

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Janine Reid
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

There is no doubt that all of us need libraries now more than ever. Libraries are not only the great equalizer and cornerstone of community engagement, but they are one of very few places where inclusiveness is inherent - we welcome everyone from all walks of life without question. We embrace our communities and the spirit of togetherness.

Here at the High Plains Library District we recognize the unique role we get to play in helping transform lives by being responsive and relevant. Everyday our staff dedicate themselves to helping improve your quality of life by providing you with the information, resources, skills and experiences that shape who you are and how you see yourself. Our commitment to serving you is and always will be our priority.

Through this annual report I hope you see how your library is helping grow and shape the community. Of course, our work wouldn't be possible without both public and private support at all levels. We thank you for valuing your public library and using its resources. We encourage our many and diverse supporters to invest in your communities by investing in your libraries, so that we can continue to connect, inform, inspire and entertain lives across the High Plains Library District.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS



hoopla

Hoopla, implemented in early 2016, offers a variety of popular digital products in a simple, downloadable format. Hoopla has eBooks, audio eBooks, music, videos and comics. The pricing structure is different from other digital vendors in that we are charged by use instead of by purchasing individual titles. This means any patron can download a Hoopla title and never be on a waiting list. New patron registrations for Hoopla are now higher than for Overdrive. Q1 2017 statistics show we had a 34% increase in usage since December 2016. We are thrilled to know that our patrons love Hoopla!



Lincoln Park

After 50 years at its 7th Street location the Lincoln Park Library packed its bags and moved to a temporary space at 1012 11th Street in Greeley. Originally established as the Greeley Public Library in 1907 this library served hundreds of thousands of people of all ages. Its deep roots made it a treasured community asset. While the physical location of the library was moved to accommodate growth in the city, the Library District and the staff maintain their vibrant passion for helping patrons. The temporary home maintains a print collection of 13,000 items and offers 28 computers, while also continuing to offer programming that is relevant to its local population.



Inaugural Signature Author Event

HPLD proudly hosted its inaugural Signature Author Event featuring Diana Gabaldon, the New York Times bestselling author of the Outlander series. In 2014, Gabaldon's books launched her into TV stardom with the airing of the drama series *Outlander* on Starz. At the event, Gabaldon spoke to a crowd of more than 400 people about the inspiration behind her stories and the perseverance it took to pursue her writing passion. A library advocate and user, Gabaldon also spoke about the important role that libraries and library resources filled throughout the process of researching and writing her books. Attendees were captivated by her humor and charisma. Complementing her book talk and book signing was an elegant Dinner with Diana event hosted as a fundraiser for the HPLD Foundation. More than 100 guests dined with Diana to the sights, sounds and flavors of the Highlands.

2016 FINANCIALS: WHERE THE \$ GOES.



44% MATERIALS & SERVICES

Books, audio books, videos, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers, online databases, computer and technical services, new technology equipment, library programs, special acquisitions, facility maintenance and operations, contracted services and minor equipment.

26% SALARIES & BENEFITS

Health, dental, life and disability insurance, retirement fund, and staff development programs.

1% CAPITAL OUTLAY

Equipment or furniture costing more than \$5000.

29% DEBT SERVICES

Payment for Certificates of Participation which financed capital construction in the District.

2016 FINANCIALS: WHERE THE \$ COMES FROM.



93% LOCAL PROPERTY TAX

Paid by local property owners within the High Plains Library District.

1% FINES & FEES

Money received from library fines, fees to replace materials.

6% OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

Specific ownership tax (a portion of fees paid for vehicles, boats, etc., and license tags), interest on investments, contracts, contributions in kind, donations, and grants.



Teen Tour Featuring Supaman

Teen Tour is a unique library event that focuses on connecting with teens to motivate, encourage and inspire them to embrace the possibilities within themselves. This year, from September 19-22, HPLD connected more than 2,200 middle school students (6th-8th grade) with Supaman, a Native American Hip Hop Artist and Fancy Dancer. Supaman's engaging and inspiring stories, talents, and rapport with the teens was truly remarkable. He shared details about his difficult past and how he overcame his struggles. He and his message resonated with the students and inspired them to consider their individual potential for greatness. Teen Tour allowed both teens and educators to experience the library in a new way - as a vibrant, modern place for knowledge and inspiration.



