

Library Board Memo No. 4651

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

FROM: John Herron, Library Director & Chief Executive

RE: Director's Report for July 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary will be discussed at the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Because this is the first month of the fiscal year, as usual, we have expenses without having much revenue. Most of the significant numbers in the expense category are the result of timing differences on major contracts. We will know more about our current year property tax revenue next month when we get final assessed value information from the Assessor.

LIBRARY INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH – HIGHLIGHTS

Mary Olive Joyce, Director of Library Outreach and Community Engagement, was selected as an inaugural member of the [Race Project KC](#) Advisory Committee. The **Race Project KC**, an annual immersive social justice initiative, created by the **Johnson County Library**, for students in grades 9 through 12 in the Kansas City metro area, aims to help students cross dividing lines, build connections, and better understand each other and our shared history. Since 2015, Johnson County Library has grown the Race Project KC to nurture community collective wisdom. Comprised of a combination of members from the community, the Advisory Committee will help steer the future direction of the Race Project KC initiative.

AMERICORPS

Fourteen **VISTA Summer Associates** completed their service on July 23rd and 30th. Beccah Rendall, Jenny Williams, and Carrie McKay hosted an end of service celebration with pizza and tote bag decorating.

Janay Reliford-Davis and Ruby Watson began their VISTA service in July. They both will be serving at **Heart of the City Neighborhood Association**. Janay is the Heart of the City's Program and Fundraising VISTA. Ruby will serve as their Grant Writing VISTA.

Allison Mannering successfully completed their year of AmeriCorps VISTA service at **Flourish Furniture Bank**.

Digital Corps members had 198 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.

Carrie McKay tabled at the **Welcoming KC Refugee and Immigrant Job Fair** to share information about AmeriCorps opportunities through the Kansas City Public Library.

REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES & EMPOWERMENT



Members of **Welcoming KC** at the **Power of Diversity Breakfast**. Julie Robinson introduced the keynote speaker.

Julie Robinson co-hosted *A Panther in Africa* documentary about Pete and Charlotte O’Neal. Pete was the former chairman of the Kansas City chapter of the Black Panther Party in the late 1960s. He led the implementation of many free programs, such as providing free breakfast to children around the city. Some attendees were in the Truman Auditorium and other attendees

logged in from **Tanzania**. Additional co-hosts were **Baraza African Cultures Center, Kansas City Sister Cities Association, Mama Choma African Fusion, Wazimu World, and Kansas City - City of Music**.

Anne Brown completed the two sessions of English Basics and the current session of English for Citizenship. This session of the English Basics course was the first one offered at **Della Lamb** and was very well received. Our contact at Della Lamb, Rocio Ramsey, is setting up our next session with students and additional tutors.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Resources served over 395 patrons in the month of July 2023. This is our highest recorded number of patron interactions since we started collecting stats – breaking our previous record which was set last month with 291 patron interactions.

Community Resources hosted Coffee and Conversation on July 26, 2023. Our guest speaker was Sam Ast from **Goodwill** to overview some of the programs and services they offer. There were 14 staff/community partners and 34 patrons who attended.

COMMUNITY SPECIALISTS

Jenny Garmon continued to collaborate with **UMKC’s School of Law, the Public Defender for the 16th district, and the Clear My Record project team** about creating a Kansas City Tap In Center. We launched a three-month series in July – as a result, 67 warrants were cleared (and 3 additional warrants are on their way to being cleared)! OCLC highlighted the effort in their

Abstracts newsletter. This was an outstanding effort from several library staff members, including **Jimmy Thomas** of Community Resources, **Nalita McHenry** and **Bernie Norcutt** of Bluford, as well as great support from **Shalice**, one of the peer navigators at Bluford.

Jenny Garmon continued her work with **Lead to Read KC** for an outreach series at **KC Parks** community centers with summer camps throughout July. Jenny connects caregivers with books, information about summer reading and other library programs, as well as the opportunity to register to vote and pick up resources for tenants. Working with their ProX interns also provided an opportunity to connect our library's teen leaders with a teen advisory group at Mid-Continent Public Library. **Kansas City Public Schools** representatives will also be a part of some of the outreach sessions in August.

MOBILE SERVICES

Bookmobile schedules and Library card applications are now available in five languages, and the Bookmobile has an informational welcome sign explaining Bookmobile services in six languages for patrons when they get onboard. This will go a long way in communicating what's happening on the Bookmobile for parents of refugee kids who don't speak English. Annie Windholz added the summer Bookmobile schedule in English to all translated Bookmobile informational schedules and Naomi Humprey created the "Bookmobile welcome greeting" card in multiple languages.



While the Bookmobile was at the **Friendship Baptist Church** event this month, staff were able to help them get set up with e-resources at the Library. The thankful patron commented: "I'm glad you were here. I've had a library card for four or five years with the intention of listening to audiobooks, but the process to set it up is not easy. Now I can listen to audio books, thank you so much for your help!"

LOCAL HISTORY

Local historian **Michael Sweeney** was the Missouri Valley Sunday speaker for July. An audience of 198, including 93 in-person and 105 watching via livestream, attended Sweeney's presentation on Henry Perry, considered the father of Kansas City's barbecue tradition. The [archived program](#) has been viewed 430 times on the Library's YouTube Channel.

Tours and Research Visits

Eve Aspinwall hosted a group of students from **Western Michigan University** who visited MVSC as a stop on the [Walt's Pilgrimage](#) tour of the Midwest. She highlighted various collection items related to Walt Disney's time in Kansas City, which were curated by Outreach Librarian Patrick Salland.



Reference Service Highlights

MVSC staff had 199 reference transactions in July including 19 photo orders. Highlights included:

- Former Missouri State Representative **Sharon Sanders Brooks** corresponded with Kara Flinn about donating records from Brooks' personal collection of materials pertaining to [Freedom Incorporated](#), a Black political organization founded by Bruce R. Watkins and Dr. Earl Thomas in 1963.
- A visiting professor from **Denison University** received assistance locating resources related to the Black Economic Union of Kansas City, an economic empowerment organization for Black businesses founded by football stars Jim Brown and Curtis McClinton in 1968.
- A former KC resident and current librarian for the **Cincinnati Symphony** received assistance locating information about a relative who performed with the KC Philharmonic during the 1939-1940 season, including concert programs from the period and relevant articles in the KC Star archive.
- A researcher trying to find the remains of the Shawnee religious leader Tenskwatawa, better known as The Prophet. According to newspaper reports, the remains were exhumed by Dr. Joshua Thorne along with William Gillis from his grave in the Argentine neighborhood in the 1870s. Thorne reportedly donated the remains to the Kansas City College of Physicians and Surgeons, which eventually merged with the University of Kansas Hospital.
- A romance author locating information on the Mexican American community in Kansas City, Kansas.
- A patron from Los Angeles researching Kansas City artist Adolph Leyendecker, who was the brother of the famous illustrator, Joseph C. Leyendecker.
- Photos of the Firestone building at 2001 Grand Avenue were ordered by its owners for a website to promote the [building's history](#) and current use as an event space.
- Dozens of images related to the history of the Kansas City Public Library were provided to **Stellar Image Studios** for a forthcoming video celebrating KCPL's sesquicentennial.

Community Outreach and Partnerships

Eve Aspinwall published an article for [What's Your KCQ?](#), an ongoing series with *The Kansas City Star*, on the history of the [Penn School in Westport](#), the first school opened west of the Mississippi River for the education of Black students. During her research, Eve discovered that

the Penn School Historical Marker in Dr. Jeremiah Cameron Park was missing. The [Steptoe Lives](#) neighborhood organization is working with the city to have the marker replaced.

Jeremy Drouin and Michael Wells met with **KCUR** reporters Suzanne Hogan and Mackenzie Martin to discuss potential collaborations with their podcast, [A People's History of Kansas City](#). Hogan, the podcast host, will be the Missouri Valley Saturday speaker in September.

Patrick Salland presented on the history and development of Kansas City to the leadership team of [Rebuilding Together](#), an organization focused on transforming the homes and lives of low-income families, seniors, people living with disabilities, and veterans. The presentation, which was well received, was requested in advance of the organization's future expansion into the Kansas City area.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF READERS

Kaite Stover and Alisha Helms presented at **MALA's Readers' Advisory Summer Networking Session** on best practices for creating in-library displays and turning them into outside-the-library promotions.

Adult Summer Reading

As of July 31, KCPL had surpassed the 2022 Summer Reading registration record. This year's theme has been a terrific one. The prizes and incentives have been extremely popular with participants. Many kudos to the front-line staff who have eagerly shared the pleasures of reading with the public as well as engaged in some healthy competition among themselves.

