

Library Board Memo No. 4603

TO: Board of Trustees, Kansas City Urban Public Library District

FROM: John Herron, Library Director & Chief Executive

RE: Director's Report for December 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary will be discussed at the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our property tax revenue, our largest revenue category, has started to come in and is trending slightly higher than last year. We will not know for certain until sometime in February or early March if we will meet our tax revenue projections. Interest on investments is coming in much higher than originally projected, and other revenue categories are coming in close to budget or as expected.

On the expense side, we are under budget on salaries and benefits, and we anticipate ending the year under budget due to vacancies. The general operating and building operation and maintenance numbers are slightly up from last year and are expected to be within or under budget overall. We are above spending compared to last year in library materials, but this category is controlled well and should come in close to budget.

LIBRARY INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH – HIGHLIGHTS

The **Speak Up for Libraries** campaign aimed at bringing attention to Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's proposed administrative rule concluded with the December 15 deadline for public comments. Public Affairs continued promoting the comment period and providing information about the issues state libraries have with the rule; in addition to more social media engagement and blog/email newsletter content, local news outlets continued to cover the story, including an interview on **KCUR's Up to Date** in which host Steve Kraske visited with Sec. Ashcroft and the Library's Cindy Hohl. Public Affairs also coordinated a series of short video interviews with a few members of the Youth & Family Engagement team which were used for social media in the final days before the comment period deadline.

The second round of communications for the **North-East Branch targeted resident library card outreach campaign** took place in December, with the second direct-mail postcard going out to neighborhood addresses identified by OrangeBoy, with delivery expected at the end of the month. OrangeBoy credits approximately 441 new card signups as a result of the first postcard mailing that hit mailboxes in September/October.



A complementary email message directed at inactive cardholders in the same geographic area will go out to this group right after the first of the year. Content for both print and digital communications was produced in both English and Spanish.

REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES & EMPOWERMENT

In collaboration with the **U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri**, RISE held their 9th Naturalization Ceremony at the Central Library in Kirk Hall on November 15. As always, the **Friends of the Kansas City Public Library** joined Library staff in going above and beyond in support of this important civic event. The RISE Department was honored that the ceremony was promoted widely through a post from the **OCLC** through **LinkedIn**.



#EngagedLibraries are welcoming. 🙌 It is often a long journey for those seeking the rights and responsibilities of US citizenship. And the naturalization ceremony is an important, final step in recognizing the work and time new citizens put into that process. What better place than the public library, which sits at the center of the community, to host such a meaningful ceremony?

The Kansas City Public Library in Missouri recently welcomed 98 new US citizens from 39 countries. The library has a dedicated Refugee & Immigrant Services & Empowerment (RISE) team that helps hopeful citizens with services, resources, and learning—helping many to reach this significant moment.

Anne Brown finished the fall session of the English for Citizenship class. The students took a post-test which showed 100% of the class students had improved their knowledge over the course. Students mentioned loving the units on “branches of government.”

Anne Brown worked with a patron to help him understand how to get logged into the **USCIS** website and find his immigration status updates. He was so pleased that he came back to the library later in the day with a box of cookies and chocolates for Anne and the staff of the library.

RISE was the recipient of a **ProLiteracy** grant to work with **City Market** on a financial literacy curriculum for the immigrant farmers.

Carolyn Hollstein hosted Jason Bruenn, Mobile Technology Training Specialist, for an observation of English Basics and English 1 classes. Jason will step in to substitute these two classes next session. Carolyn oriented Jason to the RISE curriculum, as well as Google slideshow created for English 1, volunteer/student spreadsheets for attendance and contact information, technology, and resources available in the RISE classroom, etc. She sent an email introduction between Jason and volunteers/students.

MOBILE SERVICES

The bookmobile was requested at the Great Balloon Build at the **Gregg-Klice Community Center**, and Mobile Services vehicles were present there on two days—Elizabeth Giles and Jacob Garrison went on the Friday session, and Jessica Yanez and Annie Windholz attended on Saturday morning and were delighted to set up right in the middle of the balloon action, greeting families as they entered, and ensuring they left with books in their hands. Jessica Yanez and Annie Windholz saw 147 people and distributed 120 books and library resources.



Big Balloon Build at Gregg/Klice Community Center



Bookmobile at Micah Ministries

The Bookmobile attended **Micah Ministries** again this month with Kelly Berry. The team saw 110 patrons, Kelly handed out socks and street sheets and the Bookmobile team gave away 116 books, with many books in Spanish as well.

The Senior Services Team visited 15 locations in December for Lobby Stops: **Summit Nursing Home, Palestine Commons, Clara Manor Nursing Home, Palestine Gardens, Swope Ridge Gardens, Maywood Living Center, St. James Place, Woodlands at Citadel, Immanuel**

Manor, Marlborough Manor, Posada Del Sol, Myers Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Kansas City South, Gregory Ridge Living Center, and Vine Street Manor. Cheyenne Brown

from the Ruiz Branch joined them at Posada Del Sol to help with translating Spanish and English for residents and library staff.

The Bookmobile had stops at the following locations in December: **Paseo Baptist Learning Center, Riverview Gardens, Wayne Miner, Save Inc., Clymer Center, Benilde Hall, Sycamore Groves, Guinotte Manor, Sherwood Autism Center, West Bluff, KVC and Phoenix Family-Nowlin Hall.** Each site was visited twice in the month. There were 296 visitors, 26 library card sign-ups, 519 checkouts, and 14 programs with 137 participants where patrons guessed how many Hershey's Kisses were in a jar. At the end of the month, Isaac Halberstadt counted 221 kisses in the jar. The winner, who guessed 220, got to take home the jar of Kisses was from the KVC stop.



Paseo Baptist Learning Center Bookmobile Stop

The Bookmobile had a particularly busy stop at **Guinotte Manor** checking out books to kids on their way home afterschool and helped an English language learner access audiobooks on Libby.

Books to Go received a report from Mrs. Jones at **Korte Elementary School.** Her kindergarten class utilizes their Books to Go books in the school *Read At Home Initiative*. In October, the students read 530 books, in November they read 560 books, and now in December the class finished the year out strong with 610 books read for the month!



Guinotte Manor Bookmobile Stop

A staff member at **KVC** this month told Bookmobile staff: "The kids are so grateful for the library coming to them. We don't have a library here at **KVC**, and we would have to be really strategic if we tried to take the kids to a traditional branch library. The kids don't have to worry about being loud on the Bookmobile since it's outside, and they can be themselves. I'm thinking about letting other residential programs know about the Bookmobile because it's so helpful." The staff contact at **KVC** also said in an email "I love how well you already know our kids and their names and giving them a prize at the end is the perfect type of positive reinforcement for our kiddos."

Sandra Davis received a call from a patron at **Phoenix Family- Nowlin Hall.** The patron told Sandra that today was her first visit to the bookmobile. She has been a library patron for 30 years and has normally gone to the North-East Branch but has trouble returning materials on time due to lack of transportation. She had an enjoyable experience today and said that the bookmobile staff was very friendly and helpful. She has a walker and they helped her get into the van, where she checked out a couple of Christmas movies and said that she placed some holds that will be

brought to her the next time. She said, “Thank you for making this possible at **Nowlin Hall**. People need this!”

