

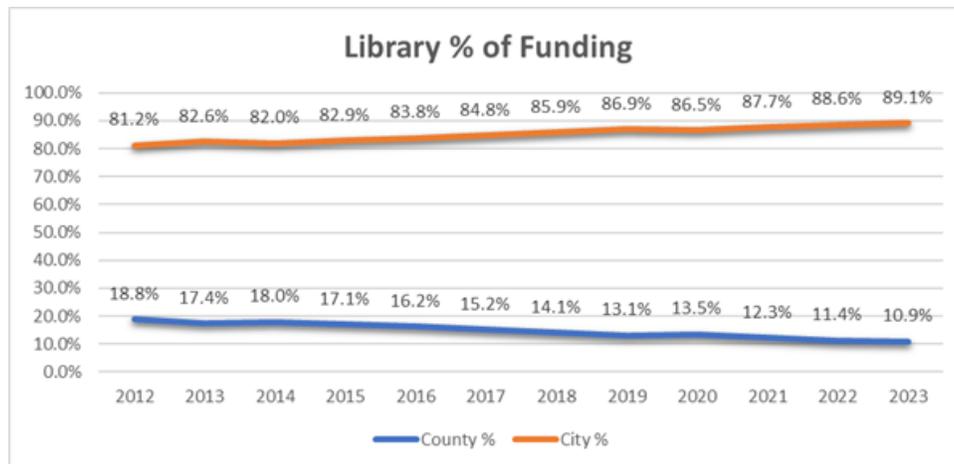
Note on this report to the Board:

Since the board took a bit of a summer break to focus on engagement efforts for the Vision Plan, this report is longer than usual, but I hope you will take the time to read it and appreciate the hard work that this library staff does.

We're barely through summer reading, not even to Hispanic Heritage, and already planning for Winter Walk! Library programming is a year-round effort involving many staff hours, a lot of planning, and a lot of creative input from the whole team. At the end of Summer Reading it would be nice to take a breather but there is always something on the horizon. We have a number of staff attending conferences this fall and engaging in training opportunities to support the work they do and allow for networking with peers. Conferences are also an opportunity to show off the work they do and share successes and lessons with other libraries. Angelica, Naidine and I will be presenting on the internship program at the Minnesota Library Association conference in October. We're so proud of all that our interns accomplished this summer and I look forward to sharing the podium with Naidine.

The staff here are dedicated, positive, creative, and generous, thoughtful colleagues—and 100% of the reason the library was just recognized by Library Journal as one of the best small libraries in the United States in 2024. It is an honor to work with this team.

As we do every year, the library presented our budget request to the Rice County Board of Commissioners in August. Thank you to Board and Friends who were able to send letters of support, and attend and comment in support of the library. Every constituent voice makes a difference. County funding has remained flat over the past decade, leaving Northfield to fund an increasing portion of the library's budget.



We are enormously grateful for the generous support of this community, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Friends of the Library. So much of this library's capacity for inclusive, engaging, and innovative community programming and services are made possible by community support beyond the library's budget.

I hope to see all of you at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration on September 14th, and at the annual meeting of the FFNPL on September 25th.

Natalie Draper, Library Director

June

(Summer was very busy and fewer staff reports were submitted in July for June activities)

*An **empowered community** is equipped for the changing world.*

Ellen Saul, local author and licensed psychologist, stopped by on June 22nd for a mental health workshop focused on creating healthy boundaries, based on her new book *From Pain to Power*. We're trying to reinvigorate our local author programming, and a hands-on workshop is one way to make the typical author talk more engaging for our patrons.

*An **informed community** understands what their library offers and has opportunity to shape the library with feedback.*

We've begun our social media campaign for our Passport Services, kicking things off with a post featuring library mascot Sparkles, which received a lot of positive comments.



Our Summer Interns Rihanna and Isabela updated book lists for LGBTQIA+ materials for children, books in Spanish for children, and created a book list for Hispanic Heritage month.

*An **included community** is seen, heard, and engaged by their library.*

We welcomed local, Minnesota Arts Board-funded artist Aubrey Jane Scott for an artist talk on June 29th. Her watercolors, featuring meaningful moments from her gender transition, was shown in the Library Mezzanine through the month of July.

Naidine and Alexis filled in for Karin on older adult outreach visits while she was on vacation and was struck by the difference between this summer and last. We had folks waiting for us at almost every stop, made multiple new library cards, helped out with Libby setup, and had lots of fun, engaging conversations with our older adult patrons. Karin has laid some amazing groundwork in building relationships with this community.

