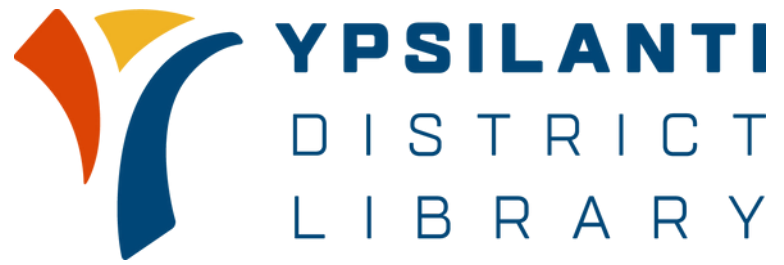


BOARD OF TRUSTEES



2026

INFORMATION PACKET



Wednesday

September 23, 2026

6:30pm

YDL - Michigan



Ypsilanti District Library
YDL Board Meeting, September 23, 2026, 6:30 pm, YDL – Michigan Avenue Meeting Room
AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	Information	Discussion	Action
Call to Order	☐	☐	☒
*Roll Call Kristy Cooper ☐ Bethany Kennedy ☐ Paul Leighton ☐ Patricia Horne McGee ☐ Theresa M. Maddix ☐ Chris Tebbens ☐ Jean Winborn ☐			
Approval of the Agenda	☒	☒	☒
Public Comment	☐	☐	☐
Introduction of New Staff	☐	☐	☐
Consent Agenda			
A. Proposed Minutes from August 26, 2026, Regular meeting	☒	☒	☒
B. August 2026 Financials and Check Register	☒	☒	☒
Communications	☒	☐	☐
Committee Reports			
A. Facilities	☒	☒	
B. AI Committee	☐	☒	
Director's Report			
A. Monthly Report	☒		
B. Quarterly Reports	☒		
C. Dashboards	☒		
D. Departmental Reports	☒		
Old Business	☐	☐	☐
New Business			
A. Consideration of a resolution to add pea stone to the French drain at Superior	☒	☒	☒
B. Consideration of a resolution to purchase new furniture for the Whittaker lobby and group study rooms	☒	☒	☒
C. Discussion of pest concerns	☒	☒	☐
Board Member Comments	☐	☒	☐
Adjournment	☐	☐	☒

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, August 26, 2026 (Unapproved)

CALL TO ORDER

President Kristy Cooper called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present: Kristy Cooper, Bethany Kennedy, Paul Leighton, Patricia Horne McGee, Theresa M. Maddix, Chris Tebbens, and Jean Winborn formed a quorum.

Also present: Director Lisa Hoenig, Assistant Director Julianne Smith, Business Office Manager Andrew Hamilton, Adult Services Paraprofessional Grace Clemmensen, Adult Services Librarian Abigail Smith as well as Head of Adult Services Paula Drummond.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Hoenig asked to add New Business C to the agenda. Trustee Maddix moved to approve the agenda and Trustee Kennedy supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Motion: Passed
Absent: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Head of Adult Services Paula Drummond introduced Adult Services Librarian Abigail Smith to the Board, and Director Hoenig provided an introduction for Adult Services Paraprofessional Grace Clemmensen.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Tebbens moved to approve consent agenda (July 22, 2026 Regular meeting minutes and July 2026 Financials and Check Registers). Trustee Horne McGee supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Motion: Passed
Absent: 0

COMMUNICATION

Director Hoenig let the Board know that we were the used as the counting location for absentee ballots for the Charter Township of Superior. She included an email from the Township Clerk Angela Robinson that expressed appreciation for the support. She also pointed to a separate communication about Milan Library no longer collecting fines. This leaves the Dexter District Library as the only library in the county still collecting fines. Director Hoenig closed this section by highlighting the article from Bridge Michigan about StoryWalks, and advised that the Superior location has one currently up and working at Fireman's Park. The StoryWalk is changed quarterly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, August 26, 2026 (Unapproved)

Facilities Committee – Director Hoenig advised that Phoenix Contractors, Inc., will be sending a crew to clean up the debris and tools from their latest repair job. She also discussed some wooden tables that will go to a local woodworker to be refinished. If the pieces come back in a satisfactory condition then more furniture and wooden items that need repair or refinishing will be sent to them. Also, a limestone slab at Michigan Avenue was loose but a crew came out this week and secured the slab. Director Hoenig also discussed her most recent visit to the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission meeting and expects the masonry samples to arrive soon for final approval of the Southwest corner project at Michigan Avenue.

Friends of the Library – Trustee Leighton let the group know that the next book sale is expected to occur in a couple weeks. He urged his fellow trustees to volunteer and/or bring some individuals who are interested in purchasing some books at a great price. He also advised that there is a new Friend of the Library Board Member.

Strategic Planning Committee – Director Hoenig let the group know that the committee met on August 19th and she shared a print copy of the PowerPoint slides that show the consultants findings to-date, most of which are regarding the survey. The survey closed on August 15th with 564 responses. The strategic planning retreat is scheduled for October 23rd. She polled the Board about who has been contacted for an interview with the consultant and will facilitate that process.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Director Hoenig discussed the Libraries and Lemonade stands that Trustee Tebbens had suggested as a Summer Challenge activity. She let the Board know that a new Security Coordinator was hired. She then pointed out the Fund Balance forecast from the accountant, as well as the second quarter report for the Library Care Coordination grant. She advised she had met with the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation and she discussed the “home tour” which will include the Michigan Avenue branch on October 4th, 2026. She pointed out that trustee Winborn has volunteered to be a part of that event to provide information about the branch during the tour. Next she provided an update on the Library Plaza and the current usage patterns by people. They have found that during engagement activities more people do come to the plaza and generally things have been more positive. She also advised that better latches were installed on the gates as of today. Director Hoenig then responded to questions from the Board regarding local news stories, fundraising and grant administration.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Award of HVAC maintenance contract

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-23

August 26, 2026

RESOLUTION TO AWARD AN HVAC MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, August 26, 2026 (Unapproved)

Whereas, each Ypsilanti District Library facility has a unique and complex heating, ventilating and air conditioning system, and

Whereas, reliable preventive and on-call HVAC system maintenance is important to ensure well-functioning equipment that provides a comfortable and welcoming environment for patron and staff use, and

Whereas, the Library Director solicited proposals from recommended HVAC service firms, and four proposals were received, and

Whereas, following careful analysis of the proposals for suitability, costs, and terms, the GEM Service Comprehensive Plus Plan proposal is recommended by the Library Director and Facilities Manager, Now Therefore,

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD that a new three-year HVAC maintenance contract for Whittaker Road, Michigan Avenue, and Superior is awarded to GEM Service for a first year total cost of \$108,712.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Maddix

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Horne McGee

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: 7-0 Passed

- B. Consideration of a proposal for an interactive play area for the Michigan Avenue Youth Department

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-24

August 26, 2026

RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL AN INTERACTIVE PLAY AREA FOR YDL-
MICHIGAN AVENUE

Whereas, the Ypsilanti District Library strives to provide diverse play experiences to help its young patrons learn, and

Whereas, a flexible and engaging interactive play area for the Michigan Avenue Youth Department was put on hold until after the renovation, and

Whereas, staff worked with Library Design Associates to design the attached plan for the play area, and

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, August 26, 2026 (Unapproved)

Whereas, up to \$50,000 was allocated in the 2025-26 library operating budget for this project, Now
Therefore,

THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD RESOLVES to waive the bid process and engage Library Design Associates to acquire and install the new play area as proposed for a total cost not-to-exceed of \$47,425.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any portion of this expenditure that remains to be paid in the 2026-27 fiscal year shall be drawn from the Capital Asset Replacement Fund.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Kennedy

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Winborn

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: 7-0 Passed

- C. Install a backflow preventer with the new humidification/dehumidification equipment being added to the HVAC system at Michigan Avenue

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-25

August 26, 2026

RESOLUTION TO INSTALL A BACKFLOW PREVENTER WITH THE NEW
HUMIDIFICATION/DEHUMIDIFICATION EQUIPMENT BEING ADDED TO THE HVAC
SYSTEM AT MICHIGAN AVENUE

Whereas, the Ypsilanti District Library Board approved Resolution 2026-19, to install humidification/dehumidification equipment at Michigan Avenue, and

Whereas, the contractor noted that a backflow preventer was not included on the engineering firm's plans, but is necessary to protect the domestic water from contamination, and

Whereas, Mende Engineering Solutions is in agreement that this addition is necessary, Now
Therefore,

IT IS RESOLVED that the attached proposal from Campbell, Inc. for installing a backflow preventer is approved for a cost of \$5,614.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Capital Asset Replacement Fund is to be used for this expense.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Leighton

Ypsilanti District Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes, August 26, 2026 (Unapproved)

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Tebbens

YES: 7 NO: 0 ABSENT: 0 VOTE: 7-0 Passed

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Trustee	Comment
Trustee Cooper	No Comment
Trustee Leighton	Asked a follow-up question about fundraising projects on the Library's Donate page, and Director Hoenig explained. He also stated that the Library Care Coordination report was impressive.
Trustee Winborn	Thanked the Library and staff for being so helpful with her genealogy projects.
Trustee Maddix	Thanked Superior Branch manager and her staff for hosting the meeting, and let her know the library continues to look fabulous and believes the staff is doing a fantastic job.
Trustee Tebbens	Discussed his experience at Noise Permit and at the Library Plaza. He also expressed admiration for the recent interviews as part of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project, and to hear Jean Winborn as part of those interviews.
Trustee Kennedy	Advised she had a friend who previously lived in Michigan visit from California and she brought a young child with her. They visited the Superior branch and they were both very excited and greatly enjoyed their time spent there. She also spoke about her experience at the recent piano recital on 08/01/2026 at Whittaker and that it was amazing. Thanked Julianne for having a hand in setting that up.
Trustee Horne McGee	No Comment

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Winborn moved to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Trustee Kennedy seconded this motion.

Financial Report

**Ypsilanti District Library
Balance Sheet
August 31, 2026
General Fund**

	FYE 11/30/21 ACTUAL	FYE 11/30/22 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	FYTD 8/31/2026	Current FYTD Variance from 11/30/25
Assets:							
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,413,908	3,497,836	4,132,885	3,709,186	4,147,604	4,674,082	526,478
Receivables & Other assets	108,670	132,113	89,635	249,535	181,816	104,467	(77,349)
Total Assets	3,522,578	3,629,949	4,222,520	3,958,721	4,329,420	4,778,548	449,128
Liabilities	344,511	215,951	1,160,956	315,649	310,268	158,621	(151,647)
Composition of Fund Balance							
Reserved:							
Yoder Memorial	3,252	3,252	3,252	3,252	3,252	3,252	0
Yates Memorial	3,357	3,357	3,357	3,357	3,357	3,357	0
Designated:							
Improvement Fund	352,434	352,434	-	-	-	-	0
Working Capital	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	0
Unreserved/Undesignated	1,852,576	2,319,024	2,907,407	2,554,937	3,140,258	3,512,544	372,286
Current Year Surplus(Deficit)	446,448	235,931	(352,452)	581,526	372,286	600,775	228,490
Total Fund Balance	3,158,067	3,413,998	3,061,564	3,643,072	4,019,152	4,619,928	600,775
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	3,502,578	3,629,949	4,222,520	3,958,721	4,329,420	4,778,549	449,129

Ypsilanti District Library
Period Ending 8/31/26 (75% of Year)
General Fund

ACCT #	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	Amended FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	YTD 8/31/2026 ACTUAL	REMAINING BUDGET	YTD AS A % OF BUDGET
Total Revenues	6,437,010	7,042,451	7,656,643	7,586,930	6,276,384	1,310,546	82.7%
Expenditures							
Dept 100 Administrative	2,799,845	3,088,772	3,499,974	3,724,034	2,715,757	1,008,277	72.9%
Dept 200 Michigan Ave.	679,655	706,194	731,794	819,050	559,391	259,659	68.3%
Dept 300 Outreach	285,464	291,164	313,695	339,572	239,602	99,970	70.6%
Dept 400 Superior Township	482,563	573,703	570,053	604,229	430,366	173,863	71.2%
Dept 500 Whittaker Rd	1,266,793	1,240,498	1,385,171	1,500,045	1,059,723	440,322	70.6%
Dept 600 Donations	79,576	44,096	40,370	-	58,929	(58,929)	NA
Dept 700 Grants	43,127	1,146	43,300	-	11,840	(11,840)	
Total	5,637,023	5,945,573	6,584,357	6,986,930	5,075,609	1,911,321	72.6%
Net Revenue Over Expenditures	799,987	1,096,878	1,072,286	600,000	1,200,775		
Sale of Assets	-	-	-		-		
Board Designation of Funds	(1,152,434)	(515,352)	(700,000)	-	(600,000)		
Fund balance - beginning of period	3,413,998	3,061,551	3,643,078	4,015,363	4,015,363		
Fund Balance - end of period	3,061,551	3,643,078	4,015,363	4,615,363	4,616,139		

**Ypsilanti District Library
General Fund
Period Ending 8/31/2026
(75% of Year)**

ACCT #	ACCOUNT NAME	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	Original FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	Amended FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	YTD 8/31/2026 ACTUAL	YTD AS A % OF BUDGET
Revenue								
403.000	Superior Township Tax Levy	1,076,710	1,150,986	1,353,566	1,294,714	1,294,714	1,152,524	89.0%
425.000	City of Ypsilanti Tax Levy	944,675	998,345	1,055,610	1,113,046	1,113,046	425,108	38.2%
425.075	PPT Reimbursement	33,869	51,006	47,986	40,000	40,000	11,541	28.9%
440.000	Ypsilanti Township Tax Levy	3,862,384	4,144,238	4,416,852	4,544,726	4,544,726	3,971,732	87.4%
441.000	Renaissance Zone Reimb	66,774	66,572	66,071	65,000	65,000	61,769	95.0%
443.000	State Aid Direct	44,630	44,916	47,814	47,850	47,850	47,838	100.0%
447.000	State Aid Indirect	44,630	44,916	47,814	47,850	47,850	47,838	100.0%
500.500	Operational Grant Revenue	10,000	56,711	138,150	30,000	100,000	187,480	187.5%
500.600	Talk Grant Revenue	45,554	88,715	0	0	0	0	NA
657.000	Circulation Services fee	7,195	4,426	6,405	6,000	6,000	5,244	87.4%
657.100	Smart Cards - Printing & Copies	33,006	31,101	38,995	35,000	35,000	38,080	108.8%
657.600	Proctor Fees	60	125	202	0	0	125	NA
661.000	Penal Fines County	69,569	79,549	65,687	64,000	64,000	67,691	105.8%
662.100	Community room rentals	2,250	3,425	3,825	2,750	3,063	2,125	69.4%
679.000	Donations/Misc.	12,872	2,993	14,543	2,500	4,600	3,529	76.7%
681.000	Donations Designated	0	530	2,000	0	0	0	NA
681.080	Donations/Memorials	4,629	0	0	600	600	0	0.0%
682.050	Proceeds from HVAC settlerment	0	0	27,500	0	0	0	NA
687.000	Interest/Checking	6,705	7,080	5,546	5,500	5,500	3,832	69.7%
687.010	Interest/Savings	54,301	37,273	271	500	500	24	4.7%
687.121	MI Class value change	3,033	150,230	208,117	195,000	195,000	160,138	82.1%
689.000	Dividends-MML	6,490	6,675	6,700	6,500	6,500	2,890	44.5%
690.000	Dividend Revenue Endowment	12,595	14,683	14,423	11,000	12,981	14,457	111.4%
Total Revenue		6,341,931	6,984,492	7,568,078	7,512,536	7,586,930	6,203,967	81.8%

**Ypsilanti District Library
General Fund
Period Ending 8/31/2026
(75% of Year)**

ACCT #	ACCOUNT NAME	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	Original FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	Amended FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	YTD 8/31/2026 ACTUAL	YTD AS A % OF BUDGET
Expenditures								
Dept 100 Administrative								
702.000	Salary Wages	860,334	980,882	1,072,803	1,142,875	1,159,395	866,017	74.7%
702.100	Professional/Accounting	10,340	11,075	11,600	12,000	12,000	7,150	59.6%
702.150	Bank Fees	2,807	3,705	3,865	5,000	5,000	3,575	71.5%
702.900	Salary/Subs	17,893	13,241	20,489	18,392	26,528	18,893	71.2%
705.000	Employee Recognition Awards	521	789	750	750	1,500	1,206	80.4%
710.000	Payroll Service	18,957	10,151	21,141	14,600	16,500	12,076	73.2%
715.000	Employer Payroll Tax	208,026	224,848	242,918	254,067	256,228	192,668	75.2%
715.100	ACA Taxes Paid by employer	644	518	513	1,200	1,200	553	46.1%
718.000	MERS Defined Contribution	108,527	130,468	131,764	165,347	166,759	132,429	79.4%
719.000	FSA Admin Fee	600	657	656	900	900	546	60.6%
727.000	Office Supplies	45,636	23,533	35,310	34,000	34,000	27,868	82.0%
727.200	Supplies-Facility	22,127	26,267	34,318	34,500	34,500	18,229	52.8%
752.000	MML/Building Insurance	77,332	86,565	87,935	92,500	97,036	97,036	100.0%
753.000	MML/Workers Comp	12,633	16,456	17,848	17,500	17,500	7,776	44.4%
754.000	Health Insurance	456,375	507,840	536,541	608,255	608,255	456,073	75.0%
755.000	PT Telemedicine	0	3,226	3,800	4,455	4,455	2,907	65.3%
756.000	Delta Dental	34,625	35,661	37,952	39,628	39,628	29,740	75.0%
758.000	Life Insurance	4,708	4,613	5,045	4,764	4,764	3,778	79.3%
759.000	Vision Service Plan	9,340	8,784	9,131	9,500	9,500	7,654	80.6%
762.000	STD/LTD (Disability Insurance)	18,396	19,661	21,883	21,540	21,540	17,405	80.8%
769.000	Printing & Publishing	24,323	23,525	25,225	28,100	28,100	24,972	88.9%
769.050	Classified Advertising	312	174	192	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
774.050	Digital Collection	315,437	364,712	428,583	448,500	448,500	250,844	55.9%
774.100	Data Bases	32,458	33,979	34,144	40,000	40,000	20,438	51.1%
774.800	System Wide DVDs	220	0	0	0	0	0	NA
774.900	All Materials Processing	28,394	28,119	27,155	25,000	25,000	15,699	62.8%
774.950	Play Kits	4,735	4,680	0	0	0	0	NA
774.975	Library of Things	12,379	14,965	12,590	10,000	10,000	3,155	31.5%
801.000	Major Events	14,259	15,895	4,665	17,306	17,306	7,948	45.9%
802.000	Mileage/Travel Reimbursement	6,936	4,769	2,607	7,000	7,000	2,531	36.2%
804.000	Workshops/Training	7,003	5,323	7,576	11,500	11,500	7,498	65.2%
805.000	Memberships & Dues	6,661	6,093	6,593	6,750	6,750	6,365	94.3%
806.000	Talk Grant Expenses	21,750	61,215	0	0	0	0	NA
807.000	Operational Grant Expenditure	12,389	27,941	71,830	30,000	30,000	146,932	489.8%
810.000	Capital Outlay - Buildings	4,880	5,549	9,369	5,500	5,500	0	0.0%
810.100	Capital Outlay - Improvements	2,261	6,531	97,882	44,200	44,200	8,384	19.0%
811.100	Capital Outlay - Technology	59,118	43,625	27,993	18,000	18,000	18,380	102.1%
812.000	Capital Outlay - Furnishings	5,873	3,426	1,832	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
840.010	Insurance Claim In Progress	0	0	0	0	0	22,339	NA
850.000	Automation - Technology	134,299	116,588	201,491	229,000	229,000	87,245	38.1%
850.100	Telecommunications	11,111	5,579	9,107	9,500	9,500	27,322	287.6%
850.200	ILS Contract	63,125	47,867	53,906	52,900	52,900	21,611	40.9%
850.500	Software Subscription	42,936	39,319	33,952	38,986	38,986	39,430	101.1%
890.000	The Library Network	2,796	2,796	2,796	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
928.000	Postage	20,240	21,206	25,107	30,025	30,025	18,449	61.4%
965.000	Auditing Service	8,325	8,550	18,390	18,900	18,900	18,900	100.0%
975.000	Legal	1,870	23,594	27,589	20,000	26,000	8,693	33.4%
975.500	Legal - Negotiations	0	0	23,320	0	0	0	NA
980.000	Professional/Contractual	37,007	49,866	40,241	71,179	71,179	48,770	68.5%
980.500	Branding Costs	3,195	3,619	4,991	5,000	5,000	572	11.4%
981.500	Lost Book Expense	3,431	1,834	1,228	4,000	4,000	1,191	29.8%
982.000	MTT Charge Back City	259	0	0	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
983.000	MTT Charge Back TWP	878	4,394	3,355	8,000	8,000	2,546	31.8%
983.100	MTT Charge Back-Superior Twp	914	4,052	0	5,000	5,000	1,964	39.3%
984.050	Contributions/Endowment	250	50	0	0	0	0	NA
Total		2,799,845	3,088,772	3,499,974	3,682,619	3,724,034	2,715,757	72.9%

**Ypsilanti District Library
General Fund
Period Ending 8/31/2026
(75% of Year)**

ACCT #	ACCOUNT NAME	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	Original FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	Amended FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	YTD 8/31/2026 ACTUAL	YTD AS A % OF BUDGET
Dept 200 Michigan Ave.								
702.000	Salaries	473,988	469,503	566,609	568,693	571,578	438,971	76.8%
702.800	Salaries-Pages	6,611	10,061	11,242	10,941	12,500	6,836	54.7%
771.000	Adult Books & Processing	14,185	20,211	18,938	18,000	18,000	15,523	86.2%
772.000	Youth Books & Processing	11,280	12,675	12,155	12,200	12,200	9,275	76.0%
774.950	Play Kits	0	0	1,714	1,500	1,500	1,215	81.0%
776.000	Periodicals - Adult	2,868	2,144	2,962	3,500	3,500	577	16.5%
778.000	Adult Audio/Visual	3,481	4,248	4,685	3,900	3,900	2,881	73.9%
779.000	Youth Audio/Visual	901	1,916	1,492	1,400	1,400	1,087	77.6%
801.500	Learning Never Gets Old	1,250	968	1,323	750	750	750	100.0%
802.200	Parking	3,700	3,600	3,600	3,900	3,900	0	0.0%
810.000	Capital Outlay - Buildings	18,357	100,000	7,744	57,000	57,000	9,414	16.5%
812.000	Capital Outlay - Furnishings	4,510	0	1,793	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
840.000	Repair & Maintenance - Building	32,249	25,148	24,812	26,000	26,000	17,182	66.1%
840.025	Campbell Maint Contract	13,204	14,800	14,800	16,000	16,000	11,100	69.4%
840.050	Snow Removal/ Lawn Care	12,097	8,340	10,929	19,000	19,000	8,659	45.6%
900.000	Programs-Adult	2,641	2,912	2,963	3,000	3,000	2,526	84.2%
901.000	Programs-Youth	2,531	2,206	2,848	3,000	3,000	2,574	85.8%
902.000	Art Purchases	0	0	2,789	20,000	20,000	2,205	11.0%
940.000	Phone	2,319	1,999	1,799	2,008	2,008	1,031	51.4%
943.000	Natural Gas	3,923	3,848	6,351	8,011	8,011	6,086	76.0%
947.000	DTE - Electric	20,935	15,529	20,589	24,192	24,192	15,500	64.1%
949.000	Ypsilanti Comm Utilities Auth	6,029	6,087	7,158	6,511	6,511	4,948	76.0%
980.000	Professional Contractual	42,596	0	2,500	2,100	2,100	1,050	50.0%
Total		679,655	706,194	731,794	814,606	819,050	559,391	68.3%
Dept 300 Outreach								
702.000	Salaries	233,500	268,398	275,843	296,618	298,225	224,625	75.3%
775.000	Library Materials	3,275	5,772	5,027	5,000	5,000	3,679	73.6%
801.500	Learning Never Gets Old	1,223	2,524	1,493	3,000	3,000	1,914	63.8%
811.000	Capitol Outlay Vehicle	35,000	0	0	0	0		NA
840.000	Repair & Maintenance	8,376	7,566	24,284	25,000	25,000	3,087	12.3%
901.000	Programs		1,439	1,795	2,000	2,000	1,037	51.9%
943.000	Fuel	4,090	5,464	5,254	6,347	6,347	5,259	82.9%
Total		285,464	291,164	313,695	337,965	339,572	239,602	70.6%