In December Peggy Farney helped process transfers from branches, adding approximately 300 books to the Books to Go collection. She went through all the non-library books they accumulated through Books to Go and filled six boxes of children’s books to donate to Friends of Library.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Jenny Garmon worked with Wendy Force, Cataloging Supervisor, to make sure that additional **USCIS** civic and citizenship kits were available for patrons to use. Both Central and North-East will have one kit in Spanish and another in English – Jenny brought back supplies from **ALA** Annual in June.

Jenny also worked with the **Kansas City Spirit Playbook** team to update binders in our locations, including the Bookmobile, so that patrons who want to respond to the final draft of the City’s Comprehensive Plan have an option to do so.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Hadiza Sa-Aadu participated in the **ULC (Urban Libraries Council)** Economic Opportunity Action Team meeting. The focus of the discussion for December was on library initiatives related to food security and entrepreneurship.

COMMUNITY SPECIALISTS

Community Resources hosted the Coffee & Conversation Winter Celebration on December 28th. The program provided patrons with coffee, cocoa, bottled water, fresh fruit, and cookies. Central Library staff and community volunteers helped at stations where patrons could choose a variety of items: backpacks, winter weather wear, Bombas socks, hygiene kits, first aid kits, masks, travel mugs, calendars, notepads, and books. Sandra Lenjo, **Care Beyond the Boulevard**, offered COVID-19 and flu vaccinations to attendees. Representatives from **Synergy Services Street Outreach**, **Lotus Care House**, and **Harvesters** were present to engage with patrons seeking their services. Attendance included 40+ patrons and 18 Central Library staff/social service providers/community volunteers.

Kim Gile was on **90.9 The Bridge** for their fund drive and was able to promote Freegal, Kanopy, Rocks Backpages, and encourage public comment on the Secretary of State’s proposed rule for libraries.

Jenny Garmon worked with **Legal Aid** for a monthly program at **Operation Breakthrough**. She has been invited to attend a staff meeting in January to connect with Operation Breakthrough staff and share more information.





Jenny also worked with the **Clear My Record** project team and Judge Rodecap, a **16th Circuit Court** judge who reviews expungement applications, to share the Expungement Information Session on December 16. The hybrid event was attended by about 26 people in person and a similar number of attendees online...the [recording](#) received more than 100 views and was cited in a *Kansas City Beacon* [article](#) about expungement.

Kelly Berry coordinated the **Jewish Family Services** Keshet KC Food Bag deliveries throughout the library system. Kelly also participated in the following community outreach events, sharing informational flyers about Library services/programs and community partner resources, books, socks, and personal care items: **Neighbor2Neighbor**, Bus Stop Pop Pantry w/**Harvesters** @ 31st & Troost, and **Independence Boulevard Christian Church/The Micah Ministry** (w/Annie Windholz & Isaac Halberstadt).

AMERICORPS

Digital Corps members had 222 interactions with patrons during drop-in sessions at branches. Interactions included helping patrons recover emails, setting up wifi, building resumes, creating websites, applying for rental assistance, and more. One patron returned to Southeast and informed Digital Corps member LeAnn that he got the job she helped him apply for!

Working with several regular Library partners, AmeriCorps member Karen Whitestone facilitated four health and wellness events with the library: Relax in the Stacks - Mid-Day Meditation, Caring Conversations - Advance Care Planning, Handling the Holiday Blues, and Medicare Made Easy.

Beccah Rendall and Elaine Bilyeu hosted an end-of-year happy hour with the **KC AmeriCorps Alliance** at the **Kansas City Teacher Residency**. A total of 20 AmeriCorps members and alums attended the event.

LOCAL HISTORY

For *What's Your KCQ?*, an ongoing series with **The Kansas City Star**, Michael Wells published an article about the [Christmas crowns that adorned Kansas City's downtown shopping district in the 1960s and '70s](#). The article originally ran in 2018, but the text was updated with new information and additional images added.

MVSC reference and photo requests for December included the following highlights:

- Kara Flinn was contacted by a researcher she helped earlier this year, who was collecting data on piano rolls that were circulated by public libraries. In appreciation, he sent her copies of a presentation he gave at the **2nd Global Piano Roll Meeting** held in Bern, Switzerland, and forwarded a [link](#) to it.
- A KU student researching Karl Kruger, the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra's first conductor.

- A University of Virginia graduate student gather information for his master's thesis on quarrying in early Kansas City and the cutting of streets through the bluffs.
- A **KCUR** podcaster requesting information for an [episode](#) focusing on the Kansas City family who created Wish-Bone Italian Dressing.
- The **Black Archives of Mid-America** ordered images of the Swope Park swimming pool and golf course for a CLIO article about the park's history and its ties to racial segregation.
- The **Architectural Resources Group** based in Portland, Oregon, ordered a plat map of the Shawnee Mission grounds in Johnson County, Kansas. The image will be used to illustrate a cultural landscape report being prepared for the Shawnee Tribe.
- Images showing the area surrounding 31st Street and Troost Avenue were ordered by the **Kansas City Area Transportation Authority** to create displays of historical images at that intersection's bus stops.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF READERS

Public Affairs compiled the annual **Library Staff Favorite Books** [blog post](#) for the 2022 picks; all staff were invited to submit the books they most enjoyed over the past year, and the fiction and nonfiction titles were set up as separate posts and shared on social media and email newsletters. The feature is popular with patrons, performing well each year with engagement. This 2022 edition drew a combined 3,300 pageviews between Dec. 16-31.



LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – HIGHLIGHTS

Bluford Branch

There were 1,661 phone calls made from the Bluford public phones in December. Phones, plural! Due to the high call volume, Joel Jones authorized Bluford to add in an additional phone, and it has been a welcome addition.

Rob Love has reached out to Jamie with **Kanbe's Markets** to develop food sustainability and healthy food choice programs for the youth and families at Bluford. Tentatively, a pilot program could start at the end of January or the beginning of February.

Bluford served over 114 lunches during Kid's Café this month.

NickiFit's classes drew in 25 participants this month. Twelve people attended the Body Sculpt strength training class on Tuesday nights and 13 jumped in during our Thursday, MixxedFit classes.

Central Library

Getting into the holiday spirit, Central staff decorated Kirk Hall and the Mezzanine for the holidays and customer service staff made holiday themed book displays. The piano in Kirk Hall was kept unlocked, allowing patrons to play the piano and providing impromptu musical treats that are always a nice break during the day.



Central also had several holiday themed programs in Kirk Hall during December:

- A lunch time concert by a Duo from the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra featuring James Albright on piano and Charles Williams on bass.



- The Ashly Barnett studio performed their third annual holiday recital. The student's range from six to sixteen and it is adorable to see the little ones starting out and nice to see how far the teenagers musical skills have developed. Family and friends come to see the performers and it's a full house in Kirk Hall.

- On Sunday the 10th, the Customer Services team paired up with CYS to host our Holiday Happenings event. The kiddos created art, ornaments and buttons on the 2nd floor with CYS, while on the first floor, we Uked the Halls with the Sepia-Tones, a ukulele band, and held a hot coco bar in the café where Teresa Bolton served 185 cups of hot cocoa!

- For the final concert, we had Dan and Chase back for a holiday set. Dan plays piano and sings, and Chase plays the stand-up base. They were great but the show was stolen by a few young patrons dancing and singing along with the holiday tunes.

Alisha Helms and Karla Mullis to create a book display titled "Men Who Looked Cold So We Gave Them Clothes." They created t-shirts and sweaters for shirtless romance novel cover heroes. It was another smash-hit on Facebook, reaching almost 60,000 people, including Kimberly Kincaid, one of the authors!



