

Library Board Memo No. 4619

TO: Board of Trustees, Kansas City Urban Public Library District  
FROM: John Herron, Library Director & Chief Executive  
RE: Director's Report for February 2023

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Executive Summary will be discussed at the meeting.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Overall, our property tax revenue continues to trend higher than last year, and although we have already received 90.7% of the amount projected, it is still difficult to determine the final amount that will be received. 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, our salary and benefit numbers are under budget, and we anticipate ending the year under budget at this time. Looking at our general operating expenses, overall, we are tracking slightly over budget as operations continue to increase post COVID. Our building operation and maintenance number is up from last year and is expected to end slightly over budget. The budget overage in the maintenance and repair account is offset by the capital outlay accounts. We are still above spending compared to last year in library materials, but this category is controlled well and should come in close to budget.

Ultimately, we will likely end the year with a surplus. The amount of surplus will depend on the actual property tax revenue received which, as mentioned above, is still difficult to predict.

## **LIBRARY INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH – HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February's **Black History Month** [promotions](#) highlighted a number of Library resources, programs, and services, such as book recommendation lists, films available on Kanopy and hoopla, events and activities, and the Kansas City Black History website. Marketing included a suite of print signs for Library locations, social media posts, newsletter features, and more. The yearly Kansas City Black History print booklet, produced in partnership with LINC and the Black Archives of Mid-America and distributed to all Library locations, proved popular with patrons, as always.

## WESTPORT BRANCH 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The Westport Branch turned 125 on February 22! The grand celebration event featured local civil rights leader and author, Alvin Brooks. Visitors saw the Westport Library's new art gallery with pieces from KE Griffin, a textile and performing artist.



- The patron count-74 people
- The community enjoyed live hammered dulcimer music by Dr. Ken Shoemaker
- A total of 14 branch historic tours were conducted
- Westport trivia, coloring sheets, and Scavenger hunt: grand total: 45 patrons completed



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II, heard about the anniversary from his staff and he wanted to create a Congressional Record to celebrate the occasion per Andrew Huber the Community Affairs Liaison & Press Aide on February 22nd, 2023. Andrew brought the framed Congressional Record to the celebration for all to view and enjoy. Pictured Andrew Huber, Dr. John Herron, Bre Hansen and President of the Board Pete Browne.

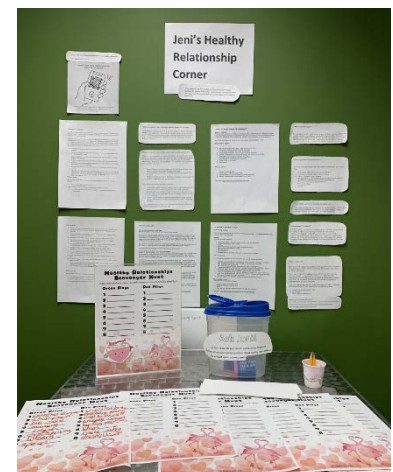


## COMMUNITY SPECIALISTS

**KU Medical Center**, **MARC** (Mid America Regional Council), and **Juntos** ran their information about the Care text program for February on the Senior Listen Line. Program flyers were distributed to the branches. We are partnering with them to help get the word out about the Care Text Program and help support caregivers and families of people with dementia, in part by helping caregivers to learn more about dementia and how to take care of dementia patients and themselves. The Library joined as a partner in January to announce the program, which will go on for six months and hopefully give many seniors and caregivers an opportunity to participate in the program.

Jeni Starr worked with Helen Li (YFE) to answer reproductive health and healthy relationships questions from teens at the Central Library during February's Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Teens can ask questions anonymously and the questions and answers are posted on the wall. We will continue to provide this Q&A beyond February.

Jeni Starr and Karen Whitestone coordinated the Caring Conversations: Advance Care Planning program in partnership with the **Center for Practical Bioethics**. Of patrons who



completed the Project Outcome survey, 100% reported that they felt more knowledgeable about the health topic, felt more confident about taking care of their or their family's health, intend to apply what they learned, and were more aware of health-related resources. One patron commented, "It was really wonderful support around conversations that are very difficult but very necessary."

Jenny Garmon accepted an invitation to join an Expungement Think Tank hosted by the **Clear My Record Project** at UMKC's School of Law to increase awareness around expungements and the collateral consequences surrounding a criminal record.

Jenny Garmon accepted an **American Library Association** appointment to be one of 12 advisors for the *Be MediaWise: The Misinformation Resilience Toolkit Project*. Jenny will work with a team of librarians from around the country to create the toolkit in collaboration with the **Poynter Institute for Media Studies'** digital media literacy initiative [MediaWise](#) and [Stanford Social Media Lab](#) through support from [Stanford Impact Labs](#) and the [Empowering Diverse Digital Citizens Lab](#).

### MOBILE SERVICES

Books to Go welcomed **Kirk Family YMCA** (Downtown) and **Bridgette Maddix Daycare** to the program. As a result, approximately 40 additional children will now receive library materials.

The **Whole Person** was added as a new Bookmobile stop this month, and they have been excellent about promoting the Bookmobile on social media! Several people enjoyed taking their picture with Coach Read. The Bookmobile visited the following locations during February: **The Whole Person, Lotus Care House, Community Access, 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 337 visitors, 25 library card sign-ups, 35 programs with 232 participants. This month's passive program was an interactive activity asking, "Who is your Black hero?" for Black History month, with a matching display and Kansas City Black History booklets. At some stops this month, staff showed patrons how to make towel dogs out of wash cloths for a special active program.





At **Benilde Hall** this month, a new patron in response to getting a library card, checking out a Chromebook, getting the Job Seeker Kit, participating in the Black History program, and getting a Black History booklet said: “I’m overwhelmed right now, this is all so beautiful.”

Bookmobile staff had a request this month for translations of Bookmobile schedules in different languages so that patrons can understand what the Bookmobile is and when it visits. The Bookmobile team is working with RISE (Refugee & Immigrant Services & Empowerment) to create these translations.

**Palestine Senior Center** was added back to the Lobby Stop schedule in February. Tiffany Alexander, Angie Thomas, and Kheper-Ra Khonsu visited them for their first return visit. Seven customers stopped by to browse, check out items, request materials, and a new title was selected for the Palestine Book Group. The Lobby Stop team visited 17 sites in February: **Palestine Commons, Clara Manor Nursing Home, Palestine Gardens, Summit Nursing Home, Maywood Terrace Living Center, Armour Oaks Senior Living Community, St. James Place, Woodlands at Citadel, Swope Ridge Gardens, Immanuel Manor, Marlborough Manor, Palestine Senior Center, Vine Street Manor, Posada Del Sol, Myers Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Kansas City South, and Gregory Ridge Living Center.**

#### AMERICORPS

Digital Corps members had 331 interactions with patrons during drop-in sessions at branches. Interactions included helping patrons recover emails, setting up Wi-Fi, building resumes, creating websites, applying for rental assistance, and more.

The Library VISTA Project began VISTA Summer Associate recruitment. There will be 18 VISTA Summer Associates serving in the Youth and Family Engagement and Outreach departments, pending successful recruitment.

#### REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES & EMPOWERMENT

Anne Brown, Julie Robinson, and Aisha Ahmed met with **City Market** personnel to solidify a working partnership regarding tabling and teaching financial literacy.

Julie Robinson and Anne Brown furthered the partnership with **Della Lamb** to include teaching English classes at their Woodland Avenue location.

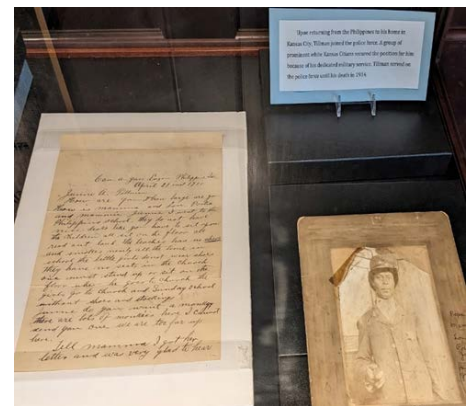


## LOCAL HISTORY

Lawrence, Kansas-based photographer Ann Dean was the Missouri Valley Sunday speaker for February. An audience of 73 attended her presentation on the legacy of photographer and filmmaker Gordon Parks. Dean's lecture focused on three of Parks' seminal books: *The Learning Tree* (1963), *A Choice of Weapons* (1966), and *Half Past Autumn* (1997).

### Other Black History Month Activities:

- More than 3,000 copies of the [2023 Kansas City Black History book](#) were distributed to library patrons through branches and outreach services.
- Jeremy Drouin was interviewed by a **KSHB 41** reporter for a story about the KC Black History project.
- Elijah Winker authored a [What's Your KCQ?](#) article on the [Beau Brummel Club](#), a Black social club in Kansas City founded after WWI.
- Eve Aspinwall curated a Missouri Valley Room display on [Lafayette Tillman](#), one of first Black police officers in Kansas City.
- Elijah Winkler created a Kirk Hall book display on Black photographers to promote the Feb. 26 Missouri Valley Sunday program on Gordon Parks.
- Facebook posts were published highlighting civil rights activist [Alvin Sykes](#), as well as What's Your KCQ? articles about [General Hospital #2](#) and the [Beau Brummel Club](#).



Jeremy Drouin gave tours of the Missouri Valley Room to three groups of 4<sup>th</sup> graders from the **Allen Village School** in Westport. He highlighted the 1851 Westport map and Corp of Discovery statue and discussed Westport's history as an embarking point for overland travelers.

MVSC reference (258) and photo (21) requests for February included the following highlights:

- Sara DeCaro assisted a high school student from Texas who was interested to learn how Bleeding Kansas is commemorated here. She gave the student information on annual re-enactments of the Battle of Black Jack and events related to Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kansas.
- Elijah Winkler provided images, maps, and information to a local historian who is currently writing a history of the convent at 63<sup>rd</sup> and Paseo in partnership with the **Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration**.
- Adam Paxson assisted a professional genealogist in researching several orphanages and their benefactors.
- Michael Wells was contacted by **Midwest Genealogy Center** staff member and made suggestions regarding digitization best practices and online content management systems.
- Images related to Kansas City's eastside Black neighborhoods and urban renewal projects were ordered by **KCPT's Flatland** publication for an [interview with Dr. Carmaletta Williams](#), CEO of the **Black Archives of Mid-America**. Dr. Williams discussed the

negative impacts of losing her neighborhood to the construction of the South Midtown Freeway, later renamed Bruce R. Watkins Drive.

- Images of pages from [The Call's Tenth Anniversary and Progress Edition newspaper](#) were ordered by the **Kansas City Area Transportation Authority** for use in a public history display at the 31st Street and Troost Avenue transit stop.
- Images related to the history of the West Bottoms and the Pendergast Machine were ordered by the **State Historical Society of Missouri** to illustrate a forthcoming Missouri Historical Review article.
- Several images related to Kansas City's railroad history were ordered by the **Johnson County Museum** for use in a future exhibit.

Kara Flinn reported the following accessions in February:

- Research file on Ridenour-Baker Grocery Company Building compiled by the Rosin Preservation firm to document the building prior to its demolition.
- Seven color slides depicting Plaza Theater area in 1956 including "wonderland animals" and characters such as the Easter Bunny, Bugs Bunny, and Dumbo.
- Meeting attendance log/minutes for Philo Literary Society at Southwest High School, donated by member of the class of 1962.
- Brochures/ephemera on the history of First Covenant Church of Kansas City, including an interview with church member who emigrated from Sweden.

## **LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – HIGHLIGHTS**

Director of Policy Analysis and Operational Support Cindy Hohl, and Branch Managers MaShonda Harris, Monica Jedine, and Sunny Branick attended the Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC) conference, which was held Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. There they had the opportunity to hear from speakers about topics ranging from the social determinants of health to creating spaces for Blerds (Black Nerds) through comics and a celebration of Black superheroes.

### **Bluford Branch**

Bluford served 146 lunches during Kid's Café this month.

**NickiFit**'s classes drew in 45 participants this month. 16 people attended the Body Sculpt strength training class on Tuesday nights and 29 jumped in during our Thursday, MixxedFit classes.

Anime Club drew in 16 participants this month and Video Game Club held on Thursday evenings drew 23 participants this month. Anime Club is still experiencing some technical issues, however, so some anime nights have been substituted with a secondary game night for the teens.

On Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> Bluford celebrated Black History Month with read alouds and storytelling by Bluford staff, especially Connie Jones who took the lead.



## **North-East Branch**

Ben Snethen visited the Southeast Branch to meet with representatives of **Jewish Family Services' KesherKC** program who were hosting a tabling event at that location. He developed preliminary plans with Kesher KC to host a similar event at the North-East Branch in April.

Ben Snethen and Karla Soto attended a table-top board game program training event at the Plaza Branch. They learned about the gaming resources available at various branches throughout the system, how board games can be incorporated into programming for any age, as well as KCPL's history of board game programming. They also learned how to lead a gaming event, discussed life skills that board gaming can teach, and played a couple games with other staff in attendance.

## **Plaza Branch**

Haley Lips provided programming for a late Winter Yoga series that started in February and will run until March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The series is gaining in popularity with an average of 15 people attending each week. Haley Lips and Jeni Starr hosted the second Death Café in February; eight people were in attendance. **American Red Cross** blood drive was a success on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

Jasmine Shelby created Black History displays on Afrofuturism, Poetry, Bio's, Non-fiction, Celebrating Curly Crowns and Black History for Babies.

## **Ruiz Branch**

Ruiz staff has confirmed dates in March and April for K-4 students from **Garcia Elementary** to visit the Ruiz Library for various story times and activities. Central Youth Services will assist with the programming, and the **Missouri Department of Conservation** will also attend multiple story times with live animals to teach children about living creatures in nature.

Cheyenne Brown helped with the **Posada del Sol Senior Apartments** Lobby Stop on February 23 and assisted with the Spanish-speaking residents. Ten patrons came to the Lobby Stop. Several residents are requesting new Spanish-language materials.

Ruiz completed 230 passport applications in February. This ties the largest number of applications Ruiz has ever completed in a month. On average, Ruiz staff completed more than nine passport applications every day in February.

