

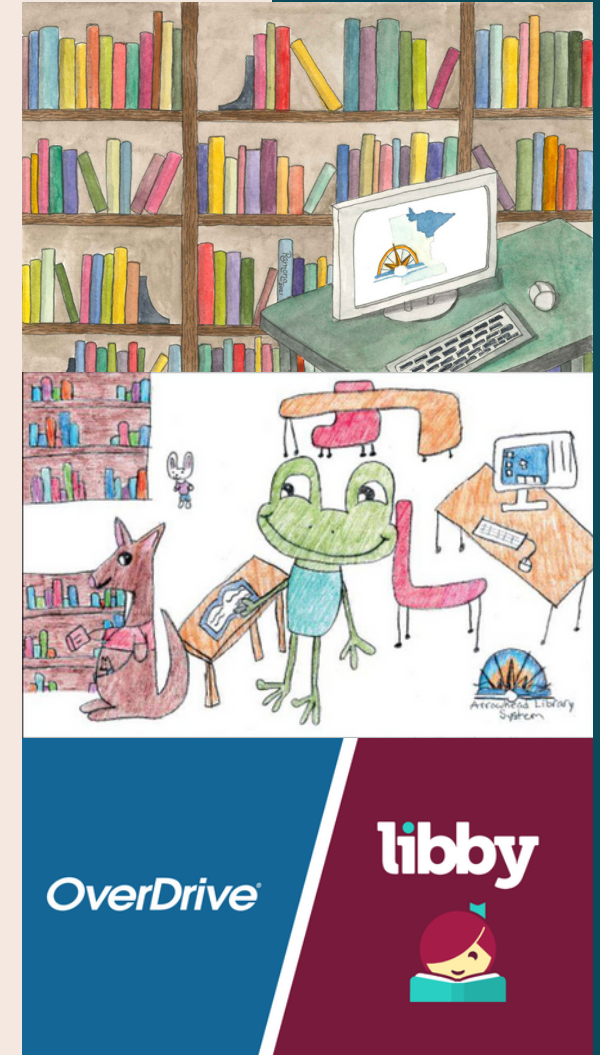
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

- Grand Rapids Area Library (GRAL) is a free community resource supported by property taxes.
- GRAL is the busiest library in NE Minnesota outside of Duluth .
- Six libraries in Itasca County circulate nearly 250,000 items annually, but 75% of library transactions in Itasca County occur at GRAL.
- GRAL is used by all of Itasca County. There are approximately 20,000 library cardholders in Itasca County - most who live outside the City of Grand Rapids. This is a long-term pattern going back decades.
- Thank you, City Council, for funding 85% of GRAL's annual operations.

FINDING A NEW NORMAL

Library use and circulation are rebounding, post-pandemic.

- Check-outs of Library materials +42% over 2021
- OverDrive use (eBooks & audiobooks) continues to grow
- Library visits +68% over 2021



EXPANDING OUR REACH

Meeting community needs with unique online programming and a return to in-person events.



Active Social Media



Artastic at Home



Summer Celebration



Riverfest



Road Tripping Writers



Online Storytime



Taiko Arts Midwest

AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY PARTNER



Riverfest



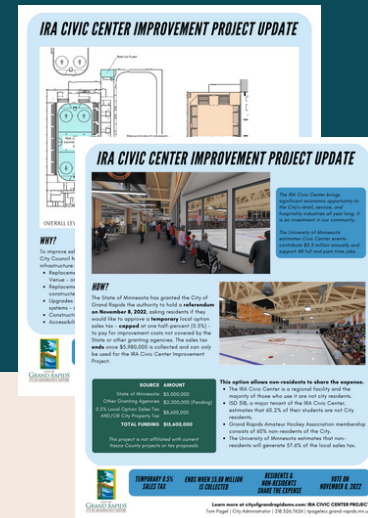
Summer Celebration



McCarty Park



Public Art



Civic Center

Partnerships:



CHALLENGES

1 Maintaining Service Levels

The balance between public expectations and available funding.

2 Building Maintenance

Taking care of an aging building. Fixing what needs fixing.

3 Equitable Funding

Despite accounting for more than 50% of use, the County pays only 15% of our budget. We need to work together to change this structure.



THANK YOU

Providing essential day-to-day & emergency operational support:

- Public Works
- IT
- Facilities

Additional funding* for programs & projects:

- Grand Rapids Area Library Friends
- Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation

*This was a record year for giving, which is not sustainable.

Other community supporters:

- Catholic Community Foundation: new book drop
- Arrowhead Library System:
 - \$50,000 in-kind IT
 - Monthly take-and-create programming
 - Quality in-person programming and promotions