performs for Summer Reading Program.



	2023	2024	CHANGE
% OF FINISHERS - CHILDREN	57%	64%	+12%
% OF FINISHERS - TEENS	59%	72%	+22%
% OF FINISHERS - ADULTS	60%	73%	+22%
TOTAL % OF FINISHERS: EVERYONE	58%	67%	+16%

Total Participants 2023

1,631

Total Participants 2024

1,568

Change

-4%

“ My highlight of 2024 was the joy of seeing families participate together in the Summer Reading Program. ”

-Vanessa Perger, Programming Librarian



SOCIAL MEDIA

USER REACH

2023: 156, 631
2024: 262,128
Change: +67%

ENGAGED USERS

2023: 12,541
2024: 12,637
Change: +1%

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

2023: 81,014
2024: 193,492
Change: +139%

The Social Media Team added TikTok to the Library's platforms this year, which includes Instagram (pictured right, in a post featuring the Social Media Team) and Facebook.



170 1 12

Liked by denise_adams12 and others

camaspubliclibrary The library closes at 5 p.m. today and reopens Saturday, November 30 at 10 a.m., but don't forget to support our amazing local businesses and spread the more



HOW CAN WE HELP?

INTERLIBRARY LOANS

Items **loaned** to other libraries: 562
Change from 2023: -9%

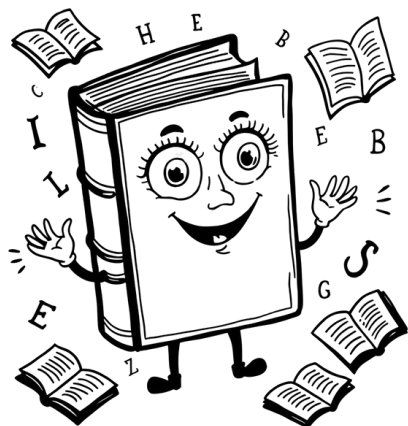
Items **borrowed** from other libraries: 539
Change from 2023: +2%

REFERENCE QUESTIONS

2023: 10,571
2024: 11,422
Change: +8%

OTHER QUERIES & TRANSACTIONS

2023: 25,787
2024: 29,773
Change: +15%



PUBLIC COMPUTER USE

Devices checked out

2023: 1,205
2024: 1,902
Change: +58%

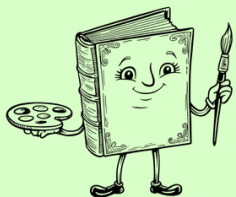
Public computer sessions

2023: 6,876
2024: 7,095
Change: +3%

Average unique users each month

2023: 316
2024: 404
Change: +28%





SECOND STORY GALLERY

“ My highlight for the year would be all of the amazing shows that we were able to exhibit at the Second Story Gallery. ”



-Kary Wilson, Library Associate



First Friday opening reception for the Southwest Washington Watercolor Society.

2024 GALLERY EXHIBITS

- **JANUARY** | Artisans’ Guild of Camas
- **FEBRUARY** | High Fiber Diet: A Different View
- **MARCH** | Fill the Gallery! Elementary Art Exhibition
- **APRIL** | Homespun: Treasures from the Collections of the Clark County Historical Museum and Two Rivers Heritage Museum
- **MAY** | My Teacher is a Wolf: The Comics Art of Aron Nels Steinke
- **JUNE** | The Dualities of Northwest Color: The Art of Stephen Hayes and Alice Pritchett
- **JULY** | High School Art Showcase
- **AUGUST** | Middle School Art Showcase
- **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER** | Southwest Washington Watercolor Society
- **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER** | Northwest Oil Painters Guild



“ My highlight of the year was working with the Gallery Team and seeing our gallery spaces grow. I love seeing the creativity of exhibitors and my coworkers in making the Second Story Gallery and Corner Gallery inviting and engaging. ”

