

poudre libraries

freedom

/ curiosity / collabo

ation / inclusion / in

m / accountability /

on / innovation / cur

om / collaboration /

/accountability / in

on

Report to the Community – 2025

intellectual freedom

a message from the executive director

Advancing the Library's Mission and Expanding Our Impact

I'm pleased to present the Library District's annual report to the community and share many of the organization's accomplishments and innovations. This year's report focuses on the Library's mission in service to our community.

Poudre Libraries defined a new mission in 2023 to create opportunities and build connections to strengthen our community. It marked the district's expanding role as an essential center of learning, inspiration, and engagement. At the same time, with the help of community members, staff, and leaders, we launched a three-year strategic plan rooted in collaboration, equity, and community building. The 2023-2025 Strategic Plan centered on three areas where the Library could make a positive impact on our community and continue to grow library services.

I'm happy to say that we achieved our goals to create welcoming spaces where everyone feels like they belong; we developed intentional partnerships that aligned with shared community priorities and expanded the Library's impact; and we delivered dynamic library services throughout our district, connecting with people where they live and promoting learning opportunities.

The Library's 2025 Report to the Community covers the final year of that strategic plan and highlights key accomplishments and initiatives taken in service of our mission. We are grateful for library staff, partners, stakeholders, and community members whose collaboration and support have been invaluable in advancing our strategic goals.

As 2026 continues, we're excited to embark on a new strategic plan, grounded in community aspirations, that will guide library services for the next three years. We look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of Old Town Library and reflecting on the history of public libraries in Fort Collins. We're also committed to advancing our Southeast Community Center project in partnership with the City of Fort Collins and Poudre School District and are looking forward to a summer groundbreaking.

As I enter my fifth year as executive director of Poudre Libraries, I'm excited for our community and the role Poudre Libraries plays in its future. I encourage you to visit our libraries to see and take part in the amazing work happening every day.





mission

To create opportunities and build connections to strengthen our community

vision

To be a vibrant and essential center for learning, inspiration, and engagement

values

- Curiosity
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Inclusion
- Intellectual Freedom
- Accountability

2025 board of trustees

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Corey Radman | President |
| Hilary Herrmann | Vice President |
| Rick Rivera | Secretary/Treasurer |
| Joshua Fudge | |
| Anuja Riles | |
| Matt Schild | |
| Vicki Woods | |

library leadership

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Diane Lapierre | Executive Director |
| Ken Draves | Deputy Director |
| Kristen Draper | Old Town Library Manager |
| Currie Meyer | Council Tree Library Manager |
| Molly Thompson | Harmony Library Manager |
| Monique Ramos | Community Outreach Manager |
| Tova Aragon | Collections Manager |
| Xochil Arellano | Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Manager |
| Katie Auman | Communications & Development Director |
| Mark Huber | IT & Facilities Manager |
| Angela Kettle | Programming & Events Manager |
| Sabrina Leslie | Human Resources Director |
| Amy Lyons | Finance Director |
| Selena Paulsen | Philanthropy & Partnerships Manager |



our mission

Poudre Libraries' mission defines the organization's purpose in the community, why we exist, and what we do to achieve our Vision.

Implies new possibilities for growth and success, of opening doors for people to learn and thrive.

create

Describes the Library's role in bringing something new into existence for people and with people. Library spaces, services, and resources are a source for generating new ideas and new experiences.

opportunities &

New and exciting things are built when people join together. The Library helps form lasting community foundations and social infrastructures.

build

Indicates the broader potential of the Library to serve the community. The Library can enhance community resilience, expand individual capability, and bridge social gaps.

connections

Connections among people, with stories and ideas, and across divides are made when people come together at the Library to learn, interact, and engage.

to strengthen

our community

Honors the Library's commitment to serving a diverse and growing community and supporting people from all walks of life, at every stage of life. We recognize the uniqueness of everyone who comes through our doors.

create opportunities

At the heart of everything that Poudre Libraries does for the community is the desire to create opportunities for people to improve their own lives. By providing access to information, technology, resources, programs, and much more, the Library opens doors for personal and professional learning and exploration.