North-East Branch

Throughout the month of December, Karla Soto developed Facebook posts highlighting a dinosaur exploring the library and its services. The goal was to create more engagement with our Facebook community and to be more inclusive than the previously used 'Elves on the shelf'. Karla also noticed that the North-East Branch Facebook views and engagement has increased in the last few months.

Karla Soto and Flor Rosas represented the North-East Branch at a **Mattie Rhodes** outreach event. Mattie Rhodes coordinated free presents and food given out to the community. Between 150-170 people attended and stopped at the library's table. Youth were invited to pick out a free book along with some fun items that Samantha Edwards had prepared in advance for the event. After noticing that several families wanted Spanish books but not a lot were available at the event, Karla made sure to share with Spanish speaking parents about how the library carries more books in the Spanish language. Other vendors included **Parks and Rec, KC Fire Department, and Start at Zero.**

On December 7th, a group of parents from **Guadalupe Center** came for a scheduled library visit. Karla Soto had developed a pamphlet in the Spanish language that highlighted library resources, including family-based books and tools to help them be involved in the library or at home. She provided the group with a tour while continuing to share and discuss library services and resources. The group also signed up for library cards and were both surprised and intrigued to learn that all of the resources and activities were free.

Plaza Branch

During the month of December, five programs coordinated by Haley Lips were held at the Plaza Library. Yoga instructor **Joy Monzon** is leading the last of a six-session fall yoga series at the Plaza. Chris Witt from **NIAC** (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) led a Medicare Made Easy program on the 14th, with four people in attendance. The Plaza Library also hosted a blood drive in partnership with **American Red Cross** on the 28th, in which 17 people participated.

Haley Lips facilitated Flowvember to collect period product throughout the system. The final count for Flowvember arrived in early December. This year, the library collected 7,244 individual period products for our partner, Strawberry Week.

Ruiz Branch

Ruiz completed 120 passport applications in December. For 2022, the branch completed a total of 1,012 passport applications – almost doubling the number of applications completed in any year since beginning the service in 2017. Since starting the service, the branch has completed 2,516 passport applications to date.

The seed library checked out approximately 3,877 packets of seeds in 2022, making it the highest year for checkouts since its inception in 2014.

Community partner **Westside Housing** spent several days at the Ruiz Branch in December working with residents on the 353 Tax Relief Plan. This brought dozens of neighborhood folks into the branch who were not familiar with Ruiz and overall library services. We are hoping that many of them will return since lots of new library cards were generated during this time.

Southeast Branch

The Southeast Library hosted the monthly Senior Conversations program on December 20th. The program is held every third Tuesday in the conference room and facilitated by Mary Roberson. This program allows seniors to meet, greet, and share conversations regarding current events,

legacy, and favorite things. This month's topic was "Stress and the Holidays". There were two attendees.

Marcus Brown continued his work with the **Stem Connect KC** Advisory Committee.

Marcus also continues to work with the national **YouMedia** body. The group has been spending the last three months planning a convening for member organizations in Chicago summer of 2023.

Trails West

Scott worked with Jill Hamilton to design and create a display titled "Dancing in December" aimed at all age groups. The "Dancing in December" display received positive comments from patrons, particularly youth.



Angie Hattey had the idea for an interactive



bulletin board and staff has been adding new items weekly to the Spot the Difference winter bulletin board for those visiting Trails West library to enjoy and challenge themselves.

Angie worked with local Yoga Instructor, **Michelle Pena** to set up Chair Yoga for six weeks starting the first week of January. She has also been in contact with Jennifer from **Mantra**, a metaphysical store and studio, for possible classes or talks on meditation, crystals, reiki, and other health related subjects for the upcoming year to coincide with yoga.

Waldo Branch

Mila Blair has been transitioning from the Teen Associate position to her new role as Assistant Branch Manager. Mila will continue to facilitate the Tabletop Tuesday teen gaming program until the Teen Associate position is filled. Also, Mila attended Midwest GameFest with YFE colleagues where she learned new board games and made connections with local gaming industry organizations. She's hoping to use this knowledge for future gaming program offerings at Waldo.

Notary service continues to be in high demand at Waldo. Mila Blair notarized 46 documents for 28 patrons this month.

Kialiah Marshall with **Swope Health Services** tabled on three Fridays during December, informing patrons about the affordable medical insurance through Marketplace. If interested, patrons were able to sign up for the insurance plan.

Westport Branch

Tim Whitson (Plant Operations) built a pedestal made from recycled wood for a display to highlight the miniature historic replica of the Westport Library hand-made and gifted by **Boy Scouts Troop 60**.

Westport Knitters and Needle Craft continue to meet at the branch every Thursday, with a total of 12 attendees during December.



Westport received two large boxes of **Kesher KC** food bags, which were distributed to patrons.

Ten students and on teach from **Allen Village Charter School** visited during December and branch staff provided instruction on searching the catalog and checking out or placing hold on books, eBooks and eAudios, Chromebooks/hotspots and other resources and materials. .

SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAMS

The Library's signature programming continued to expand its reach and impact in 2022, drawing nearly 12,000 attendees – in person and via livestream – and more than tripling that engagement through subsequent views of the archived videos.

Total engagement for 92 events was 40,134, and audience interest rose markedly as the year went on.

- The average in-person attendance for events in January through July was 62. It jumped more than 75% (to an average of 109) from August through December.
- Livestream audiences rose 35% over that same period, from an average of 78 the first seven months to 105 over the last five months.

A compelling presentation by U.S. Army veteran **John Musgrave**, on his experiences and challenges during and after the Vietnam War, helped to wrap up the strong year. Musgrave, an Independence native who gained national renown as a featured voice in Ken Burns' 2017 documentary series *The Vietnam War*, discussed his acclaimed memoir *The Education of Corporal John Musgrave* with **KCUR** radio host **Steve Kraske**.

It drew an audience of 229 in person at the Plaza Branch and via livestream. Video of the event attracted 523 views on the Library's YouTube channel through the end of the month, an average of more than 17 a day.

The Library livestreamed 52 of the year's 92 signature events. It recorded and archived 62 event videos on YouTube.

Presentations by two high-profile authors – *The New York Times*' **Maggie Haberman** and Kansas City native **Christopher Leonard** – have been particularly enduring. Haberman's early-November discussion of her blockbuster book *Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America* had drawn 3,472 video views by the end of the year. Leonard's

discussion in May of *The Lords of Easy Money: How the Federal Reserve Broke the American Economy* had drawn 2,552 views.

On average, Library event videos drew 460 views over the course of the year. They'll generate engagement into the future.

A look at the top events of 2022:

Largest in-person crowds

- 400 – Maggie Haberman: *Confidence Man* (November 2)
- 243 – Bach Aria Soloists, HASF: Women of Note in Shakespeare and Song (November 12)
- 219 – An Evening With U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo (April 14, part of the Big Read)
- 215 – Big Read Kickoff: A Community Celebration (April 6)
- 207 – Christopher Leonard: *The Lords of Easy Money* (May 10)

Largest live audience (in-person and livestream)

- 995 – Maggie Haberman: *Confidence Man*
- 663 – Candice Millard: *River of the Gods* (August 30)
- 432 – An Evening With U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo
- 353 – Christopher Leonard: *The Lords of Easy Money*
- 320 – Ari Fleischer, David Von Drehle: Can We Trust Mainstream Media? (September 28)

Greatest total engagement

- 4,467 – Maggie Haberman: *Confidence Man*
- 2,905 – Christopher Leonard: *The Lords of Easy Money*
- 1,512 – An Evening With U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo
- 1,465 – Learn Nothing From Maeve Higgins (June 1)
- 1,306 – David Cotter, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College: Armenian Genocide (April 21)

The 2022 numbers don't reflect the many events in previous years that continue to draw video views – such as the November 2018 presentation by the five stars of the Netflix reality series *Queer Eye*. It attracted 30,264 views in 2022 and has totaled nearly 206,000 over a little more than four years.

YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Teens at Plaza enjoyed a bonus Fandom Fest. This program has been so popular in the summer that Kelsey Bates decided to host a winter addition. Participants competed in a Smash Bros Tournament, a Fan Art Competition, and a Cosplay Contest. TLoT members helped run the stations. Kelsey also led a Teen Gaming Night at North-East, where the teens enjoyed VR, a Smash Bros Competition, and a Fan Art Contest.



Helen Li and Estrella Hernandez hosted a Battle of the Branches between Central and Bluford teens. The total attendance was 12 teens, with 5 teens from Central visiting Bluford. It was a teen-initiated event, and they had a lot of fun playing games to determine who would take the title of Best Branch. The competition ended with a very diplomatic and somewhat unsatisfying tie. One teen from each branch dominated in Smash Bros, and the teens begged Estrella for “just five more minutes” when it was time to wrap up. Central TLoT helped with a shelf shift in the teen room, and they wrote letters to the secretary of state regarding the proposed rule. They expressed not knowing where to begin in crafting their letters, so they brainstormed and co-authored a template together.



Jill Hamilton hosted Jada from **Burr Oak Woods Nature Center** to teach families about Missouri mammals at a Family Storytime. Thirty participants from the Trails West homeschool group celebrated the holiday season by having a DIY gift program. Jill also hosted a Family Holiday Party with activities such as snow slime and snowmen, and throwing snowballs at cup targets.

At the top of the cuteness scale, Central Youth Services hosted a Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Attendees dropped off 21 stuffed friends and received a carrier to decorate at home. Josie Schneider, Clare Hollander and Helen Li photographed the animals enjoying different “activities” throughout CYS after closing. Josie created a video to share with families when they returned to pick up their stuffed friends, showing them all the fun they had on their sleepover.



Josie also hosted the New Year Baby Bash during Baby Storytime. Over 43 people attended the program where they focused on counting, had a New Year “ball drop” and a ball pit.

Donna Newell reports she’s very pleased with the number of families that have been coming regularly to storytimes since the fall. She visited numerous classrooms at several schools. The students always look forward to her visits, and one class performed “Jingle Bells” for her.



Kate Tammeus arranged for her and Josie Schneider to record two special Storytime Snacks at the **National Museum of Toys and Miniatures** to coincide with their Gingerbread Lane exhibit. Anyone who mentioned the videos could receive half off admission to the museum. The museum was excited to partner with the library and we look forward to more collaborations with them in the future.

Kiesha Collins organized a holiday party for children and teens at Southeast. Together with KCDML staff and Rob Love from Bluford, they hosted a gingerbread house station, a cookie decorating station, and a hot cocoa station in the children's area. Children at both Southeast and Bluford enjoyed the opportunity to visit with **Black Santa and Mrs. Claus**. KCDML staff also helped with the Holiday Party at Bluford.



The theme for Friday Night Family Fun was Party Time! Between Mary Grace Poskin and Mollie Caffey, they led a Family Board Game Night and a holiday party with art, games and refreshments. Plaza Kid Corner also hosted a Stuffed Animal Sleepover with lots of "activities" for the stuffed friends. Storytime activities have been very popular, most notably a flat, clear storage bin with string lights that created an improvised light table. It added an exciting element to building with translucent Magnatiles.



Ron Freeman visited kindergarten and preschool classrooms to promote the **MO Building Block Award**. Ron has a lot of passion for the award and shares the stories with as many youth as he can.



Samantha Edwards attended storytime at **Gladstone Elementary**, with some of the kindergarteners presenting her with a Christmas card they made for her. Samantha hosted two family drop-in programs during the school break. Kids got to make their own stickers and keychains and spin the prize wheel for free books. Families enjoyed a hot chocolate station and cookies.

Community Outreach and Partnership

Elizabeth Giles and Jessica Yanez wrapped up the year providing programs for kids and families across the city. Activities they shared with youth included tangram snowflakes, salt dough snowmen, lemon volcanoes, button-making, and a guessing game to determine the number of Hershey kisses in a container. Families and nursing staff shared their appreciation for Elizabeth's regular visits to their Broadway clinic. One of the social workers stopped by to say that she "loved

that the Library does this” and is always excited to share library resources with families. They also attended a free holiday market for families affected by foster care, where they spoke to 51 parents and social workers and recommended books to give to 128 children.

Outreach Youth Services joined the bookmobile at the Great Balloon Build at **Gregg-Klice Community Center** over two days. They were right in the middle of the action greeting families and ensuring that they left with books in their hands.



Josie and Clare represented the library at **Crossroads** for their Women’s History/STEM Family Night. They shared library resources, bookmarks with QR codes to access STEM-related Bibliocommons book lists, and demonstrated the Ozobot coding robots.