-Chris Tanis, Library Assistant





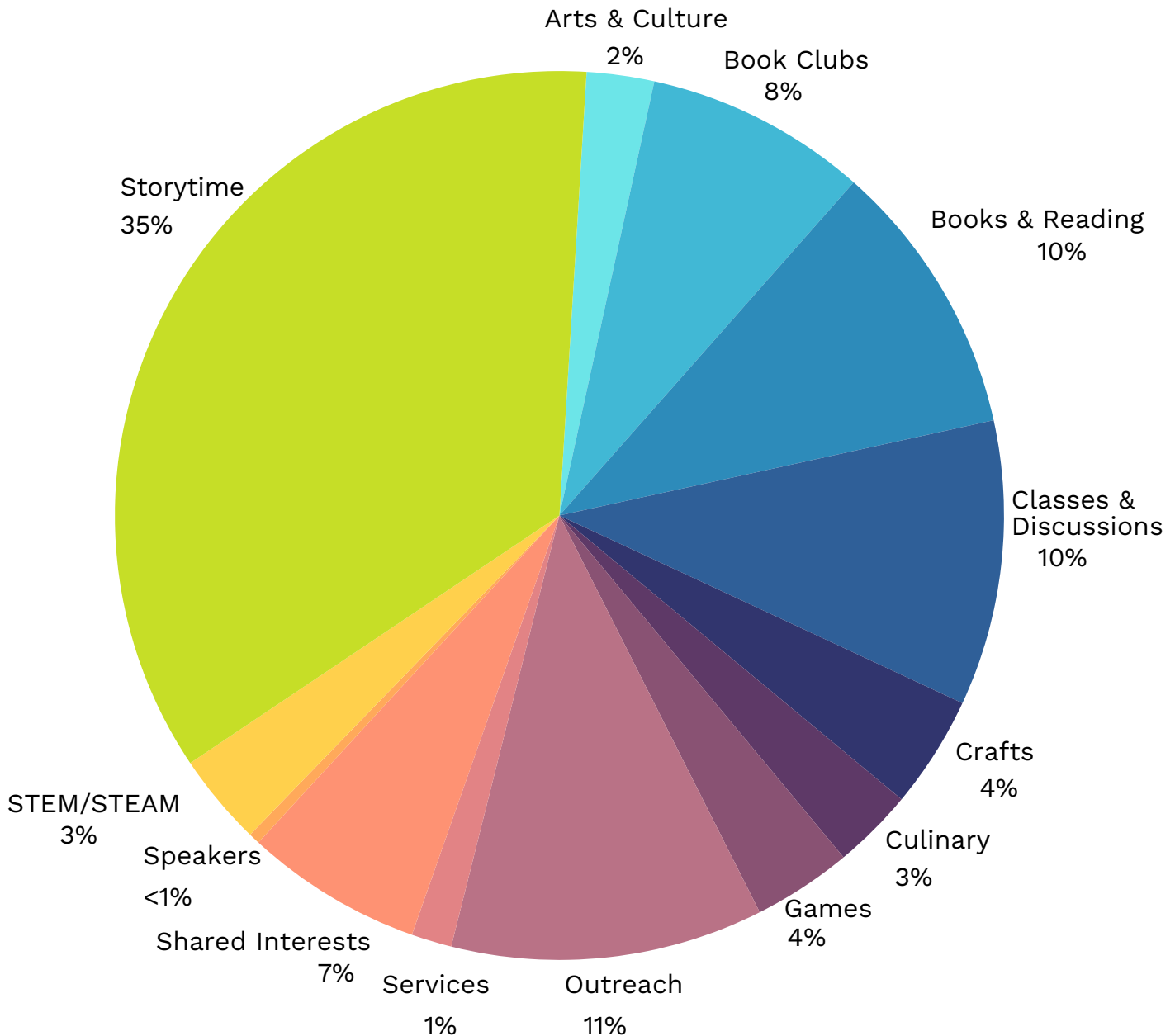
PROGRAMS OFFERED



2023
1,220

2024
1,238

CHANGE
+1%



WHO WERE AT THE EVENTS?