**Ypsilanti District Library
General Fund
Period Ending 8/31/2026
(75% of Year)**

ACCT #	ACCOUNT NAME	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	Original FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	Amended FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	YTD 8/31/2026 ACTUAL	YTD AS A % OF BUDGET
Dept 400 Superior Township								
702.000	Salaries	353,232	382,524	418,615	436,358	437,887	333,280	76.1%
702.800	Salary/Pages	3,706	5,248	6,194	10,941	8,500	3,997	47.0%
771.000	Adult Books & Processing	14,935	14,738	14,100	15,000	15,000	8,640	57.6%
772.000	Youth Books & Processing	12,171	15,539	12,372	14,000	14,000	5,023	35.9%
774.950	Play Kits	0	0	1,235	1,500	1,500	498	33.2%
776.000	Periodicals	1,290	663	790	1,200	1,200	199	16.6%
778.000	Audio/Visual	1,276	1,759	1,927	2,000	2,000	1,289	64.4%
801.500	Learning Never Gets Old	748	1,020	1,000	1,000	1,000	400	40.0%
810.000	Cap Outlay Building	2,381	51,286	5,633	8,000	8,000	0	0.0%
812.000	Cap Outlay Furnishings	0	2,165	929	0	0	2,237	NA
840.000	Repair & Maintenance	5,503	6,146	14,792	12,500	12,500	8,062	64.5%
840.025	Campbell Maint Contract	7,108	9,147	11,088	13,000	13,000	8,316	64.0%
840.050	Snow Removal & Lawn Care	26,505	22,570	26,993	24,500	24,500	18,025	73.6%
900.000	Programs - adult	502	1,540	1,293	1,500	1,500	494	33.0%
901.000	Programs - Youth	547	2,537	1,970	2,500	2,500	1,915	76.6%
902.000	Art Purchases	8,683	8,358	121	0	0	0	NA
940.000	Phone	2,041	2,155	2,272	2,250	2,250	1,303	57.9%
943.000	Natural Gas	2,722	2,740	3,544	4,418	4,418	3,343	75.7%
947.000	DTE - Electric	8,772	14,500	14,187	16,916	16,916	8,739	51.7%
949.000	Ypsilanti Comm Utilities Auth	6,681	4,228	6,096	4,558	4,558	4,007	87.9%
980.000	Professional/Contractual	23,760	24,840	24,900	33,000	33,000	20,600	62.4%
Total		482,563	573,703	570,053	605,141	604,229	430,366	71.2%

**Ypsilanti District Library
General Fund
Period Ending 8/31/2026
(75% of Year)**

ACCT #	ACCOUNT NAME	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	Original FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	Amended FY 2025-2026 BUDGET	YTD 8/31/2026 ACTUAL	YTD AS A % OF BUDGET
DEPT 500 WHITTAKER RD								
702.000	Salaries	798,216	788,402	900,098	947,353	952,889	714,432	75.0%
702.800	Salaries-Pages	31,782	24,774	29,642	41,028	38,000	31,068	81.8%
771.000	Adult Books	44,943	36,758	28,604	36,450	36,450	21,136	58.0%
772.000	Youth Books	29,767	35,544	33,620	30,750	30,750	18,788	61.1%
774.950	Play kits	0	0	1,615	1,500	1,500	1,155	77.0%
776.000	Periodicals - Adult	6,237	5,439	10,194	9,000	9,000	6,219	69.1%
776.050	Periodicals - Youth	722	624	756	700	700	0	0.0%
778.000	Adult Audio/Visual	7,498	9,864	7,957	5,800	5,800	3,471	59.8%
779.000	Youth Audio/Visual	3,081	2,991	3,854	3,100	3,100	1,521	49.1%
810.000	Cap Outlay Building	71,761	22,986	54,029	93,500	93,500	21,356	22.8%
812.000	Cap Outlay Furniture	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
840.000	Repair & Maintenance - Building	36,176	43,618	43,734	35,000	45,000	30,019	66.7%
840.025	Campbell Maint Contract	41,379	50,900	50,900	54,000	54,000	38,175	70.7%
840.050	Snow Removal/Lawn Care	34,465	32,365	33,838	34,000	34,000	26,253	77.2%
900.000	Programs - Adult	3,196	1,634	3,987	4,200	4,200	856	20.4%
901.000	Programs - Youth	12,837	13,005	12,896	13,000	13,000	9,125	70.2%
903.000	Equipment Maintenance	1,702	1,297	3,155	3,000	3,000	320	10.7%
940.000	Phone	4,916	5,146	5,395	5,185	5,185	3,094	59.7%
943.000	Natural Gas	24,868	31,394	42,266	31,680	31,680	26,233	82.8%
947.000	DTE - Electric	106,775	126,805	110,738	131,220	131,220	103,273	78.7%
949.000	Ypsilanti Comm Utilities Auth	6,472	6,953	7,892	7,071	7,071	3,230	45.7%
980.000	Professional/Contractual				0	0	0	NA
Total		1,266,793	1,240,498	1,385,171	1,487,537	1,500,045	1,059,723	70.6%
Dept 600 Donations								
Revenue:								
	Total Revenue	46,229	55,433	48,564				
	Total Donated revenue	46,229	55,433	48,564			71,917	NA
Expenditures:								
	Total Expenditures	79,576	44,096	40,370				
	Total Expenditures	79,576	44,096	40,370			58,929	NA
Dept 700 Grants								
Revenue								
	Total Grant Revenue	48,850	2,526	40,000				
	Total Revenue	48,850	2,526	40,000			500	NA
Expenditures								
	Total Expenditures	43,127	1,146	43,300				
	Total Expenditures	43,127	1,146	43,300			11,840	NA
Total	Net -- restricted for future	5,723	1,380	-3,300			-11,340	NA
IMPROVEMENTS/Asset Sales								
	685.000 Sale of assets						0	NA
	810.100 Approved projects-Improvements fund							NA
	850.100 Technology improvements							NA
Total Other Revenue		0	0	0			0	NA
Total Revenue		6,437,010	7,042,451	7,656,643	7,512,536	7,586,930	6,276,384	
Total Expenditures		5,637,023	5,945,573	6,584,357	6,927,868	6,986,930	5,075,609	72.6%
	Net Revenue Over Expenditures	799,987	1,096,878	1,072,286	584,668	600,000	1,200,775	
	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	3,413,998	3,061,551	3,643,078	4,015,363	4,015,363	4,015,363	
	Board Designation	-1,152,434	-515,352	-700,000	0	0	-600,000	
Ending Fund Balance		3,061,551	3,643,078	4,015,363	4,600,031	4,615,363	4,616,139	

**Ypsilanti District Library
Balance Sheet
August 31, 2026
Capital Asset Replacement Fund**

	FYE 11/30/21 ACTUAL	FYE 11/30/22 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	FYTD 8/31/2026	Current FYTD Variance from 11/30/25
Assets:							
Cash and Current Assets	3,503,051	1,356,163	914,194	382,618	437,035	801,461	364,426
Total Assets	3,503,051	1,356,163	914,194	382,618	437,035	801,461	364,426
Liabilities	-	-	-	201,502	180,751	180,751	0
Fund Balance	3,489,597	887,932	371,866	181,116	256,285	620,711	364,426
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	3,489,597	887,932	371,866	382,618	437,035	801,461	364,426

Ypsilanti District Library
Capital Expenses
Period Ending 8/31/26 (75% of Year)

ACCT #	ACCOUNT NAME	FY 11/30/23 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/24 ACTUAL	FY 11/30/25 ACTUAL	YTD 8/31/2026 ACTUAL
Revenue					
400.683.800	Superior Library Designated	166,970	88,893	80,000	-
300.683.200	Veh Designated Donation			8,701	29,969
200.681.075	MA Designated Donation		35,600	5,800	
688.000	Interest	7,230	-	-	-
Other departments					-
688.000	Interest	-	4,016	1,556	1,001
Total		174,200	128,509	96,057	30,970
	Transfer from Operating Fund	1,152,434	515,352	700,000	600,000
Expenditures					
Dept 200 Michigan Avenue Projects					
980.000	Prof/Contractual	66,927	451,423	259,341	102,926
	Subtotal	66,927	451,423	259,341	102,926
Dept 300 Vehicle Projects					
	Subtotal				-
Dept 400 Superior Construction					
702.150	Bank Fees	570	360	418	328
752.500	Insurance - Bldrs Rsk	-	-	-	-
780.000	Opening Day Collection	7,319	-	-	-
801.000	Major Events	2,191	-	-	-
812.000	Capital Outlay - Eq/Furn	36,712	5,000	-	-
850.000	Automation - Technology	26,562	-	-	-
910.000	Site Development	-	-	-	-
943.000	Fuel/Natural Gas	-	-	-	-
975.000	Legal/Attorney	-	-	-	-
980.000	Prof/Contractual	618	-	-	-
981.000	Architect Fees	(32,314)	-	-	-
955.100	General Contractor	1,367,136	-	5,294	-
985.300	Outside Contract Expense	58,545	9,046	-	106,050
	Subtotal	1,467,339	14,406	5,712	106,378
Dept 500 Whittaker Projects					
980.000	Prof/Contractual	308,428	368,786	455,836	57,241
	Subtotal	308,428	368,786	455,836	57,241
TOTAL Capital Expenditures		1,842,694	834,615	720,889	266,544
	Total Revenue Over Expenditures	(516,060)	(190,754)	75,168	364,426
	Beginning Fund Balance	887,932	371,872	181,118	256,285
	Ending Fund Balance	371,872	181,118	256,286	620,711

Capital Asset Replacement Fund
Composition of Fund Balance

		Superior Project	Other	Total
2023				
Board Assigned	2/1/2023	800,000	352,434	
YTD Capital Campaign & Int	11/30/2023	174,200		
YTD Expenditures	11/30/2023	-1,467,339	-375,355	
Balance	11/30/2023	239,685	132,186	371,871

2024				
Board Assigned	2/1/2024	0	515,352	
YTD Capital Campaign & Int	11/30/2024	0	128,509	
YTD Expenditures	11/30/2024	-14,406	-820,209	
Balance	11/30/2024	225,279	-44,162	181,117

2025				
Board Assigned			700,000	
YTD Capital Campaign & Int	11/30/2025	0	96,057	
YTD Expenditures	11/30/2025	0	-720,889	
Balance	11/30/2025	0	75,168	256,286

2026				
Board Assigned			600,000	
YTD Capital Campaign & Int	8/31/2026	0	30,970	
YTD Expenditures	8/31/2026	0	-266,544	
Balance	8/31/2026	0	364,426	620,712

80,000 future pledges
700,712

CHECK REGISTER FOR YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY
CHECK NUMBER 80191 - 180298

Check Date	Check	Vendor Name	Amount
Bank BOAA OPERATIONS CHECKING			
07/30/2026	80191	LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS	34.98
07/30/2026	80192	ARMOREX	543.74
07/30/2026	80193	ALLIED WASTE SYSTEMS #241	571.79
07/30/2026	80194	BATTERIESPLUS	18.75
07/30/2026	80195	BOXCAR STUDIO	3,000.00
07/30/2026	80196	MARIAH BRITO	120.00
07/30/2026	80197	DTE ENERGY	22,157.77
07/30/2026	80198	GRAINGER	88.16
07/30/2026	80199	GUARDIAN TREE EXPERTS	375.00
07/30/2026	80200	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	1,442.13
07/30/2026	80201	IMPERIAL DADE	838.01
07/30/2026	80202	INNOVATIVE INTERFACES, INC	17,587.50
07/30/2026	80203	HANNIBAL, JENNIFER	102.34
07/30/2026	80204	JNS FACILITIIY MAINTENANCE	2,600.00
07/30/2026	80205	JOHNSON CONTROLS	960.00
07/30/2026	80206	KANOPY INC.	1,399.10
07/30/2026	80207	MIDWEST TAPE LLC	18,336.91
07/30/2026	80208	OCLC INC.	4,851.85
07/30/2026	80209	ORKIN	522.00
07/30/2026	80210	ON-SITE SPECIALTY CLEANING	20,126.91
07/30/2026	80211	OVERDRIVE, INC.	56.00
07/30/2026	80212	SWANK MOVIE LICENSING USA	1,959.00
07/30/2026	80213	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	680.06
07/30/2026	80214	SUBURBAN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS	82.85
07/30/2026	80215	VGKIDS	572.40
07/30/2026	80216	MERET FLESSENKAMPER	180.00
08/14/2026	80217	CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI	12.23
08/14/2026	80218	ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA	320.00
08/14/2026	80219	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	6,659.83
08/14/2026	80220	BLUE CARE NETWORK OF MI	65,980.66
08/14/2026	80221	BENCHMARK DESIGN STUDIO	245.00
08/14/2026	80222	ENLIGHTEN SOLUTIONS LLC	5,996.00
08/14/2026	80223	FIRST CITIZENS BANK	2,372.95
08/14/2026	80224	FRANKS LANDSCAPING & SUPPLIES	4,266.67
08/14/2026	80225	FOSTER,SWIFT,COLLINS&SMITH,PC	320.40
08/14/2026	80226	HEALTHIEST YOU INC.	357.00
08/14/2026	80227	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	801.41
08/14/2026	80228	INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, INC.	7,451.90
08/14/2026	80229	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	365.00
08/14/2026	80230	MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	3,543.00
08/14/2026	80231	MIDWEST TAPE LLC	193.83
08/14/2026	80232	OVERDRIVE, INC.	502.30
08/14/2026	80233	QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.	252.75
08/14/2026	80234	ADAME-GOFF, SUSANA	5.00
08/14/2026	80235	WEX BANK	506.74
08/14/2026	80236	YPSILANTI ACE HARDWARE	9.99
08/14/2026	80237	MERET FLESSENKAMPER	120.00
08/21/2026	80238	Y C U A	1,879.29
08/21/2026	80239	AFLAC	113.80
08/21/2026	80240	DELTA DENTAL PLAN OF MICHIGAN	3,370.79
08/21/2026	80241	VISION SERVICE PLAN - MI	785.62
08/21/2026	80242	U S POSTMASTER	5,100.00
08/21/2026	80243	CENTER POINT PUBLISHING	154.62
08/21/2026	80244	ARBOR INSPECTION SERVICES, LL	600.00
08/21/2026	80245	BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	48.38
08/21/2026	80246	BASIC	69.00
08/21/2026	80247	ALEXIS BUSE	138.00
08/21/2026	80248	CENGAGE LEARNING	601.50
08/21/2026	80249	CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY-	1,407.91
08/21/2026	80250	FERNDAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRAR	25.00
08/21/2026	80251	GRAINGER	35.21
08/21/2026	80252	GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC LIBRARY	29.99
08/21/2026	80253	GUARDIAN TREE EXPERTS	1,193.00
08/21/2026	80254	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	718.24
08/21/2026	80255	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	1,792.30
08/21/2026	80256	IMAGE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC	1,194.76
08/21/2026	80257	K. CAIN CONSULTING LLC	4,486.67
08/21/2026	80258	MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA	2,262.04
08/21/2026	80259	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	535.00
08/21/2026	80260	MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO	2,292.47
08/21/2026	80261	MY FAVORITE PLANT COMPANY	228.00

CHECK REGISTER FOR YPSLILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY
CHECK NUMBER 80191 - 180298

Check Date	Check	Vendor Name	Amount
Bank BOAA OPERATIONS CHECKING			
08/21/2026	80262	NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	89.00
08/21/2026	80263	ORKIN	580.00
08/21/2026	80264	OVERDRIVE, INC.	3,672.72
08/21/2026	80265	PROGRESSIVE PRINTING	537.00
08/21/2026	80266	SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEP	1,297.94
08/21/2026	80267	THOMSON REUTERS-WEST	135.00
08/21/2026	80268	TUTOR.COM	2,100.00
08/21/2026	80269	ULINE	786.34
08/21/2026	80270	VERIZON WIRELESS	435.23
08/21/2026	80271	KINGS III OF AMERICA, LLC	66.54
08/28/2026	80272	CUMMINS BRIDGEWAY, LLC	1,119.94
08/28/2026	80273	DISCOUNT SCHOOL SUPPLY	61.46
08/28/2026	80274	BASIC	553.00
08/28/2026	80275	BLACK MEN READ	250.00
08/28/2026	80276	BSB COMMUNICATIONS INC.	3,058.11
08/28/2026	80277	CAMPBELL, INC	620.00
08/28/2026	80278	CAPITAL ONE	3,311.95
08/28/2026	80279	CENGAGE LEARNING	141.00
08/28/2026	80280	DEEPA JAIN	150.00
08/28/2026	80281	JAZMEEN FORTUNE	100.00
08/28/2026	80282	HURON CLINTON METROPOLITAN A	100.00
08/28/2026	80283	HURON CLINTON METROPOLITAN A	100.00
08/28/2026	80284	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	2,623.96
08/28/2026	80285	INDUSTRIAL SERVICES INC.	2,870.00
08/28/2026	80286	MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA	670.80
08/28/2026	80287	MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	365.00
08/28/2026	80288	MIDWEST TAPE LLC	267.14
08/28/2026	80289	MICHIGAN WEB PRESS	6,041.47
08/28/2026	80290	PROGRESSIVE PRINTING	354.00
08/28/2026	80291	THE RIDE	1,200.00
08/28/2026	80292	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES,	291.04
08/28/2026	80293	VGKIDS	297.36
08/28/2026	80294	PENNY ROLL SUSHI	234.00
08/28/2026	80295	YOURS TRULY EVENT VENUE	187.50
08/28/2026	80296	TIMOTHY AGEE	50.00
08/28/2026	80297	CRABTREE PUBLISHING COMPANY	384.29
08/28/2026	80298	VOICE OVER PRODUCTIONS INC.	150.00
BOAA TOTALS:			
Total of 108 checks:			263,803.29
Less 0 Void Checks:			0.00
Total of 108 Disbursements:			263,803.29

Communications



Community members attend the Aug. 17 reception of the Ypsi Farmers and Gardeners: An Enduring Legacy oral history exhibit at the Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. (Photo by Nick Azzaro; courtesy of Finn Bell)

Ypsilanti farmers and gardeners share their stories through YDL oral history project

By [Laleh Walker](#)

Sep 7, 2026 12:00 pm



The [Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners: An Enduring Legacy exhibit](#), is currently on display at the Ypsilanti District Library's Superior Township branch, showcasing

The Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project is a digital archive through the Ypsilanti District Library that highlights the oral histories of Black, Indigenous and people of color gardeners and working-class farmers. The exhibit will run until Sept. 26, 2026. Visitors can scan the QR code on each narrator's portrait and hear their stories.

The project began in 2013 when project lead **Finn Bell** was conducting research for his dissertation at the University of Michigan.

After interviewing BIPOC gardeners and working-class farmers in Ypsilanti, Bell recognized the importance of sharing their stories beyond his dissertation and perspective.

"I was interviewing farmers and gardeners, especially BIPOC working-class folks, and they told me amazing stories that really needed to be shared beyond just my dissertation," Bell said. "I wanted everyone who wanted to hear their stories to be able to."

In 2023, Bell invited the people who had shared their stories as part of his dissertation to the same library to discuss what should come next. Together, they decided to expand the work into an oral history project that would allow community members to share their stories in their own words, without editing or filtering. With support from the library, the project was created as a resource open to the community.



Community members attend the Aug. 17 reception of the Ypsi Farmers and Gardeners: An Enduring Legacy oral history exhibit at the Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. (Photo by Nick Azzaro; courtesy of Finn Bell)

At an Aug. 17 reception for the exhibit, Bell thanked everyone for attending and those who helped make the project possible, including late community leaders [Melvin Parson](#) and [Linda Mealing](#), both prominent figures in the local gardening and farming community.

[Jean Winborn](#), a genealogy professor and longtime participant in the project, was one of Bell's professors and part of the first group of narrators in 2023. She also served as an interviewer for the project.

During the reception, Winborn shared her personal connection to growing food, recalling her childhood in Ann Arbor in the 1950s, when her father had a garden

could come and get food grown from the garden.

Next, participants and contributors of the project joined in a panel discussion, answering audience questions and reflecting on their lives, legacies and experiences growing food, as well as its importance to their cultures and communities.

The panel featured story narrators [Julius Buzzard](#) and [Kyunghee Kim](#), community advisory board member Akaiia Hill, and project interviewer P. Deisha Myles.

Buzzard emphasized the importance of sharing stories and the impact they can have on others.

“Our stories are so, so powerful, and when we get in rooms and we share our stories with one another, they move people. And it doesn’t matter how much money they have, it doesn’t matter what the color of their skin is. When you connect with somebody with a story, you build community, and it really does create the ability for us to move with one another,” said Buzzard.

After an audience member asked the panelists if they had a mentor who inspired them, Kim said hers was her mother, someone she feels she has little in common with.

“For this context — gardening, growing — definitely my mom,” she said.

“And I’m surprised by that because her and I are very different,” Kim said, laughing, as the audience laughed along. “I always think we have nothing in common. Somehow, we both love food. Through that, it has been the source of getting to know each other because it can break barriers.”

As the audience’s applause faded, attendees mingled with panel members, continued conversations sparked during the discussion, grabbed food, and listened to the oral histories presented in the exhibit.



Newest narrators of The Ypsi Farmers and Gardeners: An Enduring Legacy oral history project are on display at the Superior Township branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. (Photo by Nick Azzaro; courtesy of Finn Bell)

One of the latest narrators of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project, [**Shalina Rankin**](#), reflected on how she enjoyed the project and how it has helped her with her memory.

“I enjoyed it. It was actually really uplifting to talk about my experience,” Rankin said. “It has helped me. It is so funny ... as you go through life, you kind of forget things. So when someone’s asking you questions, you start remembering what you learned, what you have done, and how important something is.”

Read More



Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation hosts 44th annual tour of historic homes

From noon to 5 p.m. on Oct. 4, residents and visitors are invited to join the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's 44th annual historic home tour, which includes six historic homes in Ypsi's Southside neighborhood.

BY LEE VAN ROTH • **GENERAL** • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



Katie Dover-Taylor, Delrhea Byrge, Chuck Bultman, and Lisa Hoenig at the downtown branch of the Ypsilanti District Library. Photo by Doug Coombe.



On the Ground Ypsilanti is an “embedded journalism” program covering the city and township of Ypsilanti. It is supported by [Ann Arbor SPARK](#), the [Center for Health and Research Transformation](#), [Destination Ann Arbor](#), [Eastern Michigan University](#), [Engage @ EMU](#), [Washtenaw Community College](#), [Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission](#), and [Washtenaw ISD](#).

For more than four decades, the [Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation](#)’s (YHF) annual [Historic Home Tour](#) has invited residents and visitors to look beyond the facades of the city’s historic buildings and into the stories contained within. This year, the foundation turns its attention to Ypsilanti’s Southside neighborhood for its 44th annual tour, “Harvesting Our History,” from noon to 5 p.m on Oct. 4.

The event will feature six historic homes, along with the [Ypsilanti District Library](#)’s downtown branch, offering visitors the chance to explore the architecture, preservation work, and personal histories that have shaped the neighborhood.

For homeowners like Josh Budde, who has lived at 221 South Washington Street with his wife, Lauren, since 2010, the tour offers an opportunity to show that historic houses are just as livable as any other construction.



Josh Budde. Photo by Doug Coombe.

“I hope people realize these are not museums,” Budde says. “They don’t have to be.”

Built around 1860 by George Kishlar, 221 South Washington is an Italianate home that remained in the Kishlar family for more than a century. A mason who built several homes in the area, Kishlar’s own house remains one of the earliest examples of its architectural style in Ypsilanti.

The home retains many of its original features, including its “low-pitched hip roof, projecting eaves, decorative brackets, tall wood windows and brick detailing,” according to YHF’s write-up for the property. The Buddes have worked to maintain those historical characteristics while bringing portions of the house up to modern standards, like modernizing the plumbing, improving insulation, and reinstalling the home’s front steps after they’d taken structural damage. For Budde, maintaining the home is less intimidating than outsiders might expect, stating that historical homes can be just as if not more affordable than modern constructions,

and that upkeep is not much more expensive than that required for a non-historic building.



221 South Washington Street, home of Josh and Lauren Budde. Photo by Doug Coombe.

“We’re not wealthy people and we can take care of it just fine,” he says. “You can live in a place like this, it’s not that daunting.”