Amy Morris met with Dennis Colombo this month. He is doing his Eagle Scout project with the Ruiz Library and working in our native plant gardens. He volunteered twice in February helping put native plant seeds into cold stratification and labeling them. We also reviewed his final proposal.

Master Naturalists Judy and Libby Hastert visited Ruiz in February and set up a "Little Nature Library" as part of a pilot program. Information includes bike maps, nature posters, etc. As patrons take information, Judy and Libby will refill the library.

The **Westside Community Action Network (CAN) Center** made food bags in the Ruiz meeting room on February 18 to distribute to neighbors in need.

### **Southeast Branch**

The KCDML team has continued working with **Kansas City Public Schools, HBCU Walking Billboard** college program. Marcus met with the principal from **Lincoln Academy** to lay out activities for youth in the program that are working on a documentary outlining the program. Marcus Brown along with Arliss Gammill facilitated a media production workshop with the group in preparation of a Major production day on March 31st.

The second **Kesher Mobile Pantry** was held at Southeast on February 25<sup>th</sup>. This free program is in partnership with the **Jewish Family Service** and provided fresh fruits and vegetables from community partners including **Kanbe's Markets. Evergy** provided utility assistance, The **Urban League of KC** attended and representatives from the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** attended as well.

Marcus attended the quarterly meeting for the **Steam Connect KC** Leadership team to review and discuss best practices and next steps.

### **Sugar Creek**

Peggy Karnes hosted a Kahoot Trivia Game at Sugar Creek. There was a total of 6 people in attendance to play a fifty-question trivia game about the series M\*A\*S\*H. It was a fun activity and the participants seemed to enjoy it. In fact, a few asked if we could possibly make it a regular program in the future.

### **Trails West**

Rachael Paxton connected with **Darkwood House Gallery** which is a free admission art gallery in the Englewood arts district. Rachael shared this contact with Angie Hattey to plan potential adult programming in the future.

Lauren Votava did a display for the month of February, called "Characters We Love". This display featured iconic characters that really made us care about their stories and what happened to them, due to the crazy shenanigans they ended up in and their unique personalities. These are characters that spoke to us, sometimes becoming cultural icons. Examples are Greg Heffley, Harry Potter, Stephanie Plum, Judy Moody, and Alex Cross.

### **Waldo Branch**

Tax season is here! The **AARP** volunteers started assisting those with appointments on Wednesday, February 1st. Patrons can schedule appointments online for assistance with filing 2022 federal and state tax filing and filing Property Tax Credit now until Tuesday, April 18th.



Appointments are scheduled for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:30-2pm. There were 150 appointments this month.

The branch hosted a blood drive in collaborations with the **American Red Cross**. There were 11 appointments scheduled with a result of 8 donors by the end of the event.

Mila Blair hosted the inaugural meeting of Tabletop Thursday/Adult Game Night game group. Two participants stopped by to play “Splendor” which was a new game to both participants. They really enjoyed it. One participant was a father waiting on his child who meets with a tutor at the branch. He was excited to play a board game while waiting for his daughter. Mila will continue to spread the word to attract more participants in the coming months.

There were a total of 36 attendees for NickiFit this month. The class is every Monday at 6pm in Meeting Room A.



Instructor Chris Wilt was in for the Medicare Made Easy class. There were 3 attendees for this month’s session. The classes are every fourth Monday at 5pm in Meeting Room B.

## **Westport Branch**

Kim Gile was at the MLA Advocacy Day, and she had an opportunity to talk with **Representative Emily Weber** and found out that Westport branch is in her district. Kim mentioned the upcoming 125th anniversary. Representative Weber offered to do a Resolution.

## SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAMS

The Library’s signature programming in February was highlighted by the launch of new four-part series focusing on entrepreneurship and equity in Kansas City.

The owners of two African American-owned businesses, **Vine Street Brewing Co** and the **Bliss Books and Wine** bookstore, discussed how to make entrepreneurship in the city more inclusive, diverse, equitable, accessible, and liberating – more IDEAL. The February 7 conversation at the Plaza Branch was moderated by Chelsey M, the founder of **Kansas City Black Owned**.

Two weeks later, in observance of Black History Month, University of Connecticut history professor Jeffrey Ogbonna Green Ogbar explored The Culture and Politics of Rap, challenging the notion that the genre is socially dangerous. Many rappers, Ogbar noted, are critical of the crime-focused lyrics and antisocial messages of some of their peers.

The month's biggest programming draw was a discussion, *The Challenges of Translating the Bible*, by one of the foremost modern translators of the book's Hebrew version into English, Robert Alter. His February 16 presentation drew a live audience of 683 – 141 in person at the Truman Forum Auditorium at the Plaza and 458 via livestream – and the video attracted nearly 200 views a day on the Library's YouTube channel through the end of February.



Robert Alter signs copies of his book *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation With Commentary*, at the end of his February 16 presentation at the Plaza Branch.

Also drawing heavy engagement was launch of a new series, *Conflict and Crisis*, in partnership with the **U.S. Army Command and General Staff College**.

Three days before the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a panel of military experts examined the impact of the costly, globally fraught war – including the intensification of tensions between Russia and the United States.

A crowd of 141 filled the Central Library's Helzberg Auditorium, and another 458 took in the livestream. Subsequent video views – an average of 36 a day through the end of the month – again extended the reach.

## YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### **Programs and Services**

Donna Newell received some lovely notes from students at **Border Star** expressing how much they enjoy her visits. It's no surprise that she is so beloved considering she celebrated 39 years of service to KCPL this month! Donna continues to visit or host numerous classrooms each month to share books with students, in addition to her regular storytimes. She also has several youth that regularly sign up for Read to a Dog, and many who are lucky enough to participate by stumbling upon the program. Her LEGO club sees new youth most months in addition to regulars who are anxious to attend. One mom reported that every Thursday her child asks if today is LEGO Club.



Clare Hollander began a 4-week embroidery class with the **AnySchool Homeschool** group. She also visited Trails West to observe and help with their Homeschool program when the Naturalist from Burr Oak Woods visited. She has scheduled the same Naturalist to come to Ruiz in March.



Also in CYS, Josie Schneider created a special Valentine's Day scavenger hunt, encouraging visitors to search for clues around the floor. Folks love the scavenger hunts, and they enjoyed looking for things such as a book with a red cover or a non-fiction book about an activity they love. Seeing some of our frequent teen visitors help the younger kids was especially rewarding!

Josie also hosted the monthly KC Tween Book Club. This month they discussed the 2020 Newbery Winner *New Kid* by Jerry Craft and had great conversations about being new and feeling out of place, as well as discussing microaggressions when they notice them.

Samantha Edwards visited the **Whatsoever Community Center** to read to the PreK and teach them about libraries. The kids enjoyed hearing a piggy and elephant story and asked Samantha questions about the library. She also showed them a picture of the North-East building and told them about borrowing free books.

Samantha has noticed an increase in families visiting the library specifically to get Kids Café, something she rarely encountered before. Many families have noted the rising cost of food as a reason to seek out the library for this service. KCDML has started incorporating tabletop gaming into their Kids Café service, providing an opportunity to build skills such as teamwork, cooperation, creativity, and confidence.