Maya Angelou Book Award

Hayley Veilleux, the **Writers for Readers** intern assigned to assist with the Maya Angelou Book Award (MABA), has been smoothly handling all the reading assignments for the reading committee and creating a policy and procedures manual for MABA. We expect to have a MABA short list ready for the guest judge by August 15.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – HIGHLIGHTS

The annual **Lucile Bluford Day** on July 1 was commemorated with a blog feature about Bluford's legacy that also promoted the Bluford Branch's community celebration, and another post that mentioned some planned upgrades and improvements tied to the Library's purchase of the nearby former Rent-A-Center building.



- [Lucile Bluford: A Legacy of Leadership](#)
- [More to Celebrate on Lucile Bluford Day: Anticipated Upgrade of Library's Bluford Branch](#)



The 2023 Summer Reading Program continued its impressive and record-setting run, with registrations surpassing the 2022 total of nearly 12,000 participants by the end of July, with 12,631 readers and over 21,000 books read as of August 8. Public Affairs continued to promote the program through social media posts, newsletters, and other marketing tactics.

Patrons also continued to share their Summer Reading experiences on social media, posting photos of the books they've been reading and showing off their earned prizes.

Kansas City Public Library's Facebook page ended the month of July with 26,463 followers and 23,390 likes. Top posts related to Missouri Valley Special Collections, new Video Relay Service resource, and summer reading.



Bluford Branch

Lucile H. Bluford Day was held at the Bluford Branch on July 1st. The **Alpha Kappa Alpha Beta Omega Chapter** put on a terrific event filled with song and story. Fifth District Councilwoman **Ryana Parks-Shaw** gave the keynote address, and U.S Congressman **Emanuel Cleaver, II** and former Reporter for The Call **Audrey Saunders** spoke on their experiences with Lucile Bluford, and the impact she had on their lives. Over sixty people attended the main event. Estrella also held an all-day outside program, Chalk the Library, where the community was welcome to celebrate Lucile H. Bluford and the branch by decorating the sidewalks with chalk art. The program was very well received as approximately 30 patrons of all ages participated in the collaborative art project.

Bluford served 300 lunches during **Kid's Café** this month. Nalita McHenry has been working hard to ensure that all families that come into the library are aware of Kid's Café for the remainder of the time that the library is working with **Harvesters**. As a result, Bluford has seen a significant increase in lunches served to the youth.

Nicki Fit's fitness classes brought in 57 visitors this month. Classes had to be cancelled due to the HVAC system not working in the conference room. Twenty-six people participated in the Body Sculpt class and 31 people participated in Mixxed Fit.

Central Library

The scorching summer days brought people out of the heat and into the library. The Central Library had over 1,000 patrons a day for much of the month and circulated 10,528 items in July, making this our busiest circulation month so far in 2023. DVDs were extremely popular this

month – both the adult and children’s DVD collections at Central hit new records for the year with 1,280 Adult DVDs checking out and 205 Children’s DVDs in the month of July.

One North received a Lumina device with a Video Relay Service to serve as a public phone for Deaf and Hard of Hearing patrons. It was installed on July 10. A strong advocate for our Deaf patrons, Alisha Helms worked with Public Affairs to get signage and promotion for the program. We look forward to seeing its use by our Deaf community.

Our book and movie displays continue to be popular and creative. Alisha Helms worked with 35 book groups, published 15 book lists, and assisted with 18 Shelf Help requests. She created displays for the 1960s, National Lampoon’s Family Vacation, Disability Pride Month, and the free book prizes for the Summer Reading Program. Karla Mullis made a display for Barbie, including bookmarks of the cast members on the red carpet. Jean DuFresne created a display about France, and Emily Altman created one celebrating the Eisner Awards. In July Eric Petersen created a new display of feature films and travel guides (DVD format) focusing on Mexico and Central America. Information Associate Jessie Caliman created several displays for Central Library’s Kirk Hall. Subjects highlight Books to Make You Look Smart, Homeschooling Resources, Soccer (FIFA), Plays in honor of KC Fringe Fest.

North-East Branch

Amanda Rodriguez attended the **Northeast Chamber of Commerce’s** Coffee, Culture and Conversation event at **Latinx Education Collaborative**. She shared partnership ideas with the host and they discussed a few potential projects to work together on.

The following organizations tabled at the North-East Branch during the month of July: **FedEx** job and hiring event promotion; **Northeast News** on obtaining youth community input; **KC Girls Preparatory Academy** to share their program; the KCPL Community Resources Specialist offering patrons more in-depth service connections and referrals; the **KCMO Fire Department** shared free fire detectors and education materials.

Plaza Branch

Death Café continues to be a successful program, with 20 people regularly attending. Following the July session, many people expressed how much the café means to them.

The first **Kesher KC Mobile Pantry** event on July 18th was a success! **Jewish Family Services** organized a resource event with **Harvesters**, the **Health Department**, **KC Scholars**, **KC Care Health Clinic**, and **Grandparents for Gun Safety** participating. 76 folks registered with the welcoming table and received produce. Two more sessions are scheduled for August and September.

Plaza partnered with the **American Red Cross** for a blood drive on Jue 24th. Multiple staff members decided to give blood that day.

Ruiz Branch

The Ruiz Branch has had a busy summer with kids from the **Guadalupe Center Summer Camp** visiting us for the first time. The 6th and 7th grade campers dropped in four times in July and averaged twenty students each time. They played games, read, worked on computers, did crafts and more.

The Ruiz Branch also organized several programs for the **Tony Aguirre Community Center** summer camp kids this month. In addition to four “free-time” programs which included games, reading, computers, etc., we also held three arts/crafts classes to decorate planter pots for **Posada del Sol Senior Apartments** residents and make calming jars, dog toys, duct-tape wallets, macrame key chains, and more. The **Missouri Department of Conservation** did two insect programs for us – complete with outdoor bug hunts. Jessie Caliman from Central also created a fun library scavenger hunt for the kids and read some silly stories along the way – with the favorite one being *The Book With No Pictures*.

The **Westside Back To School Pep Rally** was held on the grounds of the Tony Aguirre Community Center and the Ruiz Library on July 28. Over 200 people attended, and 334 backpacks filled with school supplies were given out to children living or attending school on the Westside.

Southeast Branch

The Southeast Branch hosted the **KesherKC Mobile Pantry** program on July 26th in partnership with **Jewish Family Services**. This free community event provided onsite services and resources from community partners **Front Porch Alliance**, **Community Action Agency**, **KC Scholars**, and **Dedicated Senior Medical Center**. Over 523 pounds of food was given to 51 individuals. This was the last of a 3-part collaboration with Jewish Family Services.

The Southeast Branch hosted the Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program on July 13th. The **Missouri Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program** (MoSFMNP) provides benefits to low-income seniors (60 years of age or older) residing in one of 47 Missouri counties. Eligible seniors receive \$50 in benefits annually. Benefits can be exchanged for eligible foods at a farmers’ market or roadside stand with an authorized farmer.

Marcus continues to serve as a Program Coordinator for the **YOUmedia** national network. This month’s meeting included a wrap up of the annual convening and the onboarding of new Program Coordinators. We also discussed the logistics of bringing new library systems and other youth serving organizations into the fold. This year we saw applications from both school and museum organizations for the open Program Coordinator positions. In addition, Marcus Also facilitated the YOUmedia Communities of Practice quarterly meeting as well.

After presenting on KCDML programing and the YOUmedia Hallmarks at the annual convening, Marcus was asked by one of the Program Coordinators to deliver the same presentation to her class of future educators at the **University of Pennsylvania**. The International Studies class

focuses on Informal Learning and was composed of students from countries such as Viet Nam, China, and Indonesia.

Sugar Creek Branch

Peggy Karnes continued the weekly **Senior Summer Social Hour** at Sugar Creek on Wednesdays from 3-4pm. This program is just a fun hour for seniors (55+) to get together to socialize, play games, have a conversation, and some light refreshments. The group has grown in numbers and in the month of July 2023 we had a total of 32 people attend. The feedback that the participants give is that they are enjoying themselves and want to continue as long as they can.



Kim Netz created 4th of July coloring sheets to distribute at the Sugar Creek Independence Day Parade with the Sugar Creek address on them. Kim distributed 90 color sheets to kids at the parade and handed out about 50 bookmarks to adults and teens.

Trails West Branch

A representative from **Oak St. Health**, an organization geared toward healthcare for seniors, held a tabling event at Trails West.