The house also contains reminders of the people who came before the Buddes, including a trunk bearing the Kishlar family name, a map of Ypsilanti from the 1890s, and household objects dating from the 1930s and 1940s. The home will be one of three Southside residences highlighted during this year’s tour.

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At 118 South Washington Street, visitors will encounter a very different example of Ypsilanti's historic architecture. Built in 1892 for H.P. Glover and designed by Detroit architects Malcomson and Higginbotham, the Glover House is a roughly 3,900-square-foot Queen Anne mansion with "Free Classic details," including a "corner tower, projecting bays, porches, dormers and a steep slate roof," according to the YHF.

Inside, the late Victorian craftsmanship includes ornamental plasterwork, frescoes, tilework, elaborate woodwork, and stained- and leaded-glass windows. Different rooms feature an unusually broad range of wood species, while four fireplaces, parquet flooring, and a preserved pocket door add to the home's ornate character.

Steve Pierce and Maggie Brandt are the current stewards of the house. Pierce says the property illustrates the diversity of homes found throughout the Southside neighborhood, from large historic residences to more modest houses.



Steve Pierce (and dog) outside 118 South Washington Street, which he owns with Maggie Brandt.
Photo by Doug Coombe.

“I think what it shows is the incredible diversity of the types of homes in our neighborhood,” Pierce says. “They span such a long period of time.”

That diversity extends beyond architecture, Pierce says, to the people who have called the neighborhood home.

“There’s a wide range of homes and architectural styles and sizes,” he says. “The other thing is it highlights the diversity of the people.”

The Glover House also reflects the changing uses of historic buildings. After the Glover family left in 1941, the house was converted into apartments before eventually housing Child and Family Service of Washtenaw County. It returned to use as a single-family home around 2000. Pierce says restoring the property after it had spent decades as an office building required a significant investment of time and work. The interior and exterior were in rough condition when he became involved with the property, requiring extensive work and a lengthy permitting process.

The third featured home, 220 South Huron Street, offers another perspective on preservation that centers on the layers that accumulate in a historic building over generations. Built around 1870 by H.P. Glover for Samuel Barnard, the two-story Italianate residence was later transformed by Charles Newton, a real estate attorney and chief buyer for Henry



Chuck Bultman standing outside 220 South Huron Street. Photo by Doug Coombe.

Ford's Greenfield Village, and his wife Gladys. Barnard was one of four founders and vice president of Ypsilanti's Peninsular Paper Company, and his family owned the home until 1917.

The Newtons undertook extensive renovations after purchasing the house, adding electric lighting, central heating, and plumbing while expanding the residence. Between approximately 1927 and 1939, they added a dramatic two-story side porch supported by full-height Doric columns, giving the previously Italianate home the Classical Revival appearance it has today.

One of the property's most unusual features is belowground: an 18th-century timber-framed tavern reportedly salvaged from Connecticut and installed in the basement. While the tavern is rumored to have come from Henry Ford and Greenfield Village, its exact provenance has never been documented.



Chuck Bultman at 220 South Huron Street. Photo by Doug Coombe.

Charles Bultman, the home's seventh and current owner, has spent years researching the people and industries connected to the property. Bultman says that research has changed the way he sees not only his house, but the larger community surrounding it.

"One of the wonderful things for me is being able to say I know who built this house, who lived there," Bultman says.

The stories embedded in Ypsilanti's historic properties extend beyond individual houses, Bultman says. The homes can reveal connections among the city's business leaders, industries, and institutions during periods of significant change.

"There are many other stories embedded in these buildings," Bultman says.



Delrhea Byrge and Chuck Bultman at 220 South Huron Street. Photo by Doug Coombe.

That emphasis on stories is also central to the inclusion of the Downtown Michigan Avenue Library on this year's tour. The library building, originally constructed as a Carnegie post office in the 1910s, was given to the library in the 1960s. It later became a branch of the Ypsilanti District Library (YDL) after the district library system was formed in the 1980s.

The building recently underwent major renovations after storm damage, reopening after being closed for 21 months. Lisa Hoenig, director of the YDL, says the renovation provided an opportunity to make the building more accessible while preserving its historic character, including renovations to its historic vestibule, improving alternate entryways to streamline movement through the building and better accommodate library patrons with disabilities and emergency medical personnel, and the long-awaited insulation improvements to maximize comfort for patrons and staff alike.

For Katie Dover-Taylor, a YDL branch manager, the tour is an opportunity for visitors to experience the library as a community space rather than simply a place to borrow books.

“We have meeting rooms to reserve, we have books, of course, we have places to plug in and computers that are free for everyone,” Dover-Taylor says. “I would love to have people get [a] sense of the space and the people who inhabit it.”

The library’s role in the tour also reinforces the broader purpose of the event: showing how historic buildings can continue to serve contemporary communities.

Plus, the focus on Southside homes makes this tour more walkable, allowing visitors to move between homes and experience the surrounding neighborhood along the way. That, in turn, allows visitors to experience historic preservation as part of a living community rather than as a collection of isolated buildings, says Delrhea Byrge, who works on YHF’s board as well as Ypsi-based antique and vintage shop Antiquität Detroit.

“Showcasing certain neighborhoods brings attention to the whole neighborhood,” Byrge says.

Tickets can be purchased through [Eventbrite](#). More information about the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation can be found at [yhf.org](#).



Homes included on the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation’s 44th annual tour of historic homes. Photos by Doug Coombe.



Author



LEE VAN ROTH

Lee Van Roth is a Michigan native and longtime Washtenaw County resident. They want to use their journalistic experience from their time at Eastern Michigan University writing for the Eastern Echo to tell the stories of Washtenaw County residents that need to be heard.

Related Articles



Ypsilanti District Library's Superior Branch is located at 1900 Harris Road. *Photo by [Lee Hammock](#) / The Eastern Echo*

5 candidates running unopposed for Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees

By [Lauren Holloway](#)

Sep 17, 2026 8:00 am



Ypsilanti's November 2026 ballot will include five candidates running for the [Ypsilanti District Library Board of Trustees](#).

The board consists of seven seats, five of which will ending their term in December 2026. Each of the five candidates is running unopposed for one of those seats. Barring a surprise write-in, those five candidates are expected to fill the seats. Four of the candidates are running for the regular four-year term, while one is running for a two-year term after a former board member vacated their seat early.

Christopher Slat

Christopher Slat, a resident of Ypsilanti Township for the past four years, is a new candidate running for the two-year term.

Before moving to Ypsilanti, Slat lived in Monroe, where he served on the board of Monroe Public Access Television, now called **Monroe Community Media**. Slat also ran for state representative in 2020.

Slat's interest in being on the library board comes from working in education and libraries being important in his own life, he said. "I think schools and libraires are some of the strongest remaining public services that are real agents of equity in society."

Slat told *The Echo* that he is not coming into this position with any agenda; he is just trying to serve the board and apply some lessons he learned on the Board of Public Access.

Paul Leighton

Paul Leighton is one of the incumbents running for re-election; he was appointed to the board in April after a trustee vacated their seat early.

Leighton is a **professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthology and Criminology at Eastern Michigan University** as well as the head of the advisory board for Swoop's Pantry.

Leighton's passion for the library comes from growing up with a mother who worked in education, he said. After getting into criminology, he said he realized that literacy was a way to cut down on crime.

“People who can read can do a better job navigating job applications and work. And if you can express yourself, you are less likely to be violent,” he explained.

He said the library board should prioritize getting a new [bookmobile](#). He also listed smaller projects to work on, such as setting up a memory station, a place to scan in photographs and put albums together.

His main focus is on supporting the library and helping where he can, he said.

“I’ve always appreciated that the library was a place where folks could get things for free,” Leighton said.

Kerri Pepperman

Another new name on the ballot is Kerri Pepperman, a resident of Ypsilanti for 26 years.

Pepperman has volunteered for campaigns in the past, but this is her first time having her own name on the ballot. She has a background in web development with a master's degree in information science from the University of Michigan.

Pepperman’s interest in the library board comes from years of patronizing the library and having friends who have served on the board. After reaching out to learn how she could get more involved, Pepperman ended up on the fundraising committee for the Superior branch of the library.

“That was a lot of fun and just deepened my connections to the library, the staff and the director,” Pepperman said.

Patricia J. Horne McGee

Patricia J. Horne McGee is an incumbent candidate for the YDL board and currently serves as a trustee.

According to a 2021 [oral history project](#) with the Ann Arbor District Library, Horne McGee has masters degrees from the University of Michigan and University of California, Los Angeles. She then taught social work and child development at

Ferris State University and Mercy College. She also previously worked in the Wayne County Intermediate School District and served as the director for Washtenaw County's Head Start program.

Kristy Cooper

Kristy Cooper is the third incumbent candidate for the YDL board and currently serves as the president of the board.

According to her [LinkedIn](#), Cooper received a Bachelors of Arts in English Language and Literature/Letter from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Michigan, and a Masters of Business Administration in Non-Profit/Public/Organizational Business Management from Eastern Michigan University.

She has worked in libraries for years, and [published a memoir](#) titled, "I Was a Stripper Librarian: From Cardigans to G-Strings," according to reporting from MLive in 2021.

The Eastern Echo reached out to Patricia J. Horne McGee and Kristy Cooper, but received no response. If candidates respond, *The Eastern Echo* will publish their positions.

Lauren Holloway

Lauren Holloway has been working as a reporter for The Eastern Echo for three years.

Read More

Committee Reports

To: YDL Board of Trustees
From: Lisa Hoenig, Library Director
Date: 9/17/2026
Re: Facilities Committee report

Regular status update on outstanding capital improvement projects:

- Resolution 2025-35 Architectural Services: Our committee selected group study and lobby chairs from the samples we tried, and selected finishes for them. Along with tables for the lobby, these are on the Board's agenda. Two group study tables were refinished very nicely by a local woodworker. We hope to complete the remaining tables by the end of the fiscal year.
- Resolution 2026-19 Humidification equipment: Campbell continues to move forward with this installation.
- Resolution 2026-21 Michigan Avenue Southwest corner project: We received a sample of the custom masonry color on 9/14, and it's a perfect match! Just waiting to get the mortar color sample, then get approval from the YHDC to move forward.
- Resolution 2026-24 Michigan Avenue Interactive Play Area: Library Design Associates has ordered the pieces that do not require custom design work. We met with them on 9/17 to provide input for the remaining elements and look forward to seeing initial drafts soon!

**

Jim Reed and I met with the team from our new HVAC service provider, GEM Service, on 9/14. We got to meet our new technician at this kick-off meeting. In about 30 days GEM will present us with a report on any equipment that requires extra work before it will be covered by the contract. Stay tuned.

**

On 8/27 we met with Superior's landscape architect and the head of our landscaping company to discuss options for replacing the rose bushes at Superior. Last week the new plantings were installed. They were selected to be hardy, but we have also requested Frank's provide winter protection for them to make sure they'll be beautiful next spring. See draft image below.



Director's Report and attachments

Library Director's Report

September 23, 2026

Facilities:

- A storm complete with a tornado warning on 9/3 forced staff and patrons to shelter in our safe zones until the all-clear. YDL-Superior lost power during the event, and high winds caused water to leak from the clerestory skylight. Duke Roofing found the roof intact but reported some iffy seals on the cupola windows. The window installer is scheduled to investigate next.
- Repairs for Whittaker's most recent flood damage are currently underway.

Partnerships:

In the days following the storm, I worked closely with Tray Maguire of DTE, whose team distributed relief supplies to impacted patrons in the Whittaker lobby. This is the first time they offered this type of assistance; I hope it won't be the last. Whittaker and Michigan Avenue were packed with patrons seeking A/C and power. Superior was closed for 2-1/2 days awaiting power restoration.

Personnel:

- We received 18 applications for our full-time Custodian posting. Three interviews are scheduled.
- Very pleased to have three EMU School of Social Work interns on board supporting the Library Care Coordination program this academic year. Their first day of training was 9/2.
- We welcomed our MERS rep on 9/1, who delivered a retirement planning session for staff.
- Drop-in hours for staff to meet with Colleen O'Brien of Blue Dog Counseling began on 9/14.
- With input from the Wellness Committee, I am excited to launch informal lunches with staff next week.

Programming Highlights:

The 2026 Summer Challenge report is attached, as is the final report from this year's Project STEM Toyota grant. Huge kudos to our exceptional staff, who deliver highly creative and impactful activities each day. It all adds up!

Technology:

- Our photocopier lease expires in December, so we released an RFP for Multifunction Printer equipment on 8/31. We are looking forward to reviewing the proposals, which are due 9/21.
- Development of our new incident reporting platform is ongoing.

Side Notes:

- On 8/26 Katie Dover-Taylor and I were interviewed alongside Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation reps for an article regarding the upcoming Historic Home Tour, which features YDL-Michigan Avenue.
- Andy, Karen, and I met with Chris T., Kristy and Bethany to review BS&A Cloud invoice approval on 9/1.
- I met with EMU SSW Professor Margaret Ann Paauw on 9/11 to review progress and next steps with the grant-funded evaluation of the Library Care Coordination program.
- Chris McMullen and I attended the AAACF community meeting at WCC on 9/15. It was a great networking opportunity, and together we were able to collect \$900 for YDL in the cash grab booth. In addition, I was very interested in an announcement that AAACF is launching an initiative with Press Forward to support local journalism.
- Artist Takeisha Jefferson dropped off the artwork we commissioned for the Michigan Avenue group study rooms this week. The pieces are very powerful, and I can't wait to share them with you at the Board meeting.
- Our Library consortium, The Library Network, asks trustees to save the date for their Trustee Summit, to be held on Friday, April 23, 2027, at the Vistatech Center on the campus of Schoolcraft College.

SUMMER CHALLENGE

END OF SUMMER REPORT 2026



Designed to engage participants of all ages, especially youth, in learning during the summer, we challenged everyone to read, learn at the library, and explore the community by offering activity suggestions and incentives to play. Thanks to Yen Azzaro for contributing fun graphics and a banner to this year's game!

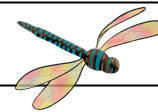
2,687
PARTICIPANTS
REGISTERED

↑ 79 more
participants
than in 2025

1,432
PARTICIPANTS
EARNED AT LEAST 10
POINTS AND A PRIZE

↑ 72 more
participants
than in 2025

DIGITAL BADGES EARNED



READ

43,794
Read badges
earned



LEARN

1,047
Event codes
logged



EXPLORE

3,734
Explore badges earned
by completing
challenges



PRIZES

SIGN UP PRIZES

- 1,707 day passes to Rutherford Pool given to youth
- 964 small incentives given to adults

10 BADGE PRIZES

- 1,095 books distributed to kids and teens
- 331 themed gift bags distributed to adults

TREASURE BOX PRIZES

3,565 treasure box prizes every time kids and teens earned 10 more badges.

WEEKLY DRAWINGS

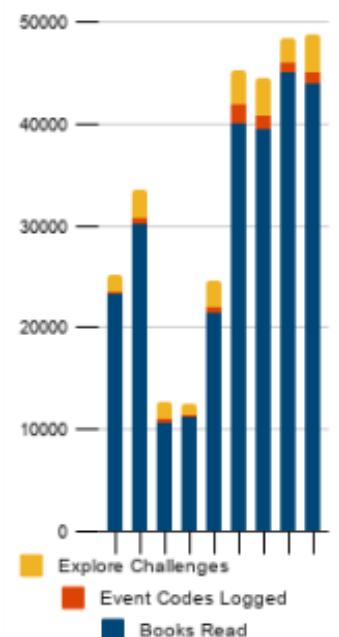
81 prizes were distributed to weekly winners. Participants of all ages who logged an activity during the week were automatically entered into weekly drawings for gift cards and other fun prizes.

GRAND PRIZES

10 grand prizes filled with activity passes, STEM toys, and more were awarded. Every activity participants logged all summer was worth a chance to win the grand prize of their choice.



Types of Badges Earned
2018-2026



Summer Challenge Participation 2017-2026



SUMMER CAMPS

CAMPS

Nine camps serving 440 youth signed up for the Summer Challenge Champions program and recieved visits from YDL's Outreach Team.

PRIZES

285 campers recieved a free book and 310 received a STEM toy.



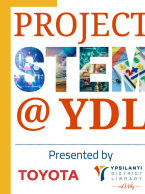
LEARNING AT THE LIBRARY

KICKOFF

300 people helped kick off the Challenge at YDL-Superior. Attendees enjoyed a bounce house, snacks, and activities with G.A.S. it Up Fitness and Leslie Science Center.

PROGRAMS

About 8,500 people attended 536 programs. Youth programs focused heavily on STEM as part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota. Kids and teens learned a variety of topics through hands-on activities, from music technology to engineering to coding. Little ones attended storytimes designed to build pre-reading skills, and all ages had the opportunity to participate in movement and garden related activities.



EXPLORING THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SCAVENGER HUNTS

- 1,397 codes hidden in participants' yards logged
- 211 codes displayed in donors' windows logged
- 60 geocache box finds logged

LOCAL EVENTS AND PARKS

Participants earned badges by attending events, visiting local parks, using MAP passes for free and reduced museum tickets, and more, to stay engaged all summer.

2026 SPONSORS

Literacy Leaders (\$5,000+)

Friends of the Library
Friends of Rutherford Pool
Toyota

Bookworm Sponsors (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Believe in Reading
Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor
Best in Games
Taco Bell

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
Molina Health Care

Page Turner Sponsor (\$500-\$999)

Red Robin

Grand Prize Donor (\$100-\$499)

Bellflower
Bookend Candle Co.
Cold Comfort Ice Cream
Common Source Acupuncture and Apothecary
Domino's Pizza
Golden Rhino Games
Meijer
Model Cave
Planet Rock
Puffer Reds
Rolling Hills Water Park
Tanduri Korner
Toledo Zoo
Tree Fort Bikes
Wiard's Orchards & Country Fair
World of Rocks

Prize Donors

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill
B-Cubed Bakery
Beara Bakes
Bird Dog Baking
Blackstone Bookstore & Cultural Center
C. King and Co
Café Liv
Dos Hermanos Restaurant
Encuentro Latino
Glaze Pottery Studio
Hyperion Coffee Company
Imagination Station Toledo
Ma Lou's Chicken
Maiz
Mama Pizza and Curry House
No Label Juice
Putt-R-Round Mini Golf & Putt Arcade
Red Rock BBQ
The Bomber



YDL Dashboards

YDL DASHBOARD AUGUST 2026						
	Jul	Aug		Monthly Change		Year to Date
Circulation						
Whittaker	34,384	33,842		-2%		253,217
Michigan	9,151	8,256		-10%		65,359
Superior	7,896	7,714		-2%		56,706
Outreach/BKM	1,691	1,892		12%		13,438
eProducts	23,503	23,304		-1%		186,640
TOTAL	76,625	75,008		-2%		575,360
MeLCat ILL						
Loaned	1,043	1,047		0%		8,544
Borrowed	1,218	1,038		-15%		8,306
New Cards						
Whittaker	264	265		0%		1,997
Michigan	97	80		-18%		688
Superior	55	48		-13%		337
Outreach/BKM	3	19		533%		72
TOTAL	419	412		-2%		3,094
Reference						
Whittaker	4,543	3,957		-13%		28,769
Michigan	4,294	2,926		-32%		31,895
Superior	1,903	1,887		-1%		15,234
Outreach/BKM	81	131		62%		772
TOTAL	10,821	8,901		-18%		76,670
Computer Sessions						
Whittaker	2,021	2,089		3%		14,450
Michigan	521	1,285		147%		9,047
Superior	700	666		-5%		5,408
Outreach/BKM	2	1		-50%		28
Wireless	11,529	9,232		-20%		77,099
TOTAL	14,773	13,273		-10%		106,032
Door Count						
Whittaker	14,464	14,643		1%		107,190
Michigan	11,236	9,145		-19%		73,896
Superior	6,530	5,825		-11%		43,353
Bookmobile	424	589		39%		3,824
TOTAL	32,654	30,202		-8%		228,263
Collection						
Items Added	2,622	1,793		-32%		16,694
Items Cataloged	742	643		-13%		5,060
Electronic Services						
Website Visits	43,081	43,691		1%		338,483
Podcast	63	161		156%		821
App Users	1,582	1,665		5%		N/A

	Jul	Aug		Monthly Change		Year to Date
Programs						
Whit Adult	48	42		-13%		382
Attendance	312	462		48%		3,473
Whit 0-5	21	6		-71%		133
Attendance	990	225		-77%		5,451
Whit 6-11	26	6		-77%		125
Attendance	1,141	140		-88%		3,827
Whit Teen	4	2		-50%		33
Attendance	38	18		-53%		252
Mich Adult	21	18		-14%		134
Attendance	206	190		-8%		1,412
Mich 0-5	8	1		-88%		44
Attendance	97	2		-98%		614
Mich 6-11	22	15		-32%		79
Attendance	362	175		-52%		843
Mich Teen	19	4		-79%		53
Attendance	141	37		-74%		448
Sup Adult	18	13		-28%		162
Attendance	115	130		13%		1,333
Sup 0-5	13	2		-85%		71
Attendance	320	44		-86%		1,506
Sup 6-11	17	6		-65%		50
Attendance	233	134		-42%		769
Sup Teen	1	2		100%		9
Attendance	2	10		400%		33
Out Adult	3	3		0%		16
Attendance	61	50		-18%		317
Out 0-5	3	0		-100%		39
Attendance	77	0		-100%		1,288
Out 6-11	11	6		-45%		39
Attendance	410	181		-56%		1,638
Out Teen	2	0		-100%		9
Attendance	84	0		-100%		658
Out Offsite	3	9		200%		45
Attendance	131	2012		1436%		4,208
Virtual/Hybrid (all)	4	3		-25%		17
Attendance	44	26		-41%		174
General/All Ages (all)	14	9		-36%		57
Attendance	540	466		-14%		2,526
TOTAL PROGRAMS	256	147		-43%		1,497
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	5,220	4,302		-18%		30,770

DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BY SOURCE		Where the \$ Comes From	8/31/2026	
	ACTUAL	TO DATE	NOTES	
DONATIONS	FY24/25	FY25/26		
Annual Report	\$3,366	\$3,665	June - Nov 2026	
Annual Appeal	\$25,098	\$16,848	Dec 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026	
Individual	\$23,026	\$15,530	(includes Jewish Federation DAF)	
Corporate	\$2,505	\$10,000	Carnegie	
Sponsorship	\$3,500	\$8,000	SPARK, TRUE, Ypsi Real, Ypsi Kiwanis	
Memorials/Tributes	\$125	\$661		
Third Party	\$2,537	\$3,201	Kroger, META, Aubrees, PayPal	
Friends of the YDL	\$40,000	\$53,728	(includes gift for Whitt tables)	
	\$100,157	\$111,633		
GRANTS				
Charitable Foundation/Organization	\$19,700	\$800	Mars Initiative, AFL-CIO	
Corporate Foundation	\$30,000	\$35,000	Toyota, Molina	
Government	<u>\$115,640</u>	<u>\$89,641</u>	WCCMH, MACC, YDDA, ARPA, LoM	
	\$165,340	\$125,441		
ENDOWMENT FUNDS				
YDL Agency Distribution	\$1,736	\$1,793		
Gousseff Fund Distribution	\$0	\$0		
YDL General Endowment Distribution	<u>\$9,364</u>	<u>\$9,960</u>		
	\$11,100	\$11,753		
GRAND TOTAL:	\$276,597	\$248,827		
SUPERIOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN				
Grants (Funds Received)	\$80,000	\$80,000		
Corporate/Organization	\$5,000	\$0		
Donations - Individual	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$0</u>		
SUPERIOR TOTAL:	\$85,100	\$80,000		
Bookmobile Donations:				
\$40,468 (156 gifts received from Oct 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026)				

Department Reports

Acquisitions Department Board Report

September 2026

Department News and Activities

Acquisitions staff continue to work on regular department responsibilities, including placing and receiving orders, processing materials, repairing items, MeLCat, inventory, and cataloging.

Vendor Updates

We met with Follett and Libraria to explore additional options for purchasing library materials. Both vendors support EDI ordering and offer fully processed materials, which could help streamline ordering and processing workflows. Discounts vary by vendor and material type, with Follett offering particularly competitive pricing on large print titles. Department heads are currently reviewing vendor catalogs and selection tools as we evaluate how these vendors might fit into YDL's future purchasing plans.