Kiesha Collins hosted a Storytime series highlighting local black children's authors in honor of Black History Month. **Nikayah Crosdale** *The Thought Jar*, **Clarence Lomax** *Yes! You Can Be Anything*, and **Christle Reed** *Hugs from the Sky*, provided an afternoon story reading and activity for children at the library. Per Kiesha "These authors have books that are being circulated throughout our system and I wanted children in the community to interact with an author who represents them and learn about the process of writing a book."



The theme for February's Friday Night Family Fun programs at Plaza was sports. They kicked it off with football, adding a 3' inflatable football, giving kids a fun way to be their own Super Bowl champions. Even the Plaza cow got into the Super Bowl spirit! During the month, **Brother John** gave a performance about Buck O'Neil, and one week the programming focused on "Wait, That's a Sport?", looking at sports played around the world. Kids enjoyed playing a version of Yukigassen, a combination of dodgeball and a snowball fight, keeping it inside and using big pompoms.

Julia Kingsbury continues to provide storytimes at Time for Tots at the **Kemper Art Museum**. This month, she met a mother and child who had moved to Kansas City from France just days before. She brought her child to storytime so they could get some immersive experiences in English. Julia encouraged them to come to some of Plaza's regular programs, and she's been happy to see them in Plaza Kid Corner several times since.



Storytimes at Plaza Kid Corner remain popular. One of the recent activities involved little ones practicing their fine motor skills by making simple bird feeders.

Julia Kingsbury attended Westport's birthday celebration to lead a storytime, while Bobby Gordon helped with puzzles and paper-and-pencil activities.

The second meeting of the Rainbow Club welcomed 5 new kids, bringing the total to 16. They all enjoyed an icebreaker, reading and discussing *When Aiden Became a Brother*, and painting kindness rocks. Each of the kids made two rocks, one to take with them, and one to leave at the library so that next month they can decide where to place the rocks. Kate Tammeus and Elizabeth Giles who lead the program, were amused that the kids voted to rename the club "Frog Club".

Plaza TLoT members took a break from program planning to take a picture with Coach Read.



February was Healthy Relationships Month, so Helen Li worked on a scavenger hunt activity with relationship hearts either "green flags" or "red flags," with TLoT helping to hide the hearts around the teen room. Additionally, Karen Whitestone connected Helen with Jeni Starr to work on an interactive display with an anonymous Q&A about healthy relationships.



Helen recently began a Food-of-the-Month with Central TLoT, giving teens the opportunity to try foods that they may not have been exposed to previously. In February, they tried kimchi. Reactions were mixed, with some loving it and others enjoying it, well, less.

In a follow up to the recent Central vs Bluford teen face-off, one of the teens from Bluford visited Central again, stating, "The games you picked were awful! Let's see if you can beat us at a real game like SMASH!" Central must not be so bad, since they stayed for three hours.

## Outreach and Partnerships

Clare Hollander tabled at the **Anita B. Gorman Nature Discovery Center** during their Urban Woods event. She enjoyed talking with over 60 people about the library. Clare is also a founding member of the Environmental Literacy Team (ELT), formerly known as The Gardening Club. The team also met with staff from the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center to learn about resources

they have there for librarians to use in their own programming. She is looking forward to bringing nature to life at the library using this incredible resource in the near future.

Samantha Edwards has been doing an analysis of NE elementary schools, using data from Set the Schools Free, to focus on schools with the highest attendance of students living in the NE service area. Rather than focusing on schools based on proximity to the library, she'll be able to reach schools that have the widest audience for NE services, in order to help focus her outreach to the schools where it will have the most impact.

Kate Tammeus and Kim Angotti hosted **Show Me KC School's** PreK Fair at Central. They met with families, gave away books and stickers, and shared other early literacy resources with the 109 in attendance.

Helen Li helped Kelsey Bates with a large visit from **American Public Square**, which is coordinating a project with around 60 teens from the KC metro area. Kelsey got all the students library cards, demonstrated how to use Explora for research, and answered library questions. Since the subject of the students' research was very serious, Kelsey and Helen prepared some library swag to lighten up the mood. Afterwards, the event coordinator came up and said, "it was so nice to hear the sound of children's laughter after such an intense morning."

Kelsey started doing programming at **Synergy** again for the first time since Covid. The teens played games on the Switch and enjoyed the bookmarks that she brought. She hopes that other teen librarians will come to see the space, so they can tell teens about it that might need services.



**Kansas City Public Library**  
**February 2023 - Fundraising Report**

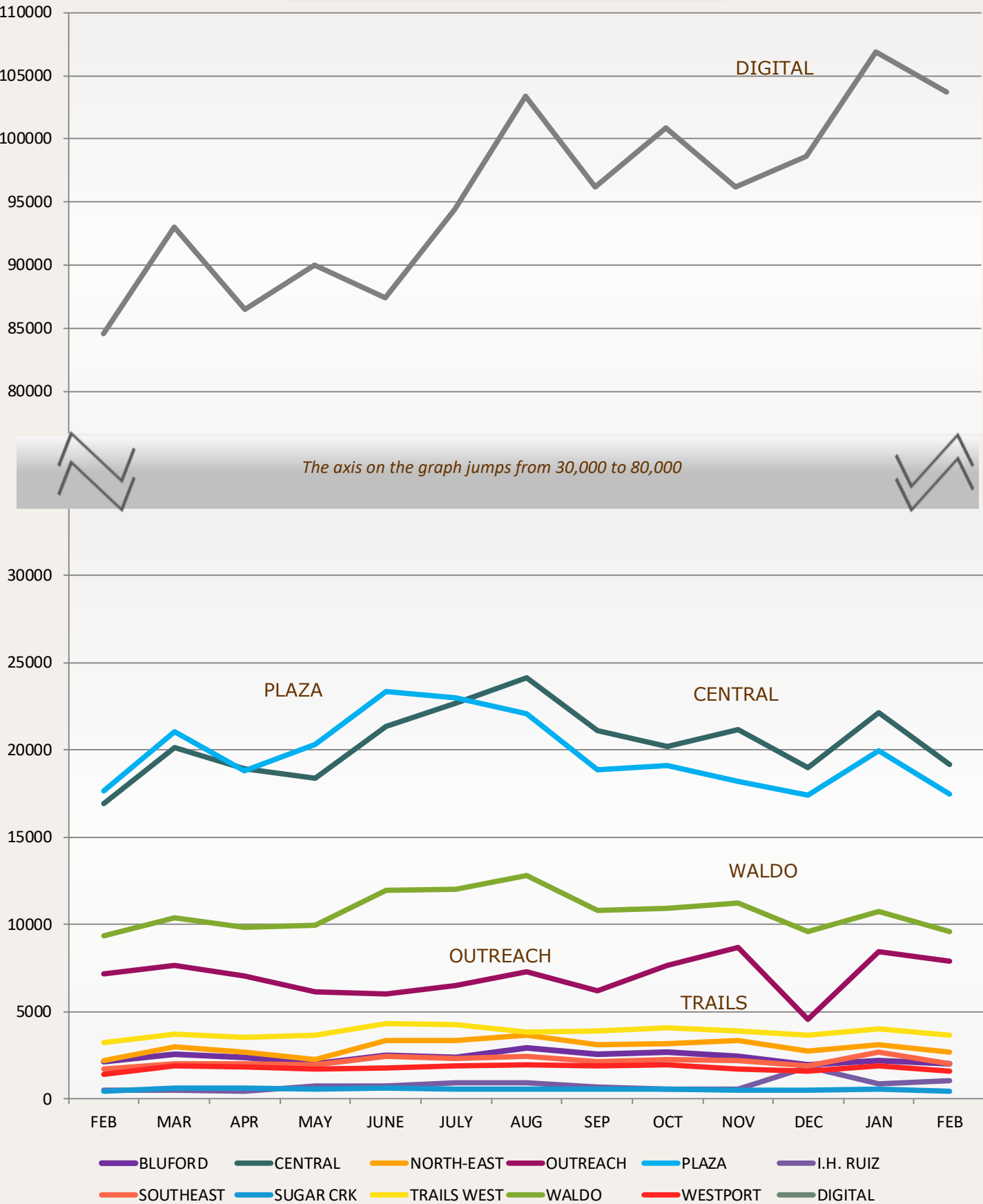
<b>Fundraising Categories</b>	<b>Annual Goal</b>	<b>Received Current Month</b>	<b>Received Fiscal YTD</b>	<b>% of Goal</b>
<b>General Fund - Annual Campaigns, misc.</b>	\$ 200,000	\$ 5,271	\$ 60,605	30.3%
<b>Kauffman Public Programming Grant FY 21-22</b>	\$ 390,000	\$ -	\$ 390,000	100.0%
<b>Private Fundraising Sources (Individuals, Foundations, Corp.)</b>	\$ 600,000	\$ 34,151	\$ 304,581	50.8%
<b>Public Funding Sources (Local, State, Federal Gov't)</b>	\$ 400,000	\$ 9,181	\$ 1,367,590	341.9%
<b>Emergency Connectivity Fund</b>	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 465,033	93.0%
<b>Other</b>				
<b>Bequests &amp; Donated Assets</b>		\$ -	\$ 129,524	N/A
<b>Total</b>	\$ 2,090,000	\$ 48,603	\$ 2,717,333	130.0%