Pour painting has been a big hit in the past at Trails West. This summer Angie Hattey gave another lesson on fluid art introducing the participants to puddle painting. The idea is that you make puddles on your canvas and then blow or manipulate the paint to change the outcome.

Kansas City Public Library - Trails West Branch
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A representative from **Oak St. Health** came by last Thursday to speak with our patrons about their organization! Go to their website for more information or keep an eye out for future tabling events here at Trails West!
<https://www.oakstrethealth.com/>



Waldo Branch

Tabletop Thursday Adult Game Night had two attendees that showed up to play games this month. Mila Blair introduced them to “Azul” which they really liked and expressed an interest in playing again next month.

NickiFit had a total of 46 attendees this month. The class is every Monday at 6pm in Meeting Room A.

Westport Branch

Westport Branch completed 131 passports (2 in Spanish) and notarized 12 documents in July.

The Westport **Table-Top Games** program had two participants in July.

SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAMS

A light but varied menu of signature programming – ranging from military history to a performance-heavy preview of Kansas City’s annual Fringe Festival – reached more than 1,700 people in July.

The week-ahead look at the **Fringe Festival** featured seven acts and productions and was hosted by Fringe Festival Executive Director Audrey Crabtree. It drew 152 people to the Truman Forum Auditorium at the Library’s Plaza Branch.

A similar crowd of 157, also at the Plaza Branch, sat in on military historian **Shawn Faulkner**’s discussion of the horrific slog of attrition that was World War II. In-person attendance was augmented by a livestream audience of 120, and the video lent substantial staying power on the Library’s YouTube channel. Over the final two weeks of July, it drew an average of 52 views a day.

The month’s final signature event, a discussion of the importance of including marginalized groups in America’s historical narratives, brought an engaged audience of 86 to the Plaza. The program was offered in partnership with **Starlight Theater** in conjunction with its staging of the revival of the Tony Award-winning musical *1776*.

YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

This has been another record-breaking summer for the Summer Reading Program! We surpassed our 2022 total before the end of July with another two weeks to go. That’s a lot of readers!

Of course, reading isn’t all that’s happening. The YFE team has hosted all sorts of programs and events. In addition to the usual storytimes and Kids Cafes, many of which saw big increases this summer, we also had programs for tweens, teens and the whole family.



McHenry has been creating an activity table for younger children to engage with during their library visits. They’ve enjoyed practicing color and shape recognition. Estrella, Summer VISTA Associate Rose Adams, and a Bluford teen put together a puppet theater in the children’s area. Families have really enjoyed it and parents are expressing appreciation for all the new activities at Bluford for their children.

At **Bluford**, Estrella Hernandez held an all-day outside program, “Chalk the Library,” to celebrate **Lucile H. Bluford Day**. Patrons of all ages decorated the sidewalks with chalk art to create a collaborate community art project. Inside, Nalita

Central Youth Services hosted local author and fan favorite **Charlie Mylie** to discuss his newest title *You Might See*. The book is a dynamic and interactive literacy book that's very engaging. The kids enjoyed participating in the scavenger hunt he brought along. **CYS** also hosted the **Missouri Department of Conservation** for a program on reptiles, with some scaly friends in tow.

Josie Schneider led a program of Codes and Ciphers for "Play Together Wednesdays" in **CYS**. She set up five different detective stations for families to rotate through. Each one required critical thinking skills and teamwork. Attendees could play the tabletop games *Outfoxed* and *Cat Crimes*, solve two different escape room mysteries, and/or complete logic puzzles.



Samantha reflected that it's wonderful seeing all the different creations that are each as unique as the patron who made it. Adults were encouraged to make their own paintings alongside their children. It was a great opportunity for kids to see the grown-ups in their lives having fun and being creative too.

At **North-East's Comic Book Drawing Club**, Samantha Edwards employed a randomized generator to determine what the kids would draw. Based on rolls of the dice, the kids created unique and bizarre characters. One artist ended up with an angry slice of pizza eating a slice of pizza. Samantha also hosted **Family Paint Night**, which is always popular with Northeast families. Each artist received an easel, palette and blank canvas, and was allowed to create whatever they



Clare enjoyed filling in twice for Samantha's Family Storytimes while she was on vacation.

July's theme for **Friday Night Family Fun** was "Create Together" with a focus on collaborative art. One week featured



Rainbow Tile Art, where participants each painted a canvas with a focus on shades of a single color,

which together created a rainbow. Parents enjoyed getting to participate along with their children and paint their own tile. Other weeks featured a



performance by **Jay & Leslie's Laughing Matters**, and rock painting. One of Julia Kingsbury's favorite programs is the **Young Actors Workshop** led by John Mulvey. She commented that besides just watching the kids' confidence grow in leaps and bounds over just five days, what

stood out to her was what a truly inclusive program it is. There were kids on the autism spectrum, a recent immigrant still developing English skills, and a child with a physical disability.

Plaza Kid Corner staff continued hosting Family Fun Days at Westport, with life-sized Chutes and Ladders, and rock painting.

Southeast hosted **Mad Science** and **Scraps KC**. Youth were able to participate in hands-on experiments with Mad Science as they learned



about how things work together to cause chemical reactions. Scraps KC provided a creative program on how to use recycled materials to make fun jewelry.



Wednesday Fun programs that Donna Newell planned. Kids and their parents enjoyed a visit from the **Kansas City Zoomobile**, with a presentation about animal communication, where they got to see a green iguana and, an African crested porcupine who walked around on a leash. **Mad Science** made an appearance with their “Science is Astounding” program. Radioactive Ryan presented experiments with chemical reactions. Many of the children participated as his assistants, pushing knitting needles through balloons, holding beakers, and helping with the foam tube experiment.



Dungeons and Dragons and **Anime Club** continue to be popular with teens at **Bluford**. **Teen Game Night**, and specifically Smash Bros has been growing in popularity. Estrella hosted her first Smash Bros Tournament, with the assistance of her **TLoT** group and Kelsey Bates. Since her Cartoons ‘n Crafts program in June, the teens continue to ask Estrella to bring out kandi beads so they can make jewelry. Crafts, coloring and puzzles have become so popular that Estrella is setting up a crafting table in the teen area for self-directed programming.



Central TLoT planned and hosted two programs this summer. Under the guidance of Helen Li, the teens chose to create a clown-themed drop-in program that included stations with face painting, photo booths, cookie decorating, Switch games, button-making and more. They met their attendance goal of 24 participants, which earned them ice cream. Their second event was an 80s themed murder mystery program in the Vault. TLoT members played the main cast, and their friends RSVP’d ahead of time so they could be assigned characters and have



costumes. Other Central staffers contributed to the fun and look forward to future collaborations.

This summer at **North-East**, Dev Persaud hosted weekly **Anime and Manga Club** series, “College Connectedness Center” with **Missouri College Advising Corps**, Tabletop Gaming, Teen Donut Drop-ins, Video Game Dayz, and a horror movie series. His **TLoT** members each took lead roles in a different program to fulfill their requirements for their summer stipends.



Plaza TLoT helped create displays in the teen area and played Roll for Sundae, a take on a popular TikTok series. They had to let the dice decide what type of ice cream, sauce and toppings they used for their sundaes. They made a [TikTok](#) to share their reactions. During their last meeting, they welcomed a special guest – a TAG member from the **South Independence Branch of MCPL** who wanted to get information on how to create a robust program. They got a lot of great advice from TLoT members. The group also said goodbye to members who graduated, played games, enjoyed root beer floats, and broke a pinata.

Under the direction of Kelsey Bates, Plaza TLoT also hosted a **Youth Empowerment Summit** focused on mental health. They created art projects, made calm down bottles, sugar scrubs, crochet, zen gardens, and decorated tote bags. **UMKC’s Counseling Services** came to talk about self-care and the teens got to try yoga.

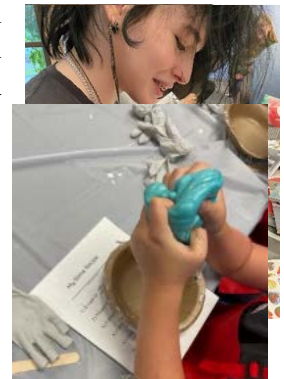
The **KCDML** team wrapped up with **Team Digital**, completing their work as a record label with original music and artwork. Over the 8-week program, members completed a 3-song project and a memory book. They received hands-on experience in several industry standards programs such as Logic Pro and Photoshop. To celebrate all their hard work, KCDML staff and Team Digital hosted an album release party, where family and friends listened to the album, titled “**Love Trilogy**” and the students spoke about their experiences working in both the music and art groups. The entire project can be listened to in full on the **KCDML YouTube** page.



