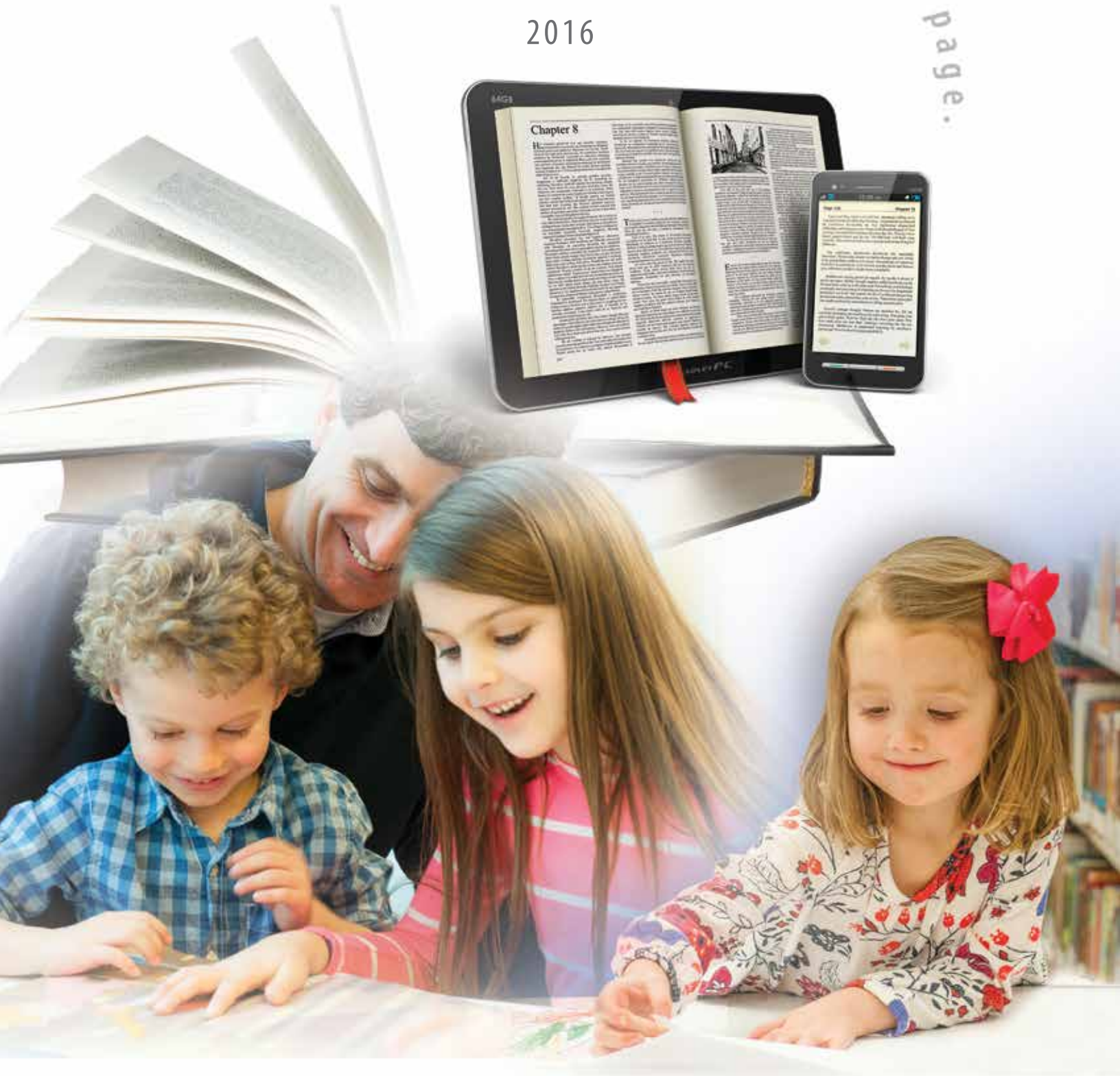


...at the touch of a button or the turn of a page.



