

# Muncie Public Library Report to the Community 2024



## A New Director in 2024!

As 2024 began, MPL wished a fond farewell to MPL Library Director Akilah S. Nosakhare, who retired after 7 years of MPL stewardship. While it is hard to lose the leadership skills and institutional knowledge of valued employees, the MPL Board of Trustees Personnel Committee, chaired by Traci Lutton, worked diligently to search for a new MPL Library Director.

Following a nationwide search, Alan Kornblau, most recently of Delray Beach, Florida accepted the position of MPL Library Director. He is a graduate of Florida State University and has worked in a variety of roles at public libraries and library support organizations for a number of years. His tenure began in March of 2024 and he has embraced MPL and the Muncie community. He is an active fixture at Noon Rotary, the Kiwanis Club of Muncie, the MLK Dream Team, and other community initiatives that provide opportunities for Muncie Public Library to serve the Muncie and Center Township community.



## MPL Mission Statement

Muncie Public Library will provide accessible and innovative services responding to the reading, informational, educational, and enrichment needs of the community.

*Top Photo: Akilah Nosakhare (center) was honored at a retirement reception. She is joined by (from left to right) former MPL Board of Trustees President Daniel Stallings, current MPL Board of Trustees President Mary Louise Buck, and community leaders Mary Dollison, and Ella McNeary.*

*Bottom Photo: Newly named MPL Library Director Alan Kornblau.*

## 2024 Highlights-Winter

Mary Lou Gentis, Maring-Hunt Library Manager, retired after 30+ years of service to MPL. A reception was held in her honor.

MPL joined the Soup Kitchen of Muncie to celebrate their 30th Anniversary with a stone soup lunch and story time. MPL customers generously donated food throughout February to support the Soup Kitchen of Muncie.

MPL collaborated with the Nonprofit Support Network to offer grant-writing training to local nonprofit employees and volunteers.

MPL partnered with the BSU Center for Middletown Studies and the Ross Community Center to host "Hillbilly Highway" author Max Fraser. The best-selling book traces the mass migration of southerners from depressed Appalachian areas such as Fentress County, Tennessee, as they sought work in northern industrialized areas, such as Muncie.



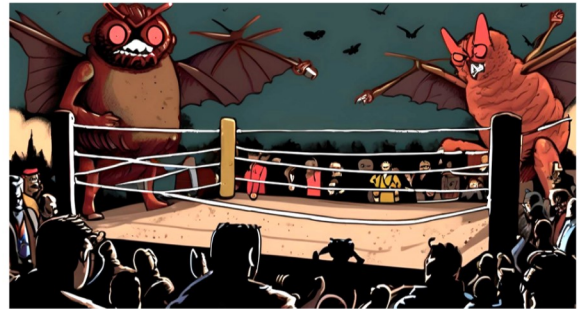


## 2024 Highlights-Spring

MPL Director Alan Kornblau encouraged everyone to explore Artificial Intelligence. He used prompts to create a weekly AI Story featured on the MPL YouTube channel and Facebook page. One of the most popular entries pitted Mothman (a North American cryptid) against Mothra (a famous Japanese film monster) and included AI generated art.

MPL served as a host site for the AARP Tax Aide program with tax help offered at Kennedy Library and Maring-Hunt Library throughout the tax season.

MPL employees served on the city-wide Total Solar Eclipse Steering Committee to coordinate and ready local organizations to host eclipse viewing events and parties. All MPL branches (except Carnegie Library due to little outdoor space) hosted watch parties that attracted hundreds of visitors, some from as far away as Michigan, who traveled to get a better view of this astronomical phenomenon.



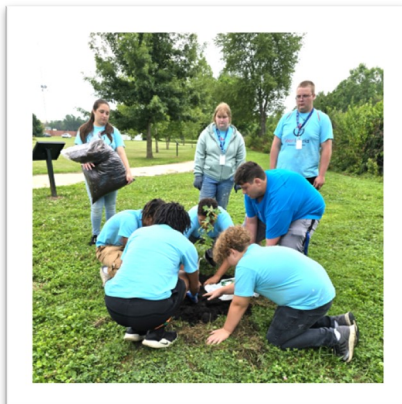


## 2024 Highlights-Summer

MPL welcomed Keith Roysdon and Douglas Walker for a Meet the Author event for “Cold Case Muncie.”