Kody Stadler led several teen programs at **Waldo** in July, including Teen Tabletop Tuesday, Teen Gaming, Paint & Chill, Building a Garden, and Teen Zines, culminating in a Teen Lock-in. **Waldo TLoT** members assisted in developing programming and planning the Lock-in. The **Teen Lock-in**



was the summer’s most popular event, with 22 teens in attendance, some from other branches. They pulled together all the summer’s programs into a 3-hour extravaganza which



included stations set up for painting, button-making, zine-making, virtual reality, Nintendo, and Xbox, as well as pizza and snacks. TLoT members, summer VISTA associates and Kelsey Bates assisted in making the event a success!

Rainbow (aka Frog) Club met twice in July. The kids had a great time making slime, playing games, participating in open-ended activities, button-making, Snap Circuits, “choose your own adventure” activities, and just hanging out together.

Community Outreach and Partnership

Pop In At the Park just gets bigger and stronger every year, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Elizabeth Giles, Jessica Yanez, and each year’s **Summer VISTA Associates**. Themes for July included bird week (with owl pellet dissection), geology week, moon week, and



a sneak peek at paleontology week. Some of the activities from PIAP were also enjoyed by kids during the Youth Outreach team’s visits to



Rose Brooks, Hope House, and day camps at the **Southeast Community Center, Campfire** and **Tony Aguirre Center**. The team led programming that reached over 300 kids in their day-to-day activities during July.

Jessica, Kate, and VISTAs represented the library at the **Teddy Bear Picnic** hosted by **KC Parks**. Jessica and VISTAs also tabled at the **Urban Children’s Book Fair** at the **Bruce Watkins Cultural Center**.

Elizabeth and VISTAs continued to visit **Children’s Mercy Broadway** and **Children’s Mercy Adele Hall** on alternating weeks, where they often talk to families who have never participated in summer reading and are excited to get involved. Other events that the Youth Outreach Team participated in include a special event at the **KC Zoo** for **Upper Room’s** summer camp participants; **Big Brothers Big Sisters** summer “camp-out,” and **Urban Community Connections Christmas in July**. Everywhere they go they sign up kids and families for the Summer Reading Program, lead fun enrichment activities, give away books, and provide information about valuable library resources.

Clare Hollander tabled at the **Department of Conservation Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center’s** Ladies Night Out program. Along with promoting library services and programs, she handed out the coloring book the library created spotlighting native flowers. Attendees were shocked and delighted to hear about the native prairie installation on the Central rooftop!

Representatives from **Columbus Park Headstart** and the **Front Porch Alliance** tabled at some of CYs’s storytimes to talk about their programs with parents.

Kelsey Bates and Helen Li visited **Synergy** for their monthly teen program and signed kids up for summer reading. Helen also tabled at **Lincoln College Prep Middle School** for their student Tiger Orientation.

Julia Kingsbury represented the library at the **Nelson Atkins Kansas City Lawn Party**, leading a storytime and tabling. Several people stopped by to tell her how much they appreciate everything KCPL is doing to preserve access for everyone despite the current political climate.

Elizabeth Giles was finally able to connect with representatives from the **Jackson County Juvenile Detention Center** and discuss revitalizing their existing library and potentially providing programming to the youth there. She and Kelsey Bates then helped weed their library's collection. They identified and removed a large portion of the books that were in poor condition, out of date, or deemed not age appropriate. They are returning in August to work on adding genres to the collection.

Kate Tammeus tabled at "**Laundry Literacy Day**" at the **Megawash** on Troost Ave. The event celebrated the pairing of early learning in laundromat spaces as a way to widen and deepen community engagement in early learning.

Library Initiatives

Josie Schneider and Kate Tammeus created and assembled July early learning kits. The "**Alphabet Soup Letter Game Kit**" encouraged early learners to match letter magnets on a soup pot. Josie also created a short video to show families how the game is played and offer other ideas for extension activities. Bonus is that the video went viral with over 1200 views!

As lead change agents of the **Digital Technology Team**, Marcus Brown and Kiesha Collins led their final meeting. The team curated three priority recommendations on digital improvements that will be forwarded to the Executive Team.

The YFE staff hosted a send-off and thank you for this summer's **Summer VISTA Associates**, who are essential in providing services to youth and their families. TLoT members were also a big help and provided creative program ideas. Kelsey Bates assisted the teen staff and the teens in screen printing t-shirts to commemorate their summer.

Two **Summer VISTA Associates** made guest appearances on Dial-A-Story, recording several stories, one being a bilingual story read in both Spanish and English. The **KC Library Youth YouTube** channel had the largest number of Storytime Snack views to date, with a total of 988 views!

Kate Tammeus and Elizabeth Giles spent several days installing eight different pilot locations for the **KC Loves to Read** spaces around the city. In partnership with **KCPS**, the locations include



Mattie Rhodes Art Center, Phoenix Family East Hills Village, Jackson County Family Court, the pediatric dental clinic at **Samuel U. Rogers**, the **WIC office at Swope Health, Research Medical Center's Brookside ER**, the **Family Support Division at the Department of Social Services**, and the **Police Athletic League**. Kelsey Bates and



VISTA Sydney assisted in unloading books and furniture and setting up the spaces. Books and furniture for the spaces were purchased with grant funds from the **Sosland Foundation**. On July 10th, there was a “launch” at Research Medical Center where local news outlets came to hear about the partnership from KCPL’s John Herron, KCPS Superintendent Jennifer Collier, and the Medical Director.

Kansas City Public Library
July 2023 - Fundraising Report

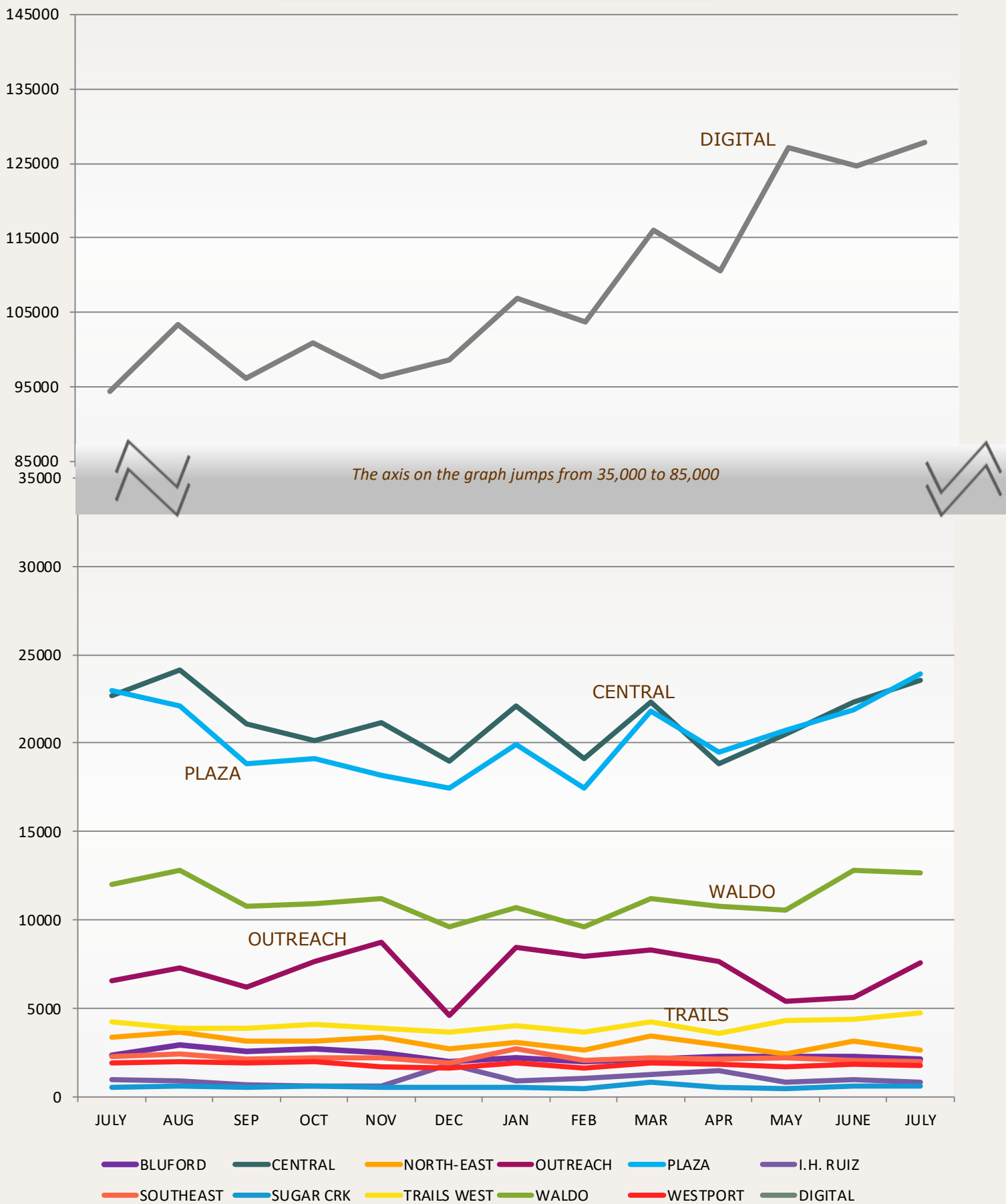
Fundraising Categories	Annual Goal	Received Current Month	Received Fiscal YTD	% of Goal
General Fund - Annual Campaigns, misc.	\$ 200,000	\$ 2,491	\$ 2,491	1.2%
Kauffman Public Programming Grant FY 24	\$ 390,000	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Private Fundraising Sources (Individuals, Foundations, Corp.)	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.4%
Public Funding Sources (Local, State, Federal Gov't)	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Other				
Bequests & Donated Assets		\$ -	\$ -	N/A
Total	\$ 1,390,000	\$ 3,991	\$ 3,991	0.3%