**Kansas City Public Library
December 2022 - Fundraising Report**

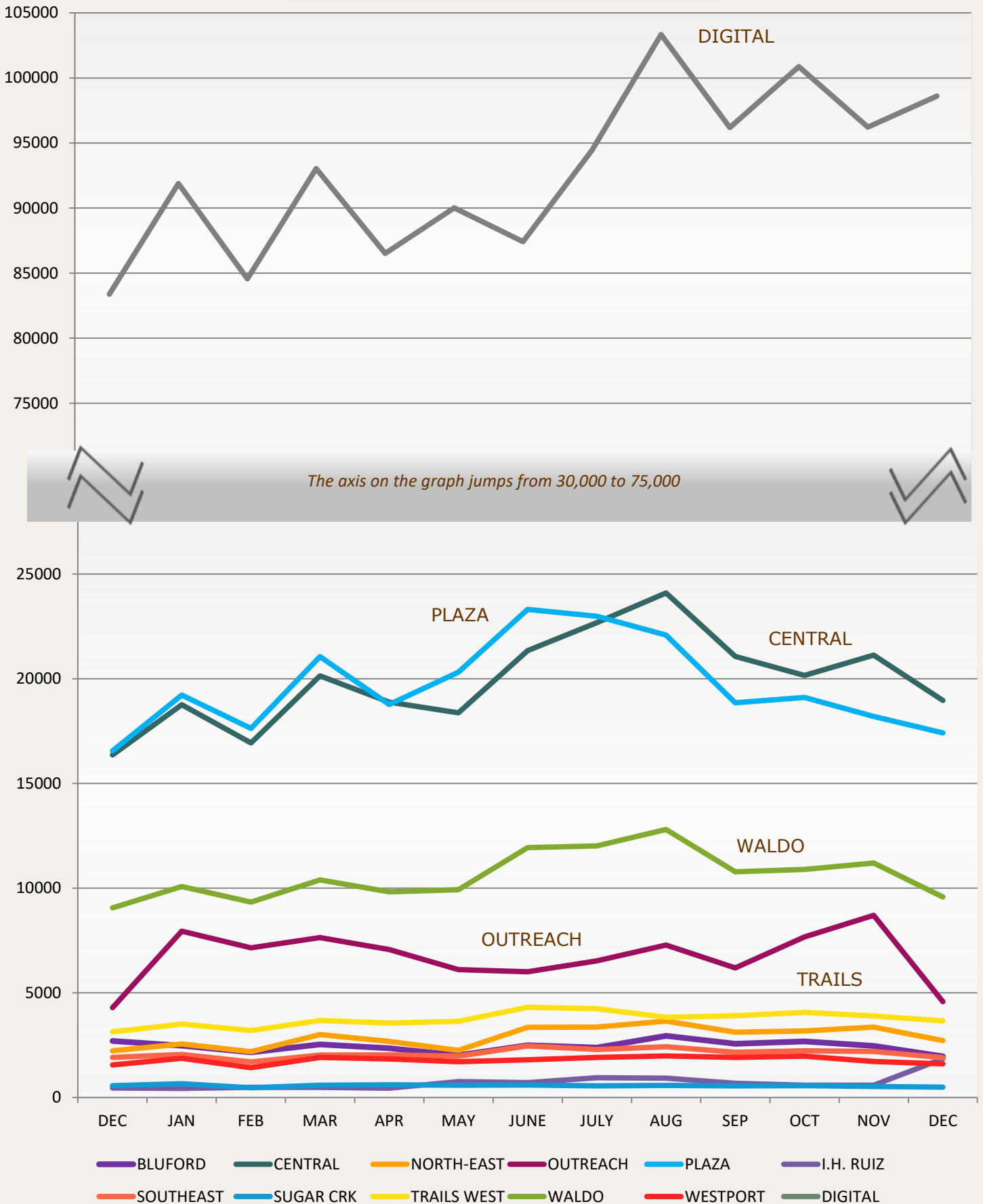
Fundraising Categories	Annual Goal	Received Current Month	Received Fiscal YTD	% of Goal
General Fund - Annual Campaigns, misc.	\$ 200,000	\$ 20,225	\$ 37,932	19.0%
Kauffman Public Programming Grant FY 21-22	\$ 390,000	\$ -	\$ 390,000	100.0%
Private Fundraising Sources (Individuals, Foundations, Corp.)	\$ 600,000	\$ 60,124	\$ 201,370	33.6%
Public Funding Sources (Local, State, Federal Gov't)	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 784,671	196.2%
Emergency Connectivity Fund	\$ 500,000		\$ 465,033	93.0%
Other				
Bequests & Donated Assets		\$ -	\$ 129,524	N/A
Total	\$ 2,090,000	\$ 80,349	\$ 2,008,530	96.1%

Current Month Activity:	Amount	Reference
Courtney S. Turner	\$ 25,000	Signature Programming
Multiple Donors	\$ 15,000	Greenwood Society
Multiple Donors	\$ 17,710	Writers for Readers
Multiple Donors	\$ 1,750	MVR Club

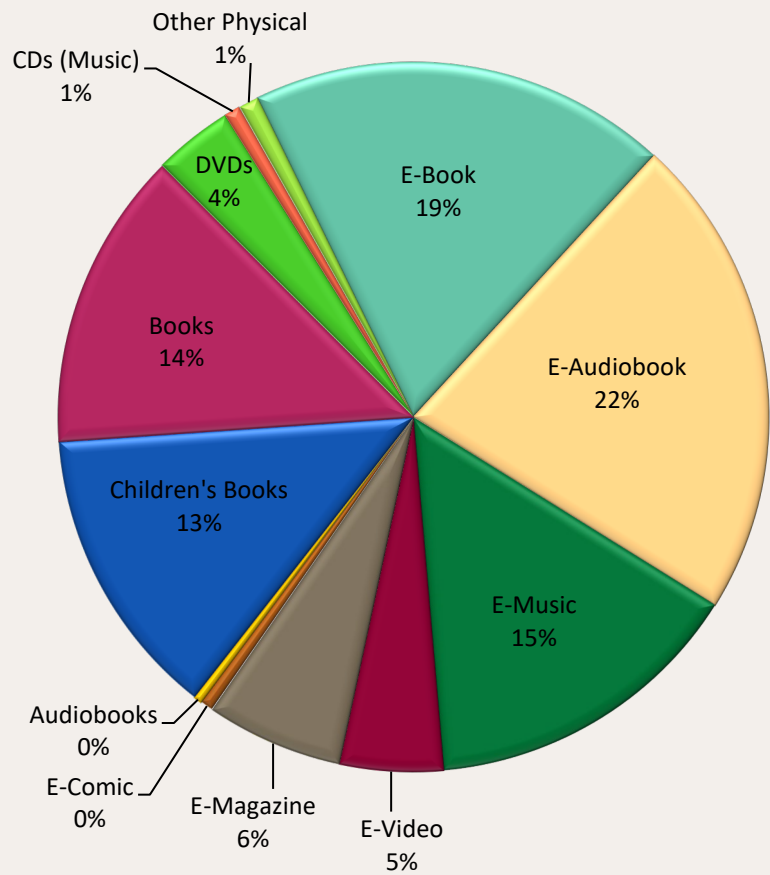
Commitments Received (funds not included above)	Amount	Reference
Institute for Museum and Library Services	\$ 488,089	Accelerating Promising Practices - Digital Inclusion
Missouri Community Service Commission/CNCS	\$ 124,124	AmeriCorps Digital Corps
Missouri State Library/LSTA	\$ 7,205	Spotlight on Literacy - RISE
ProLiteracy	\$ 6,000	Financial Literacy English Classes - RISE
Big Read sponsorship	\$ 5,000	Travois

Top Donors / Grants Received (Including Last Fiscal Year)	Amount	Reference
Estate of Ronald Miller	\$ 1,829,524	Estate Gift
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	\$ 1,170,000	FY22-FY24 Programming Grant
Sunderland Foundation	\$ 700,000	North-East Renovation
IMLS	\$ 488,089	Accelerating Promising Practices - Digital Inclusion
Marion & Henry Bloch / H&R Block Foundation	\$ 320,000	Digital Inclusion
William T. Kemper Foundation	\$ 250,000	North-East Renovation
Missouri State Library American Rescue Plan	\$ 179,752	Mobile Outreach Bookmobiles
Corporation for National & Community Service	\$ 130,404	AmeriCorps VISTA
Missouri Community Service Commission/CNCS	\$ 124,124	AmeriCorps Digital Corps
KC Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund	\$ 123,703	Tech Access Virtual Assistance
LSTA / CARES Act	\$ 57,518	Broadband - Distance Learning & Telehealth
Hall Family Foundation	\$ 50,000	Summer Reading & Learning
Sprint Foundation	\$ 50,000	1 Million Project Digital Inclusion
Google	\$ 32,000	Digital Learning Grant
Kemper Family Foundations	\$ 25,000	North-East Renovation
Richard J. Stern Foundation	\$ 25,000	Benton Mardikes Exhibit