*An **invited community** feels at home in their library.*

We had another great Adult LEGO Craft Night on June 20th—our 20-person registration filled up completely! This one was centered around crafting LEGO flowers, all led by LEGO aficionado Judy Payne. Some of our Spanish-speaking patrons have expressed interest as well, so we're working on making the next installment, on August 1st, bilingual.

*A **connected community** has access to the resources they need.*

The Library welcomed Em Lloyd back from leave.

July

*An **empowered community** is equipped for the changing world.*

We had an initial meeting with community members about the library's possible involvement in facilitating the creation of a First LEGO League challenge team. An informational meeting for prospective parents/youth was scheduled for August 13.

Annika, summer intern, hosted the first meeting of the NPL Film Club on July 18th and will host another on August 15th. After that, Francisco will take over as club leader. Staff have talked about doing a film club for a while but haven't had the capacity, so it was great that Francisco and Annika could provide the spark we needed to get things going. Isabela's capstone project, a bilingual self-defense class, was on August 17th. She's gotten to learn about communicating with presenters, marketing a program, and managing a budget through the project.

*An **informed community** understands what their library offers and has opportunity to shape the library with feedback.*

We have increased participation in the Summer Plus and Blast programs, with teachers requesting library materials, including Spanish books, to support students' education and growth.



"I enjoyed talking to both the adults and kids informing them about summer reading, because I love seeing how enthusiastic they are about reading" Rihanna

We offered an Oasis Tour in cooperation with FiftyNorth on July 16th. It was a great opportunity to introduce the space and resources, especially after we received some feedback from FiftyNorth members that they felt hesitant trying the new technology on their own. Karin shared information on older adult services, Francisco gave a how-to on Libby, and we walked through how to use the

self-checkout station and pickup locker. Patrons were really thrilled to hear about Home Delivery, admired the up-to-date collection available for checkout at the Oasis, and looked forward to coming back to the Oasis.

Katlin and Alexis worked on a handout for the public on local history/genealogy resources at the library. Summer intern Annika will create the design for the brochure. This leverages Annika's graphics skills and interests as well as Alexis' knowledge of local history info as curator at the Northfield History Center. Alexis and I plan to share the information and an introduction to how to approach this kind of question with patrons at an optional training for library staff to be held this fall.

New Spanish language adult materials have been added and library summer interns have created a community survey to use in collecting feedback from Spanish speaking users and potential users of this collection. Summer interns have been collecting responses during outreach events in July. Responses will be used to inform future purchasing.



Francisco and Alexis staffed the Third Thursday event on July 18. We engaged with many people through the Makey Makey kit and had many kids excited to check out books from the Bookmobile. A couple who was visiting from Indianapolis was asking great questions about the Bookmobile. Turns out, they were librarians from a library who is hoping to get a similar outreach vehicle for their library.

*An **invited community** feels at home in their library.*

The CAC has identified a demand for engaging opportunities for youth waiting with their grownups for food shelf appointments. Em has been building more passive programs for the Oasis, and is working to make the kids' area more of a "destination" for kids and families with a wider variety of toys, gears and shapes for the magnet board, and puzzles and games—while also working to keep these contained in the area. Em met with Lisa Sexton, CAC Resource Center Manager, to talk about storytimes and other possible programs at the Oasis on its busiest mornings, and will be offering two programs at the Oasis on MEA Thursday (in October).

Tyler set up a TV in the atrium for people to watch the Olympics. It was a joy to see generations enjoying the competition together as a community.

We had excellent turnout of 60 people for our International Cello Institute performance in the Atrium.



Thanks to Legacy funds provided by SELCO, we brought birder Amy Simso Dean to the Carleton Arb on July 27th. We had a wonderfully diverse group turn out to watch birds on a toasty summer day, and Amy shared her wealth of expertise. Birds spotted included cardinals, chickadees, goldfinches, and bald eagles!



Setting up for summer concerts allowed summer interns to see the community come together and enjoy the shows.



"I've gotten a lot of comments thanking us for bringing the bookmobile and for being there, it makes me feel good knowing that the library is able to help people in some way. I also think the concept of the summer concerts is really cool and it reminds me why I love our community."
Isabela.

"The outreach at the summer concert series and evenings in the park events have given me the chance to interact with people in Northfield who may not typically come to the library; providing me an outside perspective on how we can extend our services to accommodate a broader population."
Annika



A connected community has access to the resources they need.

Weeding has begun in juvenile nonfiction based on collection statistics and conversations with youth department staff. The goal is to improve the age of the collection without compromising coverage of in-demand topics.