The Summer Reading Program for all ages kept hundreds of kids and adults reading all summer long and entertained everyone with animal shows, crafting, and fun with science.

MPL participated in the Teen Works program whose students worked with the MPL Facilities team to paint, weed, and maintain MPL buildings and green spaces.



## 2024 Highlights-Fall

MPL worked closely with the Paul Revere Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to provide timely programming during Constitution Week, including a well attended lecture and discussion led by Ball State University Professor Dr. Darren Wheeler.

All branches got in the Halloween spirit and offered trick or treating and a special Pumpkins in the Pages event at Kennedy Library, with treats, games, and crafts.

Carnegie Lights was a special program in December. Unique animated video projections were mapped to the architectural features of the Carnegie Library building and set to music that accompanied live dancers. Partners were Ball State University Office of Immersive Learning, Harmony Movement Studio, Muncie Downtown Development, and Muncie Public Library.



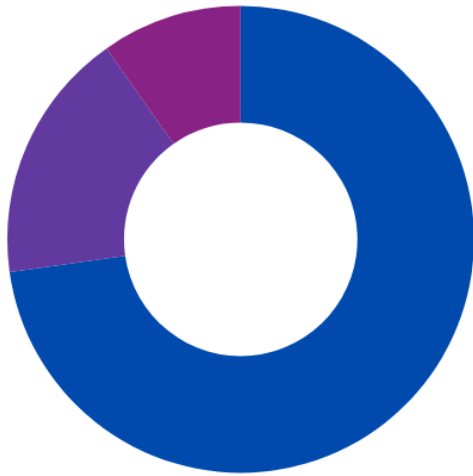


## Book Distribution Partnership with Classroom Connections of ECI

For the past several years MPL has partnered with Classroom Connections of ECI to distribute books as part of the BSU Homecoming Parade. 2024 was no different with thousands of books being given away. However, Stacy Wheeler, Executive Director at Classroom Connections, secured an even bigger inventory of Scholastic books and wanted to do more. She invited MPL to serve as a distribution point to give these books away. The books included picture books, chapter books, activity books, paperbacks, hardcovers, and more. Library visitors were encouraged to stop by any MPL branch to get a free book each day throughout the program while supplies lasted! Children and their caregivers truly enjoyed and appreciated this effort that put books into the hands of thousands of young people!



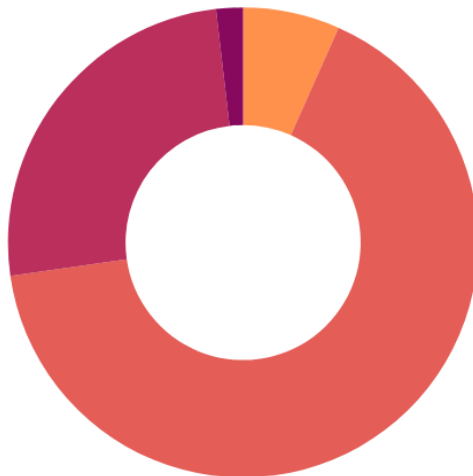
## 2024 MPL Financials



### Operating Revenue

Property Taxes	3,522,062.74
LIT (Local Income Tax)	846,481.00
Other	471,775.33

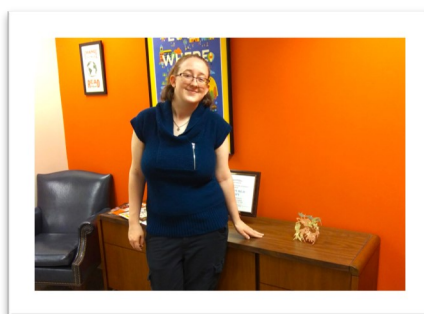
Total: \$4,840,319.07



### Operating Expenditures

Capital Outlays	269,216.98
Personnel	2,673,273.51
Other Services	1,028,095.56
Supplies	74,562.87