Develop Digital Skills

The Digital Navigators of Larimer County service expanded from Harmony Library to Old Town Library in 2025.

These volunteers are AmeriCorps service members who are trained to assist individuals with using technology comfortably and to provide digital skill building support.

Last year, the Digital Navigators held 313 appointments and 42 drop-in sessions with community members at Poudre Libraries, providing more than 1,600 hours of service. Eighty-six percent of individuals who received drop-in help reported feeling “more confident” in their knowledge and skills after meeting with a Navigator.

I enjoy volunteering with Poudre Libraries because I get to help people nurture a love of reading, community, and learning.

LUCY *library volunteer*

Create, Tinker, & Learn

An increase in maker programs at Poudre Libraries provided additional opportunities for people of all ages to develop new skills and interests through hands-on learning and discovery. Programs ranged from arts and crafts like printmaking, Sashiko mending, and etegami in the garden to technology-focused classes like 3D design and printing and programming ozobot robots.

We're excited to explore additional makerspace areas and activities through the Southeast Community Center project. The communal creative space will offer new pathways for exploration and innovation.

Empower Teens & Young Adults

2025 saw many new opportunities for teens and young adults to learn and thrive at the libraries. Two of the past year's highlights:

- A new Teen World Languages collection was developed with recommendations from teens in the community. The collection includes popular fiction and graphic novels in French, German, Russian, Arabic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, and Latin.



- The Library partnered with ISAAC to host members of the Adelante Youth Fellowship Program and support their professional development. Andreina, one of the 2025 participants said, “Something I’ll take with me from this experience is the principle of learning and connecting with others. I learned a lot of skills including communication and problem solving that I will continue growing long after the Adelante program.”

ISAAC’s youth development program, launched in 2024, has been so successful at Poudre Libraries that we are expanding these opportunities in 2026.

Did You Know?

Ten percent of the items added to the collection in 2025 came from community suggestions including the learning platforms **ABCmouse** and **LOTE4kids**. Poudre Libraries works to create a dynamic and diverse collection that reflects the community’s interests and needs and expands learning opportunities.

2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan Highlight

Focus Area **Dynamic Services**

Evie, the Mobile Library

Poudre Libraries’ all-electric mobile library, affectionately called Evie, rolled out to the public in April 2023. Its purpose? To provide access and create opportunities for the community by delivering essential services to more remote locations, under-resourced communities, and individuals who are unable to access library buildings.

In the first eight months on the road, Evie traveled more than 2,100 miles, checked out over 6,000 items, and visited various neighborhoods and community events throughout our service area, from Livermore Elementary to Oakbrook Senior Living to the Farmers’ Market.

Today, the Evie team regularly hosts nearly 300 programs and welcomes over 8,000 people through its bookmobile doors each year. Evie is a popular feature at community events like Open Streets, Timnath Holiday Festival, and CSU Lagoon Concerts in addition to its regular weekly stops.



build connections

When community members gather at the Library to read, learn, and share, they create meaningful connections—among neighbors, with stories and ideas, and across differences. In these welcoming spaces, conversations spark understanding, relationships take root, and something stronger is built together than anyone could create alone.