Current Month Activity:	Amount	Reference
Heart of KC Foundation	\$ 1,500	Heartland Book Festival

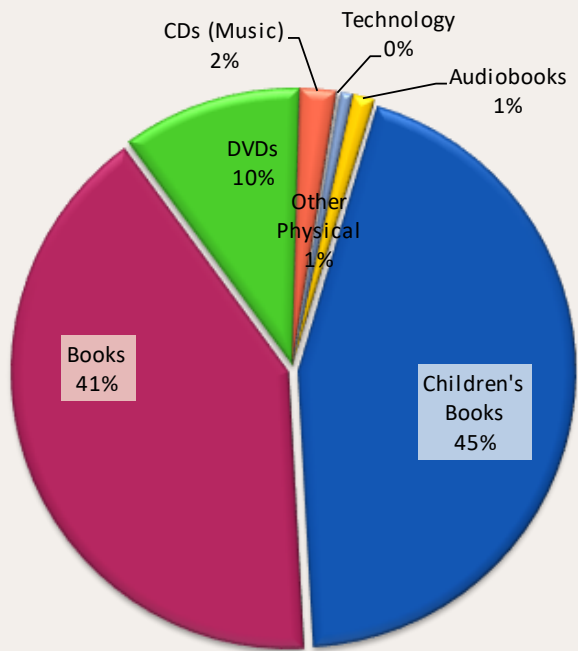
Commitments Received (funds not included above)	Amount	Reference
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	\$ 390,000	FY24 Programming Grant - Yr. 3
Missouri Community Service Commission/CNCS	\$ 88,874	AmeriCorps Digital Corps
Missouri Humanities Council	\$ 20,000	Heartland Book Festival
Missouri State Library/LSTA	\$ 25,000	Heartland Book Festival
Missouri State Library/LSTA	\$ 11,220	Spotlight - Environmental Literacy
Missouri State Library/LSTA	\$ 18,500	Summer Reading Program

Top Donors / Grants Received (Including Last Fiscal Year)	Amount	Reference
Estate of Ronald Miller	\$ 1,829,524	Estate Gift
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	\$ 780,000	FY22-FY24 Programming Grant
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
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
Health Forward Foundation	\$ 75,000	Peer Navigators
Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Recovery Fund	\$ 50,000	Digital Inclusion