ANNUAL REPORT  
2016



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fargo Public Library enjoyed another exciting year serving our growing and dynamic community. The key words for 2016 were change and innovation. The Main Library was in the center of the dramatic changes in the civic plaza portion of downtown, with the completion of the Second Street project and the beginning of the new City Hall project. We look forward to the completion of these projects and the establishment of the plaza as a destination for the citizens of Fargo.

The Fargo Public Library initiated several innovative services to better serve the community in 2016. One of the most significant innovations was the establishment of homeless outreach services at the Main Library. In collaboration with Fargo Cass Public Health, a homeless outreach specialist position was established with the primary focus on the most vulnerable citizens at the Main Library and the downtown area.

In order to better serve our avid readers, the library initiated the “May We Suggest” personalized book suggestion service. We also initiated a new and improved patron suggestion form for web users.

The Children’s Department also initiated new services in 2016. One new service was the availability of Launchpad tablets that provide child-friendly preloaded recreational and educational content. The tablets have proven to be extremely popular.

With the addition of an additional staff person, Children’s staff began providing scheduled hours at the Dr. James Carlson Library to meet the growing need for services.

2016 was a year of new services and innovations at the Fargo Public Library designed with the community in mind. We look forward to continuing that success in the upcoming year.



Regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy S. Dirks'.

Timothy S. Dirks, MLIS, MPA  
 Director  
 Fargo Public Library



## OUR MISSION

The Fargo Public Library provides effective and efficient library services to meet our patrons' personal, professional, and lifelong learning needs.

## OUR VISION

The Fargo Public Library will be a model of excellence in library services and the primary place in the community for people of all ages to fulfill their informational, recreational, and lifelong learning needs.

## A MESSAGE FROM FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR, HELEN LEVITT



2016 was both a challenging and affirming year for the library. Construction around the Main Library made access challenging, but imaginative and innovative programming drew patrons of all ages, often in record numbers. We are continuing to increase the choices we offer, both electronic and print. Fargo can be proud of our Library, which continues to grow and adapt to our ever-changing community.

## 2016 FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Fargo Public Library Board of Trustees experienced change in 2016 with two new members coming on and the assignment of a new Commission Liaison. The Library thanks MaryBeth Hegstad and Becky Walen for the generous giving of their time and talents while serving on the Board of Trustees. We also want to thank Mike Williams for his service to the library as Commission Liaison. We also warmly welcomed Rachael Steenholdt and Dr. Carlos Hawley as the new members of the Board of Trustees, and Commissioner John Strand as the City Commission liaison.

- Helen Levitt, *Chair*
- Howard Barlow, *Vice Chair*
- Dr. Herbert Snyder
- Gary Groberg
- Mary Dickson
- Racheal Steenholdt
- Dr. Carlos Hawley
- John Strand,  
*Commission Liaison*



## NEW VULNERABLE PATRON SERVICES



My name is Jillian Struxness and I am a Homeless Outreach Specialist with the Gladys Ray Shelter. Over the last year I have been fortunate to have office space within the downtown Fargo Public Library. My

position was created with the following goals in mind: to reduce homeless-related calls for service, to assist those experiencing homelessness with getting connected to services, and to enhance quality of life for those that live, work, and play in downtown Fargo.

Through my role I have been able to assist the downtown area with moving away from a traditional incident-based (reactive) approach to homeless-related calls that do not typically improve the safety or well-being of a community, and result in lasting solutions. I have also had the ability to provide targeted outreach and engagement to our homeless population by utilizing a problem-solving approach to decrease the probability of repeat calls by making connections between individual needs and available resources.

Having the ability to work out of the Fargo Public Library has given me the opportunity to not only respond to individuals who are experiencing homelessness but to also be a resource to library staff. Prior to my position's existence, law enforcement was frequently called to the library for incidents related to homelessness such as public intoxication, disorderly behaviors, or sleeping within the library. I have been able to reduce these calls for service thanks to the coordination with library staff.