Projects

- We are developing documentation for an Acquisitions Department Wiki. The Wiki will provide staff with a central resource for common acquisitions procedures and workflows and can be used for training, reference, and onboarding new staff.
- YDL is collaborating with Bookelicious and the Washtenaw Intermediate School District on the Washtenaw Early Literacy Initiative (WELI), a project designed to help connect area families with books and early literacy resources. As part of YDL's role in the project, we provided collection data to help Bookelicious identify titles that participating families can find at their local library. Jodi and Brandon met with Bookelicious CEO Lea Anne Borders and Dr. Edward Manuszak, Executive Director of Early Childhood at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, to discuss the initiative and opportunities for continued collaboration.
- Acquisitions worked on the development of a new Staff Share collection for materials intended for internal staff use across YDL locations. Polaris settings and catalog records were created to allow these materials to be tracked and shared between locations while remaining hidden from the public catalog. The new workflow was also successfully tested across branches.

Collection Development Highlights

In August, 643 items were processed and made available to YDL patrons, including 179 Youth New items, 160 Adult New Fiction titles, 85 Adult New Nonfiction titles, and 42 Young Adult New items. Additional materials were added across international language collections, graphic novels, audiovisual materials, board books, and the Library of Things, helping keep YDL's collections fresh and varied for patrons of all ages.

Digital Collection Development

Digital materials continue to represent an important part of YDL's collection investment. In August, patrons checked out 11,131 items through OverDrive, including 5,710 digital audiobooks. Hoopla also saw strong audiobook use, with 4,707 circulations during the month. Combined, patrons accessed **10,417 digital audiobooks through OverDrive and Hoopla in August alone**, highlighting digital audio as a significant driver of e-resource use. Acquisitions will continue monitoring use across digital formats to help inform purchasing decisions and ensure YDL's digital collections reflect patron demand.

Statistics

- The 2026 budget is currently 60% encumbered.
- 643 items were cataloged and processed in August.
- 1,793 items, including 888 e-items, were added in August.
- YDL borrowed 1,038 items from other libraries via MeLCat in August.
- YDL loaned 1,047 items to other libraries via MeLCat in August.

Submitted by:

Brandon Bolek-Toubeaux

September 15, 2026

Community Relations

Monthly report: September, 2026

Notable print/design pieces produced:

- The fall Loop covers our new 500 Books Before Middle School initiative, Strategic Plan progress, Library Card Sign Up Month, environmental literacy kits, and more.

Promotional activity

- **National Library Card Sign-Up Month:** We updated our social media graphics, created a monitor slide, and did a press release with the graphics for National Library Card Sign-Up Month. We also ran a piece in The Loop and included a plug on our homepage.
- **Big Read:** We worked with Lawrielle West from the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County on promoting their Big Read grant. They are hosting some of their events at the library, and we helped make a flyer and press release with them.
- **Book-to-screen adaptations:** Hailey created a series of graphics highlighting movie adaptations on the horizon for people who want to read the books first. It included things like *The Love Hypothesis*, *East of Eden*, *Verity*, and more.
- **We shared multiple posts about a number of our events/initiatives, including:**
 - National Voter Registration Day
 - Black Thought Study Group
 - Vegetable Succession Planting
 - Family Maker Night (Alcohol Ink Light Switch Covers)

Notable Media Mentions

- WEMU, CBS News, the Detroit Free Press, the Eastern Echo, and Lucy Ann Lance all had coverage of the August bed bug closure at the Michigan Avenue branch.
- Concentrate and WEMU covered the opening reception for the new interviews in our Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners collection.
- The Oakland County Times included the League of Women Voters' candidate forum at the library in a piece they wrote about candidate forums in the area.
- The Eastern Echo covered the new additions to the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners collection.
- The Eastern Echo included National Voter Registration Day events at the library with the League of Women Voters in a What's the Move segment.
- WEMU covered the National Voter Registration Day events at the library with the League of Women Voters.
- Concentrate had a piece about the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's annual tour of historic homes, which included a stop at the YDL-Michigan branch.
- The Eastern Echo profiled YDL's Board of Trustees candidates in the November election.

Community Relations news

- Parkridge meetings have resumed for the fall. Sam attended their first meeting of the season last week.
- Sam joined the MLA marketing group to collaborate on state-wide library marketing work.

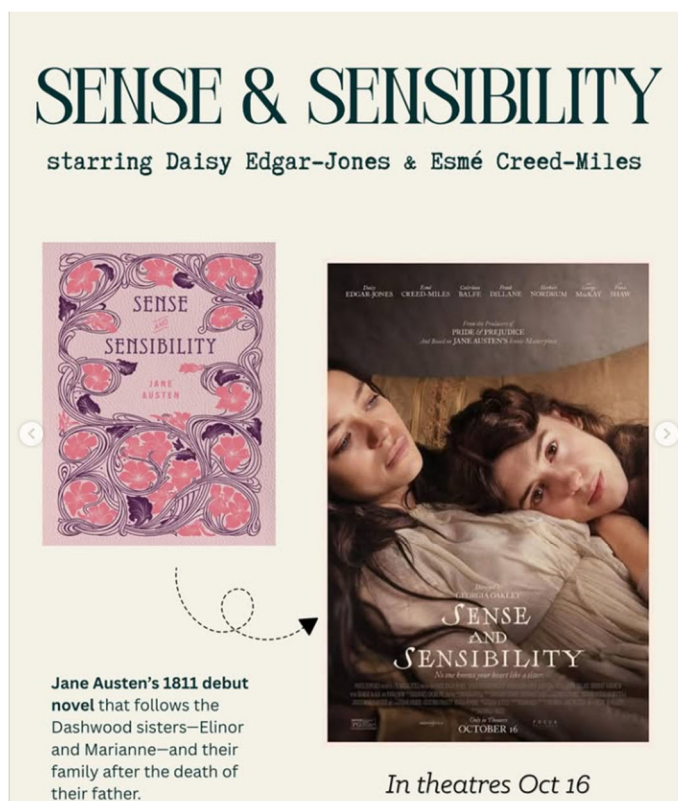


Submitted by Sam Killian on 9/18/2026

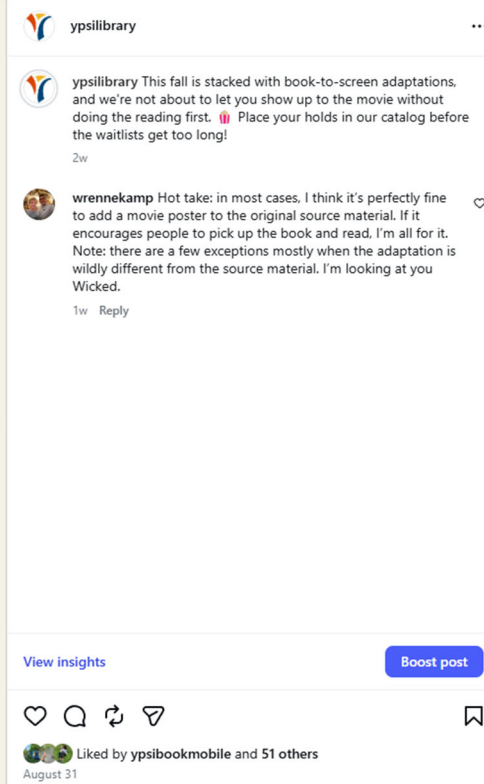
Notable Social Media activity

We're at 15,559 followers on Facebook (up 25.6% from the previous month). We had 245,700 views this month. We have 7,493 followers on Instagram and had 71,363 views this month. We have 2,041 followers on Bluesky, and 3,224 followers on TikTok. We've also been engaging in Ypsilanti Reddit communities to share our adult and community service information. They've been consistently getting thousands of views.

- Our Dolly Parton tribute post had 675 likes, 7 comments and 106 shares on Facebook.
- A nostalgic flyer talking about things the library provides got 686 likes with 17 comments and 48 shares on Facebook. It also got 7,832 views with 560+ interactions on Instagram.
- Our post sharing movie adaptations of books coming out got 2,600+ views on Instagram with 75 interactions.
- We had 136 likes on a Facebook post with a picture of a therapy dog visit to Whittaker. It also had nearly 1,400 views on Instagram.
- Our post about the Black Thought Study Group starting at Michigan Avenue got 113 likes with 18 comments and 33 shares on Facebook.



Ypsilanti District Library
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New Ypsi Farmers and Gardeners added to library's oral history project

The newest expansion of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project adds 12 narrators' reflections on growing food, family, culture, and community in Ypsi.

BY LEE VAN ROTH • ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY • AUGUST 25, 2026



A panel discussion at an opening reception at the Ypsilanti District Library's Superior Branch for the expansion of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project. Project interviewees Julius Buzzard, Kyunghee Kim, Akaiia Hill, and P. Deisha Myles are pictured left to right. Nick Azzaro



●
College, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, and Washtenaw ISD.

For generations, Ypsilanti-area farmers and gardeners have preserved more than food. Their seeds, growing practices, and recipes can carry memories of families, homelands, and communities. Gardens can become places of healing after displacement, spaces where elders pass knowledge to younger generations, and small but meaningful expressions of independence in a food system increasingly shaped by forces beyond local control.

Those stories are at the center of the newest expansion of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project, which adds 12 narrators and 11 new oral histories to the Ypsilanti District Library's digital collection. The project documents the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and working-class food growers in the Ypsi area, sharing their reflections on growing food, family, culture, and community.

Project lead Finn Bell says the newest round of interviews significantly expands the range of experiences represented in the archive, with the first round of interviews focused particularly on local elders.

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“We’re so excited to get to share more stories from Ypsi farmers and gardeners,” Bell says. “The new narrators have such important reflections on how growing food is a way of ensuring cultural legacy and community resilience.”



Finn Bell. Doug Coombe

The new round of interviews also includes the input of a new community advisory board, which Bell says helped him connect more deeply with communities that had not yet been adequately represented in the project. P. Deisha Myles, an Anishinaabe community member who now serves on the project's advisory board, first became involved after attending the project's original launch in 2023. She arrived with a storyboard about Indigenous food history and presence in the Ypsilanti area, including her research into the history of corn in the Great Lakes.

Rather than receiving resistance or hostility, Myles says Bell readily and excitedly welcomed her contribution. Their initial meeting eventually developed into her expanded participation in this most recent phase of the project, which placed a greater emphasis on representation of growers who are Indigenous, younger, immigrants, and/or refugees.



P. Deisha Myles speaks at an opening reception for the expansion of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project. Nick Azzaro

Myles says representation requires looking beyond the immediate absence of certain communities and asking why those absences exist. Indigenous people, she notes, were forcibly removed from the region, while other communities have also experienced displacement through forces including gentrification.

“That isn’t just for Indigenous people,” Myles says of confronting those histories. “This is for everybody.”

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Michigan and wrote a children's book about pawpaws, as examples of the many different ways local growers connect food with history and culture.



Finn Bell speaks at an opening reception for the expansion of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project. Nick Azzaro

Another new voice in the project is [Shalina Rankin](#), founder of [Fiery Maple Wholistic Healing](#). Her gardening and herbal practices are tied to knowledge and traditions passed down through her grandparents.

The collection's newest narrators range from backyard gardeners to people operating larger farms. Despite those differences, Bell says several common themes emerge. Access to land remains a persistent challenge, particularly for BIPOC and working-class growers. At the same time, growing food can offer people greater independence and resilience.

forced migration. Growing seeds and foods specific to one's community can become a way of continuing culture, Bell says, especially when displacement has interrupted other forms of cultural transmission.

"Food is the basis of life," he says, adding that the interviews illustrate the risks of relying too heavily on a small number of large corporations to control food production. "So many of the seeds we grow here in the United States were brought over by enslaved people, and there's something really important about not losing that heritage when people have made such sacrifices to preserve these cultures, even in the most terrible circumstances."



An opening reception for the expansion of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project. Nick Azzaro

For project interviewee [Phimmasone Kym Owens](#), founder and executive director of [Refugee Garden Initiatives](#) (RGI), gardening is inseparable from her own experience of displacement. Owens arrived in the United States from Laos as a refugee in 1981 when she was about 4 years old.



“To me, the garden has always been a refuge from this trauma that I carry, and many others like me,” Owens says. “The act of gardening is another way of being close to the land and taking care of it, and what we give to the land, the land gives back to us in food.”

Gardening also helps Owens maintain a relationship with foods that provide a sense of home and belonging. Growing up in the Midwest after leaving Laos meant adapting to a dramatically different climate and food landscape. During the '80s, many of the fresh herbs and vegetables familiar to her family were difficult to find locally, leading families to grow what they could during the region's short summers.

That experience informs the work of RGI, which explores how culturally meaningful foods can become more accessible while creating opportunities for refugees and immigrants to connect, heal, and share their stories. Owens says food can open the door to conversations that might otherwise be difficult to have. RGI began as an idea for a garden where refugee families could grow familiar foods and where children and elders can share knowledge across generations.

“The initiative has evolved beyond food, resources, belonging, identity,” Owens says. “Much like a garden, in its first year you have one bed, next year you have three, and RGI has been growing the same way.”

The spotlight her organization now places on education and storytelling ultimately made participating in Bell's project a natural fit. Owens says she appreciates that the project specifically centers Ypsilanti growers and gardeners. For her, the collection creates an opportunity for people who help shape the community to receive recognition and share their experiences in their own voices.

“My story has always been about resiliency, being an underdog, and overcoming, and I feel that having these opportunities for Ypsi to share our voice and experiences, to give us some kind of recognition in the public space in our community, shows the beauty of the people who make this community,” explains Owens.



P. Deisha Myles speaks at an opening reception for the expansion of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project. Nick Azzaro

Myles conducted Owens' oral history interview, creating a conversation that Myles says also reveals connections between seemingly different histories of displacement. Listening to Owens describe fleeing war in Laos made Myles think about the histories of Indigenous people forced from their own homelands. She also sees transformative potential in Owens' growing work, noting that RGI uses raised beds to create food, flowers, and community on land with a difficult history.

"I hope this project creates a new level of thinking and appreciation and thoughtfulness for those that brought these practices here," Myles says. "It is important to everyone, regardless of background, to counter this existential threat to the land that we're all facing."

The recent deaths of two of the project's original narrators, Linda Mealing and Melvin Parson, also reinforce for Bell the urgency of preserving people's stories while they are still able to tell them.

Bell explains that Parson was a good friend and mentor of his. While Parson is well known publicly, the interview captures more personal stories about his grandparents, his background, and the people who helped shape him. Bell also met Mealing through the project. After her



Finn Bell honors Melvin Parson and Linda Mealing at an opening reception for the expansion of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project. Nick Azzaro

“It feels like a gift to the future from the past,” he says. “We can all think of people who we’ve lost and we wish we had asked them more questions. Oral history is one of the beautiful ways we can ask those questions.”

The archive intentionally includes both farmers and gardeners, Bell explains, recognizing that much of the knowledge surrounding food production exists outside commercial agriculture. The project includes people growing food in backyards, gardens, and even apartment patios, reflecting Bell’s belief that history is not only created through major events or prominent institutions.

“Most people growing food are doing it at a very small scale, and that’s not always valued the way I feel it should be,” Bell says. “These stories are so powerful, and they’re a reminder that history is lived by regular people.”



University of Michigan funding source helps soften that loss and allows the project to continue conducting some interviews and compensating participants for their labor.

Future outreach may happen more gradually. Bell says Latinx and Arab-American growers are among communities he hopes to represent more fully in the project.

Myles also imagines the project eventually expanding beyond the digital archive through public art and other visual projects that highlight Indigenous contributions to food and the region's history.

For Owens, the project's most immediate importance lies in allowing people to define themselves and preserve their own experiences. Storytelling, she says, can be a form of healing, advocacy, and social change. It can influence how people understand food systems, displacement, and the communities around them. And, she says, it ensures that the people who live those histories have the opportunity to tell them themselves.

You can listen to the full Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project collection on [YDL's website](#). Other local growers interested in contributing to the project, or those interested in supporting the project in other ways, can contact Bell at fmcbell@umich.edu.

"If you don't tell your story, someone else will," Owens says. "No one can tell your story better than you can."

An exhibit on the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project will be on view at YDL's Superior branch through Sept. 28.

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Author



LEE VAN ROTH

Lee Van Roth is a Michigan native and longtime Washtenaw County resident. They want to use their journalistic experience from their time at Eastern Michigan University writing for the Eastern Echo to tell the stories of Washtenaw County residents that need to be heard.

YDL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

September 2026

2026 ANNUAL APPEAL

Chris, Sam and Lisa met to shape our plan for the upcoming Annual Appeal mailing. This will be the last call to action for the Bookmobile this year through a solicitation mailing. We will be waiting until after the mid-term elections on November 3rd to send the mailing out. Chris will be creating a timeline to help keep us on track. We will also be recruiting volunteers to help process the mailing to address the burden on staff to get the mailing together. Sam will be developing a marketing strategy to promote the Annual Appeal campaign.

Chris would also like to begin developing more stewardship activities that the Board can become involved in. An important boost to annual giving can be achieved with Board members writing personal notes on major donor solicitation letters. Chris will be approaching the Board Fundraising Committee to help facilitate this new element of the Annual Appeal campaign.

GIVING TUESDAY 2026

Tuesday, December 1st, marks the 14th year of Giving Tuesday. Chris will work with Sam and Hailey on developing a social media and e-mail plan to promote this additional opportunity to give this year. As part of our Annual appeal campaign, funds will go towards the new Bookmobile.

GRANTS

Grant Reporting

Toyota Project STEM@YDL - The final report for our 2025/26 Toyota grant was submitted on September 15th. We are looking forward to meeting with the Toyota team in October for our annual review of our accomplishments and plans for our 2026/27 Toyota grant.

Believe in Reading – Final report was submitted on September 14th. Once we determine our need for books for the upcoming reading challenges, we will determine whether to reapply for support in 2027.

Library of Michigan Environmental Literacy Kits – Paula successfully submitted final reports for our EL kits in late August for each of our branches. The reports were approved on September 11th.

Grants in Process

Ann Arbor Farm & Garden – Mani will be applying for a grant in support of the Whittaker Road garden. Applications are due November 30th.

A Year of STEM (American Library Association) – Jodi is working on an application to the ALA for their 2027 grant program, **A Year of STEM for Little Ones**, which will help us build upon our STEM success with kids K-12. Applications are due October 28th. Awards will include professional development to prepare for the project, a programming guide developed by librarian advisors, a \$5,000 stipend and four STEM kits.

DINE TO DONATE

Mark your calendars for our December Dine to Donate at Aubree's on Whittaker Rd. Please plan to join us for lunch or dinner on **Thursday, December 3rd**, to help us continue our year-end push to raise funds for our new Bookmobile.

FUNDRAISING FOOD FOR THOUGHT

According to Giving USA, three of the last four years have seen 20% or more growth in bequest giving. This pattern reflects the importance of long-term relationship cultivation and planned giving efforts by organizations and fundraising staff. Don't leave this opportunity on the table during end-of-year giving. Donors should be reminded of this opportunity in communications and on organization websites.

Report respectfully submitted by Chris McMullen, Development Coordinator

FINAL REPORT YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY June 2025 - May 2026



Presented by



The Ypsilanti District Library offers this report with gratitude for a third year of funding from Toyota for Project STEM@YDL in 2025/26. It allowed the library to further expand access to STEM tools, equipment and programming for the children and families of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township and Superior Township.

Continued funding from Toyota in 2025/26 allowed YDL to provide all three library locations with more shared STEM-related tools. These tools made it possible to:

- Facilitate more family engagement around STEM play at programs and in youth departments
- Give more STEM experiences to local students (K-12)
- Engage children in STEM who are not attracted to more traditional library programming like storytimes and book clubs
- Demonstrate the variety of STEM learning activities available at the library when Outreach staff attend school and community events

Enhanced STEM programming at the library enabled YDL to:

- Expand internally-designed STEM activities, including weekly STEM events in the summer program lineup at each library location
- Host professionals in STEM fields at Teen STEAM Cafes, exposing young people to a variety of STEM careers

- Expand the capacity of YDL staff to offer higher quality STEM programs with new tools and training on how to use the tools, as well as more tools to serve large groups (i.e., iPads for coding)
- Enrich youth areas with STEM play spaces and equipment that elementary and middle schoolers can explore independently (i.e., magnetic blocks, city design, trains and large construction sets)
- Engage more outside STEM presenters to support larger family programs
- Engage more youth in After School STEM programs and Chess Club once a week during the school year in the Whittaker Youth Department with a chess tournament in the spring
- Develop rotating STEM play activities for families to explore independently at all three library branches
- Offer Saturday family programs throughout the year at Whittaker and Michigan Avenue branches
- Attend at least 16 Outreach events demonstrating a variety of STEM tools
- Create at least 550 STEM toy kits for distribution at Outreach events throughout the year

MEETING OUR OBJECTIVES

Ypsilanti lacks a Rec and Ed Department or YMCA that offer affordable after school or out-of-school time opportunities. YDL is the only local organization that offers free activities to all families regardless of income. Toyota's funding of Project STEM@YDL has allowed us to offer STEM as an integral part of our programming and library spaces to help fill this community need.

Over the course of the past three years of Toyota funding, we are reaching capacity in terms of STEM play spaces and STEM programs; however, our grant has helped ensure that we prioritize STEM programming and intentionally add STEM learning to other programs such as book clubs, storytimes and maker programs. Families have been very receptive and excited to see STEM incorporated into our literacy based programs. Being able to expose our youngest Pre-K patrons to STEM tools as they rotate through the library has built their confidence and excitement for STEM. Many early elementary youth have been engaging with our STEM offerings for years now. We have seen them actively engage in problem solving, use STEM-based vocabulary, and approach challenges with more confidence and less frustration when using STEM tools out on the library floor. For families that cannot attend library programs due to their schedules, the STEM play spaces we curate with toys and tools purchased with Toyota funding fill a gap in accessibility in a unique way. Anyone can drop in anytime to learn STEM skills through play.

In addition to staff having more STEM tools to use when developing programs and play spaces, staff are increasing their knowledge and thinking about STEM concepts and educational practices. An example of how we are thinking deeper about lesson design and intended

educational outcomes at [YDL-Whittaker](#) is our current focus on two types of play-based learning, free play and guided play, and how we balance play-based learning with more structured lessons, so kids have the opportunity to build a wide variety of STEM skills. At programs that use guided play, kids build skills like collaboration, innovation, risk-taking and perseverance while they design, build and create with others. At programs such as slime-making, kids learn skills such as measurement, following instructions and being precise to achieve a specific result. Finally, our tabletop game playing programs allow kids to build math, logic and social skills.

For all branches, providing access to tools and resources that families might not otherwise experience due to the cost or lack of resources at school was very important. Bringing fun activities and tools to our community helps create a positive learning atmosphere for everyone. Lowering the intimidation factor of STEM by connecting it to joyful creative activities that incorporate developmentally appropriate, active play has been an important part of program planning. In addition, it has also been important to illustrate that STEM concepts and activities come in a wide array of levels and topics. We purposefully created offerings that provided exposure to both familiar and unfamiliar topics to ensure that each child had the chance to see what opportunities are available to them in the world of STEM.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kids have a natural inclination towards curiosity and want to know the answer to every “Why?” question they can think of. Many families still believe that libraries only provide access to books and computers. Project STEM@YDL has helped us expand our patron base and their understanding of our services every day. Our YDL branches have become a foundational place for many of our families; a place where they can take their children to get questions answered not only with reference materials but with access to hands-on learning tools.

This year’s STEM programming was bolstered by the reopening of our Michigan Avenue branch for the full funding year after being closed for renovations due to a devastating July 2023 flood. The branch re-opened mid-April 2025. With all three branches operating in 2025/26, we were able to continue to strengthen our STEM offerings with more new tools and programs. A total of 202 programs sponsored by Toyota were held from June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026 with 5,502 individuals in attendance. This is 26% more attendees than estimated. Although it is difficult to project attendance at programs, we anticipate numbers based on past program attendance and current patron interests. Since our first year of funding in 2023/24, we have increased attendance at STEM programs by 13% and the number of programs offered by 34%.

We have definitely seen an increase in awareness and understanding among youth and their parents of what STEM is, as well as the programs now available at YDL branches as a result of our intentional expansion of STEM offerings. Kids are more aware of what STEM stands for and more knowledgeable about concepts. They are also bringing more knowledge to programs than in prior years. They are recognizing the types of careers that require STEM skills. They are asking questions that show an interest in deepening their understanding of STEM topics. They are focusing and using logic, math and reading during game play at chess and at the Pokemon Card Game Club in ways we did not anticipate. Having access to activities and equipment that

they can explore in their own way and at their own level has increased not only their knowledge, but their curiosity. We are now seeing more requests from families regarding the types of programs they would like to see. These include coding and computer programming, more access to 3D printers and instruction on how to use them, Circuit Lab, repair of small electronics and one of our favorite requests – anything that isn't a screen!

