

ALFRED BOX OF BOOKS

Annual Report to the Community 2022

Library

GROWTH & RECOVERY

MELANIE MILLER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

This year has been difficult for the Box of Books Library. Financially, the pandemic has taken its toll, as it has on so many local businesses. Through the pandemic, we lost work-study funded student workers. We rely on our student workers to maintain hours of operation and circulation. The cost of PPE supplies, cleaning supplies, and materials to keep the library staff healthy has also put a strain on our budget. And of course, we have been unable to hold our usual fundraisers. We also continued to struggle to provide in-person programming due to our building size and space in a way that was safe for everyone.

But it's not all bad news. We're seeing signs of growth and recovery. As we emerge from the pandemic, we have begun to see the signs of a new beginning for the BoB. In 2021, circulation increased 23%. This is just 7% less than 2019. Circulation of children's materials actually exceeded 2019 numbers by 8%!

While in-person programming was lower than previous years, we provided 26 Take and Make Activities to over 370 individuals! We regularly provided Star Talk programs with Mary Lu Wells, and monthly Tween/Teen Subscription kits. (Continued on back.)



Top Photo: Guiding Eyes puppies in training spent the morning with us during storytime. Bottom: Making elephant toothpaste during summer reading.

"The Tween/Teen subscription kit is such a wonderful idea. Tween, that interesting time when you aren't the cute little one, but aren't a teenager. A time you want to feel included and cared about. This program has been so wonderful...The time Melanie takes to meet reading levels and interests of each child have been so wonderful. Next add in a great craft idea, that gives him something special to create. The icing on the cake is a special edible, just for him! He loves the program, and eagerly looks forward to the next month's!" -Tween/Teen Subscription Kit Participant's Mom

Interested in
volunteering?
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Visits to the library's website were up nearly 22% over 2019 (up 63% over 2020). Computer use increased 45%. And wireless sessions increased 8% over 2020.

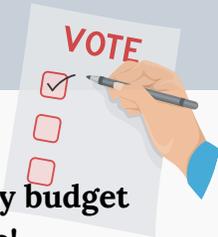
We were also able to conduct a survey and hold community focus groups to create a strategic plan that will guide our work in the future, based on the feedback we received from community members. The space limitations of the building and lack of off-street parking prohibit the library from growth and fully serving the community. To that end we will be exploring options of expansion or relocation. To view our full strategic plan, please visit our website.

We're hopeful that 2022 will see continued growth and recovery. As restrictions loosen, we're looking forward to in-person programming, a true summer reading kick off, and more local collaborations.

"As a novice, I learned how to use a star chart and star wheel, the significance of star magnitude and color, and basic astronomy vocabulary. I learned the major constellations and important star locations, but what I most took away from the Star Talks was an appreciation of the night sky and all that it has to offer." - Star Talk Participant

By the Numbers

- Total Library Holdings: 43,053
- Additions to the Collection 2021: 6,419
- Annual visits to the library: 3,480
- Total number Programs: 1,260
- Program Attendance: 1,841
- Total Circulation: 14,128
- Reference Questions: 1,656
- Materials Received (Holds): 3,376
- Materials Provided (Holds): 3,351
- Annual Visits to Library Website: 3,444
- Public Computer Uses: 180
- Wireless Sessions: 1,499



**Remember to vote for the library budget
at the School Budget Vote!
May 17, 2021**

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