<b>Current Month Activity:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reference</b>
State of Missouri-Grant-MO-CNCS AmeriCorps	\$ 7,278	Digital Corps
State of Missouri-Grant-CSLP	\$ 1,903	Promotional Materials for Summer Reading Program
MARC-Grant-MARC Solid Waste Management	\$ 3,612	Cardboard Baling Program
ProLiteracy Worldwide	\$ 6,000	RISE English Classes

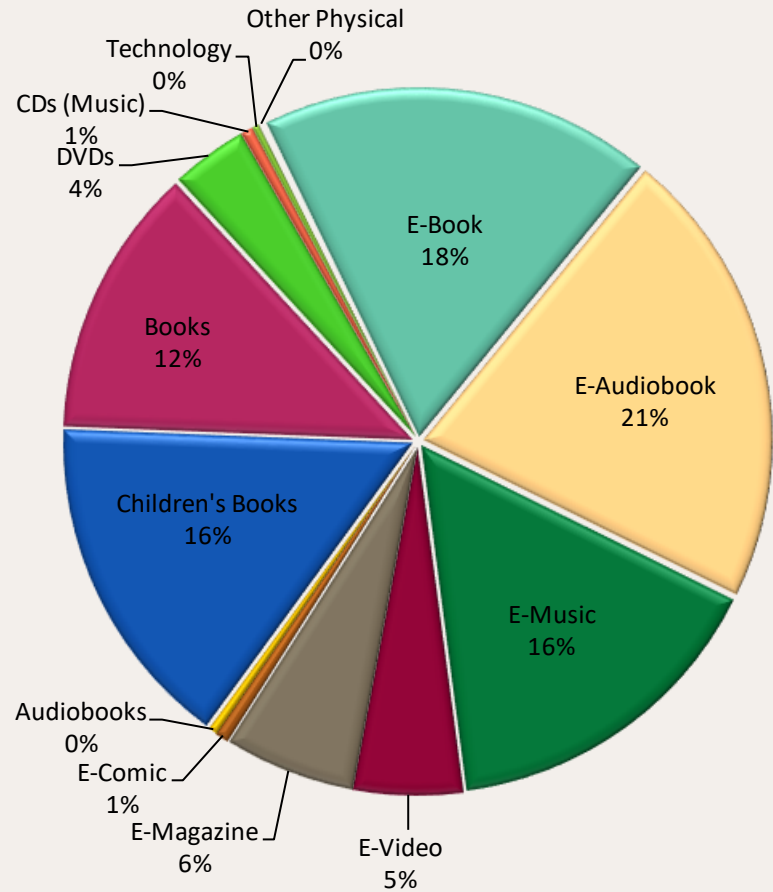
<b>Commitments Received (funds not included above)</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Missouri Community Service Commission/CNCS	\$ 112,458	AmeriCorps Digital Corps
CNSC/AmeriCorps	\$ 80,600	The Library VISTA Project
NTDF	\$ 15,000	Summer Reading 2022 award
Missouri State Library/LSTA	\$ 11,220	Spotlight on Literacy - Environmental Literacy
Missouri State Library/LSTA	\$ 7,205	Spotlight on Literacy - RISE

<b>Top Donors / Grants Received (Including Last Fiscal Year)</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Estate of Ronald Miller	\$ 1,829,524	Estate Gift
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	\$ 1,170,000	FY22-FY24 Programming Grant
Estate of Caroline D. Sanders	\$ 898,857	Bequest
Sunderland Foundation	\$ 700,000	North-East Renovation
IMLS	\$ 488,089	Digital Inclusion - APP
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	\$ 390,000	Programming Grant
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
Health Forward Foundation	\$ 75,000	Peer Navigators
Gabriella Polony Mountain	\$ 69,700	Donated Art by Gabriella Mountain
LSTA / CARES Act	\$ 57,518	Broadband - Distance Learning & Telehealth
William T. Kemper Foundation	\$ 25,000	North-East Renovation