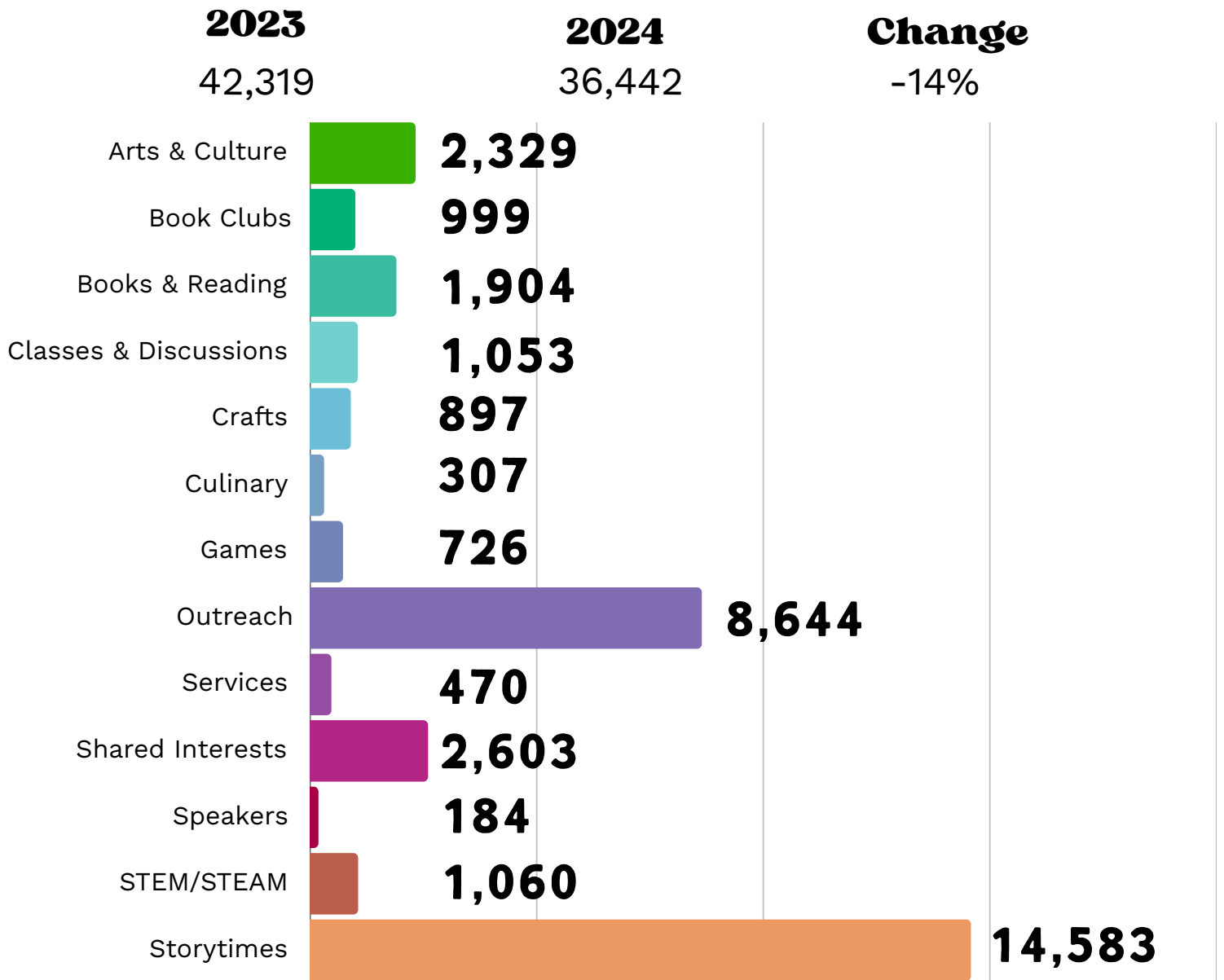
ADULTS 46%

TEENS 4%

KIDS 50%



PROGRAMS HEADCOUNT



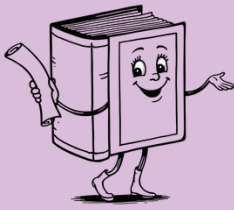
Gothic Moments Craft.