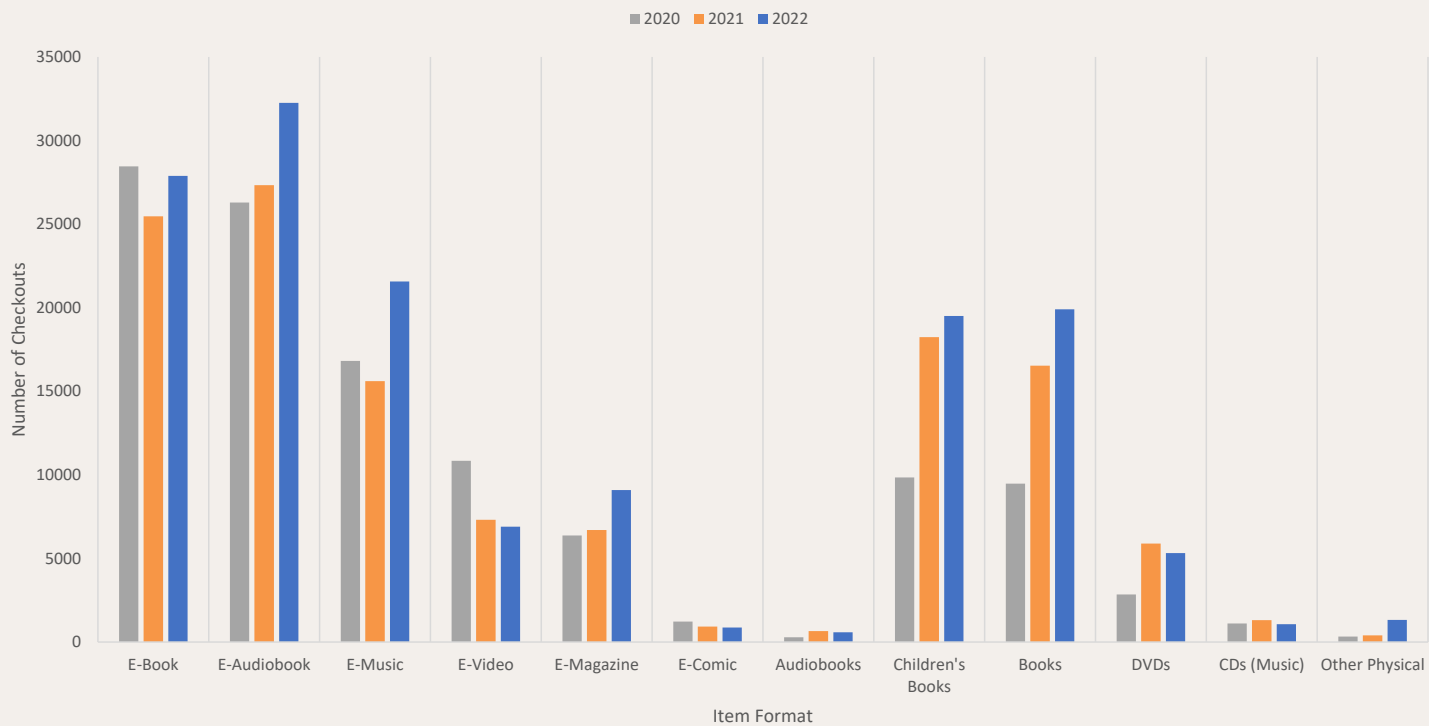
Total Item Circulation by Branch



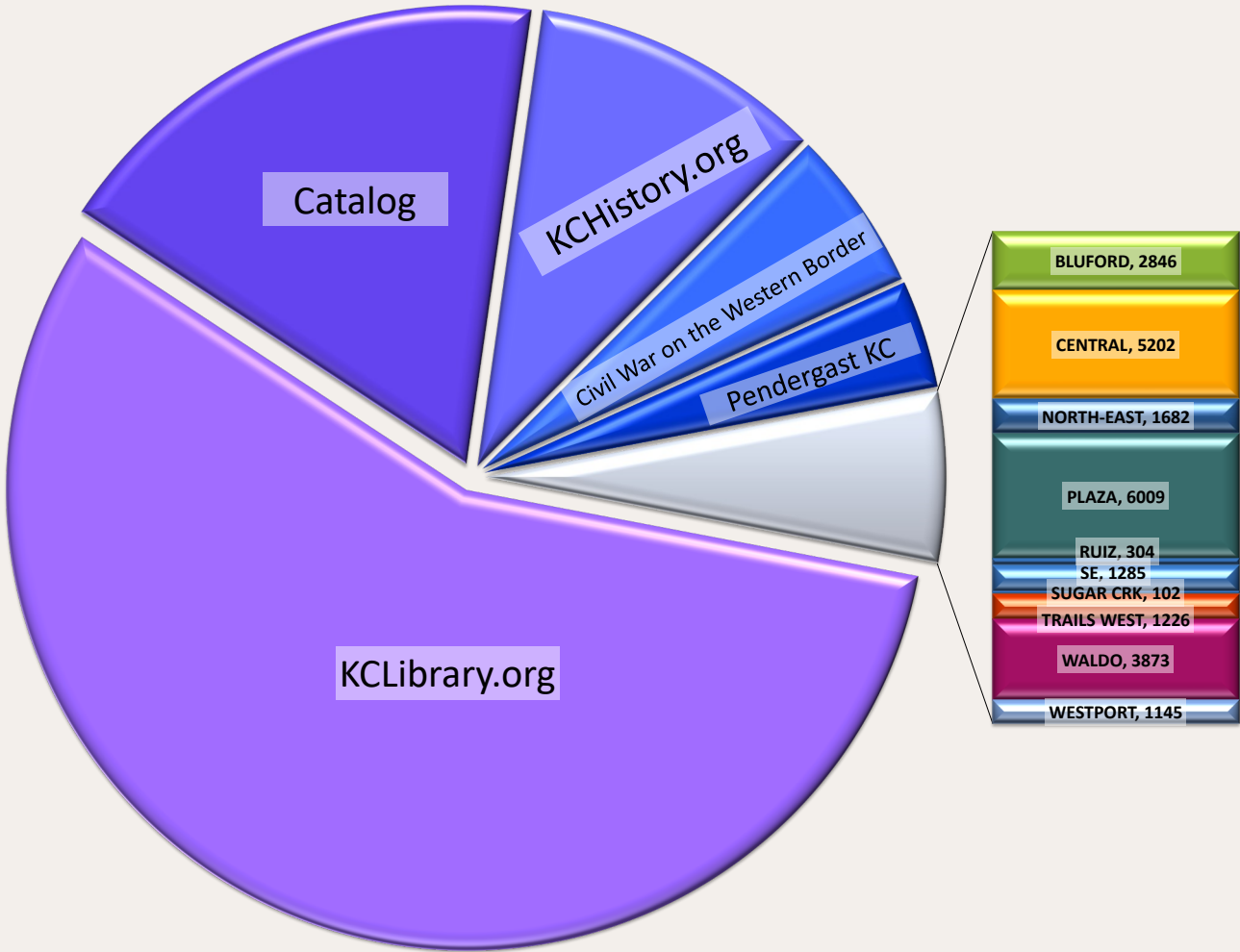
All Checkouts by Format for the Month



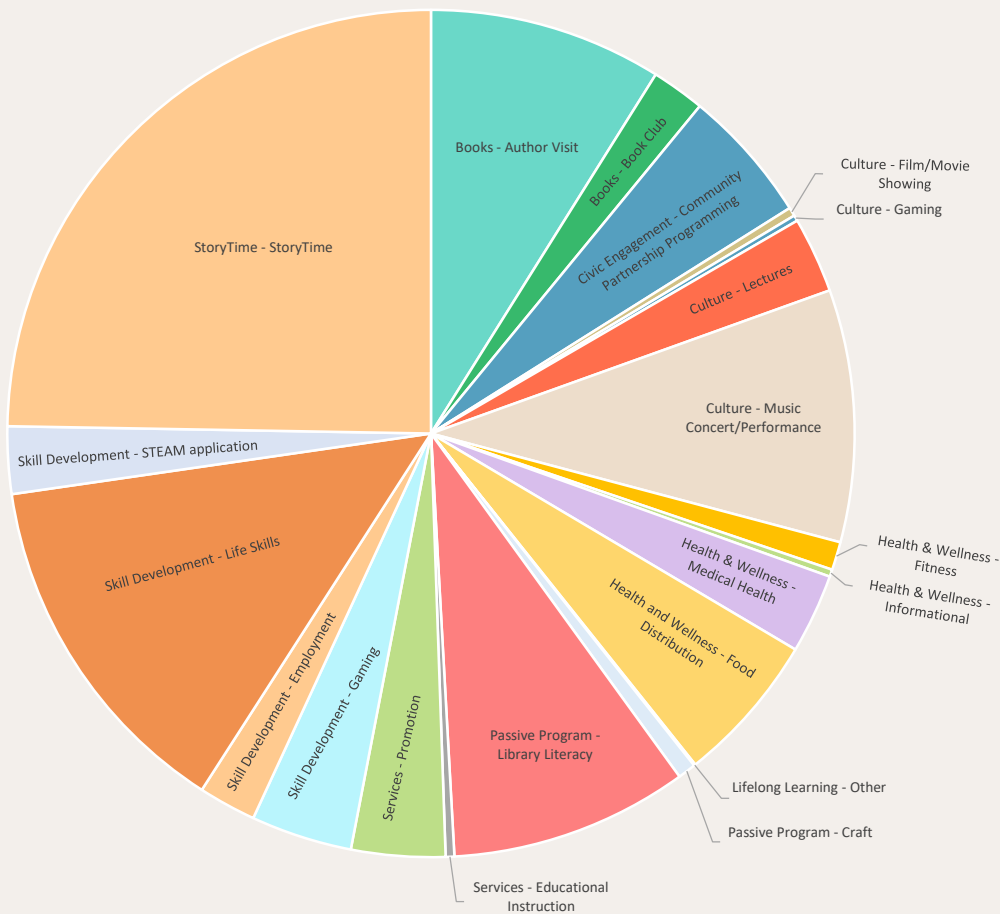
All Checkouts by Format - December 2021



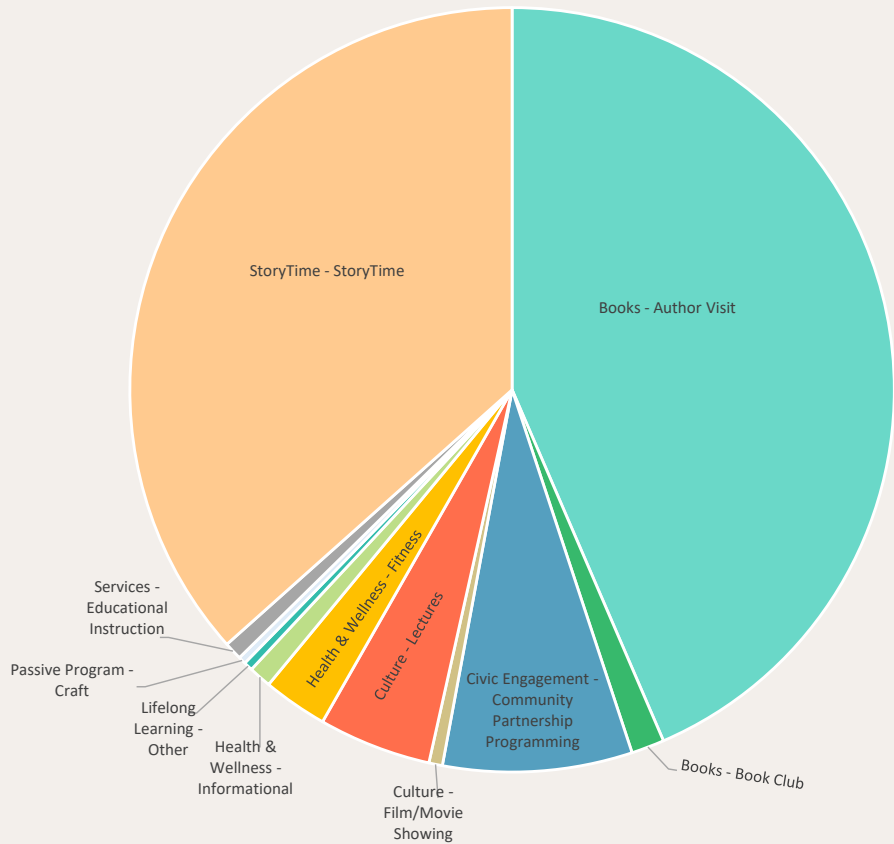
Visits by Branch This Month

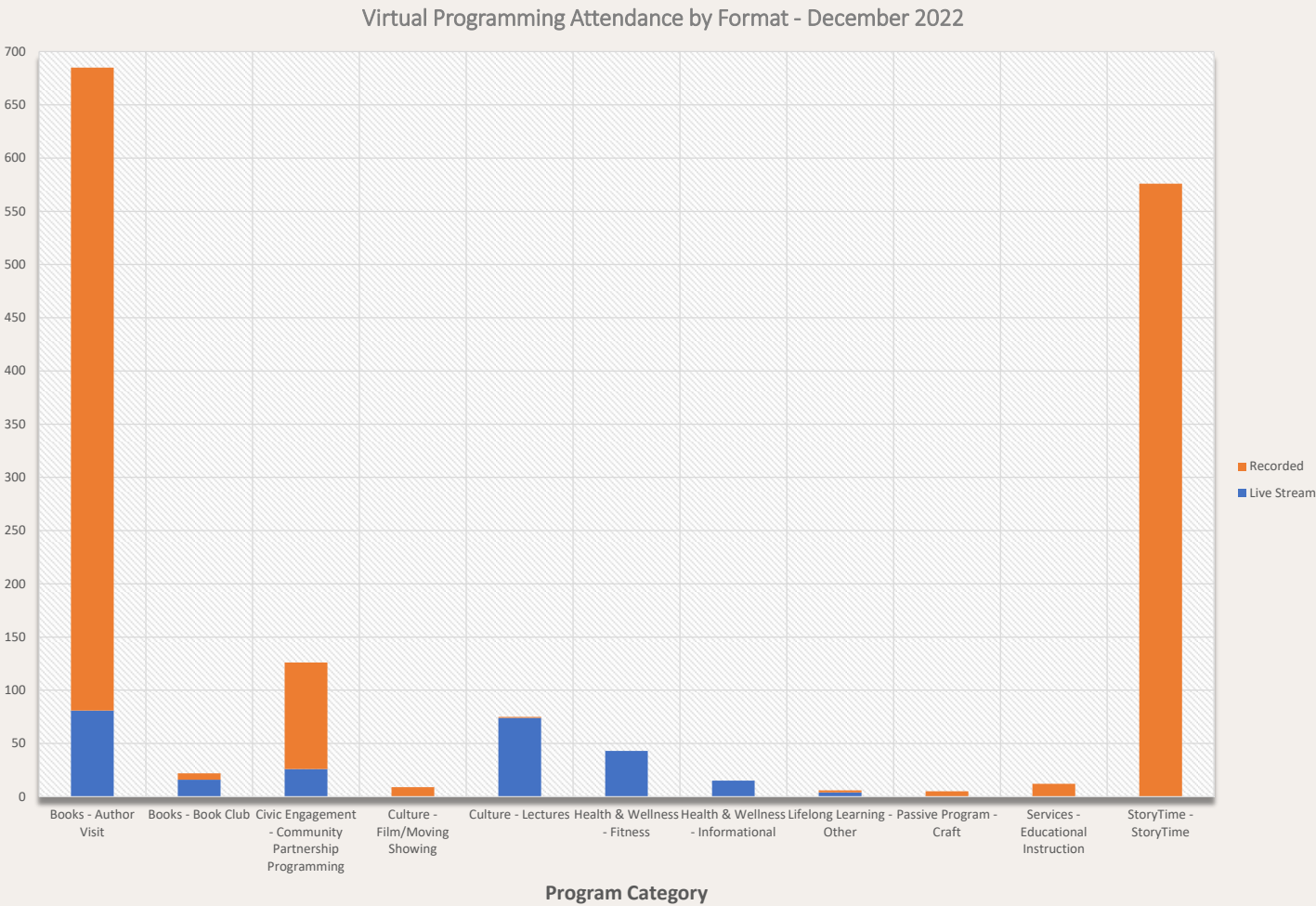


In-Person Attendance by Category - December 2022
Total Attendance - 3,628



Virtual Programming Attendance by Category - December 2022
Total Attendance - 1,574





TOTAL LIBRARY VISITS

	2022-2023 December	2021-2022 December	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	5,202	3,625	34,151	14,024	143.5
I.H. RUIZ	304	267	2,410	1,143	110.8
L.H. BLUFORD	2,846	2,564	21,424	15,715	36.3
NORTH-EAST	1,682	1,114	10,472	5,557 -	
PLAZA	6,009	5,508	42,802	18,510	131.2
SOUTHEAST	1,285	1,115	9,420	6,388	47.5
SUGAR CREEK	102	151	858	486 -	
TRAILS WEST	1,226	1,128	9,060	4,631	95.6
WALDO	3,873	3,562	27,109	10,649	154.6
WESTPORT	1,145	1,139	7,909	4,314 -	
DIGITAL BRANCH	371,240	261,207	1,979,956	1,501,924	31.8
TOTAL	394,914	281,380	2,145,571	1,583,341	
YTD % OF CHANGE				35.5	

ITEM CIRCULATION

	2022-2023 December	2021-2022 December	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	18,970	16,365	128,112	110,233	16.2
I.H. RUIZ	1,848	452	5,559	4,632	20.0
L.H. BLUFORD	1,958	2,701	14,978	16,018	-6.5
NORTH-EAST	2,713	2,227	19,377	16,620	16.6
PLAZA	17,414	16,554	118,666	114,343	3.8
SOUTHEAST	1,900	1,914	13,199	12,559	5.1