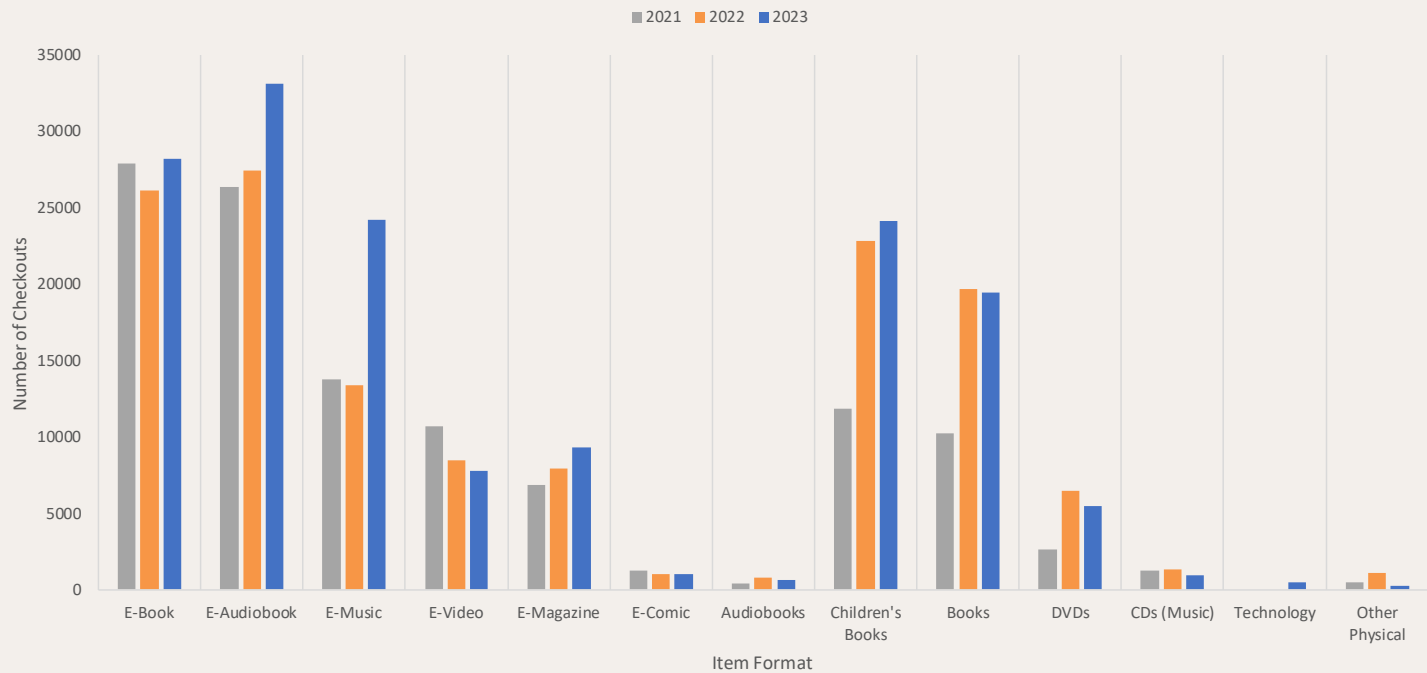
Total Item Circulation by Branch



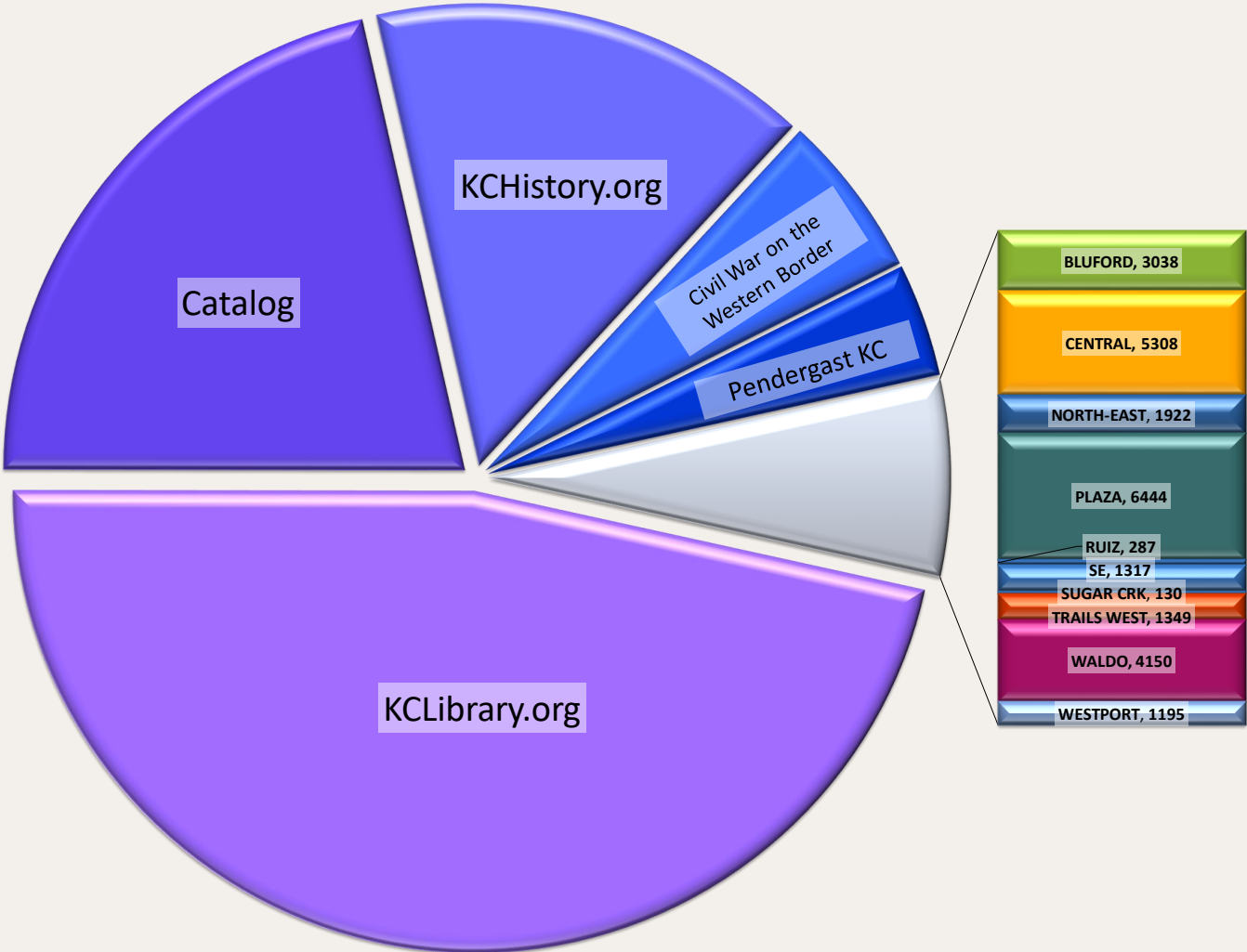
# All Checkouts by Format for the Month



All Checkouts by Format - February 2023

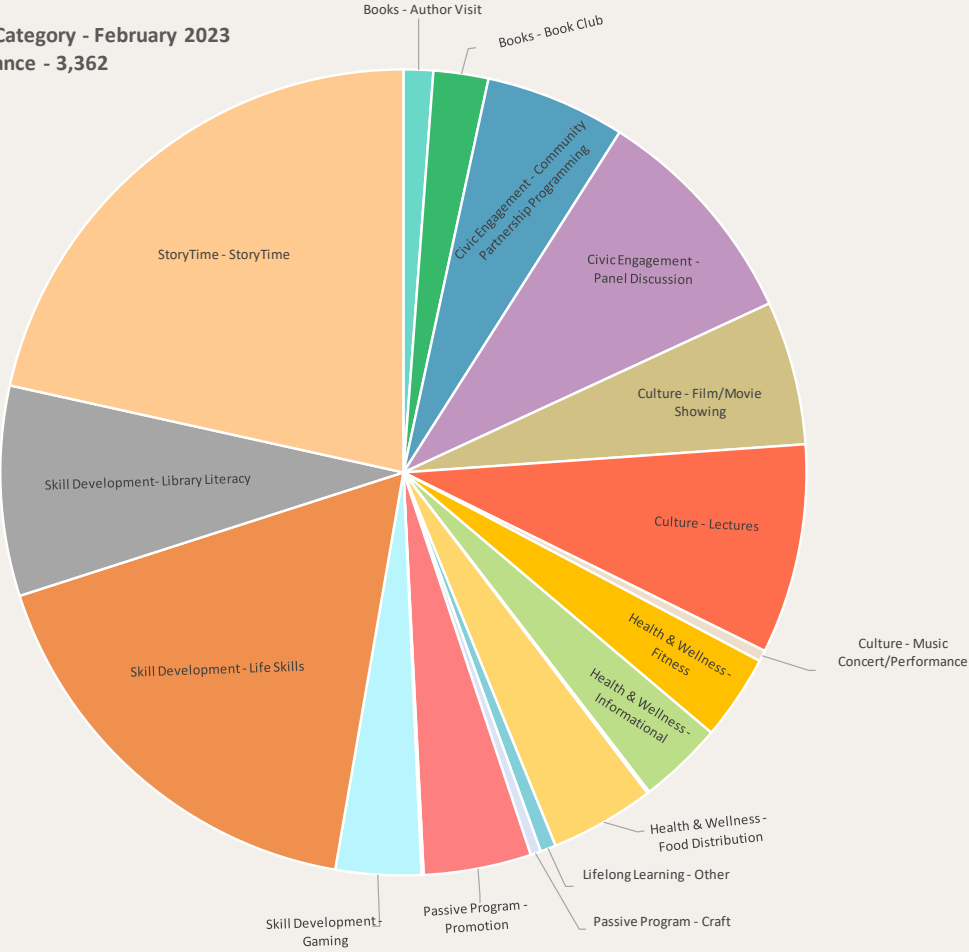


Visits by Branch This Month

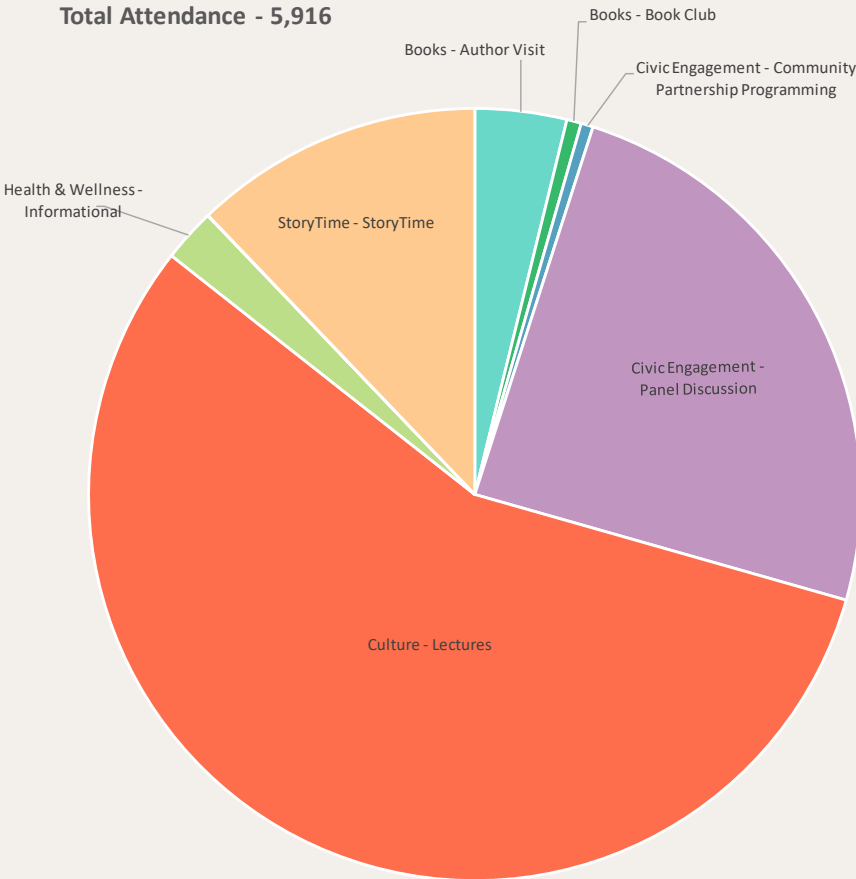


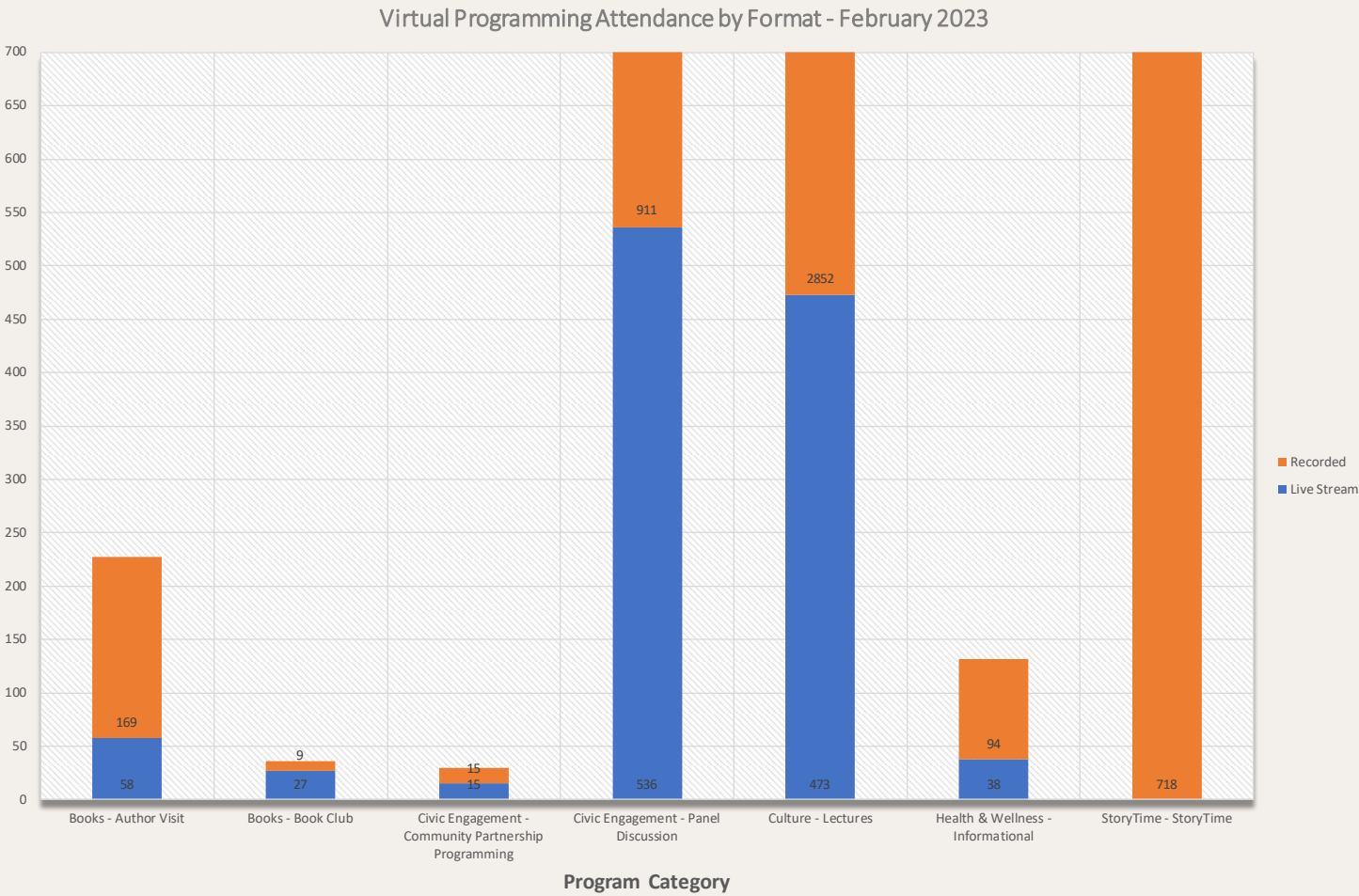


In-Person Attendance by Category - February 2023  
Total Attendance - 3,362



Virtual Programming Attendance by Category - February 2023  
Total Attendance - 5,916





**TOTAL LIBRARY VISITS**

	2022-2023 February	2021-2022 February	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	5,308	3,752	45,612	21,648	110.7
I.H. RUIZ	287	301	3,090	1,723	79.3
L.H. BLUFORD	3,038	2,529	27,896	20,794	34.2
NORTH-EAST	1,922	1,432	14,374	8,438	70.3
PLAZA	6,444	5,700	55,660	30,351	83.4
SOUTHEAST	1,317	1,165	12,396	8,796	40.9
SUGAR CREEK	130	113	1,178	730	-
TRAILS WEST	1,349	1,066	11,893	6,873	73.0
WALDO	4,150	3,536	35,861	18,200	97.0
WESTPORT	1,195	1,024	10,437	6,560	59.1
DIGITAL BRANCH	340,713	296,020	2,729,450	2,124,540	28.5
TOTAL	365,853	316,638	2,947,847	2,248,653	
YTD % OF CHANGE					31.1

**ITEM CIRCULATION**

	2022-2023 February	2021-2022 February	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	19,150	16,937	169,380	145,931	16.1
I.H. RUIZ	1,039	485	7,456	5,550	34.3
L.H. BLUFORD	1,999	2,152	19,168	20,638	-7.1
NORTH-EAST	2,661	2,190	25,116	21,360	17.6
PLAZA	17,442	17,633	156,034	151,201	3.2
SOUTHEAST	2,025	1,699	17,899	16,312	9.7
SUGAR CREEK	450	462	4,271	4,740	-9.9
TRAILS WEST	3,673	3,202	31,260	27,532	13.5
WALDO	9,603	9,332	87,573	81,937	6.9
