



a **lasting** impression

Ypsilanti District Library
Annual Report **2005**





CHAIR WITH QUILT | Carolyn McKeever

TO OUR COMMUNITY

Looking at a work of art, do any of us see exactly the same thing? One person may pass by without a second glance, while another pauses, drawn into the artist's message.

When you visit the Ypsilanti District Library, we hope you'll notice a variety of artistic expressions—in our physical spaces, collections, services and staff. In 2005, our milestones were many. We created a new entrance to our Youth Services area and beautified a downtown park. We fashioned a library-wide collection development plan, enhanced the content of our website, and implemented new technologies to govern minors' use of our internet resources.

For our staff, the most valuable of our resources, we established key competencies and adopted a new performance appraisal process. In addition to joining community-wide programs such as *Community Reads*, we sponsored more programs on innovative topics to attract new library users and appeal to broad and diverse interests.

Inspired by the artful theme of our 2005 summer reading program, this report showcases works by local artists in the library's permanent art collection. Like these artists, we seek to create a lasting impression—on individual lives and on the community we serve.

Jill Morey, Director, Ypsilanti District Library





#7 TAXI | David Tammany

2005 IN REVIEW

Understanding a work of modern art can be challenging. In the case of this abstract painting by Eastern Michigan University Art Professor David Tammany, the question invariably is, “Where’s the *taxi*?”

Getting a sense of the Ypsilanti District Library’s place in the community represents a similar challenge. Some trends are clear: registered borrowers have been rising steadily, and in 2005, 77 percent of those in our service area were cardholders, up from 50 percent in 2002. We issued nearly 6,500 new library cards and answered 20,000 more reference questions in 2005 than the year before.

Circulation of our 274,297 items topped the half-million mark at YDL-Whittaker Road, and, including Michigan Avenue and “Big Blue” (our 35-foot long Bookmobile that stopped at more locations than ever), totalled 618,813 checkouts. We offered a record number of programs, and attendance reflected the effort: 728 youth and teen programs drew 19,408 participants, and 4,225 adults attended 416 events.

But the importance of offerings such as the *Lively Arts Gallery* and *Take Note@YDL* concerts can’t be measured in numbers alone. We love showcasing local talent — from artists like 92-year-old portraitist Fay Kleinman to the irresistible beat of boogie-woogie piano master Mark “Mr. B” Braun. To appreciate how much such events enrich the community, you’ll just have to visit and see for yourself.





**THEY WOULD PIN THEIR HOPES
ON A CLOUD** | Earl Jackson

V I S I O N

Born in Ann Arbor and raised in Willow Run, Earl Jackson followed his artistic dreams to Africa, which proved to be the turning point in his career. In the 1980s, he returned from Senegal and Kenya with the distinctive color palette that has characterized his work ever since.

At YDL-Michigan Avenue, our dream of a revitalized park in downtown Ypsilanti is nearly complete. The Library Park Plaza represents a long local history of individuals realizing their vision—from inventor Elijah McCoy to activist Patsy Chandler, who rallied community support through fund-raising tea parties to build the fountain as a symbol of unity.

More than 20 years after the fountain was first dedicated, the stage is set for the park to be a venue for concerts, outdoor storytimes, and a friendly game of chess or mahjong. Iridescent blue glass mosaic tiles create a stream of water that “flows” out of the fountain and meanders through the park.

The only piece still missing is a life-size bronze of abolitionist Harriet Tubman, created by Colorado artist Jane DeDecker, to honor the woman who led more than 300 American slaves to freedom in the 1850s. Broad-based community fund-raising efforts ensure the sculpture’s imminent arrival.



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APPETITE | Margaret Davis

INNOVATION

Ever had an idea so good you could feel the light bulb go off in your head? Our 2005 summer reading program, *The Art of Reading at YDL*, sparked readers' imaginations. Beyond encouraging a record number of adults, teens and youth to achieve reading goals, the program became a catalyst for year-round community art experiences.

All summer and fall, the community room at Whittaker Road was transformed into an art gallery and learning center. Museum-quality prints of masterworks by famous artists hung side by side with local artists' creations and even children's artistic efforts (thanks to grants from Pfizer, the Pierre Paul Art Gallery, and the Michigan Humanities Council). Younger students enjoyed hands-on activities like *Drawing on the Ceiling* (Michelangelo-style) and *The Art of Dance*, inspired by the Impressionist painter Edgar Degas. Teens had an *Art Attack* and adults contemplated *Masterpieces Close to Home*.