I have had the opportunity to assist library patrons experiencing homelessness in a variety of ways ranging

from assisting individuals with finding temporary shelter, to applying for housing assistance, entering chemical dependency treatment, and my favorite – assisting individuals with moving into permanent housing.

I first met Lucy in March, shortly after I came into my role at the library. Lucy reported to me that she had been homeless since her husband had passed away 6 years prior. Lucy was 59 years old and was residing under a local bridge. Lucy and I began to meet regularly and the location of my office at the library proved to be an accessible location for Lucy to get to. After about a month of working together I was able to convince Lucy to access an area shelter so we could ensure her safety. It was apparent that Lucy did not trust individuals quickly and that it would be a process to gain her trust in order to help her transition out of homelessness.

Over the next 3 months I watched Lucy's personality begin to shine brighter. She explained that for the first time in a long time she was hopeful that she would have an apartment one day. Lucy moved into her apartment on July 20th, 2016. She was the first individual that I assisted with moving into housing. Lucy continues to be successful in her apartment and I am fortunate enough to receive invitations for a cup of coffee and conversation rather than continuing to see her struggle on the street.

I have truly enjoyed the last year of working in collaboration with the Fargo Public Library to provide assistance to library staff, individuals experiencing homelessness, and downtown Fargo. I am looking forward to watching homeless outreach grow in the future and to continued collaboration with the library and other downtown organizations.





## ADULT PROGRAMMING

In 2016, patrons attended lectures, author visits, cultural programs, concerts, and classes on science, crafting, photography, gardening, yoga and more. The library offered something for everyone. Here are some adult programming highlights from 2016.

NDSU's Departments of Biological Sciences and Geosciences host a series of events each year to commemorate Darwin Day, celebrated on the anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth in **FEBRUARY**. The Library hosted a science lecture featuring Seth Quintus, NDSU postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Geosciences, to 60 attendees.



In **FEBRUARY**, the Fargo Public Library again participated in the community-wide WinterArts Festival. This year, the featured artist was William Shakespeare. The Library collaborated with Theatre B, NDSU, and the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony in planning various arts and cultural programming relating to Shakespeare during the month-long community festival. The Library held a Sonnet Slam on a Sunday afternoon where those in attendance could make sonnet scrolls with the materials provided while listening to all of Shakespeare's sonnets read aloud. Additionally, the Library held a Shakespeare film series as part of the festival, and over 100 people attended the three movie screenings.

In **MARCH**, local birding enthusiast Dr. Ron Miller shared his knowledge on local bird varieties and how to find them in his program called Backyard Birding.

In **APRIL**, the Fargo Public Library celebrated National Jazz Appreciation Month with two Saturday afternoon jazz concerts in conjunction with a display of historical jazz concert posters in the Main Library Concourse Gallery.

In **APRIL** and again in **DECEMBER**, the Library offered a very popular two-part Introduction to DSLR Photography workshop featuring local photographer Bob Splichal. Registration for each session was limited to 20 due to the hands-on nature of the workshops; all sessions were full.

The Fargo Public Library hosted the International Day of the Book event in partnership with NDSU on April 23. Over 70 people attended this program featuring Roland Greene, Ph.D. from Stanford University speaking on the continued significance of Cervantes and Shakespeare.

In **MAY**, the Library collaborated with Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota to offer a program entitled "Safeguarding Seniors." This program, held at the Dr. James Carlson Library, provided information on common email, phone, and mail frauds as well as resources for verifying charity organizations.

On Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 11**, the Library welcomed the Full Rattle Battle Brass Quintet for a Patriot Day Concert at the Main Library. Over 40 people enjoyed the hour-long concert of patriotic songs honoring the United States of America.

Also in September, our "Glimpses of Incredible India" cultural program had over 40 people in attendance. This program scheduled during the community's Welcoming Week and in partnership with Cultural Diversity Resources featured presenters from the Indo-American Association of Great Plains.