WESTPORT	1,615	1,418	14,600	13,581	7.5
OUTREACH	7,910	7,144	57,261	54,548	5.0
DIGITAL BRANCH	103,753	84,554	800,275	686,042	16.7
BOOKMOBILE	11	-	67	-	
TOTAL	171,320	147,208	1,390,293	1,229,372	
YTD % OF CHANGE					13.1

## REFERENCE/INFORMATION

	2022-2023 February	2021-2022 February	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
AV VAULT	38	75	318	580	-45.17
ONENorth	859	397	4,397	3,843	14.42
KIRK HALL	496	150	3,032	1,835	65.23
YOUTH SERVICES	223	93	1,414	1,113	27.04
3RD FLOOR	405	581	3,094	6,298	-50.87
MVSC	358	151	2,141	1,814	18.03
<b>CENTRAL TOTAL</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>14,396</b>	<b>15,483</b>	<b>-7.02</b>
I.H. RUIZ	317	79	798	637	25.27
L.H. BLUFORD	258	727	1,272	3,409	-62.69
NORTH-EAST	418	212	1,269	1,027	23.56
PLAZA	885	558	4,206	5,576	-24.57
SOUTHEAST	334	263	1,960	2,425	-19.18
SUGAR CREEK	35	64	317	377	-15.92
TRAILS WEST	264	269	1,637	1,920	-14.74
WALDO	132	380	954	4,044	-76.41
WESTPORT	61	163	1,177	938	-
DIGITAL BRANCH	176	114	1,472	509	189.19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,259</b>	<b>4,276</b>	<b>29,458</b>	<b>36,345</b>	<b>-18.95</b>
YTD % OF CHANGE					

## COMPUTER SESSIONS

	2022-2023 February	2021-2022 February	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	2,940	1,808	23,853	15,786	51.10
I.H. RUIZ	163	205	1,790	1,417	26.32
L.H. BLUFORD	2,614	2,187	23,826	19,718	20.83
NORTH-EAST	1,439	999	10,135	7,164	41.47
PLAZA	2,665	2,288	23,073	19,754	16.80
SOUTHEAST	1,043	901	9,646	7,989	20.74
SUGAR CREEK	64	65	599	549	-
TRAILS WEST	736	553	6,329	5,306	19.28
WALDO	1,482	1,131	12,643	10,634	18.89