The Oasis fiction collections have been weeded to make space for new materials added in mass market paperback and hardcover.

Lucky You/Browsing collections have been cleaned up and we continue to add bestsellers to this high use collection.

The Oasis and Bookmobile will see high-holds titles coming to those locations simultaneously going forward. We are hoping this change will help keep those small collections more fresh and nimble and drive some additional traffic there as well.

It will soon be time to order tax books and forms for the 2024 tax year. This year we will provide reduced quantities of the paper forms and instructions in accordance with declining demand, but will continue to offer a supply of the major forms and instructions in both Spanish and English in addition to help with online access.

The library had planned to take over the costs of the hotspot program that has been grant funded through the American Library Association but have since been informed by ALA that there is a chance that Capital One will continue funding the library hotspot program. We are waiting to hear what they decide before taking on the service.

An included community is seen, heard, and engaged by their library.



Outreach efforts, such as Evenings in the Park, Third Thursdays Downtown, and the NPD picnic on July 22nd, allowed interactions with community members who may not typically visit the library. Naidine and Francisco had a successful outing at the NPD picnic, engaging 115 visitors to the bookmobile, reinforcing the library's role in community engagement.

"I had the opportunity to participate in a variety of outreach events that were both diverse and incredibly rewarding. It was a privilege to connect with the community in so many different ways—from engaging with young children during

Storytime at YMCA Camps to discussing community members' thoughts and concerns about the upcoming revision of the library grounds. Sharing a meal at the Picnic in the Park with a diverse group of individuals who represent the heart of our community was particularly memorable." Naidine

The library outreach team has been working with the Hispanic Heritage Celebration community committee on the celebration scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2024. This event, and others, ensure cultural representation and engagement, celebrating diversity and fostering a sense of belonging within the community.

Tyler and Karin had a great time on older community outreach in the bookmobile in July and look forward to next time on August 15. Tyler might get a chance in the future to go read aloud for a book club at one of the retirement communities.

Cat and Em visit every Summer Plus cabin (classroom) to get them excited about summer reading with weekly bookmobile visits, and weekly summer reading challenge button awards for the reading they've been doing at PLUS. They have included and built familiarity with ~200 kids that may not otherwise have been able to participate. Many youth at PLUS are not able to get to the downtown library or Oasis, and our presence at PLUS (third year going) is important not just for including the youth there in the summer reading challenge, but for the relationships we build by being there. If the library has seemed daunting to their families, or as a place "not for us", these relationships we build with their children help the kids (and by extension their grownups) see that it IS a place for them; there will be people they recognize and associate good feelings with.

Em plans to reinvigorate programs for homeschooling families and has been reaching out to them. Em is also reaching out to past TELL participants and working on a plan to get TELL back up and running—so we can meet (and include) in-home daycare providers where they are.

It's safe to say our fabulous 2024 Pages have been seen, heard, and engaged by their library. In July, they worked hard to create a Harry Potter escape room program with Rihanna and Cat's help and it was extremely popular. Two of the Pages will be running the first three LEGO Club programs in the fall and were excited to extend this responsibility beyond summer Paging. Others will be joining TAB and continue building their relationships with the library. All have the opportunity to help shape next year's

Page program in an anonymous survey. Cat will also be sending a survey to their parents/guardians to get their feedback on how the program went.

August

*An **empowered community** is equipped for the changing world.*

The library will soon begin offering nasal Narcan kits thanks to supplies from the Rice County Chemical and Mental Health Coalition.

*A **connected community** has access to the resources they need.*

The library now offers free menstrual products in both public bathrooms. This is provided through our housekeeping supply budget.

We'll have our first program for homeschooling families on Friday, September 7. Head Start and Oasis storytime will start in October. We will have a full day of MEA programs at the Oasis on Thursday, October 17; and a full day of MEA programming at the Washington St. location on Friday, October 18.

Katlin finished a collection project with spine label, call number, and processing info for all areas of adult collection. This will save time and increase accuracy for staff adding new items across collections and library locations by documenting standards for each area. Before, we often had to go check a similar item on the shelf to see what to do with it.