SUGAR CREEK	493	566	3,259	3,618	-9.9
TRAILS WEST	3,656	3,138	23,583	20,824	13.2
WALDO	9,574	9,058	67,263	62,527	7.6
WESTPORT	1,609	1,559	11,103	10,290	7.9
OUTREACH	4,575	4,289	40,929	39,456	3.7
DIGITAL BRANCH	98,609	83,373	589,672	509,601	15.7
BOOKMOBILE	5	-	36	-	-
TOTAL	163,319	142,196	1,035,700	920,721	
YTD % OF CHANGE				12.5	

REFERENCE/INFORMATION

	2022-2023 December	2021-2022 December	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
AV VAULT	42	22	249	469	-46.91
ONENorth	458	378	3,106	3,036	2.31
KIRK HALL	326	143	2,135	1,498	42.52
YOUTH SERVICES	138	86	1,045	911	14.71
3RD FLOOR	285	589	2,307	4,892	-52.84
MVSC	224	168	1,500	1,486	0.94
CENTRAL TOTAL	1,473	1,386	10,342	12,292	-15.86
I.H. RUIZ	68	91	314	485	-35.26
L.H. BLUFORD	113	394	811	1,803	-55.02
NORTH-EAST	131	71	611	732	-16.53
PLAZA	353	549	2,924	4,458	-34.41
SOUTHEAST	278	288	1,366	1,926	-29.08
SUGAR CREEK	10	59	228	261	-12.64
TRAILS WEST	139	213	1,235	1,395	-11.47
WALDO	42	261	696	3,253	-78.60
WESTPORT	38	92	1,097	572	91.78
DIGITAL BRANCH	174	86	1,093	311	251.45
TOTAL	2,819	3,490	20,717	27,488	
YTD % OF CHANGE				-24.63	

COMPUTER SESSIONS

	2022-2023 December	2021-2022 December	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	2,847	1,809	17,750	12,208	45.40
I.H. RUIZ	174	168	1,405	1,044	34.58
L.H. BLUFORD	2,451	2,200	18,255	15,351	18.92
NORTH-EAST	1,220	737	7,221	5,180	39.40
PLAZA	2,408	2,172	18,329	15,174	20.79
SOUTHEAST	1,010	869	7,300	6,142	18.85
SUGAR CREEK	51	84	429	419	2.39
TRAILS WEST	649	618	4,829	4,121	17.18