WESTPORT	622	549	5,491	4,948	10.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,768</b>	<b>10,686</b>	<b>117,385</b>	<b>93,265</b>	<b>25.86</b>
YTD % OF CHANGE					

## WIRELESS SESSIONS

	2022-2023 February	2021-2022 February	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	3,876	2,690	30,081	22,965	30.99
I.H. RUIZ	162	152	1,621	1,246	30.10
L.H. BLUFORD	1,240	678	9,887	5,455	81.25
NORTH-EAST	820	608	6,665	5,084	31.10
PLAZA	1,780	1,433	15,269	11,781	29.61
SOUTHEAST	653	627	5,726	5,134	11.53
SUGAR CREEK	102	97	1,014	913	11.06
TRAILS WEST	344	308	3,154	2,605	21.07
WALDO	488	385	3,812	3,332	14.41
WESTPORT	342	471	2,919	2,868	1.78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,807</b>	<b>7,449</b>	<b>80,148</b>	<b>61,383</b>	<b>30.57</b>
YTD % OF CHANGE					

**SYSTEMS SERVICES****REGISTERED BORROWERS**

	2022-2023 February	2021-2022 February	&%CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR
Total KCPL Users	201,162	184,302	9.15
New Users This Month	3,094	2,680	15.45

**YFE DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

	2022-2023 February	2021-2022 February	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
PHONE STORIES	2,092	3,066	14,901	23,302	-36.05
PHONE STORIES PATRONS	494	542	3,881	4,388	-11.55

**TOTAL WEBSITE VISITS**

	2022-2023 February	2021-2022 February	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	2021-2022 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
KCLibrary.org	170,454	156,167	1,511,110	982,161	53.86
Catalog	78,284	60,126	592,650	491,134	20.67
KCHistory.org	56,533	38,356	356,873	340,348	4.86
CivilWarontheWesternBorder.org	20,994	27,987	161,949	213,834	-24.26
PedergastKC.org	14,448	13,384	106,868	97,063	10.10