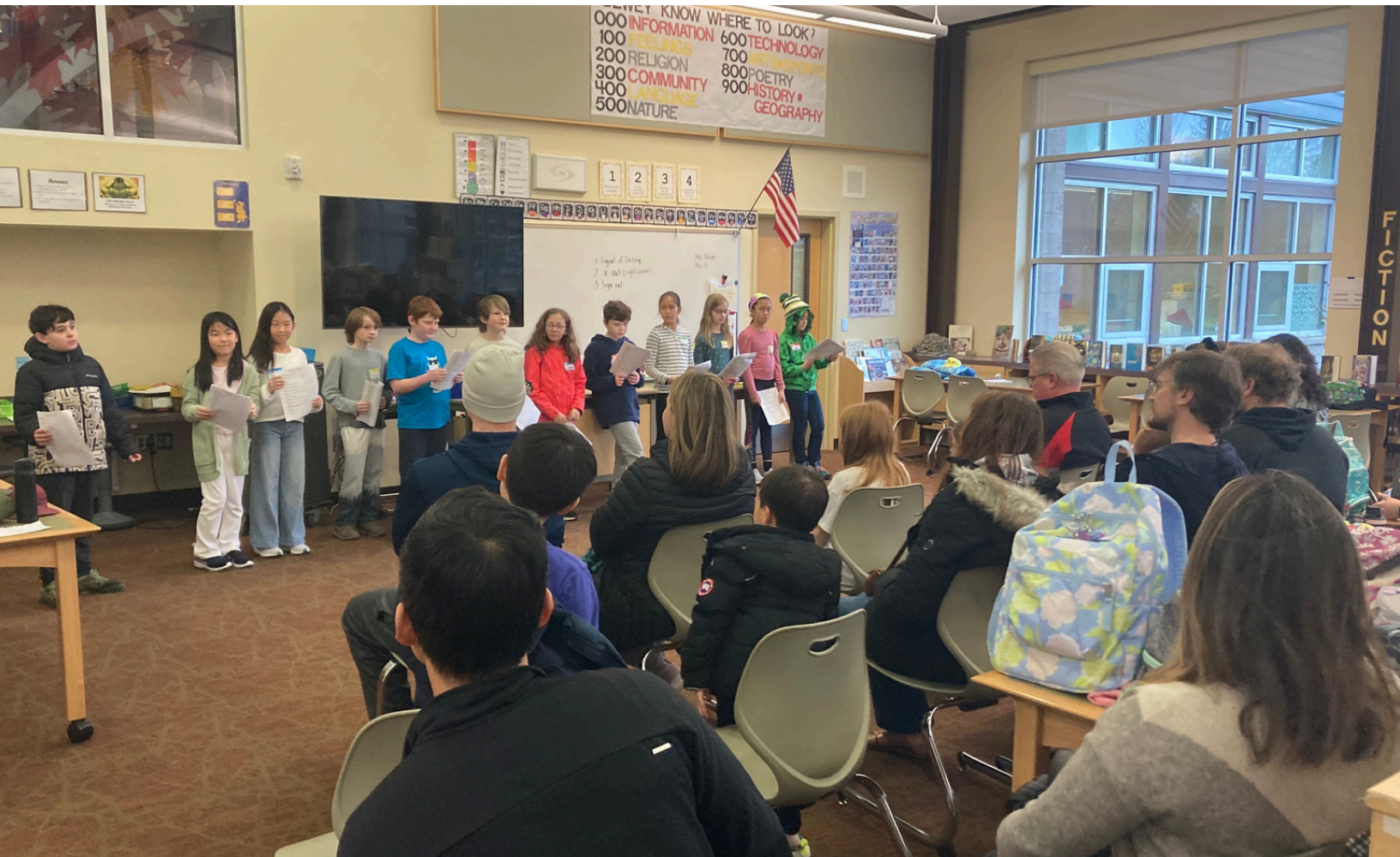
Solar System Sponge Art.



Creature Teacher Event.



OUTREACH



Readers Theater offsite program offered at Woodburn Elementary School by Outreach Librarian Elliot Stapleton.

OFFSITE PROGRAMS	2023	2024	CHANGE
	105	115	+9%
TRADITIONAL OUTREACH EVENTS	2023	2024	CHANGE
	56	45	-20%

My highlight from 2024 was doing the first session of Readers Theater at Woodburn Elementary. There was a lot of coordinating to make it happen since it's the first time we've collaborated with Camas Community Ed to offer an afterschool program within the schools. At the very end of the class, it was a lot of fun to watch the students perform the script they practiced for their parents.

-Elliot Stapleton, Outreach Librarian



NATURE SMART



Birdwatching program at Round Lake.