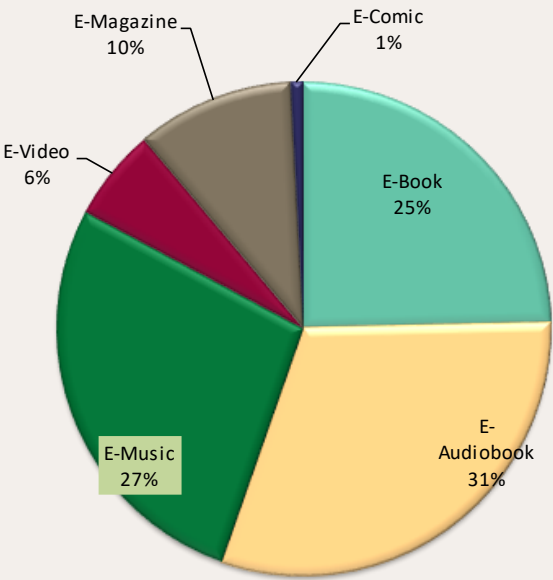
Total Item Circulation by Branch



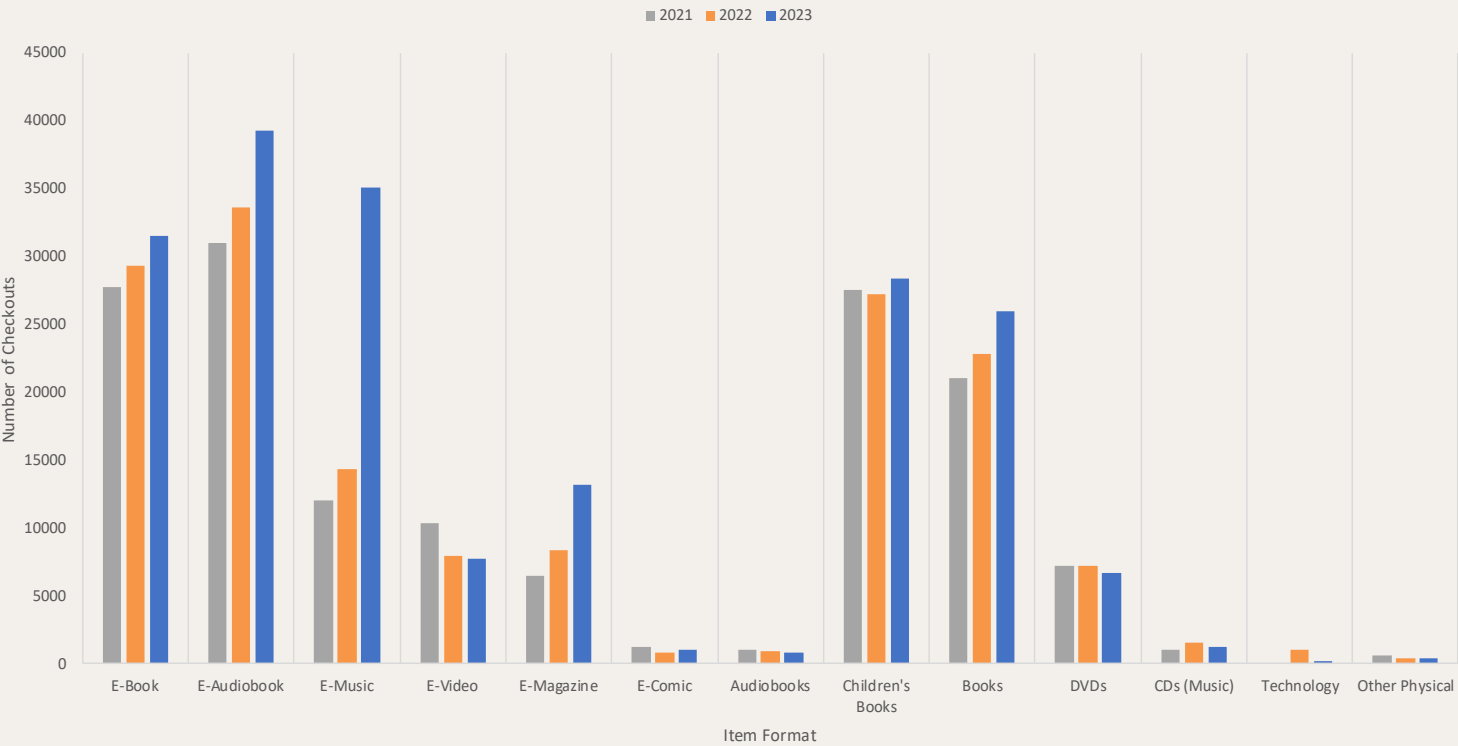
Physical Checkouts by Format

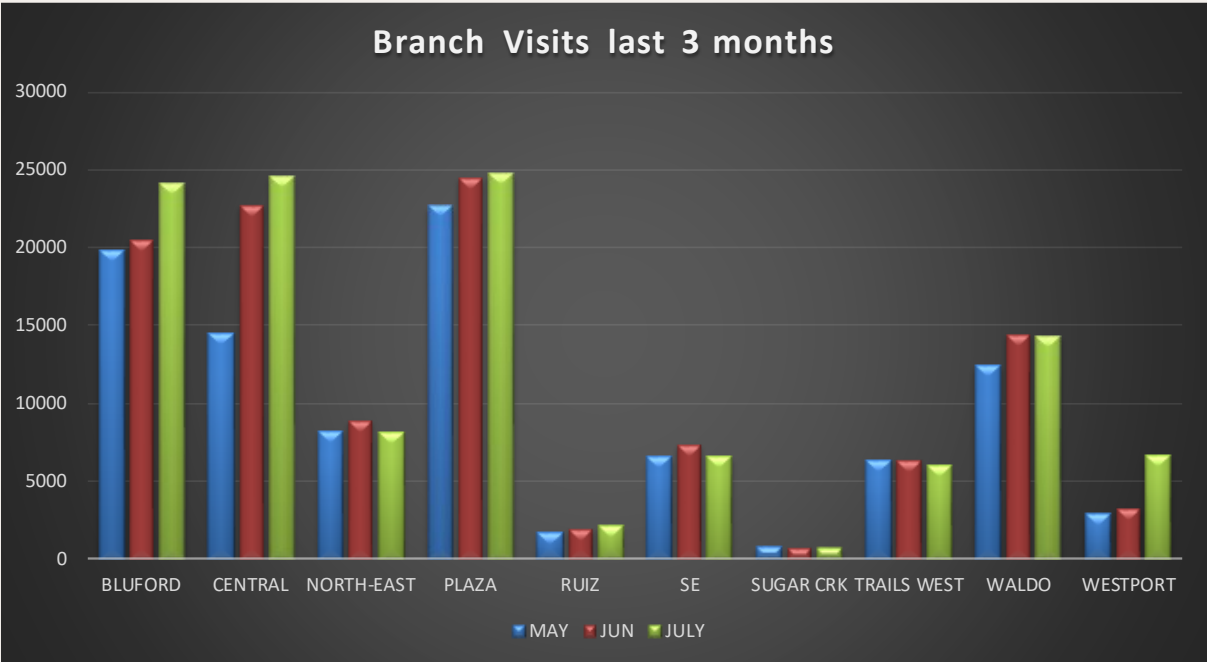
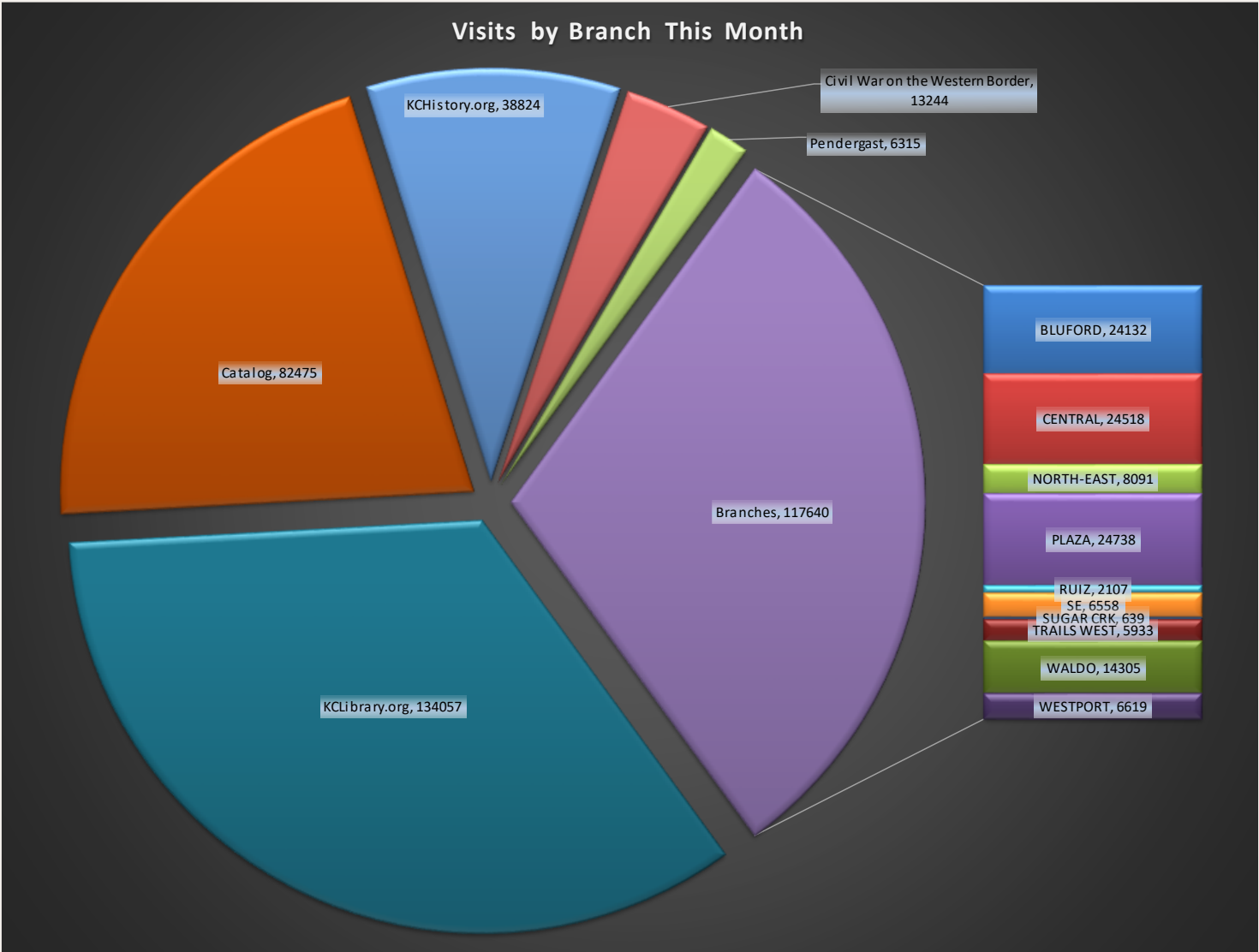