Total: \$4,045,148.92



*Art continued to take center stage at Muncie Public Library, including an outdoor mural at the Friends Building made possible by a grant from the Muncie Arts & Culture Council, a mixed metal sculpture created for the MPL Administration area, and art displays by local artists.*





## **Muncie Public Library Board of Trustees 2024**

Mary Louise Buck  
Olon Dotson  
Denise King  
Traci Lutton  
Billie Sheppard  
Ren'a Wagner  
Jennifer Warrner

## **Officers 2024**

President: Mary Louise Buck  
Vice-President: Traci Lutton  
Secretary: Denise King

The MPL Board of Trustees is comprised of seven members. Each trustee is appointed by one of the following governing entities: the Muncie Community Schools Board, the Delaware County Commissioners, or the Delaware County Council. The MPL Board of Trustees meets monthly to conduct library business and to help guide MPL in achieving its mission and values. All meetings are free and open to the public.

*Photo above, left to right: Board members Traci Lutton, Ren'a Wagner, MPL Assistant Director Katherine Mitchell, Board members Billie Sheppard, Mary Louise Buck, Jennifer Warrner, Denise King, Olon Dotson, and MPL Library Director Alan Kornblau.*

## **2024 Statistics**

### **Collections**

**271,522**

Includes all items, print, audio-visual, etc., and all Muncie Community School and Motivate Our Minds (MOMs) items in the shared UCAT catalog.

### **Circulations**

**450,538**

Includes all circulating items at all branches, and checkouts through the shared catalogs. OverDrive digital checkouts were 109,405 and are included in the circulations total above.

### **Database Use**

**111,513**

Includes all database checkouts from all databases services offered at MPL.

### **Active Card Count**

**15,756**

Includes expired cards, Resident, Non-Resident, Student, PLAC, Reciprocal cards, and READ cards. The READ Card Project puts special library cards into the hands of students, teachers, and staff at participating organizations.

### **Card Registrations**

**4,529**

Includes registrations and renewals for all card types.

### **Door Counts**

**182,136**

Total door counts at all branches.



## MPL Branches

### Carnegie Library

301 E. Jackson Street, Muncie, IN 47305

765-747-8208

Historic Carnegie houses the Local History & Genealogy collection and has public use computers, Wi-Fi access, programs, and a community meeting room.



### Connection Corner

1824 E. Centennial Avenue, Muncie IN 47303

765-747-8216

Connection Corner is a high-tech community resource center with Wi-Fi access, public computers, video production, a sound studio, 3D printers, programs, tech tutoring, a community meeting room, and notary service by appointment.

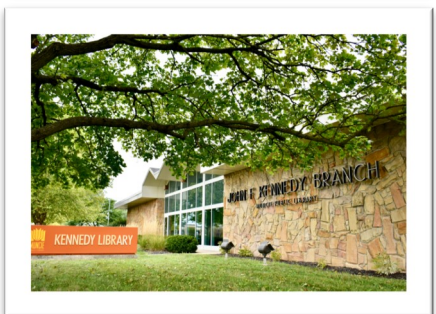


### Kennedy Library

1700 W. McGalliard Road, Muncie, IN 47304

765-741-9727

Kennedy Library is a full service library with a large collection of books, digital media downloads, magazines, CDs, DVDs, Wi-Fi access, public computers, story times, programs, tech tutoring, and a community meeting room.



### Maring-Hunt Library

2005 S. High Street, Muncie, IN 47302

765-747-8200

Maring-Hunt Library is a full service library with a large collection of books, digital media downloads, magazines, CDs, DVDs, Wi-Fi access, public computers, a study room, tech tutoring, story times, programs, a community meeting room, a health track & story walk, garden area, and notary service by appointment.



### MPL Administration

2005 S. High Street, Muncie, IN 47302

765-747-8228

MPL Website: [www.munpl.org](http://www.munpl.org)

## The Friends of Muncie Public Library

Thank you to the Friends of Muncie Public Library for their volunteer service! The Friends group is a separate 501 (c)(3) dedicated to supporting Muncie Public Library. The group holds book sales to help support programs and services at MPL.