WALDO	1,324	1,158	9,595	8,245	16.37
WESTPORT	598	623	4,198	3,798	10.53
TOTAL	12,732	10,438	89,311	71,682	
YTD % OF CHANGE				24.59	

WIRELESS SESSIONS

	2022-2023 December	2021-2022 December	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	3,731	2,898	22,222	17,414	27.61
I.H. RUIZ	276	144	1,274	923	38.03
L.H. BLUFORD	1,170	680	7,226	4,053	78.29
NORTH-EAST	761	593	5,042	3,916	28.75
PLAZA	1,775	1,568	11,511	8,789	30.97
SOUTHEAST	675	611	4,319	3,780	14.26
SUGAR CREEK	125	133	805	686	17.35
TRAILS WEST	372	329	2,406	1,990	20.90
WALDO	521	405	2,835	2,496	13.58
WESTPORT	300	337	2,182	1,988	9.76
TOTAL	9,706	7,698	59,822	46,035	
YTD % OF CHANGE				29.95	

SYSTEMS SERVICES**REGISTERED BORROWERS**

	2022-2023 December	2021-2022 December	&%CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR
Total KCPL Users	218,370	206,897	5.55
New Users This Month	2,779	2,387	16.42

YFE DEPARTMENT SERVICES

	2022-2023 December	2021-2022 December	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
PHONE STORIES	1,858	2,715	10,841	17,348	-37.51
PHONE STORIES PATRONS	478	531	2,920	3,325	-12.18

TOTAL WEBSITE VISITS

	2022-2023 December	2021-2022 December	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
KCLibrary.org	222,174	114,904	1,104,129	666,155	65.75
Catalog	71,103	65,905	431,204	364,129	18.42
KCHistory.org	40,469	40,208	245,137	243,659	0.61
CivilWarontheWesternBorder.org	22,482	28,646	120,468	157,324	-23.43
PendergastKC.org	15,012	11,544	79,018	70,657	11.83