Because STEM is so prevalent in the education system, as well as other places, grown-ups are also more familiar with its concepts and are eager to have children involved in STEM-based activities. Families love all types of STEM offered at YDL from hands-on, play-based activities in our youth departments to the big STEM events where they can learn from outside experts. Numerous parents have said YDL is the gold star standard for children's library services in the region, and that YDL and its programs - which are heavily STEM-based – are very important to their families and to their children's school success and well-being.

At [YDL-Michigan Avenue](#), the biggest change we have seen is how excited our patrons are about our programs and their desire to see them continue. There has been steady growth in the number of families attending all programming as we build our offerings back up after our nearly two-year closure. After being open a full year now, we have welcomed new families, greeted returning families and begun to work more closely with partner organizations to help us spread the word. We have three families that love coming to the Sun and Sprouts program each summer. They began asking in March if we would be doing it again. The Natural Dye and Frankentoys programs every year are popular, because families have so much fun experimenting together. We are also seeing kids get excited about age-based programming. For example, we have a group of three 10-11 year-olds who are anxiously awaiting their birthdays, so they can come to the Teen STEAM Cafes. We also have a group of young siblings who really want to join in on the fun of 3D Printing and Circuit Lab but must wait until they turn 8 years old. This level of investment and interest is astounding and also present at the YDL-Whittaker and YDL-Superior branches. We feel that our patrons who are tuned into our STEM programming are dedicated to coming and are doing their best to spread the word about STEM at YDL.

This year we made progress in **connecting with Ypsilanti Community Schools (YCS) and Lincoln Consolidated Schools (LCS) STEM coordinators**. While the schools and YDL have both been working to expand and elevate STEM offerings with funding received from Toyota, we had yet to join forces to learn about how we might support each other in this journey to uplift STEM for our community's K-12 students. We successfully organized a meeting in November 2025 with Kelly Mickel, Director of STEM Innovation at YCS, and Jessica Crowley, STEM Coordinator at LCS, to introduce Project STEM@YDL and to learn of the schools' work thus far. Most importantly we began developing ideas for partnering and promoting STEM opportunities at the schools, as well as YDL as we move into the 2026/27 funding year. Discussion topics included how we can better cross-promote programs at the schools and at YDL, sharing of STEM curriculum, field trip visits for students to YDL STEM programs and YDL visits to YCS maker spaces in the winter.

In April 2026, YCS and LCS held a meeting at YDL-Whittaker to start work on curriculum development for a joint MiSTEM grant they received to launch the 3P (Project, Problem and Place-Based) Champion model in the schools. Then in May the schools held an Educator Innovation Summit centered on educator exploration, innovation and expansion of high-quality STEAM experiences. Jodi Krahnke, Head of Whittaker Youth Services, and Stephanie Posci-Morrison, Youth Librarian at Michigan Avenue, participated as part of a STEM showcase

with several other organizations. At the end of the day, teachers came to the library and visited stations to learn about STEM offerings. YDL staff talked about our seed library and the Summer Challenge, gave out STEM swag and flyers, let teachers try the Chompsaws and Ozobots, showed off STEM kits families can check out and talked about the opportunity for field trips in the coming year.

In our 2026/27 plan, we have earmarked money for YCS and LCS students to take STEM field trips to the library. This year we were able to see what these visits might look like when we hosted Brick Elementary classrooms in December 2025, where students played and experimented with ramps. We also hosted three East Arbor Charter Academy classrooms in March, where students used our large dinosaur bones.

Summer Challenge Kick-Off 2026

This year's Summer Challenge Kick-Off on Saturday, June 6, at the Superior branch was filled with a vast array of STEM and STEAM activities thanks to our programming staff, [Leslie Science and Nature Center](#) and [Gas It Up Fitness](#). YDL staff were busy with crafts and giveaways that emphasized STEM learning around various theories:

- Pinwheels - wind, air pressure, force and kinetic energy
- Kinetic sand – engineering, states of matter, shapes, textures, volume and force
- Invisible ink – chemical reactions
- Tangrams – spatial awareness, math concepts, geometric shapes and critical thinking skills
- Modeling clay – measuring, manipulating materials and building a space-themed creation
- Notebooks – field notes as a scientific tool for making and recording observations, as well as recording observations for future study and sharing information



Leslie Science and Nature Center's STEM activities included:

- Constellation cups – Make a model of a constellation in the night sky while learning the stories that go with them.
- The Enviroscope – Tell a story about how water and pollution move through our community with an active watershed model. Create a city, build on your land, watch what happens when it rains.
- Feely boxes – Reach inside a mystery box. See if you can find something pokey, smooth or squishy.
- Magnet marble art – Create your own painting using the magic of magnets. Roll a magnetic marble around with a magic wand and let your design come to life.
- Now you See Me, Now You Don't – Magically make magnets disappear using refraction and reflection. Play tricks on the eye with water, oil and invisible ink.
- Seaworthy – Can you make a ball of clay float? Become a ship builder and investigate the principle of buoyancy.



Gas It Up Fitness helped keep things moving with imaginative games and obstacle courses where kids could sprint like cheetahs, jump like frogs and hop in potato sacks. Gas It Up helps kids discover the joy of being active and understand the vital role that physical activity plays in their mental and physical well-being.



YDL's Informal Play-Based Learning

Staff from across buildings again worked together to choose new toys and equipment to share. Items were used to curate play spaces that families explored independently. Staff thoughtfully created signage to help families learn about STEM while engaging in free play with the materials. For families who cannot attend programs due to their schedules, the STEM play spaces we curate with toys and tools purchased with Toyota funds fill a gap in accessibility in a unique way. Anyone can drop in anytime to learn STEM skills through play.

At **YDL - Whittaker**, materials were changed every three months to keep items in good condition and make every trip to the library a new experience. Themes included:

- Balance magic: keva planks for small motor exploration, balance sculpture items, stepping stones and a balance beam for large motor play
- Urban design: train tracks, architectural blocks and magnetiles
- Color and light: light table, magna tiles, color wheels and translucent blocks
- Fort building: Nugget cushions and SuperSpace magnetic builders



Play-Based STEM Learning Areas at **YDL-Superior** are impacted by having a smaller building and only one large room for programming. As a result, we do not have as many opportunities to host a wide variety of STEM programming all year round or change our informal play spaces as frequently as our other branches. Superior staff chose to focus instead on creating STEM kits rather than full STEM spaces on the floor.

Tween Kits: New items were purchased to create kits for use by patrons ages 9-12. These kits are available for use in the building allowing young patrons a new activity that is specifically designed for their age group. New kits Include:

- Games such as Rush Hour, Magnet Maze, Straws & Connectors, Magnetic Flips and Arckit Architecture Kit. These games use logic, math and engineering skills to solve puzzles, create buildings and cityscapes and design creative sculptures.
- Math Magnetic Games: One of the dry erase boards in the play area now hosts a variety of math magnets that encourage children to explore a variety of math concepts including addition and subtraction, number recognition and matching, equation building and solving and number sentence play. We specifically purchased our large magnetic dominoes for this board, and they have been a huge hit.

- **Music Teen Kits:** Two electric kalimbas and headphones were purchased for teens to borrow and use in the building. Music creation and reading are encouraged while using these items.
- **Science Viewers:** Numerous Science Viewers that use photo slides to show real images of space and nature are available for tweens to borrow in the building. Younger children are able to use them with adult supervision. Nature and space topics such as insects, plants, space, landforms and birds are some of the topics available for exploration.
- **Sewing Machines:** Two sewing machines were purchased for use with programming and direct instruction for teens and older tweens.

At **YDL - Michigan Avenue**, our passive STEM play areas have been a huge source of play and creativity. With a smaller staff and only one programming room, it is hard to host multiple programs each week that will appeal to different interests and audiences.

The play areas we cultivated allowed us to engage with young learners through play and observe their learning and interests develop throughout the year. Thanks to Toyota, we have been able to increase the amount, quality and availability of passive STEM activities. In addition to using large STEM tools, we purchased a large work table for our children's area that enables us to put out Lego Duplos of any theme, Brio trains and building toys, magnetic building tiles and even 3D printed adapters. This table has become an extremely important and popular part of our STEM offerings downtown.

- **June – August:** Roads and ramps (engineering), pre-coding puzzle games

Our pre-coding puzzle games were a source of frustration and excitement during the summer. Many of our younger kids (5-8) found the act of creating a route in the puzzle very challenging, and we often observed children walking away, because they could not figure it out. However, the puzzles were out for play for three months. Having a longer exposure time to work with the puzzle (longer than a program) allowed our young STEM explorers the time they needed to keep coming back to the puzzle, figure out how to create a route with the pieces and successfully navigate the obstacles. One child said "I FINALLY WON!" after he got the movable squirrel to pick up an acorn.

- **September – November:** Super Space building tiles, magnatiles and dino bones

At the beginning of November, we put out the giant dinosaur skeleton builders along with a selection of dinosaur books for an interactive "Dino"vember display. We had a lot of fun seeing the "skeletons" that some of the kids created. One set of tween boys spent a long time creating a miniature dinosaur skeleton. They were so proud of it that we did not dismantle it until we swapped out the dinosaur bones.



- **December – February:** Vet themed play with x-rays and vet checklist (natural science, technology)

Vet play was a hit with our patrons, and we observed many "life-saving" procedures done on our stuffed pets. Our favorite was one child using a blood pressure cuff as a "CPR mask" so she could bring a fish back to life. Having X-rays out on a small light table also inspired one of our patrons to look for a stuffed snake to match the snake x-ray we had out. We didn't have one; so, when he saw one at a thrift shop, he bought it

and brought it to us! Now we have a lovely stuffed snake named Jojo in honor of our very curious snake-loving kid.

- **March – May:** Dive into Science – magnetism sensory bin, sizing order, color order, magnatiles and light table

In the early spring, we decided to be bold and place a sensory table on magnetism out in the play area. It was a lot of work to keep it picked up and to find all the parts scattered around the library, but the kids had a ball exploring what pieces were magnetic and which were not. We received a lot of great questions about magnetism, and many families left the library with books that talked about magnets or other scientific properties! We were excited to see our patrons stay curious about a property that they were exploring in play and have that carry over to influence what books they wanted to look for and take home to read.

Out-of-School Time STEM/STEAM

YDL's Out-of-School Time programs are many and diverse and have been created to attract and inspire kids of all ages and backgrounds. They give students learning opportunities they can't always find at school. However, thanks to Toyota support, our YCS and LCS schools have taken a giant leap in exposing Ypsilanti area children to STEM. YDL's summer, after school and winter/spring break STEM programs not only keep kids engaged in learning when not in school, but also provide opportunities to increase their comfort level with STEM subjects, encourage them to learn by doing, expose them to possible new career paths and help them apply what they are learning to solve real world situations. Our programs provide a safe space for positive collaboration and building relationships with other kids and caring adults. We see STEM improving self-confidence and allowing our young patrons to see themselves in STEM careers.

As a library system, we work hard to break down barriers and give all our youth equal access to programs. We strive to give every child in our district the chance to learn about and fall in love with STEM.

YDL's Out-of-School STEM offerings are briefly outlined below.

Weekly Summer STEM

Weekly summer STEM programs were described in greater depth in our June through November 2025 Interim Report.



Below are highlights from the summer.

YDL-Whittaker hosted several STEM activities per week for seven weeks during the summer of 2025, with the help of a team of teen volunteers. Over 1,100 people attended 24 STEM themed programs in the summer. Themes and activities included live animals, an author visit with a nonfiction Michigan author who writes and illustrates kids' books about nature, garden math, slime, robot coding, chess, tabletop games and designing and building with cardboard. Live animals and slime were most popular, but all programs were well attended.



Families were happy to be able to experience a variety of topics and hands-on activities at no cost. Many attended every program.

YDL-Superior offered weekly STEM programs over the course of the summer on Mondays and Tuesdays. **Superior's Garden-To-Table** program was held on Mondays from mid-June through mid-August in 2025. Each week kids and their families were able to create snacks and food with fresh ingredients from the Superior garden. Our accessible garden space hosts a variety of herbs, vegetables and edible flowers used in programming throughout the growing season. Each week participants got to see the progress of the garden. When ready, the produce was then used to prepare a new recipe. Recipes were broken down into easy steps, so that the young participants were able to successfully participate in the food preparation. Taste testing after the completion of the process is always an important part of the program. With eight program sessions, we averaged nine attendees per weekly gathering.

We see young patrons gaining all sorts of new experiences through our Garden-To-Table programming. A family attended one day when we were making homemade tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. The kids had never cooked on their own before, so making their own grilled cheese was a very big deal for them. One of the kids accidentally touched the hot pan and flinched. The mom said, "Gotta be careful when cooking, and watch where you put your hands." The child did not even stop what they were doing, switched up their grip on the spatula and said, "Hot isn't going to keep me from the sandwich, Mom. I want to eat it!"

Gas It Up Fitness programs were held once a month on Tuesdays in summer 2025 with an average of 15 young participants. Sadly, our August session had to be cancelled due to high temperatures that day. This program turns exercise into an adventure by offering children a high energy, safe and imaginative space to move, learn and grow. Through games, obstacle courses and fun challenges (sprinting like a cheetah or hopping in potato sacks), kids discover the joy of staying active. [Coach K](#) (for Katrina) successfully created an inclusive environment for our library kids age five through middle school. A light snack and literacy component were included with each visit, as well.

EMU STEM Education Institute brought programming to both **YDL-Superior** and **YDL-Michigan Avenue** branches in summer with two different programs:

Make and decorate tornadoes in a bottle and jewelry making using the number pi. The tornado programs had 29 attendees and 22 attended the jewelry making programs.

Nature Play with Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum sent their nature play team from the [Gaffield Children's Garden](#) in Ann Arbor to present two summer programs at Superior: Gravity Play with Spheres and Near Spheres and Construction Play with natural loose parts.

Healthy Habits focused on movement play and healthy snacks for young participants, as well as resources for grown-ups.

Additional STEM programs included exploration of flight, color, water, ecology, science, chemistry and astronomy.

YDL-Michigan Avenue was able to host weekly programming in the summer, as well as two STEM-based programs each month. This was possible in great part due to the large STEM tools Toyota funding has allowed us to purchase and training staff received on the tools. Monthly programs included:

Grow Your Garden is a monthly all-ages program where participants explore a different aspect of gardening using our downtown community garden as a practice space. Summer 2025's offerings included succession planting and harvesting, garden bouquets and making natural dyes.



Sun and Sprouts: Garden Recipes uses produce from the community garden to prepare simple recipes while learning tips and tricks for making the most out of your garden.

An array of weekly summer STEM programs brought young patrons and their families to the downtown branch regularly. Programs included: MIDI labs, LEGO spike and coding, drop-in DnD: One-Shot Adventure, slime making, Nature Play on the Way: Gravity and Nature Houses, What Can You Build? (Marshmallows), outdoor waterplay and a very popular [Wild Kratts Birthday Party](#) with Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Leslie Science and Nature Center that welcomed 200 attendees! Also, as noted above, EMU STEM Education Institute brought two different programs to both Superior and Michigan Avenue.

After School STEM @ YDL-Whittaker

After School Chess Club

Chess Club continued to thrive with the help of Toyota funding. We had our largest spring tournament yet, and nine club members attended the state tournament – more than any other year. 749 people attended 30 Chess Club meetups at YDL-Whittaker in the 2025/26 grant cycle (25/session) compared to 537 people who attended 23 meetups in the 2024/25 school year (23/session). Toyota funding allowed us to pay our teen intern to run the club during the summer, offering the chance for players to continue practicing all summer until the coach returned in the fall. It helped draw new members and retain others.



In the fourth year of hosting After School Chess Club, there are now more tweens and a team of four teen volunteers in addition to the intern, who serve as mentors to younger players and keep everyone engaged in game play throughout the hour. This positive vibe keeps players

returning each week to see their friends and learn more about chess.

Toyota funding pays for US Chess memberships when needed because memberships are required for participation in rated tournaments, including the one hosted by the library. Because the library is open to everyone at no cost and annual US Chess memberships are \$24, previous library tournaments were not rated. This year, 28 student memberships were purchased with Toyota funding, as well as our library affiliate and facilitator memberships. Everyone who wanted to participate in the state tournaments and the library tournament could, and they received ratings.



Nine students attended the state tournament in Lansing in March, and we were able to display the trophy they won in the Youth Department!

Fifty students ages 6-15 participated in the April 2026 library tournament. Toyota funding purchased trophies and pins for participants.

Twenty trophies were awarded to overall winners

and by grade. The tournament resulted in a tie, and the winner was determined in a sudden death, two second per play match that everyone was thrilled to watch.



In our survey, one respondent commented that the only improvement to make to the club would be to “have more chess tournaments throughout the year, similar to the one at the end of April.”

In addition to Chess Club, which is counted as After School STEM, YDL-Whittaker offered one other After School STEM program per week from October through mid-May, not including school breaks. Three hundred-sixty eight people attended 23 programs in the 2025/2026 grant cycle (16/session), which is similar to the previous year.



Lessons focused on a topic for three to four sessions, with new activities and information introduced each session to expand families' knowledge, while still being

accessible to anyone who dropped in. Topics included

toy design, 3D printing, STEM careers (veterinarian and paleontologist), STEM in art, cooking, space travel and garden design.



Each session starts with introductions to set a collaborative environment, followed by about 5-15 minutes of instruction and 30-45 minutes of hands-on activities, with instructors offering guidance and STEM information as kids and parents work. Some parents join the fun and some wait outside to let their child learn to work independently. One dad who attended classes all winter and spring with his six-year-old daughter said he was learning as much as she was, and he really enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity.



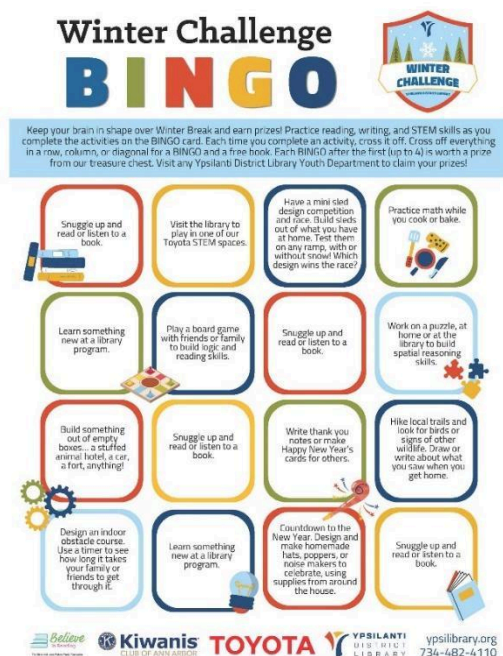
Winter and Spring Break STEM

When families read and learn through hands-on STEM activities during school breaks, at library programs or at home, kids build and maintain literacy and problem-solving skills. Having fun while learning as a family builds positive memories, and each success inspires kids to try new projects and learn more. Each library branch offered STEM programming during winter and spring breaks in 2025/26. We decided to create challenges (similar to the Summer Challenge) to encourage reading and engage youth in library programs while out of school for the holiday breaks. A special BINGO card was created to track activities. Kids, teens and adults could pick up a BINGO card at any YDL Youth Desk to earn prizes by reading, learning and exploring together. Those who completed four activities in a row, column or diagonally on their BINGO card earned a free book to keep for their home libraries thanks to support from the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor and [Believe in Reading](#).

YDL-Whittaker offered four sessions of Winter Break STEM and five sessions of Spring Break STEM. These are one hour drop-in programs for anyone looking for activities to do over school breaks. They count toward points to earn a free book in our Winter and Spring Challenges.

Winter Break topics included cardboard design and construction using Chompsaws purchased with Toyota funding, robot coding with Ozobots, family games and a songbird program offered by the Bird Center of Michigan.

At **YDL-Michigan Avenue**, Winter Break programs included snow globes, STEM Open Play: trains and buildings, as well as boxes, animals and chain

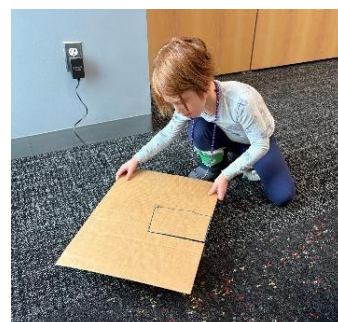
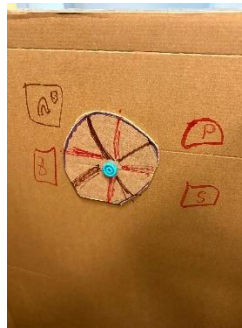


reactions, and a circuit lab. Spring Break offerings included Teen D&D, a session on animal habitats, catapults, ziplines and a Lego free play.

YDL-Superior Winter Break offerings focused on Lego freebuilds and Makedo freebuilds.

LEGO Free Build: Participants were given the opportunity to use a variety of LEGOs to build creations of their own design. This program was for ages 5-17 and had both young and teen attendees.

MakeDo: Using cardboard safety saws and MakeDo connectors, families were able to build whatever they felt inspired to create. Staff supported safe use of the saws and scissors. Participants built a large range of creations from rocket ships to inventions to miniature buildings. They learned through discussion and experimentation about the thickness of different materials (too thick and the connectors won't hold, too thin and there are structural challenges), as well as ways that 2D shapes fit into 3D creations. One young patron, who is normally shy and overstimulated in crowded spaces, opted in to build with his mother and was very excited to make something totally of his own design.



Family with their rocket ship, complete with dials and internal controls. This was possible because the grown-ups worked alongside their children to make their vision come to life.



The chomp saw provides a safe way for children to have agency in cutting their own materials that feels special and grown up.



Little brother and big brother working on very different scales of projects, adjusting to their developmental needs and abilities.

During spring break, Superior developed and offered a special program for tween/teens.

Pixel Art: Planned as a tween/teen event, as requested by tweens themselves, this was meant to tie into how vision and pixels work by looking back to 8-bit gaming and print materials, then using perler beads to create their own pixel art. Tween/teen attendance for non drop-in, scheduled events has been inconsistent, and sadly we didn't get any attendees that day, in spite

of some of our regular tweens ideating the program. We are continuing to work with tweens/teens to see what kind of program offerings match their bandwidth and interests.



One staff member at Whittaker received a small grant called Flight Path from [Starnet](#) to increase awareness about birds, birding and protecting birds. So, YDL tied our spring Family Read to birding, and all Spring Break

STEM topics were bird themed. Highlights included a nature walk around the library to learn about habitats with Huron Clinton Metroparks staff, birdhouse construction with EMU art students and making bird strike prevention window decals.



STEM Presenters Throughout the Year

Toyota funding has given YDL the opportunity to offer active STEM-based programs led by STEM professionals and organizations that we would have been priced out of in the past, especially at the Michigan Avenue branch. Toyota funds have allowed YDL to increase the number of programs presented by outside STEM professionals and organizations annually. These programs tend to attract larger audiences and can offer more in-depth and broad exploration of STEM topics.

YDL-Whittaker has been able to incorporate more Saturday family STEM presenters into their program schedules providing for more robust family programs. YDL-Superior, however, cannot do consistent Saturday family programming due to staffing limitations and meeting room constraints. However, at Superior,



when there is a Saturday program scheduled, it is usually offered by an outside presenter as opposed to YDL staff.

YDL-Whittaker offered eight weekend family STEM programs during the school year presented by outside STEM experts attended by 378 people.

- October 2025: [Nutty Scientists'](#) spooky dry ice presentation
- November 2025: STEMfest with hands-on stations offered by scientists from the American Chemical Society's Washtenaw County Chapter
- January 2026: Challenge Island's hands-on design challenge centered on penguins and ramps
- February 2026: [Future Innovators'](#) wand making workshop where kids created circuits inside 3D printed wands so they would light up
- March 2026:
 - Life saving skills with UM ER residents
 - All about Owls with Huron Clinton Metroparks
 - STEMfest with UM's Scientist Spotlight where scientists share their research with the public
- May 2026: Bee Storytime and seed bombs with Growing Hope and a retired YCS teacher



Thanks to Toyota funding, **YDL-Michigan Avenue** was able to invite local nature and science centers, birding groups and STEM facilitators to our downtown branch a total of 10 times during the 2025/26 grant period with a total of 842 patrons attending one or more of the programs.