Strumming in the Stacks

Strumming in the Stacks got the band back together for an epic 5 week tour. In its second year at HPLD 6 young men and women came together once a week for 5 weeks to learn new guitar skills, a little music theory and have a great time playing together. Due to popularity, we added a second session to give another 6 teens the chance to take part in this amazing opportunity. Whether the teens brought their own guitars or used one of ours the impact was priceless. These kids were given a chance to learn, play and take part in something that might not otherwise be available to them.

**This program was originally funded in 2015 with a generous grant to the HPLD Foundation from a private donor.*



Discover NASA

Community interest and local initiatives in STEM education are on the rise, and Discover NASA is a STEM based exhibit providing hands on learning for patrons of public libraries. This grant was awarded to the Centennial Park Library and the exhibit was on site from January to March. A variety of STEM based programs offered in conjunction with the exhibit included a solar viewing, 3D printing and space science experiments. With roughly 9,000 exhibit interactions and 581 total attendees for programs, Discover NASA provided HPLD patrons fantastic STEM learning opportunities.

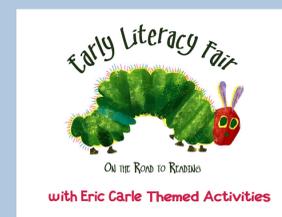
SERVING OUR YOUNGEST READERS

Our libraries serve as a community resource for early literacy. Through our materials, services and programs we support the development of 5 critical early literacy skills: talking, singing, playing, reading, and writing.



STORYTIME

Parents and children learn about and see these early literacy skills modeled during all of our storytimes: Music & Movement, Tales for Tots, Twinkle Babies, Yoga Storytime and Sensory Storytime. In 2016, HPLD presented almost 1,800 storytimes.



EARLY LITERACY FAIRS

Our Children's Librarians hosted three Early Literacy Fairs for young readers and their families to help them embrace the 5 early literacy skills that pave the way for a child's future learning and development.



STEM PROGRAMMING

WOW! Children's Museum in Lafayette and HPLD partnered together to present 20 STEM programs to students, K-2. Children's Museum staff created six ready to go programs on a variety of topics including balance, magnets, and wind. Each "Leap Into Science" kit contained theme appropriate children's literature and hands-on activities. Using the kits, HPLD staff helped 135 children develop skills in scientific observation, exploration and explanation.



1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

With the assistance of a grant from the Temple Buell Foundation, we expanded our 1000BBK program by creating parent/child literacy card sets which are given to all program participants when they register. The bilingual (English and Spanish) cards include a host of early literacy activities that parents can do with their child throughout the day. In 2016, 1000 literacy card sets were given to parents and their child as part of the 1000 books program.



ONE BOOK FOR COLORADO

As part of a state-wide initiative to get a book to every 4 year old we gave away more than 5,500 copies of *Giraffes Can't Dance* in English and Spanish.



SPELL GRANT

SPELL (Supporting Parents in Early Literacy through Libraries), enabled the Library District to work with Family Connects to bring literacy skills and an introduction to libraries to families in their home. The program supported orienting non-English speaking families to the library and provided the home visitation teams tools to teach best practices in supporting reading acquisition to parents and caregivers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_f4Qg03KIU

DISTRICT STATISTICS

DISTRICT POPULATION SERVED
257,157

LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS
119,310

ANNUAL VISITS
1,530,424

UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS
193,373

PROGRAMS & ATTENDEES

PROGRAMS
4,023

ATTENDEES
78,822

ANNUAL CIRCULATIONS

ANNUAL CIRCULATION
2,640,378

EBOOKS IN CIRCULATION
191,380

SERVING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES



Our Outreach department specifically works with rural communities in our service area where no physical library is available within about 50 miles. Providing these areas with library service, in whatever format that looks like, upholds our core value of serving all patrons. This year we helped place and process requests for hundreds of books that young families in Stoneham were able to use to create a personalized library and early literacy experience. We sourced Spanish language materials for a rural school that needs supplementary material to serve its families. Doing this allowed the school and the public library to play a role in helping these individuals learn a new language more quickly and become a part of their community. In areas where resources are sparse we created small deposit collections (200+ items) that enable rural patrons to explore their interests and fuel their passion for reading.