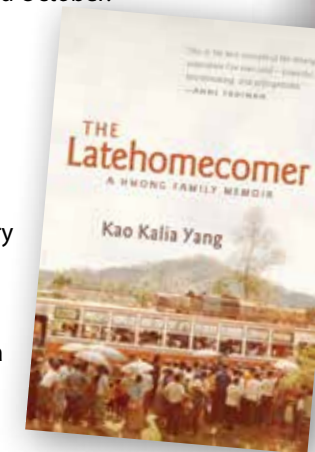
In **NOVEMBER**, over 80 people attended the Library's 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' program based on the book by J.K. Rowling. This Harry Potter-related program entertained all ages with crafts, activities, snacks, and a treasure hunt throughout the Library.

Crafts continue to be popular for adults. This year our offerings for adult crafts included arm knitting, marbled trinket bowls, rickrack rose rings, friendship bracelets, kokedama hanging plants, and needlepoint. The Fargo Public Library provides all the supplies needed for our popular craft programs at no charge.

In the **FALL OF 2016**, beginner yoga sessions took place at the Dr. James Carlson Library. Attendance at each session ranged from 6 to 20 participants. These yoga sessions, geared to participants new to the practice of yoga, focused on stretching and breathing.

*The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* by Kao Kalia Yang was the selected title for the 2016 **One Book, One Community** campaign. The partnership of the Fargo Public Library, the West Fargo Public Library, the Moorhead Public Library, and Moorhead Community Education welcomed the libraries of NDSU, MSUM, and Concordia College in the fifth year of this community-wide read. Close to 500 people attended Yang's author visit and related programming during September and October.

As part of the programming, the Fargo Public Library featured in its Concourse Gallery the community photography and story project *The World in Fargo-Moorhead*. The Library received a grant from the North Dakota Humanities Council to help launch this project spotlighting area residents who have come to the Fargo-Moorhead area from other parts of the world.



## NEW OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY EVENTS

The Fargo Public Library staff promoted the organization's services and collections at various community outreach events in 2016. We took part in the annual Fargo Police Community Picnic, Pride in the Park Festival, the August date of Streets Alive, and the Pangea - Celebrate Our Cultures event. With the Library's new integrated library software, we are now able to make library cards and check out materials at these off-site events. In August, the Library spent an evening at the Fargo Brewing Company promoting our services and collections as well as offering literary trivia and an adult storytime for the tap room patrons.



## NEW

In July of 2016, the Fargo Public Library launched "**May We Suggest**," a new customized reading service. Library cardholders are invited to complete a brief survey about reading interests, favorite authors, likes and dislikes, and style preferences. With this information in hand, our reference librarians make use of our readers' advisory resources to prepare a personal, customized reading list that matches the customer's reading tastes. In 2017, we look to increase the promotion of this service to our community.



## CHILDREN'S 2016 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

### 2016 Storytime Attendance – 6,269

Fall and Winter Storytime each ran for a 14-week session along with Baby Rhyme Time twice a month. Other special storytimes were featured throughout the year including storytime and craft programs for toddlers and preschoolers during the Summer Reading Program.

### 2016 Children's Outreach – 2,887 (Onsite and Offsite Visits)

This includes onsite visits from various daycares, preschools, private and public classes, and other community organizations interested in the materials and resources of the Fargo Public Library Children's Department.

We also had a presence outside the library at various community events such as Share a Story hosted by United Way as well as presenting information to education professionals for Head Start, Osgood Kindergarten Center, and other Fargo Public School locations.