December 2025:

- Michigan Science Center – Weather the Storm
- Leslie Science and Nature Center– Living in Winter showcased how animals adapt and prepare for winter in Michigan in different ways. Animals present included a box turtle, snake and a hawk.

Tuesday | Dec 23
WEATHER THE STORM (Ages 7+)
 2pm or 3:30pm | YDL-Michigan
 Join the Michigan Science Center at YDL for the most challenging building project you've ever attempted. Come at 2 or 3:30pm for the same activities. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

YDL-Superior held three programs in Spring 2026 which engaged 122 patrons.

- STEM and stories with Black Men Read: We chose two books for Superior's March 2025 event - "[One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia](#)" by Miranda Paul for K-2 and "[Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions](#)" by Chris Barton for grades 3-6. "One Plastic Bag" is a book about a young girl who recycles plastic bags polluting the community in which she lives. She takes the bags and turns them into something new showing how being creative and inventive can create positive change in your community. "Whoosh!" is about



how a young Lonnie Johnson came to create the super-soaker and a host of other inventions before eventually using his engineering abilities to work for NASA. These books reflected our STEM theme while staying within BMR's "Change Begins in Me" mission.

- Michigan Avian Experience: The Michigan Avian Experience was brought in twice for live bird programs. The March presentation featured Night Owls about nighttime predators. The second program in May featured Birds of Prey and included several live raptors including a bald eagle that is a local celebrity. Adults and children both got to enjoy information about their habitats, eating habits and their various physical adaptations.



Teen STEAM Cafés

This funding year, YDL-Michigan Avenue was once again able to host Teen STEAM Cafés downtown with the re-opening of the branch in Spring 2025. This year six cafés were held during the school year for area teens. With 101 attendees, each café averaged about 16 attendees. Last year our cafés averaged about 10 attendees per session. We are hoping this trend in higher attendance continues into our 2026/27 cafés.



If you can see it, you can be it.

Outreach



Outreach staff continue to see excitement among kids both at community outreach events, Bookmobile stops and at Summer Challenge Champion Camps. Children have been fascinated with the STEM toys we distribute. One little boy at a STEM career event at LCS was so engaged with putting a STEM toy car together that he almost didn't want to go back to class. And parents are always excited to see STEM toys we hand out at the summer camps and outreach events.



The toys encourage families to ask questions and express interest in learning more about the library's STEM offerings.

With Outreach embedded in so many community events and summer camps, the knowledge of STEM and YDL has grown every year. Outreach continually shares information about Project STEM@YDL programs wherever they go. They are literally the voice of YDL STEM out in the community and gratefully communicate Toyota's positive impact on our programming.

This year Outreach successfully worked to introduce STEM to tweens and teens while out in the community. In Ypsilanti Community Schools, both Ypsilanti Community High School and the [Achieving College and Career Education \(A.C.C.E.\) High School](#) do not have traditional physical libraries. Without libraries within the schools, students often rely on YDL branches for schoolwork and research. But, for many of them, transportation to the library can be a huge barrier.

Acknowledging the need, it was important to staff to start doing visits to middle and high schools to help fill this gap and establish the Bookmobile as a place for engagement, to check out books and even do research. With the re-allocation of funds from the cancelled nine-week Family STEM Time program, Outreach was given an additional \$400 to purchase STEM toys for older students. With two monthly school visits to the [Washtenaw International High School and Middle Academy](#) (WIHI/WIMA) in spring 2026, 240 STEM toys were distributed. Our original funds also allowed us to provide STEM tools at the WIHI Parent Night in September 2025 and A.C.C.E Career Fair in April 2026. Being able to offer our tweens and teens STEM toys is another way to further gain their interest. Outreach also created activity bins with card games, art supplies, sensory items and more for tweens/teens to explore when they get on the Bookmobile. Students were excited to see STEM concepts they were familiar with included in the bins.

These visits proved to be very positive for the teens promoting interaction as they learned about the new STEM toys, worked with them together and had conversations about what the toy did. Having activities just for them made them feel more included, and watching them expand their knowledge and creativity with the toys was amazing to see. The voltage reader,

mini-microscope and UV blacklight keychain were big hits. They also checked out books that they otherwise may not have had access to.



USB Voltage Meter



Pocket Mini-Microscope



UV Blacklight Keychain

At a community resource fair at Southpointe Scholars School, there was a tween that wanted to check out a book from the Bookmobile, but couldn't decide what he wanted to read. Our Head of Outreach Services asked him what he was interested in (i.e., graphic novels or Pokemon). His answer? He was very interested in STEM! His mom indicated that computers and engineering were his favorite parts of STEM. This was evident as his face lit up whenever he talked about it.

CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

Overall, we feel we are getting better at planning our STEM programs every year. We have refined what we do based on our own learning and by what is of most interest to the public.

With all of the amazing **STEM tools** and equipment purchased in the first two years of funding, we determined that this year we needed to dedicate a portion of our funds to replacing some equipment parts and restocking supplies through the STEM Tools and Equipment line of our budget. This is an expense we will need to plan for in the future as we work to sustain our programming.

One of the biggest challenges across all branches is that the ages of participants vary from very young to teens. Being able to flex up and down for different age levels and interpersonal communication skills made things much more challenging. Often, there is an older child attending a program with an adult and younger sibling; so, flexibility has been a key to success. It's also disheartening when no matter how cool the program is or how long the prep was, people just may not show up for one reason or another, and we don't always know why.

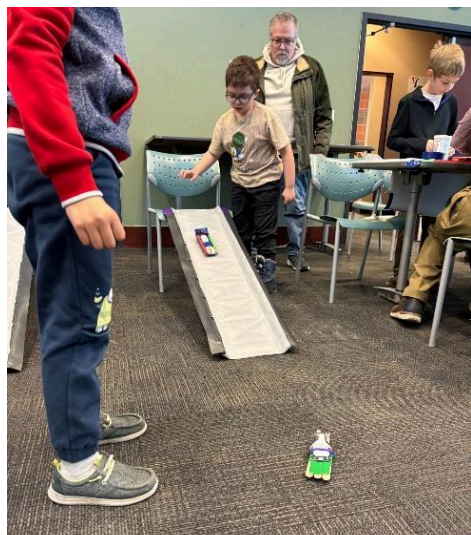
Based on experiences from past summers, **Outreach** decided to revamp their Summer Challenge Champion Camp schedule to expand the campers' STEM experience and be more inclusive. Before the summer of 2025, the camp visitation schedule included the following:

- First visit – introduction to Summer Challenge reading program; storytime on the Bookmobile; drop off reading bins
- Second visit – check in on reading progress; storytime on the Bookmobile
- Third visit – check in on reading progress; storytime with Outreach staff only (no Bookmobile); hand out free books and STEM toys; collect reading bins

In 2025 we updated our registration form to have campers include the area of STEM they were interested in so we could better support them in their STEM journey. We also changed how our visits looked:

- First visit – unchanged – introduction to Summer Challenge reading program; storytime on the Bookmobile; drop off reading bins
- Second visit – STEM activity, STEM storytime; hand out STEM toys to create a connection to STEM; Outreach team only (no Bookmobile)
- Third visit – storytime on the Bookmobile; hand out free books to campers; collect reading bins.

As we made initial plans for our **nine-week Family STEM Time** program at YDL-Michigan in 2025, it soon became apparent that we were going to have difficulty engaging families in this program. From the beginning we found it challenging to get families to register. Staff reached out personally to families; but, ultimately it was too hard for them to commit to a long-term program like this. We immediately decided to reallocate the \$3,700 dedicated to Family STEM Time to bringing in outside STEM/STEAM professionals at each branch. These programs were very successful and well-attended. In fact, in some cases, we underestimated the number of attendees. At YDL-Superior, our Night Owl program with Michigan Avian Experience in March had 35 attendees; but, the Birds of Prey program in May brought in 80 attendees when we had anticipated the same number as our March program. These large programs attracted many who have never been to one of the YDL branches. At Superior, it was clear that participants were both surprised and impressed with our building and all it has to offer. Because we brought in presenters that would not have been engaged without Toyota funding, we now have new regular patrons visiting our much smaller branch, including individuals from neighboring library districts.



With extra funds for outside presenters, YDL-Whittaker was able to invite several new STEM presenters to the branch, which let the public experience new activities and helped library staff see what types of programs and presenters were a good fit for future programming. One example is Challenge Island STEM - a national program with a local chapter in Oakland County. When they came to the Whittaker branch in winter, families learned about penguins, then used a set of supplies to make sleds for paper penguins. They tested the sleds on ramps, made adjustments and continued testing and building. People stayed 15–20 minutes later to continue working on their designs because they were having so much fun. They returned in the summer with another extremely engaging activity; so, we now know that it is worth the investment, and we will continue to invite them back in the future.

YDL-Superior is a much smaller branch than our other two and has only one program room available that is shared between adult programs, youth programs and community access programs. As a result, creating **weekly Saturday programming** for families can be a challenge. There is simply not enough space or available time to offer family programming each week. Also due to the small staff size at this branch, only one youth staff at a time is on the

schedule during weekend hours. In order to do a larger youth-based program, it requires extra hours worked and scheduling of extra staff, which is not always possible.

We continue to discuss and refine our program **evaluation** processes. There is not a good one-size-fits-all approach to this. Every branch and every program is different in terms of how staff are able to collect feedback. Each library branch has been creating their own tools for answering our evaluation questions. It was agreed that gathering information must be simple and easy for patrons. At YDL-Superior, for example, we currently do better in gathering feedback with drop-in programs. With minimal staffing, we are often explaining the activity to one family while another family that was participating is leaving. This makes it difficult to complete formal evaluations at the end of a session. For 2026/27 programs, each branch is developing evaluation methods for particular programs. These methods will be shared among branches to support the development of useful and successful program evaluation.

With a more controlled environment and manageable number of participants, Teen STEAM Cafes lend themselves to the teens giving feedback. Of the teens who completed our post-session surveys, 100% agreed they learned something new about STEM in their daily lives. Ninety-five percent agreed that they will use the skill or knowledge gained in the session. Ninety-eight percent agreed that they learned something helpful as they consider their post-high school plans, and 85% agreed they learned something new about a possible career path.

In a survey of parents of Chess Club participants, 93% reported improved chess skills, feeling more confident playing and plan to continue playing chess. One parent wrote:

"I love that he's taking a true interest in it! He gets to learn a great skill with his friends. He loves the challenge and learning new moves."

Many respondents noted the value of providing a chance to play with others instead of online.

Also, our Head of Youth Services at YDL-Whittaker made a presentation at the Michigan Library Association's Spring Institute for Youth Staff in March on [Exploratory STEM Play at the Library](#) attended by 75 library staff from across the state. It featured what we have been doing at the library with Toyota funding. She shared a catalog of ideas as well that they could use at their own libraries. Approximately 88% of post-program respondents found the presentation useful or very useful; so, what we are receiving, learning and doing with Toyota funding is being shared beyond our own community and having a broader impact.



Pokemon Club



Music at YDL-Whittaker

FINAL PROJECT BUDGET and PROGRAM TARGETS

Total: \$30,000

With some programming changes, staff continued to review and adjust our original budget to achieve project objectives and program targets. Expense lines were adjusted based on mid-year expenditures in anticipation of needs for the second half of the year. Following is an accounting of how grant funds were ultimately spent.

IN-LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

- 1) Hold six Teen STEAM Cafés at Michigan Avenue during the school year exposing more young people to a variety of STEM careers.

Funds Designated: \$3,500

Funds Spent: \$3,556

October 10, 2025

Presenter: **Barbara Wilson**, founder of **MINDO Chocolate Makers**, spoke to teens about how she and her husband began their business, as well as the process of making chocolate including eco-friendly farming, processing options for chocolate, environmental factors in chocolate making and the science behind how chocolate behaves. Barbara walked the teens through the fermentation process and delighted them with the opportunity to try chocolate in its various forms – even fresh cacao from the pod!

Barbara shared how she started making chocolate almost by accident. Her family owned property in Ecuador, and she began her career in coffee. When they were learning about coffee beans from Ecuador, she also learned about the chocolate industry and decided to try her hand at it. They now make all of their chocolate in Dexter, MI. Her daughter lives in Ecuador and manages the acquisition of the cacao and fermentation of the fruit.

For this café, the teens made bon bons. They learned how to temper chocolate and how the molecules react to the addition of liquid.

Attendance: 11

November 21, 2025

Presenter: **Ben Brown**, owner of **B-Cubed Bakery** in Ypsilanti, spoke about the science of sourdough. He shared how he actually began his career in software. Baking was his hobby. After 20 years, he became fed up with all the travel; so, he took some time off and decided to go to culinary school in Traverse City. He fell in love with baking as a second career and spent some time working at Zingerman's in Ann Arbor before deciding to start his own bakery. Ben talked the teens through the science of bread, yeast, lactic acid and how it all works together to make a beautiful loaf of bread. Each teen received a sourdough starter. Ben taught everyone how to feed their starter, what to look for in order to keep their starter healthy and then how to actually use the starter.

As an activity, we did an experiment with active yeast in order to demonstrate how yeast is actually a living thing. Teens bloomed yeast in nine different liquids and observed how active the yeast was or was not in each of the liquids.

Attendance: 14

December 19, 2025

In December, two of our youth librarians hosted the cafe since our speaker was unable to attend. We did **Bathtub Science** and discussed the chemistry that goes into bath products that the teens may see at stores like [LUSH](#). For the activities we did "[melt and pour soups](#)" and bath bomb making, followed by bath bomb mixture experiments! We learned that the bath bomb components (citric acid, baking soda, epsom salts and coconut oil) create an endothermic reaction when they react with water. We talked about chemical reactions, safety measures when working with chemicals and the unexpected places chemistry shows up in our lives.

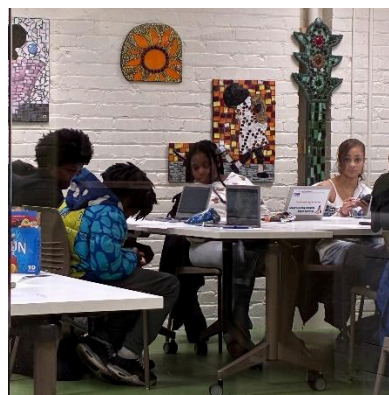
Attendance: 18



February 20, 2026

In February, Bank of Ann Arbor was our guest presenter. **Tamar Jones, Ypsilanti Branch Manager**, and **Creola Larkin, Training and Development Officer**, created a presentation for our teens that combined elements of all of Bank of Ann Arbor's student banking courses. The teens all learned something and enjoyed peppering Tamar and Creola with questions ranging from what a mortgage is to how old you have to be to start a savings account.

Attendance: 25



March 20, 2026

In March, we hosted **Brad and Theresa Angelini** of **Angelini & Associates** in Ann Arbor who spoke about their careers in architecture. The teens looked at 3D models of homes and businesses, perused architectural digests and monographs and talked with Brad and Theresa about the surprising things architects do when designing spaces. At the end of the café we gave the teens paper sandwich bags, scissors, craft supplies and 10 minutes to create a building facade!

Attendance: 17



April 17, 2026

In April, our speaker was **Carly LaForest**, a phlebotomist from **Recovery Mobile Clinic**. Carly touched on her journey to phlebotomy, the story of how Recovery Mobile Clinic was founded and then led the students through the basic health checks she completes at the beginning of each medical appointment. The teens were able to practice taking blood pressure, reading a pulse oximeter and taking a forehead temperature. Carly then took a blood draw from me to show the teens how the process works, how she might talk with a patient during the process and why you sometimes need juice or a cold compress after giving blood. Then the teens were able to practice a blood draw on medical dummy arms!

Attendance: 11

2) Expanding Family STEM Presenters

Funds Designated: \$3,700

Funds Spent: \$3,700

With the cancellation of the nine-week Family STEM Time program in collaboration with EMU, staff decided to use those funds to expand their larger family STEM programming by bringing in outside experts during the winter and spring. These programs were a wonderful vehicle for introducing families to the variety of STEM opportunities available at YDL. Funds were split between YDL's three branches.

A sampling of STEM professionals who brought their experience and unique programs to YDL included:

- Michigan Science Center – Weather Watch (19 attendees)
- Leslie Science and Nature Center – Living in Winter (58 attendees)
- After School STEM – Careers: Paleontology (16 attendees)
- Challenge Island – Penguin Challenge (39 attendees)
- Future Innovators Academy – Wands (62 attendees)
- Black Men Read (BMR) – STEM Stories (7 attendees)
- Michigan Avian Experience – Night Owls (35 attendees)
- Michigan Avian Experience – Birds of Prey (80 attendees)

Using attendance, patron feedback and post-program requests made to staff, we can better gauge public interest which will guide us in 2026/27 to right-size our program offerings and help the community connect with our programming.

3) Support Summer Challenge Kick-Off June 2026

Funds Designated: \$1,000

Funds Spent: \$976

The 2026 Summer Challenge Kick-Off was held on June 6, 2026 at the Superior library with over 300 people in attendance. Toyota funds supported fitness and movement activities from [Gas It Up Fitness](#) and STEM activities with [Leslie Science and Nature Center](#). YDL staff also offered various STEM and craft activities and special give-away bags recognizing Toyota's support of the 2026 Kick-Off.





- 4) **Provide support for the Youth Chess Club**
Funds Designated: \$2,000
Funds Spent: \$1,985

Toyota funds were instrumental in helping us continue to support our young chess players. Funds were used for US Chess Federation youth memberships, teen interns, as well as the purchase of awards, pins and chess clocks.

- 5) **STEM Tools and Equipment**
Funds Designated: \$12,500
Funds Spent: \$12,499

As noted in our Interim Report, this was the year we needed to invest in some replacement parts for our STEM equipment and supplies. But, we were also able to create new STEM programming that required new equipment (i.e., Garden-to-Table cooking supplies and sewing machines for our sewing clinics).

A sampling of STEM tools, equipment and supplies purchased include:

- 8 Apple A16 iPads
- iPad cases
- Jumbo magnetic tiles
- Ozobot Evo Entry Kit: Interactive STEM Coding Robot for Kids
- 3D printing supplies
- Kalimba thumb piano with electronic pick-up
- Hi-res studio recording headphones
- Gourmet sizzler electric griddle
- Sewing machine with tutorial and carrying case
- Sewing and quilting supplies
- Mini-loom for beginners
- Magnetic dominoes
- Watch repair kit
- Hexagram weights
- Steam iron

Railway diesel freight train/freight wagons magnetic connection train
Steam-Era freight train locomotive
Bricks to Brio compatible wooden train track adaptor set
Wooden train track accessories
Fruit sensory play stones
Kids cooking utensils
Colorful toy food prep set
Kids cutting set with Montessori safe kitchen knives
Kids kitchen tools and safe baking set
Mixing bowl sets and storage bowls
Intro toddler food prep set with toddler kitchen accessories
Jumbo test tubes with stand
Transparent bingo counting chips
Weather center kit
Organic gardening supplies

OFF-SITE PROGRAMS

- 6) **Create at least 550 STEM Kits for distribution at approximately 16 Outreach events throughout the year including 2025 Summer Challenge Champion Camps.**

Funds Designated: \$3,900

Funds Spent: \$3,884

With funds from Toyota, YDL Outreach distributed 550 STEM toys at nine Summer Challenge Champion Camps in 2025, eight off-site community outreach events and two Bookmobile school visits for a total of **19 site visits**. This year, we also dedicated an additional \$400 for STEM toys specifically targeted toward middle and high school students. We were able to purchase 266 of these STEM toys and distribute 240 via our Bookmobile at Washtenaw International High School and Middle Academy. In total, **814 STEM toys** were distributed in 2025/26. The remaining 26 STEM toys for middle and high school students will be distributed at upcoming community events.

Summer Challenge Champion Camps 2025



Distribution Date	Location	# of STEM Toys
7/14	Lincoln Learning Camp 1	69
7/16	Lincoln Learning Camp 2	82
7/29	Perry/Bright Futures	21
8/4	Sugarbrook	50
8/5	Adventure Center	16
8/6	West Willow	47
8/18	Love, Learn and Laughter Montessori	29
8/19	KC Childcare Center	18
8/25	White Head Cathedral COGIC Summer Camp	8

TOTAL CAMP DISTRIBUTION:

340

Community Outreach Events



Distribution Date	Location	# of STEM Toys
9/5/25	Washtenaw Promise Summer Block Party	40
9/10/25	WiHi Parent Night	10
9/13/25	Live! Here! Now!	53
9/27/25	We the People Opportunity Farm	20
12/18/25	Celebration of Cultures	5
4/22/26	A.C.C.E. Career Fair	16
5/8/26	Brick STEM Career Fair (LCS)	50
5/16/26	YCS Mental Health Fair	40

TOTAL COMMUNITY EVENT DISTRIBUTION:

234

School Visits – Bookmobile

March 3, 2026	Bookmobile: WIMA/WIHI	70
April 7, 2026	Bookmobile: WIMA/WIHI	170

**TOTAL SCHOOL (TWEEN/TEEN)
BOOKMOBILE DISTRIBUTION:**

240

TOTAL STEM TOYS DISTRIBUTED:

814

- 7) Provide marketing materials and fund advertising to promote Project STEM@YDL to raise awareness of STEM and STEAM programming available to area children and families free-of-charge.

FUNDS DESIGNATED: \$3,400

FUNDS SPENT: \$3,400

This year, YDL had 26% more program attendees than originally anticipated. We also confirmed a growing attendance number since our first year of funding in 2023/24 by 13%. With continued use of social media, printed materials, the newsletter, weekly e-mails promoting YDL offerings, we feel our efforts are paying off. It should also be noted that word-of-mouth plays a big role in promoting our STEM programming.

In total, 4,100 STEM flyers promoting Project STEM events were distributed to YCS at the beginning of the 2025 school year. LCS received their flyer electronically and then sent it out to their students. In May 2026, 3,100 STEM flyers highlighting summer Project STEM offerings were provided to YCS for distribution to their students prior to the end of school with LCS again distributing their flyer electronically.

All of our Project STEM@YDL programs are included in our quarterly newsletter, **The Loop**, which is delivered to 43,000 households in Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township and the portion of Superior Township served by YDL. Special Facebook, Instagram and BlueSky promotions were posted regularly throughout the year promoting the ever-growing amount of STEM offerings at all branches and on the Bookmobile. We also make strong use of our weekly e-mails sent to over 4,700 patrons and donors to highlight upcoming programs.

We again worked with WEMU-89.1 FM throughout the month of June to promote the 2025 Summer Challenge and Project STEM@YDL. We are also seeing increased sharing of Project STEM programs by program partners and local interest groups across their socials.

Additionally, we were able to create playful wristbands and a temporary tattoo promoting STEM for our young patrons. Stickers, wristbands and temporary tattoos remain extremely popular. Bottles of bubbles boasting STEM@YDL were also a hit.





This year we also created special seed packets as adult prizes for the Summer Challenge. Packets included a collection of local flower seeds or a collection of wildflower seeds. They, too, have been going fast.

FUTURE PLANS & SUSTAINABILITY

With a fourth year of funding from Toyota in 2026/27, YDL looks forward to:

- Creating short STEM program series throughout the grant year
- Expanding STEM exposure by showcasing STEM tools and concepts in traditional library programs such as storytimes, literacy programs, play areas and events
- Outreach staff will attend Summer Challenge Champion Camps, as well as community outreach events to demonstrate and distribute a variety of STEM toys
- Holding weekly Summer STEM events at each library branch throughout the summer during the annual Summer Challenge
- Holding six Teen STEAM Cafes throughout the school year
- Creating hands-on, play-based activities at all library branches where kids and families can independently learn STEM concepts through exploratory activities
- Offering family programs throughout the school year at all three library branches featuring STEM professionals, as well as a STEM-themed Summer Challenge Kick-Off in June 2027
- Continuing to purchase/replace STEM tools and provide training to staff on how to use them
- Strengthening our relationship with YCS and LCS
- Paying for transportation to host YCS and LCS student groups at YDL branches for hands-on STEM experiences and to learn about all the STEM opportunities at YDL
- Reporting on the success of Project STEM programs via participant surveys and other data gathering methods
- Increasing staff's knowledge base in the use of STEM tools and developing program curriculum

YDL is committed to being the hub of free STEM education in our library district. This has truly been possible only with the help of Toyota over the last three years. We are anxious to deepen our relationship with STEM programs at both Ypsilanti Community Schools and Lincoln Consolidated Schools in the coming year as we partner with STEM leaders to create curriculum that supports, compliments and helps sustain school programs and vice versa. We have also been working closely with EMU's STEM Education Institute as an anchor for the work being done in Ypsilanti.