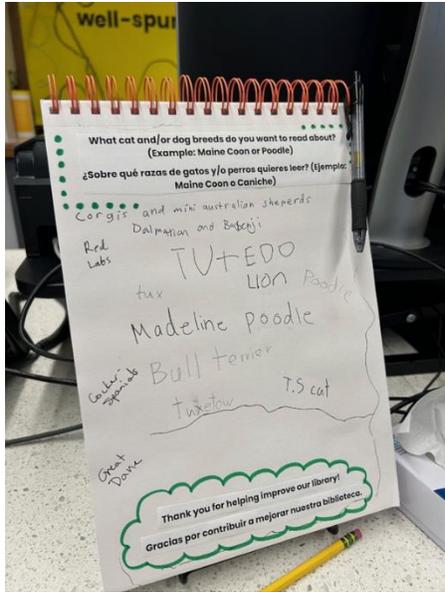
Katlin is currently working through a lengthy list of missing items to determine what titles merit re-purchasing. Some titles have been missing since 2020 or longer. Many can be let go, but others represent holes in the collection that she will be working to fill in. In the future, the goal is to run a (shorter!) report of missing items regularly (monthly or quarterly) which will be much more efficient to address on an ongoing basis.

*An **informed community** understands what their library offers and has opportunity to shape the library with feedback.*

Em is working on revamping our Social Emotional Learning book list (and more lists to come), with an eye towards less quantity and more quality—highlighting the reasoning behind the recommendation and what patrons can expect to find in each book. This approach will help folks understand that we offer expertise (and want to save their time by helping to passively pinpoint the kind of books they're looking for). The SEL list is always popular with families, and we share it with schools, too.

Vision planning efforts with Ten X Ten have been going well and we've gotten useful feedback. We will have one more public engagement at Hispanic Heritage and two stakeholder workshops, one focused on sustainability and one on accessibility. We will also be working with a group of math students at Carleton who are mapping tree canopy and heat islands in Northfield.

Amy completed the juvenile nonfiction weeding project and our average creation date (when an item is added to our collection) is now 2019. We are gathering feedback to help direct future purchases from patrons at our Children's Desk.



Amy has been emailing the principals at Bridgewater Elementary, Greenvale Park Elementary, Spring Creek Elementary, Nerstrand Elementary, Northfield Middle School, Northfield High School, Arcadia Charter School, Prairie Creek Community School, and St. Dominic School to introduce herself, congratulate them on having participants in the Summer Reading Challenge and extend services to support their classroom teachers and school media staff.

School*	Participants
Bridgewater Elementary	95
Greenvale Elementary	100
Spring Creek Elementary	94
Prairie Creek Community School	66
Nerstrand Elementary	6
St. Dominic School	12
Northfield Middle School	59
Northfield High School	14
Arcadia Charter School	4

*Note: this is not an exhaustive list of schools our participants attend, but those within our service area

We also had 75 participants who indicated they are homeschooled.

Homeschool	Participants
Pre-K	16
K-5 grade	40
6-8 grade	18
9-12 grade	1

*An **included community** is seen, heard, and engaged by their library.*

In response to community input, we will be offering an evening storytime beginning in September.

Two of our grand prize winners were kids enrolled in the Summer PLUS program, and both were from families who speak only Spanish. It was so great to be able to ask a bilingual intern to call and speak with the families—both kids came in to pick up their prizes, which has *never before happened* with winners from Summer PLUS.

We have set the date for our Latino Poetry Reading Grant mandated program with UMN Professor, Osiris Gomez. We will be hosting the program in the library atrium on November 12. He will read a selection from the newly published Latino Poetry Reader anthology and hold a discussion.

As part of Isabela's capstone project for her internship, we hosted our first ever Bilingual Self-Defense Class. Krav Maga Minneapolis led the program and participants learned self-defense skills in an approachable, safe environment. We're hoping to replicate this program next year and expand the number of bilingual participants.



Naidine and Alexis had a fabulous time at the Summer Splashdown celebrating the end of Summer Reading with free admission to Old Memorial Pool. We gave away prizes to readers and despite the somewhat chilly weather, had 50 folks stop by to enjoy free entry to the pool.



An invited community feels at home in their library.

We had a successful first bilingual edition of our Adult LEGO Craft Night! Along with Naidine, I worked with our typical presenter, Judy, and our interpreter, Thelma, to provide an English- and Spanish-language tutorial on making LEGO planes, trains, and automobiles. We even had multiple library staff members and their families attend! We hope to have another bilingual version of the program in October.



It was a ton of fun to dole out prize winners for our second year of Adult Summer Reading. All of the winners were thrilled to win, and it was great to see the greater awareness of summer reading for adults this year.



Katlin shifted the reference collection and STEAM equipment/"library of things" items as part of a bigger move to give better access to magazine back issues. Now people can get to older issues of magazines to check out without having to go behind the public computers/passport area. The move also resulted in more room for our growing collection of STEAM equipment.