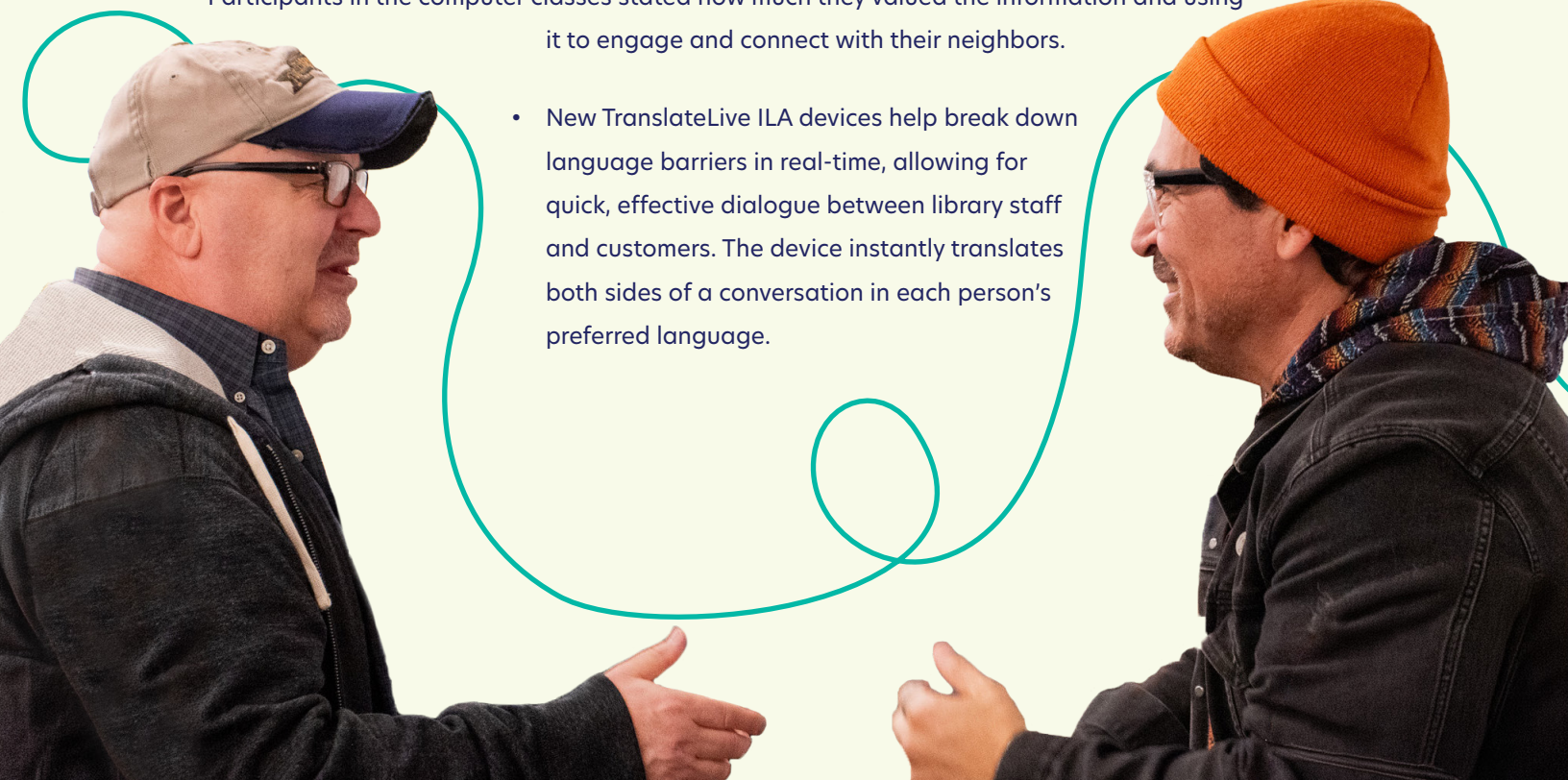
Connecting Across Languages

In 2025, the Library actively worked to build connections with community members who speak languages other than English and/or are in the process of learning English. The goal was simple: to assist them in accessing library resources and creating personal and professional learning opportunities.

- Collaborated with Poudre School District, ISAAC, and Fuerza Latina to launch in-person and virtual beginner English language classes and address a gap in the community. Approximately 25 learners participated in the courses, ranging from beginner to intermediate levels. Classes continue in 2026 to support additional learners.
- Held Spanish-language computer classes for senior adults in partnership with La Familia and Mi Voz. Participants in the computer classes stated how much they valued the information and using it to engage and connect with their neighbors.
- New TranslateLive ILA devices help break down language barriers in real-time, allowing for quick, effective dialogue between library staff and customers. The device instantly translates both sides of a conversation in each person's preferred language.