The momentum carried forward into a fall gallery walk, where library staff discussed the works of masters and local artists. Based on the success of our *Art Matters* activities for school groups, we've taken them on the road in 2006, bringing our masterworks and art activities to elementary classrooms. Within minutes, young students are up to their elbows in color theory and the painting techniques of famous artists—gaining an appreciation of art that will last a lifetime.

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Libary District





YDL | Olivia Heator

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Even the youngest children sit still to the end of YDL storytimes because the tales and tellers are so good. Asked what she liked best about her library tour, Olivia Heator, 6, drew our colorful story room with a cheery storyteller holding court.

While we don't like to brag, the energy and creativity of our Youth Services staff is something to behold. In summer 2005, they gave storytimes fun names like "Little Futurists" and "Cubists" to evoke the summer's artful theme. They threw a pajama party and told bedtime stories. They filled the year with art experiences ranging from experimental photography to fabric art and a group mural-making project.

As a new school year approached, they held *Getting Into the Groove* study sessions to teach students how to use the library's vast store of knowledge to get better grades. And to top the year off, the staff installed a colorful new archway that beckons children to enter the Youth area and the world of wonders within.

What will the Youth staff think of next? To find out, call YDL Youth Services at 482-4110, ext. 1340 (Whittaker) or 1390 (Michigan Avenue).





ZERO TOLERANCE | Jill Henry

RESOURCES

"For me, art is about discovery and response," writes painter Jill Henry. But for thousands of people in Washtenaw County, their discoveries—and futures—are limited by their inability to read and write. To help, YDL joins with Washtenaw Literacy to sponsor "Partnerships for Reading," an adult literacy program, and holds homework and math tutorials for high-school and middle-school students.

For non-English speaking patrons, our new international collection, housed at YDL-Whittaker Road, offers fiction and nonfiction titles in Spanish, French, German, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic, and Hindi.

When you're looking for your next good read, go to www.ypsilibrary.org and search "What Do I Read Next?", a database of more than 100,000 titles. It's one of scores of online references available in the library or accessible from home.

Yet another new service is tailor-made for our on-the-go lifestyle. Through eAudiobooks, you can download any of NetLibrary's more than 1,000 fiction and nonfiction titles and play them on an MP3 player. If you're not technologically savvy, you can join the more than 1,030 people who "Got Connected at YDL!" and used our computer lab courses and tutorials to learn to navigate the Internet, get travel and job information online, and use popular software programs.





PROTECTION | Todd Marsee

TO OUR FRIENDS

When they put their minds to it, some people can create a masterpiece. The Friends of YDL are a great example. All year long, they staff the Friends Shop at YDL-Whittaker Road and stock the Book Cart at YDL-Michigan Avenue with donated books of all descriptions – and an occasional literary find. Three times a year, they coordinate a supersale that helps pay for a year's worth of new library programs and services.

Friends' support can be seen throughout library facilities. The Friends have been the first to get behind our building projects, notably the Quiet Study area at YDL-Whittaker and the Youth Department and community park at YDL-Michigan Avenue. They lend annual support to our *Community Reads* and summer reading programs. When a special need arises, such as new audio-visual equipment or foreign language books, the Friends are there.

The Friends have a hand in library activities all season long. In spring, they stock our flower boxes. Last fall, their volunteers handed out candy and more than 800 gently used books to trick-or-treaters in downtown Ypsilanti. And in December, their donations dressed up both libraries with holiday greenery.

The group welcomes new members. To lend your support, call (734) 482-4110, ext. 1368.





FROZEN LAKE | Ivan Kende

FINANCIALS

Ivan Kende is a self-taught artist whose family emigrated from Budapest, Hungary to New York City when he was 10. His *Frozen Lake* might depict an actual scene from his homeland — or what his imagination “sees” in his adopted home.

At YDL, our financial landscape is solid. After several years of developing facilities and infrastructures, we’re now ready to expand our horizons to anticipate users’ needs.

Operating Financial Highlights 2005

Revenue			Expenditures		
Property Taxes	\$2,720,000	81%	Salaries	\$1,894,000	53%
Penal Fines	\$156,000	5%	Library Materials	\$437,000	12%
State Aid	\$69,000	2%	Contractual	\$234,000	7%
Interest & Other	\$340,000	10%	Automation/Capital Outlay	\$471,000	13%
Grants/Donations/Friends	\$32,000	1%	Utilities/Repairs	\$339,000	10%
State Revenue Sharing	\$40,000	1%	Other	\$183,000	5%
Total	\$3,357,000	100%	Total	\$3,558,000	100%