Electronic Checkouts by Format

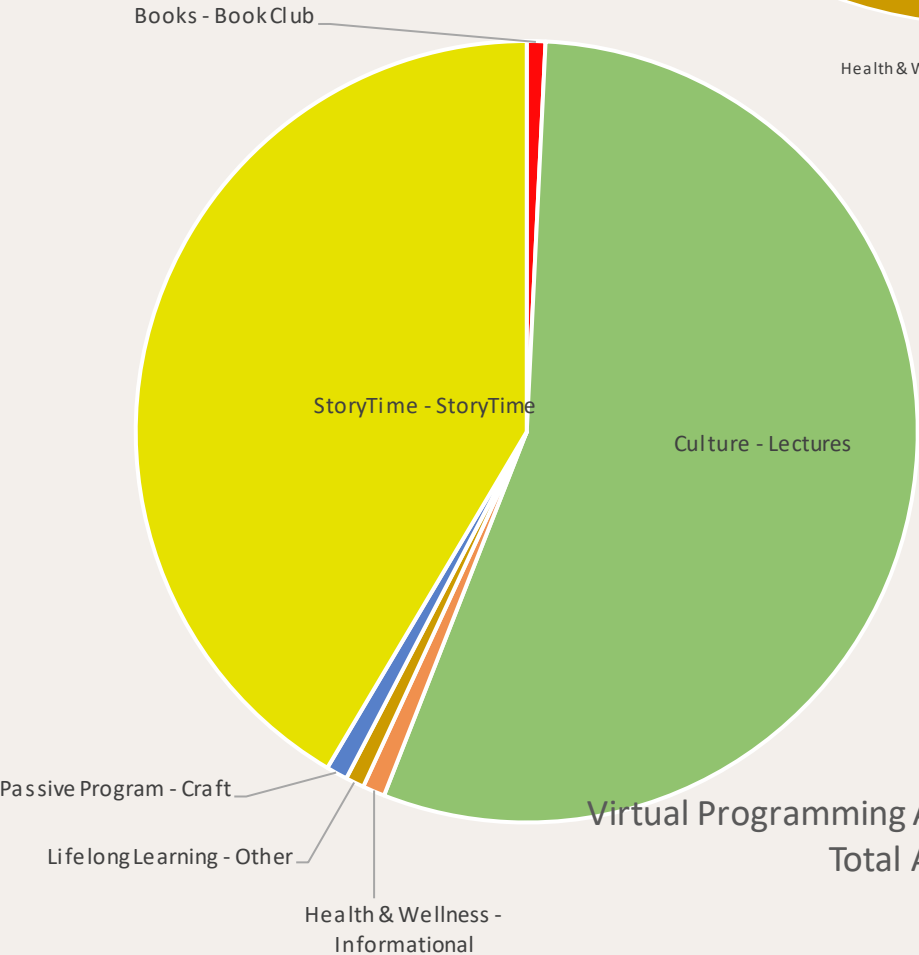
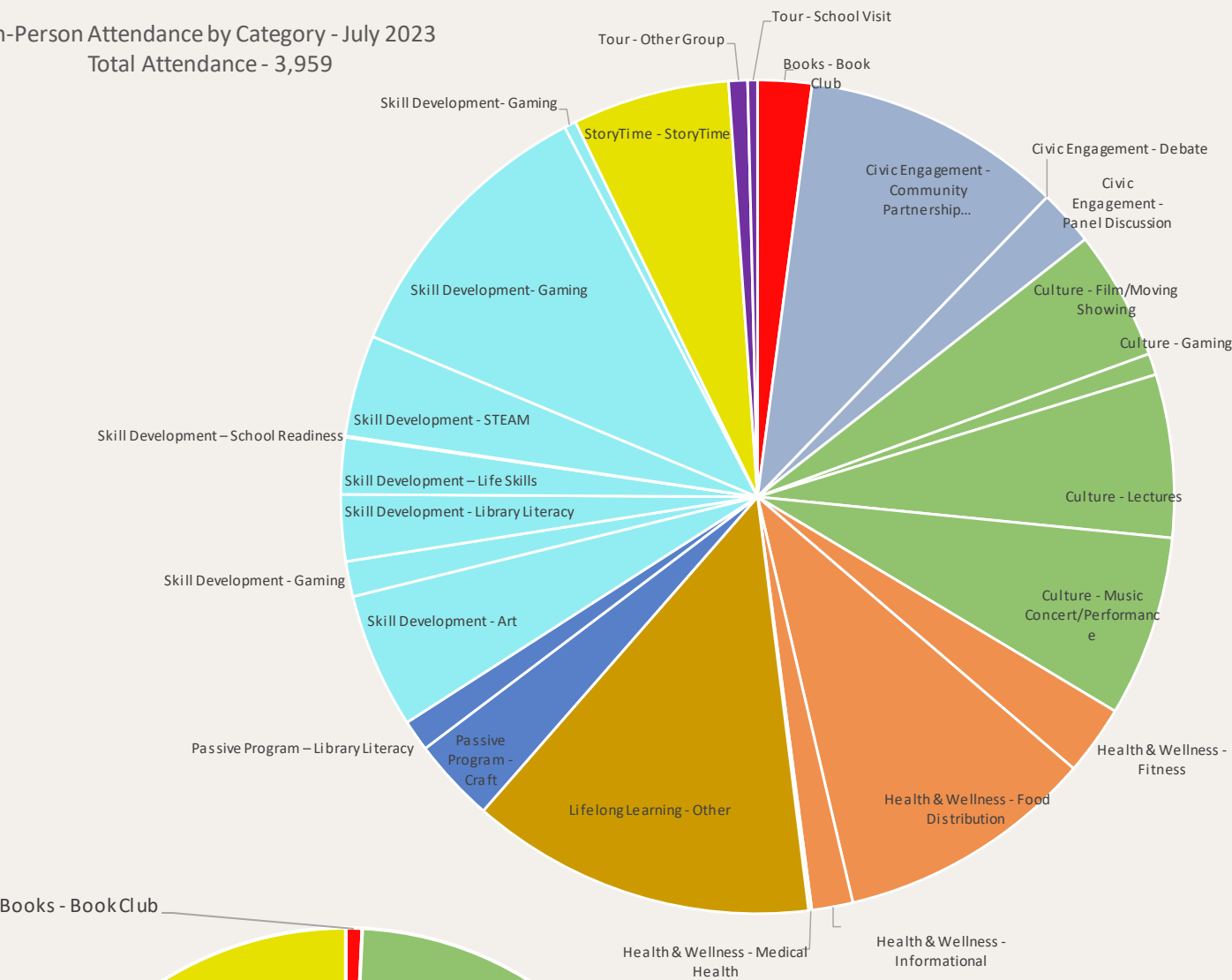


All Checkouts by Format - July 2023

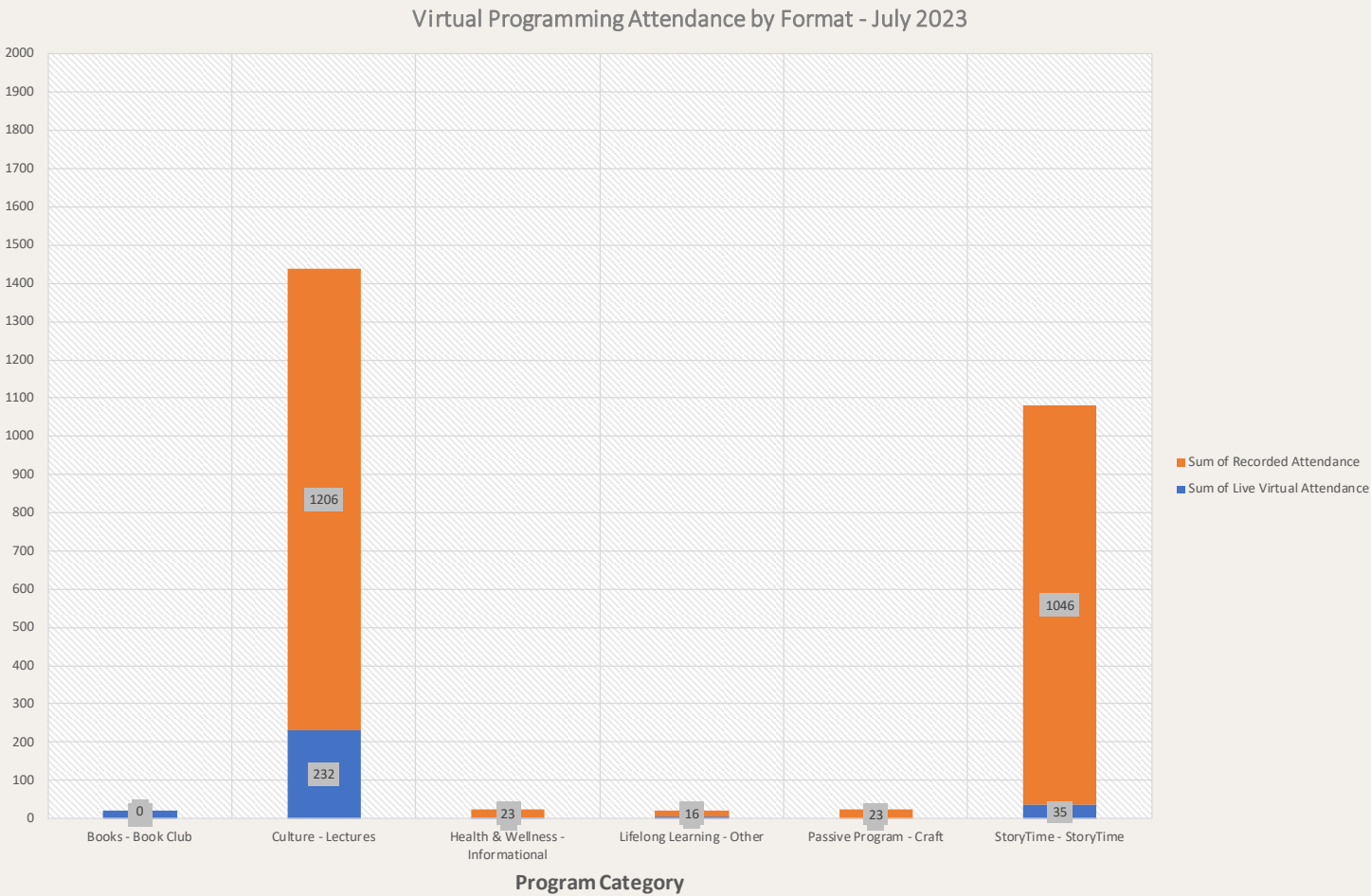




In-Person Attendance by Category - July 2023
Total Attendance - 3,959



Virtual Programming Attendance by Category - July 2023
Total Attendance - 2,606



TOTAL LIBRARY VISITS

	2023-2024 July	2022-2023 July	2023-2024 YR-TO-DATE	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	24,518	5,918	24,518	5,918	314.3
I.H. RUIZ	2,107	508	2,107	508	314.8
L.H. BLUFORD	24,132	4,007	24,132	4,007	502.2
NORTH-EAST	8,091	1,688	8,091	1,688	379.3
PLAZA	24,738	7,997	24,738	7,997	209.3
SOUTHEAST	6,558	1,634	6,558	1,634	301.3
SUGAR CREEK	639	133	639	133	380.5
TRAILS WEST	5,933	1,550	5,933	1,550	282.8
WALDO	14,305	4,898	14,305	4,898	192.1
WESTPORT	6,619	1,321	6,619	1,321	401.1
DIGITAL BRANCH	274,915	317,282	274,915	317,282	-13.4
TOTAL	392,555	346,936	392,555	346,936	
YTD % OF CHANGE					13.1