I enjoy welcoming the families into the Storytime room and seeing the children's smiling faces. It makes me happy to see the parents and caregivers connect and form relationships based on their shared experiences with their children.

SHANNON *library volunteer for more than 10 years*





Community Celebrations

A major highlight from 2025 was the Fort Collins Pride event which drew more than 4,000 attendees of all ages. Poudre Libraries collaborated with FoCo Pride, the City of Fort Collins, and other local partners to plan and produce the June event.

The Library also delivered dozens of programs and events that connected people across diverse interests, cultures, identities, and needs. Programs included jigsaw puzzle tournaments, book clubs, Día del Niño (Children's Day), a celebratory Autistic Joy event, and the NoCo Nautilus Youth Group which connects local LGBTQ+ youth and their allies.

I feel so safe and accepted here, the facilitators are so, so amazing, and I've met so many new friends!

TEEN PARTICIPANT
noco nautilus youth group



Did You Know?

Poudre Libraries hosts 10 different book clubs at its libraries and in the community! Each book group is designed with different types of readers, interests, and experiences in mind, from young adult fiction to classic (and new-classic) literature to monthly-themed reads.

2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan Highlight

Focus Area **Welcoming Spaces**

You Belong Here

Creating a library space where people feel welcomed, comfortable, and safe takes more than just new furniture or carpet. Rather, it's an intentional act that demonstrates "we see you" and "you belong here."

Over the past three years, Library staff have worked hard to create an environment that fosters belonging, strengthens social connections, and serves as a "third place" outside of work and home for everyone in our community. Here are a few highlights of that work.

- A generous donation from The Don & May Wilkins Charitable Trust paved the way for the Teen Corner at Old Town Library. The space was designed with input from local teens and features new furniture, space for DIY activities, community resource information for teens, and a teen-created wall mural.
- The Nectary Pollinator & Sensory Garden blossomed thanks to support from Nature in the City. The garden provides a healthy environment for pollinators while extending library spaces outdoors for community programs and learning.
- The Library District received the high rating of "Good Accessibility" on a mobility-focused accessibility assessment of its three libraries. We further increased accessibility by opening public spaces and pathways to better access materials and services without obstruction; improved table seating arrangements and heights; and added adjustable height computer desks.



strengthen our community

Poudre Libraries is dedicated to strengthening our community through our role as a vibrant and essential place for learning, inspiration, and engagement. A truly dynamic and accessible library can enhance community resilience, expand individual capability, and bridge social gaps.

Southeast Community Center

In 2025, the Library continued to collaborate with our partners—the City of Fort Collins and Poudre School District—on designs for the Southeast Community Center (SECC) and community engagement activities.

Prior to finalizing floor plans and construction designs, the SECC team conducted a variety of staff and public engagement sessions at community events and at the libraries.

- A project website launched on the Fort Collins Our City site to keep the community informed about the project and offer opportunities to ask questions and participate in planning.
- Library staff participated in visioning workshops and discussed community needs for the library spaces.
- A project advisory group formed to assist the City and Library throughout the project lifecycle and serve as a sounding board for project planning.
- Various community sessions focused on gathering input on potential innovation and makerspace activities.
- One of the focus groups discussed universal design and accessibility considerations for the facility's recreation and library spaces with local service providers and families.

The gathered input helped to inform elements of the SECC design plans and will shape the project as it continues in 2026.



Community Aspirations

“Turning Outward” became a prominent Library practice in 2025. The engagement model helps public organizations like Poudre Libraries better understand our community, be more proactive to community needs and issues, and put community aspirations at the center of planning and decision making.

From May to November, the Library hosted various in-person and online community engagement sessions as well as three larger Community Conversations. The information collected during these sessions reflected more than 1,300 individuals’ perspectives and experiences living in Fort Collins and surrounding communities, and over 4,800 unique comments about people’s aspirations for the community and ideas for moving forward.