### Summer Reading Program attendance – 2,986

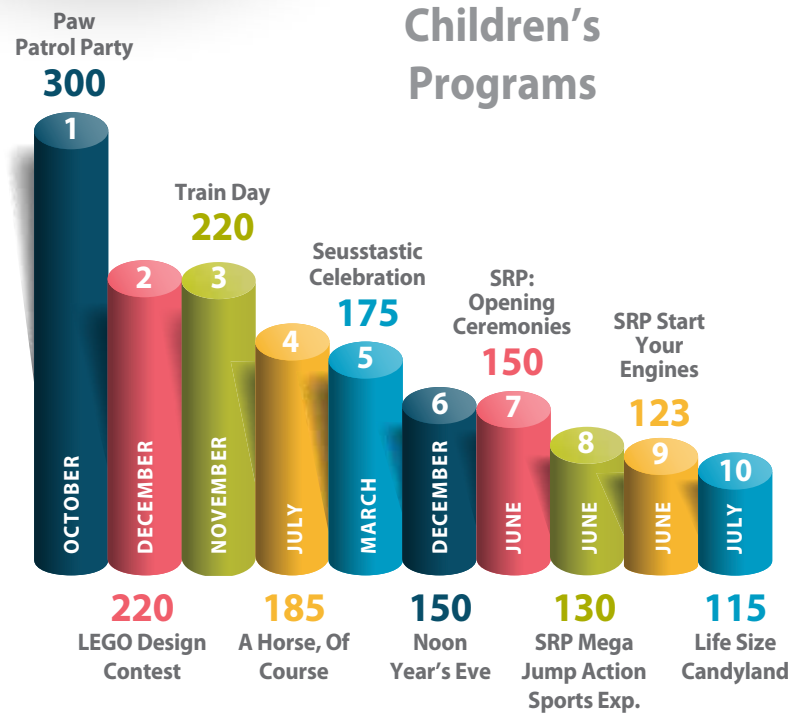
- 88 programs throughout the summer (June 6 – Aug. 7)
- 671 children received a book for finishing the SRP
- 242 children had their photo and/or their name in The Forum
- 21,590 hours read as a part of the SRP

### Winter Read-a-Thon participants – 322

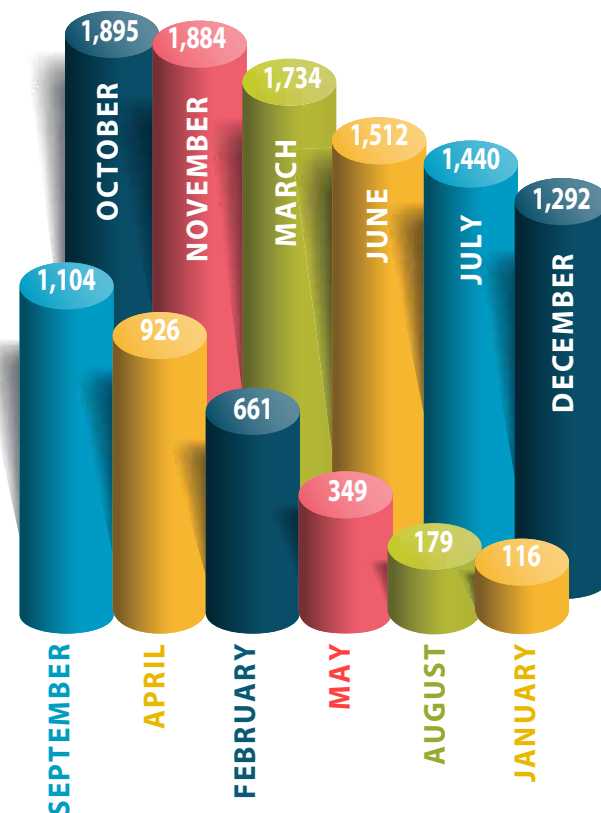
**2016 Storytime Punch Cards – 189**  
This is the 6th year that we have offered our Storytime Punch Card. In 2011 when we started the program, there were 40 cards redeemed. Each card redeemed represents attendance at 10 storytimes. When a child redeems a card they are able to choose a book to keep.