BECOMING A NATURE-SMART LIBRARY

Thanks to a grant from the Camas Washougal Community Chest, the Library became “nature smart” this year by adding both programs and materials meant to encourage patrons to spend time outdoors. Events such as *Introduction to Ecology in the Pacific Northwest* and *Forest Bathing* were successful ways to connect to nature in the environment. At the Library, patrons checked out outdoor games that ranged from giant Jenga to bocce ball. The initiative was well-received by the community and will continue as a permanent part of the Library’s offerings.



“ My highlight is the addition of the Nature Smart kits / outdoor games. ”

-Amy Hyland, Library Assistant





BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS



Technology & Collections Manager Danielle Reynolds, Library Director Connie Urquhart, and Associate Architect Sarah Burk show renderings for the upcoming Building Improvements Project and answer questions at an October Farmer's Market.

REMOVING BARRIERS, UPGRADING SPACES

Among work that was completed or in process during 2024:

- New heating, ventilation, air, and cooling (HVAC) system
- Repairs to ceiling in Veranda and entryway at 4th and 5th avenues
- Design work for the Children's Learning Hive and renovated Courtyard
- Furniture selection for the Children's Learning Hive and other select area
- Carpet selected for Children's Learning Hive and Adult Nonfiction

“ [My highlight of 2024 is] collaborating with the architect team to bring our vision for the Learning Hive to life and seeing it take shape in the renderings. ”

-Danielle Reynolds, Technology & Collections Manager

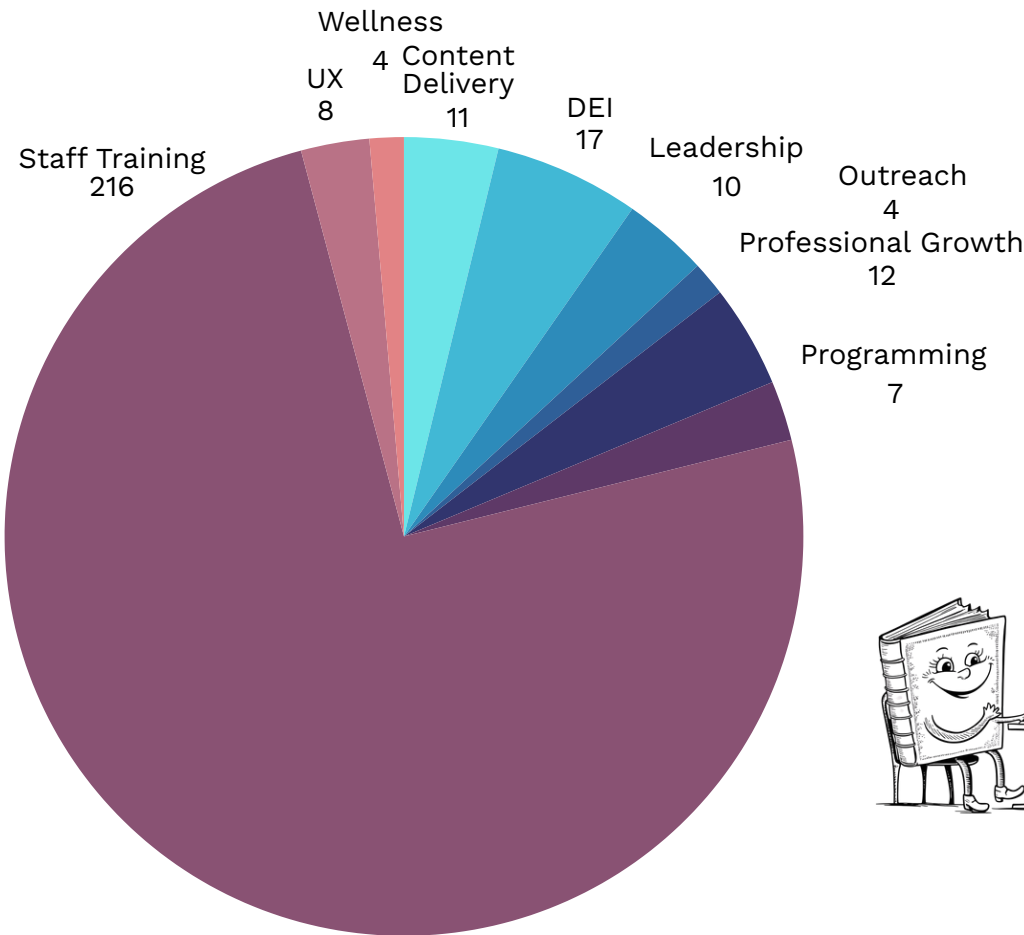


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshops, trainings, or conferences attended by staff