As we continue to promote our partnership with Toyota and the expansion of STEM equipment and programming at YDL branches, we also continue to plan for the future in terms of program support. There is no doubt that Toyota's support has helped leverage other STEM program funding. We have built stronger relationships over the past several years with community businesses and organizations who recognize YDL's dedication to STEM education for all and are expressing interest in partnering with us. They are also tuned into the community's desire for more STEM education. These relationships will help sustain our continued integration of STEM learning into our programming when Toyota's support ends. One example is SPARK East Innovation Center who will be sponsoring our Downtown STEM Series this school year at YDL-Michigan Avenue. SPARK also sponsored our Spooky STEM Tent at our 2025 Halloween Downtown celebration.

With the tools, training and programs developed by our staff, we are now being approached by other organizations that want to learn more about our STEM programming or are interested in partnering with us.

Toyota's support across Ypsilanti has impacted both the schools and YDL's ability to bring STEM to kids in our community who experience barriers to their learning. With so many underserved children in the 48197 and 48198 zip codes, infusing STEM into Ypsilanti schools and YDL programs for free has definitely been a game changer for the kids and their families. For many, for example, local summer learning camps are simply out of reach in terms of cost. Now at school and at the library, they are gaining the exposure to STEM that they always deserved. YDL is honored to be a recipient of Toyota funding and part of an initiative that is truly impacting lives.



Play is our brain's favorite way of learning.

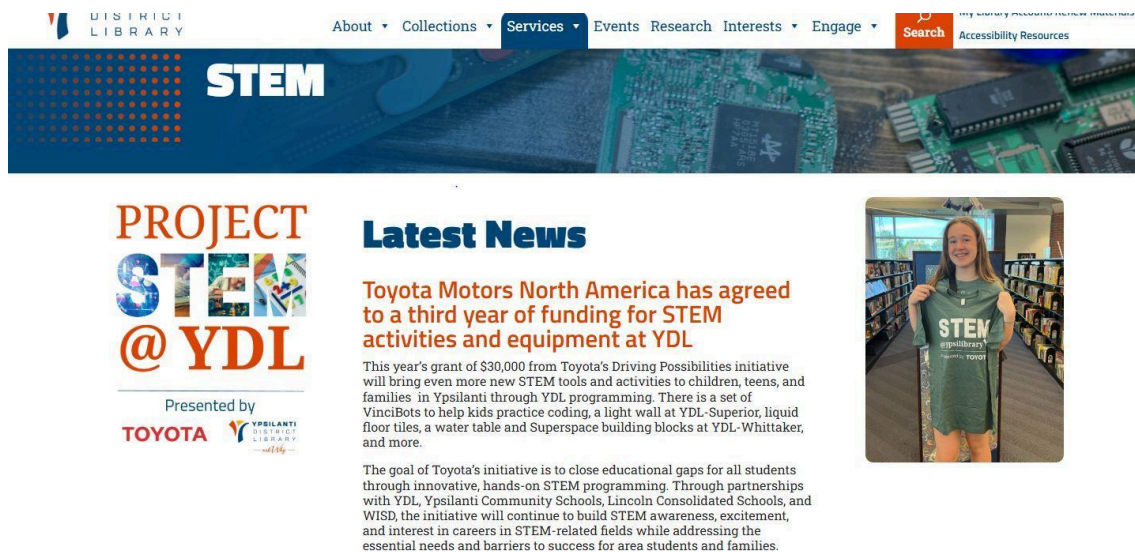
***Diane Ackerman
poet, essayist and naturalist***

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT PROJECT STEM@YDL

December 2025 - May 2026

A Sampling of Project STEM@YDL Promotions

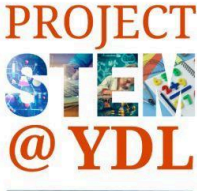
YDL Website



YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

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STEM



Latest News

Toyota Motors North America has agreed to a third year of funding for STEM activities and equipment at YDL

This year's grant of \$30,000 from Toyota's Driving Possibilities initiative will bring even more new STEM tools and activities to children, teens, and families in Ypsilanti through YDL programming. There is a set of VinciBots to help kids practice coding, a light wall at YDL-Superior, liquid floor tiles, a water table and Superspace building blocks at YDL-Whittaker, and more.

The goal of Toyota's initiative is to close educational gaps for all students through innovative, hands-on STEM programming. Through partnerships with YDL, Ypsilanti Community Schools, Lincoln Consolidated Schools, and WISD, the initiative will continue to build STEM awareness, excitement, and interest in careers in STEM-related fields while addressing the essential needs and barriers to success for area students and families.





YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY EVENTS

LIBRARY WEBSITE ROOM BOOKINGS MY EVENTS & RESERVATIONS Search

STEM @ Michigan Avenue

LEGO Free Play

SATURDAY APRIL 4 2026 2:00PM
YDL-MICHIGAN

All FREE
Ages Cost

Sponsored by:  **TOYOTA**

No Registration Required

Event Description

Need something to do during Spring Break? Build with LEGO!
Create a masterpiece of tiny engineering or the tallest tower that's ever been attempted.

When 2:00PM - 4:00PM Saturday April 4 2026	Where Michigan Ave Program Room YDL-Michigan
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The Loop – YDL's Quarterly Newsletter

Monday | Dec 29

STEM: MAKEDO FREE BUILD

2pm | YDL-Superior

Makedo makes building from cardboard easy. YDL will bring the Makedo tools and supplies, all you need to bring is your imagination. Join us to build together! *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Tuesday | Dec 30

LESLIE SCIENCE & NATURE CENTER: LIVING IN WINTER

10am | YDL-Michigan

Meet three animals that prepare for winter in Michigan in different ways. Enjoy stories, and learn more about how animals adapt to different seasons with the Leslie Science & Nature Center. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Friday | Jan 2

STEM OPEN PLAY: CHAIN REACTIONS

10:30am-12:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Use our stash of ramps, dominos, planks, and blocks to create the zaniest chain reactions course that you can! *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*



Saturdays | Dec 27 | Jan 24 | Feb 21

CIRCUITLAB AT MICHIGAN AVENUE

3pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us each month for a simple circuit project for beginners. *Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.*

Dec 29: Light Up Felt Ornaments

Jan 24: Sound and Light Cards

Feb 21: Conductive Slime



Experiment. Fail. Learn. Repeat.

Facebook



“Play is the highest form of research.”

- Albert Einstein

Instagram

Weather the Storm:

Michigan Science Center at YDL

Tuesday | Dec 23
2pm or 3:30pm

YDL-Michigan
229 W. Michigan Ave
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

gosplitters • Follow

STEM at Michigan Avenue

Sponsored by **SPARK** **TOYOTA**

Join the Michigan Science Center at YDL this winter break for the most challenging building project you've ever attempted. Participants will put their building skills to the test as they work together to come up with a structure to withstand different weather events. Register at ypslibrary.org/events at 2pm or 3:30pm for the same activities.

ypslibrary.org
734-482-4110 x2422

gosplitters 35w

Weather the Storm at YDL!

Looking for a fun and engaging STEM activity during winter break? Join the Michigan Science Center at the Ypsilanti District Library (Michigan Avenue) for Weather the Storm, an exciting hands-on building challenge!

Tuesday, December 23
 2:00 PM or 3:30 PM
 YDL – Michigan Avenue
 229 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Participants will work together to design and build a structure that can withstand different weather events—putting creativity, teamwork, and engineering skills to the test. This program is sponsored by Ann Arbor SPARK and Toyota, and is perfect for

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🚩

December 22, 2025

[Log in to like or comment.](#)

Instagram

Log In

Sign U

Fall STEM Events

Visit ypslibrary.org/events for more details on Ypsilanti District Library STEM programs.

After School STEM

THURSDAYS | OCT. 2-23
Toy Design
5pm | YDL-Whittaker

NOV. 4, 18 & 25 (TWEENS)
3D Printing
5pm | YDL-Whittaker

Kids & Parents

FRIDAY | OCT. 3
First Fridays at YDL: FrankenToys
6-8pm | YDL-Michigan

FRIDAY | OCT. 24
Halloween Downtown
5:30-7pm | YDL-Michigan

SATURDAY | OCT. 25
Spooky Science with Nutty Scientists
2pm | YDL-Whittaker

SATURDAY | NOV. 15
STEMfest
2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Teen STEM Cafes

FRIDAYS | OCT. 10 | NOV. 21 | DEC. 19
6-8pm | YDL-Michigan

Learn about cool STEM careers! Dinner and activities will be incorporated in these TEEN-ONLY after-hours cafes. Topics include food science, mortgage and finance, computer science, weather science, and more.

Grades K-8

WEDNESDAYS | OCT. 1 - DEC. 10
Youth Chess Club
4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

WEDNESDAYS | OCT. 1 - NOV. 5
Computer Programming
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

Teens

gosplitters • Follow

gosplitters 47w

🌟 STEM Fun at YDL! 🌟

Thanks to generous support from Toyota, the Ypsilanti District Library is bringing exciting STEM learning opportunities for kids, teens, and families! 🙌

Explore, Build & Grow with hands-on tools like:

- 🌟 Superspace building blocks
- 🌟 Light wall & ramps
- 🌟 Dinosaur bones
- 🌟 STEM kits to take home

Don't miss this season's events:

- 🔹 After School STEM: Toy Design & 3D Printing
- 🔹 Teen STEM Cafes (with dinner + cool career topics!)
- 🔹 Spooky Science with Nutty Scientists

♡ 5
💬
🚩

September 27, 2025

[Log in to like or comment.](#)

BlueSky



Ypsilanti District Library @ypsilibrary.org · 6mo

❄️ Challenge Island hits YDL-Whittaker TODAY at 2pm with penguin sled engineering! Grab your crew, design something ridiculous (or brilliant), and compete for sled supremacy.

Part of Project STEM @ YDL | Sponsored by Toyota 🏠❄️



Flyers

Summer STEM @ Superior

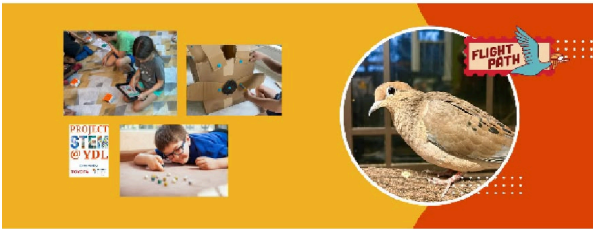
Tuesdays
Jun. 17 - Aug. 12
2pm

YDL-Superior
1900 Harris Rd
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Winter Break STEM

Mondays & Fridays
Dec 22, 26 & 29 |
Jan 2 | 12pm

YDL-Whittaker
5577 Whittaker Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198



ypsilibrary.org
734-482-4110 x2432

Join us for summer our STEM program with indoor and outdoor activities for school-age children. Learn, run, jump, and explore in this summer series.

- Jun. 17: G.A.S. It Up Fitness
- Jun. 24: Nature Play
- Jul. 8: G.A.S. It Up Fitness
- Jul. 15: EMU STEM Ed
- Jul. 22: G.A.S. It Up Fitness
- Jul. 29: EMU STEM Ed
- Aug. 12: G.A.S. It Up Fitness



ypsilibrary.org
734-482-4110 x2412

Drop in Mondays and Fridays over the break to hone STEM skills through hands-on activities and play.

- Dec 22: Cardboard Creations
- Dec 26: Robot Coding
- Dec 29: Saving Songbirds - from The Bird Center of Michigan. Sponsored by Flight Path, a Spark of Science @ My Library campaign
- Jan 2: Classic Kids Games

Flyers

After School STEM: STEM Careers

Thursdays
Jan 22 & 29 | 5pm

YDL-Whittaker
5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Youth Chess Tourna-

Wednesdays
Through Apr 8 |
4:30pm

YDL-Whittaker
5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197







ypsilibrary.org
734-482-4110 x2412

Meet an expert each week to learn about STEM careers through hands-on activities. Designed for kids in elementary and middle school and their families.

- Jan 22: Veterinary Science with the Huron Valley Humane Society
- Jan 29: Paleontology with U-M



ypsilibrary.org/chess
734-482-4110 x2412

Drop in and learn chess at the library with Jenny Siddmore-Smith! Designed for youth grades K-12 and families. No class 4/1.

Each month we'll follow this schedule:

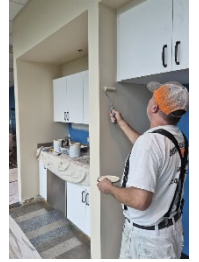
- Week 1: mini lesson and casual play
- Week 2: rated games with clock play
- Week 3: mini lesson and casual play
- Week 4: chess puzzles and casual play

Contact Jodi@ypsilibrary.org with questions, or scan the QR code.

Facilities Department

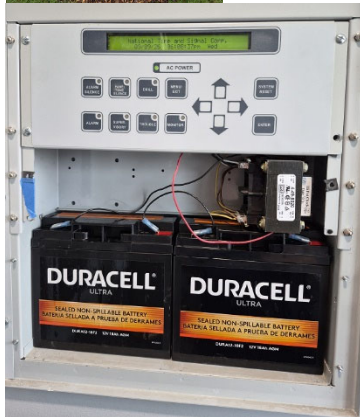
Board Report September 2026

Flood repair at Whittaker Road has started on the second floor. Drywall has been put in place, and painting has started in the lunchroom area. Plans are to finish the second floor, then move to do the first floor.



Guardian Tree Experts had removed two of the four Bald Cypress trees at Whittaker Road that could not be saved that were infested with a parasite called a bag worm. They ground the old stumps. Then Guardian has planted two new trees to replace the ones taken out.

Helped the Friends of the Library get set up for their book sale.



Batteries needed replacement for Superiors fire and burglar alarms. We purchased the batteries from Batteries Plus and installed them ourselves saving the library money. The alarm company would charge us a premium for something we can do ourselves.

The fire sprinkler system and backflows were inspected at Whittaker Road. The backflows passed the testing. The sprinkler system has some deficiencies, and further inspection is needed. Arbor Inspections is putting together a plan with pricing to get us up to code.



Lisa and I had our kickoff meeting with GEM Service our new HVAC service company. We met the main technician who will be assigned to our buildings, along with account manager, service manager, phone numbers, emails, and contacts to all necessary departments to take care of our buildings. The technician has identified and tagged all HVAC equipment at all three buildings. GEM Service is going to inspect our equipment and let us know of any repairs needed to get things up to par before it will be covered under the new contract. GEM has already made a couple repairs during their initial visit.

Submitted by: **Jim Reed** **September 16, 2026**

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

September 2026

Status Report

- 2026 – We're half way through the year and are engaged in our phone system project. The new phone system is fully operational.
- 2027 Planning – It's the time of year to work on a framework for 2027. I'm anticipating focus on core systems that we rely on, such as network infrastructure, Wi-Fi, and other misc application licensing.
- Migration to BS&A: So far it's been quiet on our end and all is well. We remain attentive to any assistance we can provide.
- Library IQ – Our preliminary setup and configuration is complete for the new incident reporting module. We'll be finalizing that through additional input from staff.
- Security camera repair/replace: The equipment is ordered and some delay is present in delivery. Another action item requiring communication with the Historic District Commission remains.
- New servers – We recently migrated our primary storage drive. I'll be working on some secondary storage spaces along with planning for a migration of another administrative system next.

New or Upcoming Items

- Explore: Incident Reporting and additional objectives regarding surveillance
- Plan and Procure: General replacement of dated equipment, some infrastructure is targeted as we evaluate the overall system.

Overall System Status

- All appears well: We do have an initiative to further analyze our offline procedure when our ILS is not available. We've been learning to live with the new environment and much is not within our direct ability to intervene so we'll look for the best solution for YDL as we adapt.

Library Care Coordination: Board Report August 2026

Drop In Hours Partnerships

Two new partnerships have developed for drop-in hours at YDL–Michigan Ave: Washtenaw County Community Mental Health's PATH team and the Washtenaw Health Project.

WCCMH's PATH Program combines assertive outreach with innovative interventions designed to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. PATH staff work to contact and engage people who are disconnected from mainstream resources, and we're proud to offer them a safe, welcoming space to connect with our patrons. This partnership has already produced a steady stream of referrals and collaborative efforts that ensure more holistic care for our most vulnerable patrons.

Washtenaw Health Project is working proactively to alert the community to upcoming changes to Medicaid. New federal changes under H.R. 1 will affect how Michigan provides Medicaid coverage beginning October 1, 2026, with additional changes taking effect January 1, 2027. Washtenaw Health Project is leading a significant outreach effort to help ensure our community doesn't lose medical coverage. We're glad to partner with them in making sure our patrons get the medical care they need and deserve.

Staff Debriefing with Colleen O'Brien, Blue Dog Counseling

Working in a public library today means regularly navigating complex, high-stress situations. From responding to patrons in crisis to witnessing the effects of homelessness, mental illness, and trauma up close. Supporting the wellbeing of frontline staff isn't a luxury; it's essential to sustaining the work our library does every day and to retaining the skilled, compassionate staff who make that work possible.

Our new social work mini-grant from the Washtenaw County Office of Economic and Community Development has allowed us to provide incident debriefing support led by Colleen O'Brien of Blue Dog Counseling. Colleen led a one-hour introductory staff orientation, "Understanding the Incident Debriefing Consultation Process," and has since begun meeting individually with staff to provide

support following challenging workplace situations. This kind of proactive, trauma-informed support helps staff process difficult experiences before they compound into burnout, strengthening both individual wellbeing and the library's capacity to keep showing up for our community.

Eastern Michigan University: Student Interns

Three new student interns have joined our team this year; two Master's-level and one Bachelor's-level intern.

Eli, who previously served as the Daytime Warming Center Manager at the Freighthouse, has stepped seamlessly into drop-in hours, already assisting patrons with vital document needs and basic-needs referrals.

Emily, who managed the food pantry at Eastern Michigan University's Swoop's Food Pantry, brings a wealth of experience to her role and is helping improve the efficiency of how we manage our care materials.

Kirby, who previously worked with Catholic Charities, will bring their experience supporting vulnerable individuals with job searching to our drop-in hours and jobs program.

Please feel free to stop by our Michigan Ave location to welcome our new student interns to the community!

Presenting at The Library Network's "This Conference is for Everyone"

Dr. Margaret Ann Pauuw of Eastern Michigan University and I presented at a regional conference on the importance of Library Care Coordination programs in libraries. We presented a menu of options for libraries that explored how libraries can build social work capacity through a practical "menu" framework, mapping what any trained staff member, social work intern, or credentialed BSW/MSW can bring to patron care.

Participants left with practical tips and have shared how they have incorporated these ideas into their local libraries.

Michigan Avenue Board Report: September 2026

Staff Notes

We are glad to welcome James Hennefent to his new role as YDL Security Coordinator. James will work with us regularly at Michigan Ave to fill in gaps in building monitor coverage and provide strategy and support for dealing with some of our more persistent safety issues and patron needs.

The Big Read Kickoff is coming up September 26 in the Library Plaza and Paula and I have been coordinating with AACHM and Black Men Read to plan the event. At the Kickoff, there will be intergenerational activities including live performances, a visit from the Bookmobile, a Book Party provided by Black Men Read, and adult and youth book giveaways. AACHM has themed the Big Read project “Living Room Legacies” and programming from September through April will focus on the ideas of wellness, wisdom, and the village circle. The adult book for the Big Read is *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines and the youth book is *All Because You Matter* by Tami Charles.

Michigan Ave staff enjoyed attending the Tigers game on August 14. Thanks to Julianne for coordinating this opportunity!

Program Highlights

This summer, youth staff created a STEAM Scene series to introduce kids and families to STEAM concepts and activities. Thanks to the Toyota STEM grant, we were able to use YDL’s Lego Spike kits during one event in the series to introduce robotics and basic coding, with Lego as a foundation.



Our **Noise Permit** concert on August 7 was a culmination of weeks of creative workshops geared towards 10-24 year olds. During the concert, participants shared live performances of original songs, debuted video they produced including stop motion animation, performed comedy acts, read poetry and played the drums and trombone. One highlight of the evening was a group song with solos that included the stories of many performers at once, including staff members. The summer’s activities created a community of young artists, each bringing their own unique talents to the mix. I want to give major kudos to both Stephanie and Shayla for their great effort in bringing Noise Permit to fruition and thanks to our mentors Dante Dorsey and Joel Stralnic. To sum up the importance of the program, one young performer said, “Every young person has a voice and it’s your job to use it!”



On August 18, we had a news crew from WDIV visit the library to cover From Prison to Pro: Bridging the Digital Divide, the digital literacy program we have been hosting in partnership with nonprofit **Nation Outside**. The goal of the program is to

provide digital basics training to formerly incarcerated people, although the lessons would be helpful to anyone who is a beginner with email, using a mouse, or navigating mobile devices. Aaron has done a great job coordinating with Nation Outside to bring this program to our patrons.



Spaces

On Tuesday, August 18, a patron reported finding a bed bug near one of our computer stations. In the course of further inspections, we found an additional two bugs. Julianne reached out to Orkin which confirmed our positive ID of the bugs. Due to fast action by staff, we were able to close the building to assess and treat the situation within 90 minutes of discovery. When the bed bug dogs were able to come that Thursday, they alerted at the table where we had found the bugs. Orkin treated the area and we were able to reopen the following day. I am grateful for the procedures, resources, and supplies that were already in place, thanks to the Bed Bug Committee.

Lisa and I met with Concentrate Media and tour volunteers to show off the library's architecture and interior design in advance of our participation in the 44th Historic Home Tour which will take place in the Historic South Side neighborhood on Sunday, October 4.

Report submitted by Katie Dover-Taylor
September 17, 2026

Outreach Services Board Report September 2026

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - AUGUST CONTINUED

Ypsi Food Festival, August 15th - I know, I know...a food festival? Yes, a food festival! Wherever you can connect and give access to library resources is where the library should be! The Bookmobile, Kihilee, and Monica participated. People were so excited about the Bookmobile and surprised that it's a full-service library. Someone thought it was a bookstore, and someone else thought we just gave away free books, which we do for anyone who can't get a card. We made many library cards and gave away many STEM toys! We even had people from Lincoln Park and Northville wanting to access the Bookmobile for their events! Did we get to enjoy some of the food? Why yes, we did!



Parkridge Summerfest, August 22nd - Monica tabled at this event. The event was canceled at 12:00 pm (actual start time) due to heavy rain. I was still able to share many resources, pass out STEM toys, and make connections. People arrived much earlier than anticipated. I arrived at 10:00 am to set up our table.

BACK TO SCHOOL OUTREACH!

Lincoln Consolidated Splitterpalooza! August 19th - Bridget represented YDL at the Lincoln Consolidated Schools Splitterpalooza. It is the Back to School Bash for Lincoln. It was Bridget's first event on her own, and she did an amazing job. We gave out pencil cases with school supplies, plus fidget items inside. Bridget engaged with many families, and it appears there were more families compared to last year. I wish the Bookmobile could have made an appearance; who knows, though...maybe next year?

WISD Early Child Conference, August 19th and August 20th - Kaitlyn and Bridget attended the conferences over the two days. They shared many resources on classroom cards, Bookmobile visits, and other Teacher resources.

Back to School Teacher Fun Fest - Ypsilanti Middle School, August 25th - We finally

received an invitation from Ypsilanti Middle School to share some valuable resources. Kaitlyn attended the event and was very excited to be in space. This makes for a great future partnership, especially since we are partnering with WIHI/WIMA and Arbor Prep.

Ypsilanti Community Schools Transportation Kickoff, August 27th -

Monica tabled at the YCS Transportation Kickoff. The event had free haircuts, food, backpacks, a chance to ride on the school bus, fire trucks, etc. We gave away many resources, including information about the vaccine clinics and Library Care Coordination Program. Even though the Bookmobile was invited and not able to be there, I think they were pretty happy with little ole me. As always with our events, we get so much love from the community and how they appreciate us for all that we do.



PRIDE (Rescheduled), August 30th - Bridget and Ken tabled at the rescheduled PRIDE event. Though the numbers were lower in previous years, we were still able to share valuable resources, book lists, programs, and swag with the community. They are always so very happy to see us, and I was happy that Ken could enjoy an outreach event without the Bookmobile. Thanks, Ken!

SENIOR OUTREACH

Moving Together Series Wrap-up!

Thank you to all the seniors who participated in the Moving Together Series! It was a big success, and we appreciate you all not only for attending but also for providing valuable feedback. And thanks to you, many of the programs started with Moving Together will become part of our permanent senior programs!