2016  
TOTAL PROGRAM  
ATTENDANCE  
**12,743**

### Most Popular Children's Programs



### Children's Programming Attendance MONTHLY BREAKDOWN



### NEW

#### Crafternoons at Carlson – 1,810

Crafternoons at Carlson is a weekly afterschool open house program for children ages 12 and under. Now in its first year, Crafternoons at Carlson has been a great success for the Children's department with well over 50 children and their parents attending the craft program each week. At these programs the library strives to encourage creativity in children through arts and crafts, and provides a fun and approachable environment for families in our community. Crafternoons at Carlson will continue throughout the school year of 2017. Crafternoons at Carlson is generously supported by the Friends of the Fargo Public Library.

### NEW

#### Launchpad Tablets

In August the Children's Services department announced their newest addition to the circulating collection – the Launchpad circulating tablet. Initially only held at the Main Library, they quickly proved to be so popular that in November we expanded them to all of the Library's locations. Every Launchpad is pre-loaded with high-quality, ad-free learning apps and games, providing hours of interactive learning and play. Apps are grouped onto Launchpads by subject area, theme, grade level, and age. Featuring popular characters and brands, apps content spans subject areas from math and science to critical thinking and creativity, and themes from animals to princesses, fantasy, nature, and more. Kids will love the Launchpad experience, which lets them design a personal avatar before game play and choose an app adventure they're most interested in.

Adults will love that Launchpads are 100% secure, ensuring that children will not be exposed to unintended content, and that the informational console will let the adult monitor how time is spent on the tablet. Launchpads require a Fargo Public Library card to check out. Launchpad tablets do not require an internet connection to operate.

### NEW

#### Children's Chapter Newsletter

Due to the substantial increase in programming across the library for all age groups, the library's newsletter, The Title Page, needed to expand. In December's Winter edition, the Children's Services department produced its own newsletter titled The Children's Chapter. This newsletter contains all of the events and activities happening for children and families in our community as well as other information about collections, resources, services, book recommendations, early literacy information, and more. We have great expectations for future editions of The Children's Chapter and look forward to connecting with our families in a new format.





## 2016 TEEN PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

2016 offered a wide variety of engaging and entertaining programs and events tailored especially for teens. The year started off with a Lego contest for teens and adults that encouraged teens to use their creativity to build a structure with Legos and compete for prizes.

As the winter months continued, we offered several craft and 'make and take' programs for both teens and adults to participate in. This allowed teens and a parent to make something together for a fun shared experience. Some of the programs in this series included votive candle holders, home spa materials (bath fizzies and soaps), molded chocolates, and chalkboard painted terra cotta pots. All programs were well attended by a variety of ages.

Winter also brought the start of the **Winter Read-a-thon**, a fun program that provides an incentive for teens to read during the cold winter months. Teens had the opportunity to pick up a book log at any Fargo Public Library location and after reading the directed number of books, return the log to be entered in a drawing for a gift card to one of several local businesses.

It can sometimes be difficult to get teens to read for leisure in the wintertime, but there was a total of 60 reading logs turned in by area teens in 2016!

For the fourth year in a row, the Fargo Public Library teamed up with Dr. Graeme Wyllie of Concordia College to offer science-themed programs in our **Great Science for Teens** series. While traditionally the series has concentrated on chemistry programming, in 2016 we expanded this series to include not just chemistry, but also other areas of science as well. These programs offered a great way for teens to gain lab experience and have fun with science. In a "fan favorite" event in the series, teens made microscopes with some simple materials and a smartphone. The result was a great learning experience and the participants got to take home their microscopes!

The **2016 Teen Summer Reading Program** theme was 'Get in the Game: READ' and had a sports theme. With that in mind, several programs focusing on physical activity and health were offered along with traditional crafts and other fun activities. A few of the offerings over the summer were Get in the Game Bingo, a Minute 2 Win It Challenge, Seed Mosaic Art and healthy Energy Bites.