ITEM CIRCULATION

	2023-2024 July	2022-2023 July	2023-2024 YR-TO-DATE	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
CENTRAL	23,568	22,680	23,568	22,680	3.9
I.H. RUIZ	838	946	838	946	-11.4
L.H. BLUFORD	2,113	2,377	2,113	2,377	-11.1
NORTH-EAST	2,618	3,362	2,618	3,362	-22.1
PLAZA	23,940	22,993	23,940	22,993	4.1
SOUTHEAST	2,007	2,291	2,007	2,291	-12.4
SUGAR CREEK	571	557	571	557	2.5
TRAILS WEST	4,766	4,238	4,766	4,238	12.5
WALDO	12,644	12,018	12,644	12,018	5.2
WESTPORT	1,761	1,915	1,761	1,915	-8.0
OUTREACH	7,561	6,522	7,561	6,522	15.9
DIGITAL BRANCH	127,809	94,443	127,809	94,443	35.3
BOOKMOBILE	4	1	4	1	300.0
TOTAL	210,200	174,343	210,200	174,343	
YTD % OF CHANGE					20.6

This month's Digital Branch checkouts were not available at the time of preparation.

REFERENCE/INFORMATION

	2023-2024	2022-2023	2023-2024	2022-2023	YTD %
	July	July	YR-TO-DATE	YR-TO-DATE	CHANGE
AV VAULT	70	57	70	57	22.81
ONENorth	850	505	850	505	68.32
KIRK HALL	927	339	927	339	173.45
YOUTH SERVICES	472	250	472	250	88.80
3RD FLOOR	657	465	657	465	41.29
MVSC	219	262	219	262	-16.41
CENTRAL TOTAL	3,195	1,878	3,195	1,878	70.13
I.H. RUIZ	179	48	179	48	272.92
L.H. BLUFORD	620	121	620	121	412.40
NORTH-EAST	378	104	378	104	263.46
PLAZA	1,324	490	1,324	490	170.20
SOUTHEAST	540	109	540	109	395.41
SUGAR CREEK	27	10	27	10	170.00
TRAILS WEST	277	267	277	267	3.75
WALDO	109	218	109	218	-50.00
WESTPORT	333	375	333	375	-11.20
DIGITAL BRANCH	147	156	147	156	-5.77
TOTAL	7,129	3,776	7,129	3,776	
YTD % OF CHANGE				88.80	

COMPUTER SESSIONS

	2023-2024	2022-2023	2023-2024	2022-2023	YTD %
	July	July	YR-TO-DATE	YR-TO-DATE	CHANGE
CENTRAL	3,141	2,885	3,141	2,885	8.87
I.H. RUIZ	243	259	243	259	-6.18
L.H. BLUFORD	2,896	3,437	2,896	3,437	-15.74
NORTH-EAST	1,413	1,123	1,413	1,123	25.82
PLAZA	3,693	3,221	3,693	3,221	14.65
SOUTHEAST	1,220	1,254	1,220	1,254	-2.71
SUGAR CREEK	94	65	94	65	44.62
TRAILS WEST	821	810	821	810	1.36
WALDO	1,670	1,725	1,670	1,725	-3.19
WESTPORT	606	644	606	644	-5.90
TOTAL	15,797	15,423	15,797	15,423	
YTD % OF CHANGE				2.42	

WIRELESS SESSIONS

	2023-2024	2022-2023	2023-2024	2022-2023	YTD %
	July	July	YR-TO-DATE	YR-TO-DATE	CHANGE
CENTRAL	3,890	3,468	3,890	3,468	12.17
I.H. RUIZ	126	197	126	197	-36.04
L.H. BLUFORD	1,585	1,209	1,585	1,209	31.10
NORTH-EAST	1,057	720	1,057	720	46.81
PLAZA	1,956	1,891	1,956	1,891	3.44
SOUTHEAST	889	863	889	863	3.01
SUGAR CREEK	163	142	163	142	14.79
TRAILS WEST	421	367	421	367	14.71
WALDO	633	444	633	444	42.57
WESTPORT	366	380	366	380	-3.68
TOTAL	11,086	9,681	11,086	9,681	
YTD % OF CHANGE				14.51	

SYSTEMS SERVICES**REGISTERED BORROWERS**

	2023-2024 July	2022-2023 July	&%CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR
Total KCPL Users	218,976	200,663	9.13
New Users This Month	4,172	3,793	9.99

YFE DEPARTMENT SERVICES

	2023-2024 July	2022-2023 July	2023-2024 YR-TO-DATE	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
PHONE STORIES	1,630	1,826	1,630	1,826	-10.73
PHONE STORIES PATRONS	437	474	437	474	-7.81

TOTAL WEBSITE VISITS

	2023-2024 July	2022-2023 July	2023-2024 YR-TO-DATE	2022-2023 YR-TO-DATE	YTD % CHANGE
KCLibrary.org	134,057	164,676	134,057	164,676	-18.59
Catalog	82,475	81,413	82,475	81,413	1.30
KCHistory.org	38,824	41,844	38,824	41,844	-7.22
CivilWarontheWesternBorder.org	13,244	18,259	13,244	18,259	-27.47
PendergastKC.org	6,315	11,090	6,315	11,090	-43.06



HEARTLAND
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August 2023

www.heartlandbookfest.org

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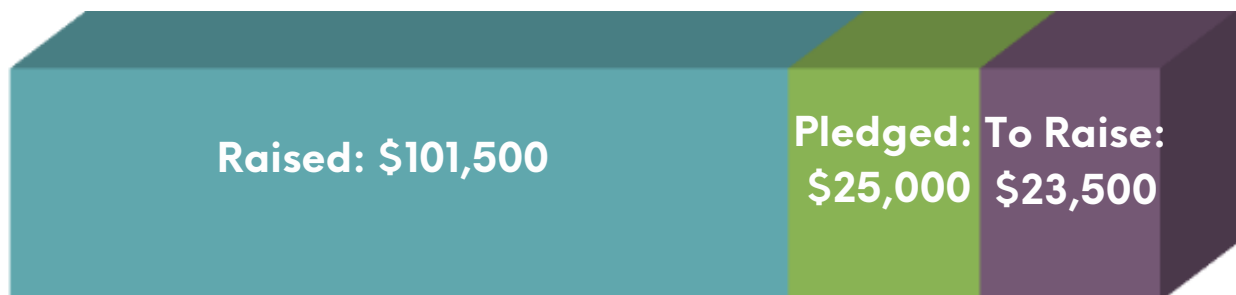
Planning Update

- Speaker list is finalized! Renowned author Karin Slaughter is our Saturday keynote. Her new book releases August 22 and there are already 65 holds for it in our system.
- Marketing materials are in design and will print this month, and social media has launched with a good reach already.
 - 400 followers on FB in two weeks
 - 200 followers on IG in two weeks
 - Inaugural post (collaboration post with MO Humanities and KC Library) reached 23,000 people on launch day.
 - Charlie Hustle tee finalized.
 - Launch October 6 and will be sold on site at the Book Festival
 - Carried October - December 2023 by CH
 - Promoted heavily on their social in Dec 2023
- Media Partnership proposal sent to KCUR.

This Month

- Continue social media audience development
- Secure volunteers and order staff and volunteer shirts
- Secure vendor hall participants (other libraries and literacy organizations).
- Open local author application (opportunity to table)

Fundraising Update



Charlie Hustle + Kansas City Public Library