We wrapped up the virtual Yoga at the Library series with Meret! She is totally amazing! She is patient, calm, and moves at a pace for the seniors. She will be continuing Yoga this upcoming Fall and Winter. Thank you so much, Meret!

I would also like to thank Mani! They did an amazing job with the art series. The classes were highly attended, and their creativity was a clever

way of introducing STEAM to the seniors! Mani was also calm, attentive to the needs of seniors, and showed patience! Thank you very much, Mani!

Also, thank you to all of our summer interns and team members who helped with our Backyard Cornhole and Bingo! We provided food and drinks for the finale. Cornhole even turned into a generational event. So, thank you, Talea, River, Bridget, and Kaitlyn!



Thank you to Washtenaw Mobile Support Service! They provided shade and a space to relax in between outdoor sessions of Cornhole. Everyone appreciated this wonderful service and program. Great partnership, and looking forward to working with everyone in the future! Thank you so much, Victoria!

Thanks to Chris, Andy, and Karen for being so patient as we worked out ordering all of the supplies and the budget! We also appreciate your time.

And last but not least, Susana! Thank you so much for all of your hard work and for putting this all together for the community! You are truly a Senior Advocate, and they truly appreciate you! We are also appreciative of having you at YDL and as part of the Outreach Team!



Saying Goodbye to Judy!

The library has a Senior Advisory Board that, along with Susana, fights hard for senior representation in our library community. This year we lost one of our greatest and most beloved advocates, Judy! She will be truly missed, and we will keep up the fight in honor of her name.

Whittaker Road-Adult Services Board Report September 2026

Here is a list of September Programs:

- Fellowship of the Fiber (5 Meetups)
- Genealogy and Family History Bunch
- Crochet Club (2 meetups)
- Thursday AM Bk Grp
- Science Fiction Book Club
- Microsoft PowerPoint Basics
- MICHIGAN WORKS! Southeast Community Outreach
- Classic Movie Night
- Google Slides for Beginners
- Microsoft Word Basics
- Gmail Basics
- Mahjong Meetup (3 meetups)
- Read It and Eat It Cookbook Club
- Board Game Meetup
- Grieve Well: Understanding Grief Webinar
- National Voter Registration Day
- Microsoft Excel Basics
- Small Business Savvy: Starting a Business in the AI Age
- Google Sheets for Beginners
- Digital Literacy Tutoring With Washtenaw Literacy (2 sessions)
- Euchre Club
- Microsoft Excel-Intermediate
- Serving As an Election Poll Worker: Information You Need to Know
- Moving For Better Balance with the Ann Arbor YMCA (2 sessions)
- Google Sheets Tips and Tricks
- Microsoft Word Intermediate
- Cultivating Hope: A Workshop and Journal Release Celebration
- Microsoft Word – Tips, Tricks, and Hacks
- Fall Gardening Chores
- Microsoft Excel – Pivot Tables
- Virtual African American Authors Book Discussion Group
- How to Host a Zoom Meeting

We have a couple of different election-related events this month. The League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County and the Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., partnered to engage with 38 people on Tuesday, Sep 15th, which is National Voter Registration Day. We're also going to have an informational table about being an election poll worker, staffed by a representative from Support MI Clerks, a statewide poll worker recruitment initiative launched by the Michigan

Chamber Foundation. We're already working on our winter programming season; look for some cool craft programs from Abby and a new Chess Club Meetup that Brett will run.

Staff has taken part in a variety of activities this month: Strategic Planning Sessions, Webinars, Reflexive Consultation, and committee meetings. Abby is on the Strategic Planning Committee and Paula is on the AI Policy Committee. Paula is also on the team that will start meeting this month to plan out next year's income tax service with volunteers from AARP. Tax Help Season is the Adult Services counterpart to the Summer Challenge for the Youth Department!

We appreciate the new counseling services offered to staff and the upcoming Trauma Training opportunities. I was chatting with a new patron recently; she is a librarian who moved to Michigan from Tennessee due to the challenging political climate in her library there. She was very impressed with YDL's library system compared to what she experienced in Tennessee, particularly the ongoing initiatives to support staff.

-Submitted by Paula Drummond September 16, 2026

Whittaker Youth Services Board Report September 2026

Programs

Little Ones

- **Kinderconcerts** A violist was the featured instrument at this week's Kinderconcerts, enjoyed by 95 parents and little ones.
- **Fall Storytimes** Starting next week, we will offer storytimes four mornings and one afternoon per week, designed for specific ages throughout the week.

Kids and Parents

- **Fall Programs** Knowing families need time to settle into their school routines, we are starting fall programs later this month. We'll offer weekly Graphic Novel Book Club, Chess Club, Kids Coding, and Pokémon Club, as well as weekend programs.

Tweens/Teens

- **TAG** Members have been planning the details of fall programs and looking ahead to winter. They are also working on new activities teens can do anytime in the teen area, including creating a more eye-catching sign to let teens know what is available.

Other Work

- **Summer Challenge Wrap Up** The 2026 Summer Challenge Report is attached. In addition, a survey was sent to all YDL staff this week requesting feedback so we can begin planning for next year. I wrote the final report to Believe in Reading for Chris to submit. They funded many of the prize books we gave to kids and teens.
- **Collections** Liz, Ulana, Psyche, and I are busy analyzing the collections, weeding, and placing orders during the programming and as the fiscal year nears its end.
- **Play Spaces** The department was heavily used all summer and the play areas were ready for the quarterly cleaning and reset. Marlena set up a school in the pretend play area, Mani put out new Duplos and redecorated the portal, Ulana put out bear puppets, and Liz added a dress up clothes bin. I put out a new STEM toy called a Nudel Kart that kids can build with and roll, as well as some ramps and wooden blocks for open-ended, exploratory play. Psyche changed out the baby and toddler toys.
- **Book Displays** Mani took on the responsibility of creating non-holiday youth book displays. They made one for Labor Day and one for Hispanic Heritage Month. Ulana continues to curate holiday displays, which included Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur this month. We also had two more 500 Books Before Middle School finisher displays.
- **Liz WISD** Liz taught 65 early learning staff from across the county how to make and use flannel stories for storytelling at a professional development event.
- **Planning** At our staff meeting this week, we looked at Kids Count data and brainstormed current needs of Ypsi youth and families to help guide our program and service development in the coming year. Areas we noted as needs include: spaces where people can make connections with others who are similar and different than themselves and also where kids are safe to develop independence; opportunities to learn through trial and error to build problem solving and perseverance; reading support; facts from trusted sources; and opportunities to build motor skills and stay active and healthy. We're happy to work at the library where we can help address these needs during this time of high housing costs and economic stress for many families.
- **Teen Recommendation Letters and Stories** It's the season to write college recommendations and send stories to counselors for teens who have volunteered at the library. It's nice to be able to share positive stories of their time here.
- **500 BBMS and 1000 BBK** All libraries took an inventory of their 1000 BBK t-shirt stock and I placed an order for more. Liz organized the materials needed for both programs in a Canva folder. She also makes sure our stock of kits is ready at YDL-Whittaker by printing material and coordinating with a teen volunteer who assembles them.
- **ALA Grant** I'm writing a grant proposal for A Year of STEM for Little Ones, to build off of the work we're doing with Toyota for youth in grades K-12.
- **Garden** Produce is still trickling in. Mani has plans in place to winterize the garden and Facilities will help get the mud kitchen and water table inside soon.

Submitted by Jodi Krahne September 16, 2026



Old Business

New Business

To: YDL Board of Trustees

From: Lisa Hoenig, Library Director

Date: 9/16/2026

Re: Consideration of a resolution to add pea stone to the French drain at Superior

Like Whittaker, the Superior library was designed with a French drain around the perimeter that collects the water that runs down from the roof. Superior's exterior is made of a material called EIFS (Exterior Insulation and Finish System). Since our first summer open, neighborhood kids have been throwing the rocks that line the base of the French drain at the building, damaging the EIFS.

We will soon add a surveillance camera to monitor the front of the building, but the architect also suggested filling the French drain with pea stone. Hopefully the smaller stones will cover the larger rocks, making it less tempting to throw missiles at the library.

Margolis Companies installed the building's landscaping, including the stones in the French drain. They provided the attached quote, and for \$4,500 will add the pea stone and pound the metal edging back in place where it has heaved over time. \$8,000 was included in the current budget to address these concerns.

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-26

September 23, 2026

RESOLUTION TO INSTALL PEA STONE IN THE FRENCH DRAIN AT SUPERIOR

Whereas, the Ypsilanti District Library strives to provide welcoming and functional facilities for its patrons to use, and

Whereas, neighborhood kids have been throwing rocks from the French drain and damaging the surface of the Superior building's exterior, and

Whereas, the architect recommends covering the larger rocks with pea stone to preserve the drain's functionality while providing a deterrent to this behavior, and

Whereas, Margolis Companies provided a quote to perform this work, Now Therefore,

THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD RESOLVES to waive the bid process and engage Margolis Companies to install the pea stone and repair the French drain's edging as proposed for a total cost of \$4,500.

OFFERED BY: _____

SUPPORTED BY: _____

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE:

MARGOLIS COMPANIES

9600 Cherry Hill Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Phone (734) 482 0771 Fax (734) 482 3870

September 2, 2026

Ypsilanti District Library
5577 Whittaker Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Attn: Lisa Hoenig

Transmittal No. 4618-B

Project: Superior Branch
Superior Twp., MI

Provide labor and material to complete the following items of work per your e-mail dated September 1, 2026:

Minor repair/resetting of Aluminum Edging
1,171 S.F Provide and place Pea Stone

Price 4,500.00

Merrill Bumstead
Project Manager

To: YDL Board of Trustees
From: Lisa Hoenig, Library Director
Date: 9/18/2026
Re: Whittaker lobby and group study room furniture

We have been working with Daniels & Zermack Architects on a phased renovation plan for YDL-Whittaker, to include new carpeting and rearranging public spaces to align them with patron needs. In addition to plan development, this year's work included upgrading the furniture in the lobby and group study rooms.

The tables in the group study rooms remain very solid, but their finishes were in very poor condition. To save money and be conscious of the environment, we decided to try reusing rather than replacing them. D&Z identified a local woodworker willing to refinish the tables and lobby benches for us. The two smallest tables were returned to YDL yesterday, and look fantastic. We hope to finish the remaining pieces before the end of the fiscal year.

Working with the interior designer, our committee has selected replacement lobby tables and chairs, as well as chairs for the group study rooms. Quotes for these items are attached.

- The three lobby tables we have selected will cost \$6,675-\$6,975. We are waiting to find out whether we need a custom finish for the wood edge to best match the wood color in the lobby.
- We would like to purchase 9 Katera chairs for the lobby with one finish, and 22 more with a different finish for the group study rooms. Total cost for the chairs: \$18,319.16.

These expenses will be drawn from the Whittaker – Capital Outlay – Buildings account of the Operating budget. Both the tables and chairs have an 8-10 week lead time for delivery, so if approved now it will be very close to year-end when they are received. We will request pro-forma invoices if it looks as though they will not be delivered by November 30th.

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-27

September 23, 2026

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF NEW FURNITURE FOR THE
YDL-WHITTAKER LOBBY AND GROUP STUDY ROOMS

Whereas, the Ypsilanti District Library strives to provide welcoming facilities for its patrons to use, and

Whereas, the lobby and group study rooms at the Whittaker Road library are heavily used by both the staff and public, and the furnishings are original to the building, and

Whereas, the existing furniture is old and worn, and a number of the chairs have become rather rickety over time, and

Whereas, the Library budgeted to replace the lobby and group study room furnishings this fiscal year, and

Whereas, a staff planning committee worked with the design team from Daniels and Zermack Architects to identify options and select furniture that will match the aesthetics of the building, fit within our budget, and provide both utility and comfort, Now Therefore,

THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD RESOLVES to waive the bid process and purchase the tables and chairs selected for a total cost not-to-exceed \$25,500.

OFFERED BY: _____

SUPPORTED BY: _____

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE:

See It Spec It: KATERA



Design Specifications

Product Options

4-Leg Chair

Base Model

Shell Style Upholstered Seat/Wood Back

Arm Style Armless

Material Options

Base/Frame Starlight Silver Metallic

Seat and Back Finish - Wood Cherry Storm

Upholstery Pallas Essence Blue Lagoon

See It Spec It v3.0, KI Copyright 2026
Built on 9/3/2026



Group study chair selection

See It Spec It: KATERA



Design Specifications

Product Options

4-Leg Chair

Base Model

Shell Style Upholstered Seat/Wood Back

Arm Style Armless

Material Options

Base/Frame Starlight Silver Metallic

Seat and Back Finish - Wood Cherry Storm

Upholstery Pallas Alea Charcoal

See It Spec It v3.0, KI Copyright 2026
Built on 9/3/2026



Lobby chair selection



QUOTATION: 26TRB-808857/C

Ypsilanti District Library: Whitaker Rd

Created: 8/5/2026 | Revised: 9/9/2026 | Valid Through: 9/25/2026





Ypsilanti District Library: Whitaker Rd

KI is pleased to present the enclosed quotation. The following items are included:

- Quote
- Summary
- Itemized Quote
- Detailed PO requirements
- Product Options*

* TBDs exist and must be selected prior to purchase. Please contact a sales team member for assistance with specifications.

Sales Team:

Tiffani Caputo
Sales Specialist
tiffani.caputo@ki.com
614-374-1796

Terry Bortz
Inside Sales Associate
terry.bortz@ki.com

Quote Number: 26TRB-808857/C

CREATED 8/5/2026 / REVISED 9/9/2026 | Valid Through 9/25/2026

PRODUCT TOTALS	\$17,875.84
See Quote Detail Summary	\$443.32
GRAND TOTAL	\$18,319.16

Contract Information:

OT0043795 Sourcewell #091423-KII Delv/Installed

Requested Delivery Date:

To be Determined

Sold To

To be Determined

End User

Ypsilanti District Library
5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ship To

To be Determined

Installation

To be Determined

Announcement:

KI will honor the stated prices detailed in this quote for 30 days of issue date. The corresponding purchase order must be received before the expiration date reflected in this quote. In the event laws, regulations, tariffs, or other mandates directly or indirectly increase KI's costs related to materials or operations, **KI reserves the right to include an applicable price adjustment and/or surcharge to open quotes or orders with ship dates more than 60 days out from receipt of purchase order.** If KI elects to the right to revise an order, KI will give the customer the option to accept the price adjustment and/or surcharge or cancel the order.

Client Notes:

All fabrics, finishes, laminates and trims need to be specified to place order. Changes in fabrics, finishes and quantities may affect pricing.



QUOTATION

CREATED 8/5/2026
VALID THROUGH 9/25/2026
Prepared By Terry Bortz
Quote Filename Ypsilanti District Library: Whitaker Rd - 26TRB-808857/C

Product options that must be determined (aka TBDs) exist and must be selected prior to purchase order submittal. These items are notated in the far right column with (?)

Line	Model		Qty.		Sell Price	Extended Total	TBD Options
Tag 1: Katera Alea Charcoal							
5.1	KT1V00	Katera Four Leg Armless Chair with Glides, Uph Seat/Wood Back Wood Finish Frame/Leg Finish Glide Option Fabric H Fabric ALEA Price Description: Delivered/Open Market Lead Time: 8 - 10 Weeks; Ships from GREEN BAY, WI Please Note: Leadtime calculated on 9/9/2026 and is subject to change.	9		\$576.64	\$5,189.76	
		Cherry Storm on Beech Starlight Silver Metallic To Be Determined Fabric Grade H Pallas ALEA CHARCOAL		/BCX /SX TBD<< H ALEA /27.293.072			
Tag 1: Katera Alea Charcoal						Workgroup Product Subtotal	\$5,189.76
Tag 1: Katera- Blue Lagoon							
6.1	KT1V00	Katera Four Leg Armless Chair with Glides, Uph Seat/Wood Back Wood Finish Frame/Leg Finish Glide Option Fabric H Fabric ESSENCE Price Description: Delivered/Open Market Lead Time: 8 - 10 Weeks; Ships from GREEN BAY, WI Please Note: Leadtime calculated on 9/9/2026 and is subject to change.	22		\$576.64	\$12,686.08	
		Cherry Storm on Beech Starlight Silver Metallic To Be Determined Fabric Grade H Pallas ESSENCE BLUE LAGOON		/BCX /SX TBD<< H ESSENCE /29.099.073			
Tag 1: Katera- Blue Lagoon						Workgroup Product Subtotal	\$12,686.08

Quote Summary

Product SubTotal: \$17,875.84
Surcharge \$443.32
Estimated Sales Tax: See Notes
Quote Total: \$18,319.16

NOTES:

- Images shown above are intended for approximate visual reference only and may not represent the exact models, numbers, descriptions or options selected. Refer to the model number/description/options shown for full product specifications.
- Sales Tax (For Shipment within the United States Only): Estimated sales/use tax will be calculated when order is entered. It is the customer's responsibility to pay any applicable sales/use tax due upon invoicing. A customer will not be charged sales tax if (1) a Resale Certificate, (2) an Exempt Organization Certificate, or (3) a Direct Pay permit is on file with KI's Finance Department. If no certificate is on file, the appropriate sales/use tax rate in effect at shipment will be applied and tax will be added to the customer's invoice.

PROJECT LEAD TIME SUMMARY:

- Manufacturing lead time begins once the order is complete and acknowledged. Delivery dates are determined per order based on the longest lead time per shipping location and are confirmed on the order acknowledgement.

Shipping Location	MFG Lead Time Range
GREEN BAY, WI	8 - 10 Weeks
- Lead times are subject to change based on quantities, manufacturing capacity and surface material selections. Laminate and/or fabrics outside the standard KI in-grade program may have extended lead time.
- For more information or questions regarding delivery consolidation, contact KI Customer Service.



Customer represents that the product information contained within this quote is complete and accurate. Changes to quantities and/or options/finishes will affect this quote. If applicable, other charges such as freight, tax, installation and/or delivery fees may be added at time of order.

Sales resulting from purchase orders issued by the customer to KI (Whether related to this quotation or otherwise) are governed and controlled by the Terms and Conditions found at www.KI.com/terms

Prepared by Terry Bortz
Market Code: 9=9=State/Local Gov't

Opportunity #: 808857

Quote Filename: Ypsilanti District Library: Whitaker Rd -
26TRB-808857

Final Considerations:

To ensure your Purchase Order (PO) is processed quickly and efficiently, please adhere to the following requirements:

1. All purchase orders must be issued to KI or KI c/o the dealer with this address:
KI
1330 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, WI 54302
2. The following items must be included on all purchase orders:
 - Sold To/Bill To Information: complete legal name, address, telephone number and fax number
 - Ship To Information: complete legal name, address, contact name, contact phone number
 - Purchase Order Number: a customer-specific identifier, typically a sequential purchase order number or requisition number
 - Issue Date: date the purchase order was issued
 - Sales Tax: applicable sales tax will be added upon KI invoicing. If tax exempt, customer must provide or have the tax exempt certificate on file at KI
 - Purchase Order Total: total of all items and services included on the purchase order
 - Authorization: signature of authorized purchasing agent or buying entity
 - Order Details: reference a fully optioned KI quote (ex: 11KGH-85432) or include all the information listed below
 - Quantity of each item
 - Complete model number, including all finish and option information (by line item)
 - Net purchase price (by line item)
 - Extended net purchase price (all line items)
 - Any additional applicable charges (ex: installation and/or delivery charges)
 - Contract name and/or number if pricing is based on a contract reference
3. Signatures on a quote or a worksheet cannot be accepted as a purchase order.
4. In the event that you do not have a formal Purchase Order process, please contact your KI Sales Representative or call 1-800-424-2432, and we will assist you with creating a PO.

We appreciate your cooperation in providing us with all the required information listed above on your Purchase Order. Complete information helps us serve you better. Thank you for your order.

Purchase Orders that do not meet these requirements will be placed on hold until complete information is received by KI. Purchase orders on hold are not released to manufacturing or assigned a delivery date. KI order lead times begin once the order is released to manufacturing.



**LIBRARY
DESIGN
ASSOCIATES
INC.**

1149 South Main Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-2213

Telephone: (734) 459-5000

PROPOSAL

Date 09/10/26
Proposal No. P-44288.2
Page 1

To Ypsilanti District Library
c/o Daniels and Zermack Architects
Attn: Jennifer Michalski
E: jmichalski@danielsandzermack.com

Item	Qty.	Catalog No.	Description	Unit Price	Total
6	3	LDA	In accord with your recent request, I am pleased to submit the following pricing for new tables. All pricing below includes shipping and installation costs. Pricing is good for (30) days and is subject to reconfirmation thereafter. Pricing is based on the quantities and finishes as specified below. Any modification will require an updated proposal. Approximate lead-time is 10-12 weeks from receipt of complete order, including any finish selections required. Payment terms are NET 30 days from delivery of material. 30" Diameter x 29" high table with laminate top and 1/4" radius Maple edge. (1) 18" Diameter with 4" diameter column for support. Laminate: Wilsonart Oiled Soapstone 4882-38 Base: Silver Wood edge: Standard Maple finish to be selected. If a custom finish is required, add \$100 per table.	2,225.00	6,675.00

We propose to furnish the material specified above at the prices quoted under the conditions stated here.
Deliveries are subject to delays from fire, strikes or other causes beyond our control.

Delivered and Installed

Matt de Bear

Delivery F.O.B.

By Library Design Associates, Inc.

To order the items listed, sign and return, signifying your acceptance.

Accepted by/Title/Date

To: YDL Board of Trustees
From: Lisa Hoenig, Library Director
Date: 9/15/2026
Re: Discussion of pest concerns

As you know, YDL-Michigan Avenue has been closed twice in the past month following bedbug sightings. YDL staff are trained to identify bedbugs and evidence of their activity in materials. Our policy suspends borrowers until they can present proof that their home has been treated and the bedbug infestation eradicated.

As bedbugs are travelers that attach themselves to people and their belongings, and YDL is open to the public, bedbugs are occasionally found on library furniture. It is more difficult for us to identify the source of the insect in these cases.

On 8/18 two confirmed bedbugs were found at an adult computer station. The branch was closed while we brought in bedbug sniffing dogs, who confirmed activity in that area. The rest of the building was clear. Our pest control company thoroughly treated the area and the library reopened on 8/21.

On 9/12 someone at a different adult computer station reported a bug. Staff confirmed that it was indeed a bedbug, and the library was immediately closed. The dogs returned on 9/15, but this time found no evidence of activity in the building. Apparently, this bug was hitching a ride alone.

The day after the dogs gave the all-clear, staff found a bug on a canvas bag in the basement staff area. We do not know where this loner came from, but for peace of mind we have decided to fully treat the building this weekend. The treatment deters activity for 30 days.

The Library is committed to being 100% transparent with the public regarding bedbugs. Unfortunately, the pest control technicians shared that bedbug cases in apartments downtown have been on the rise lately. Continued sightings are likely. Each time we close, impacts include:

- Disruption of library services (building access, borrowing, programs, loss of staff work time)
- \$450/visit for bedbug sniffing dogs, which it takes time to schedule
- Additional cost for pesticide treatment if necessary (\$3,500 for the whole building)
- A likely exaggerated media response

Given this, we would like your thoughts and direction. Under what circumstances should the library be closed for bedbug sightings? Should a single bug be cause for closure? Assistant Director Julianne Smith, who leads the library's Bedbug Committee (BBC), will be present at the meeting to field questions.



Ypsilanti District Library

★ Favorites · about an hour ago · 🌐

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Good news: our downtown branch reopens tomorrow at 9am!

Our pest control company has reported a higher-than-usual number of bedbug cases in downtown Ypsilanti apartments in recent weeks. If you are currently dealing with bedbugs at home, we ask that you hold off on visiting any YDL branch until the issue has been treated and resolved. You can find our full bed bug policy on our website.

For more information on how to prevent, spot, and deal with bedbugs, check out Washtenaw County Health Department's full list of resources at washtenaw.org/bed-bugs.

Thanks for helping us keep our libraries safe and welcoming for everyone. See you tomorrow! See less



Branch Reopening

YDL-Michigan reopens tomorrow at 9am!

On Saturday, one live bedbug was found on a patron by the first-floor computer bank. Per our protocol, we closed the branch immediately and arranged for our bedbug-sniffing dogs to do a full inspection.

Today, Bugsy and Jill confirmed **no evidence of bedbugs** anywhere in our downtown branch.

Thank you for your patience. We're excited to welcome you back!

Visit ypsilibrary.org for library updates.