289

This year, staff devoted much of their Thursday Training time to collectively watch pre-recorded webinars from Ryan Dowd, who offers homeless de-escalation courses for those working in public spaces (especially shelters and libraries).



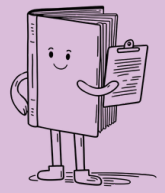
Ryan Dowd, homeless rights advocate and trainer.

“ My Library highlight in 2024 was the Ryan Dowd trainings. The topics, which ran the gamut from homelessness to police violence, were engaging, eye-opening, and informative. Ryan has an easy speaking presence that made watching these webinars a treat. ”






-Christopher Knipes, Administrative Support Assistant

2024 WORK PLAN






PROGRAMMING + OUTREACH









-  Increase the number of remote lecture programs for adults.
-  Research and purchase play options for the Early Learning Center.
-  Create the Nature-Smart Library (programming/outreach).

↑
Construction project did not progress far enough to get to this stage.

CONTENT DELIVERY + USER EXPERIENCE

-  Complete the City history project for the website. ← Project shelved
-  Create the Nature-Smart Library (collection).
-  Execute Hoopla API implementation.

BUILDING + ADMINISTRATION


-  Find more accessible solution for the doors at 4th & 5th Avenues.
-  Complete HVAC project.
-  Finalize ADA improvements, restoration work on building exterior.
-  Raise additional funds for the Children’s Learning Hive.
-  Work with architects to finalize design for Children’s Learning Hive.
-  Implement recommendations from security audit.
-  Select furniture for the building.
-  Complete plan for lighting and flooring solutions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES KEY

Remove barriers. 

Focus on early literacy. 

Build or strengthen partnerships. 

Encourage lifelong learning at every age. 

2025 Camas Library Service Plan

The Library's 2023-2026 Strategic Priorities are: 1. Remove Barriers; 2. Focus on Early Literacy; 3. Build or Strengthen Partnerships; and 4. Encourage Lifelong Learning at Every Age. Each of the Library's work teams created plans focusing on these priorities, which were then grouped thematically to form the Library's 2025 Service Plan. Individual work plans for Programming, Outreach, User Experience, Content Delivery, and Administration are available upon request.

Provide tools for caregivers to help children thrive.

Early Literacy

- Increase outreach storytime by 5%.
- Provide an early literacy workshop series for caregivers.
- Develop in-house, take-home activities for the Learning Hive.

Offer a bridge for families between school and home.

School Partnerships

- Implement library card program for all CSD* students.
- Offer at least three programs in collaboration with CSD.
- Create new website section for outreach; market it to schools.

*CSD = Camas School District

Use metrics to make informed decisions.

Data Driven

- Launch new LibraryIQ software.
- Conduct programming and collection audits.
- Use Library IQ data to identify areas where usership is low.

Help each other to help our community.

Volunteer Collaboration

- Digitize historical documents, with volunteer help.
- Collaborate with FFCL* for various fundraising efforts.
- Create 3 new volunteer opportunities and/or senior projects.

*FFCL = Friends & Foundation of the Camas Library

Listen, learn, improve.

Continuous Feedback

- Host UX Café survey stations.
- Add online comment or suggestion box.
- Assess impact of circulating kits through user input.

Connect with our remote users.

Online Experience

- Increase online programming.
- Develop an internal SharePoint site.
- Grow social media following across platforms by 15%.

Add more resources to strengthen our mission.

Projects

- Reimplement 1:1 Tech Help service.
- Administer the Creative Horizons grant.
- Explore options for offering a cultural pass for checkout.

Update the Library building for safety and service.

Building Improvements

- Complete the Access Control project.
- Complete the Library Building Improvements project.
- Assist IT with the phone and hardware network changes projects.