[Powerful Tools for Caregivers]
lifted some feelings of isolation and uncertainty as I realized how similar my journey caring for my mom is to others and how my emotions are valid. I learned a couple of new strategies that are beneficial additions to my toolbox.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

The community feedback, combined with staff input, helped inform the Library’s 2026-2028 Strategic Plan and shape future opportunities for the library to serve and strengthen our community.

The strategic plan and “2025 Public Engagement & Community Conversations Summary Report” are available at PoudreLibraries.org/plans.

Did You Know?

In 2025, we hosted 54 programs led by community organizations. Some of the programs included “Powerful Tools for Caregivers” with The Larimer County Office on Aging, “Sandwich Generation Caregiver Group” with the Alzheimer’s Association, and “Ukulele Play Along” with FORT Uke. Community-led programs are one way we leverage the expertise of our community to provide information and learning opportunities while the library provides the space and marketing.





2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan Highlight

Focus Area **Intentional Partnerships**

10 Years of Fort Collins Book Fest

Poudre Libraries debuted the Fort Collins Book Fest in 2016. That first event featured 30 authors and presenters and attracted over 700 attendees. Since then, the festival has grown to become a highly anticipated community event with 2,000 participants annually and featuring authors such as Andy Weir, Camille Dungy, Sean Sherman, Oscar Hokeah, and Debra Jackson Taffa.

The event's success is due in part to a dynamic group of partners that we were fortunate to work with including Colorado State University Libraries and Department of English, City of Fort Collins, The Crowded Bookshelf, Old Firehouse Books, Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, Downtown Creative District, and many others.

The event has grown beyond the Library into a truly collaborative community event. In 2026, a new nonprofit organization takes the lead in directing and running the book fest.



by the numbers

A Community Hub

24,169 new cardholders → **112,757** total cardholders
reflects changes to digital library card eligibility

816,954 people welcomed through the doors

18,599 study room reservations by the community

584 meeting room reservations by the community

2,065 programs → **52,081** program attendees

176 volunteers → **8,123** volunteer hours

Lifelong Learning

2,347,758
number of items in the collection

332,379 physical **2,015,379** digital

3,062,467 total items borrowed

1,973,897 physical **1,088,570** digital

Collection Update Digital Access

Since 2019, the Library has seen a 51% increase in digital borrows while navigating a 99% increase in costs for eBooks and eAudiobooks. In 2025, we updated our digital borrowing limits and digital access library card eligibility in order to balance the increasing demand and costs.

192,385 database & eResource sessions

69,427 interlibrary loans processed

27,044 from poudre libraries

42,383 to poudre libraries

Technology Access

850,906 website sessions

357,797 app sessions

170,964 wi-fi sessions

83,795 public computer sessions

Technology Update

New Website Launched

In January 2025, after gathering customer and staff input about the library website, we launched a newly redesigned and redeveloped site.

Highlights of the new site include:

- Improved navigation
- Keyword search on the catalog, website, and events calendar
- Mobile-responsive design and enhanced accessibility
- English and Spanish languages
- Library resources by age or area of interest

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

\$16,560,057

Operating & Capital Revenue*

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 86.0% | property taxes | \$14,240,219 |
| 6.4% | investment income | \$1,055,604 |
| 5.7% | specific ownership | \$948,285 |
| 0.9% | donations | \$153,107 |
| 0.6% | grants | \$99,601 |
| 0.2% | miscellaneous | \$34,639 |
| 0.2% | finest & fees | \$28,602 |

\$14,763,957

Operating & Capital Expenditures*

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 56.4% | personnel | \$8,326,151 |
| 19.4% | contracts | \$2,867,899 |
| 12.9% | books & materials | \$1,907,127 |
| 8.2% | capital outlay | \$1,206,648 |
| 3.1% | supplies | \$456,132 |

**Please note that these are unaudited financials.*



I like to play with people and read books.

JOSIE *young library fan*