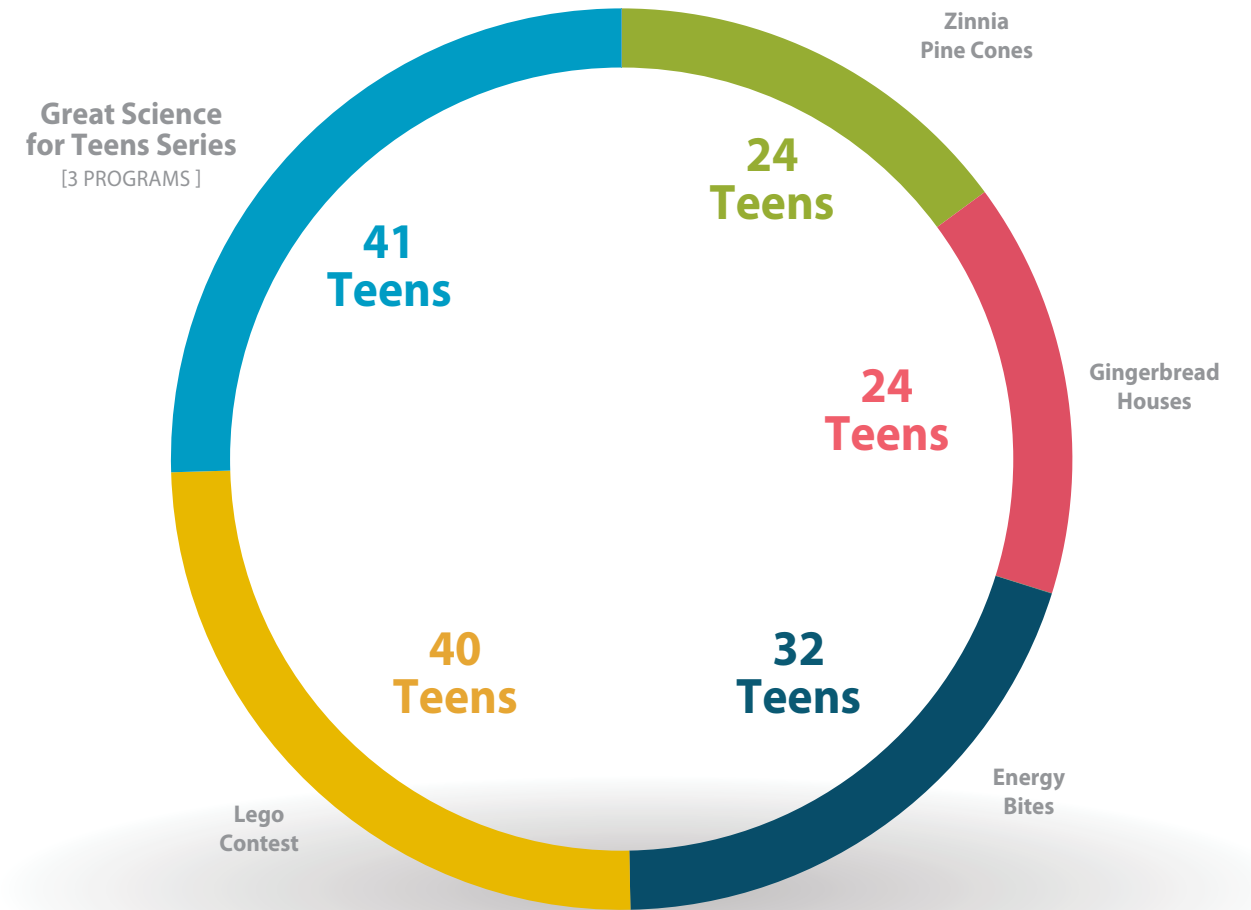
Most programs over the course of the summer were very well attended with a total of 171 teens participating in programs and events during the Summer Reading Program.

As the year drew to a close, we once again offered a favorite annual program, Gingerbread Houses, where teens had a chance to decorate their own "gingerbread" house (made of graham crackers) with a large assortment of candy and icing. It was a great way to end the year with a total of 24 teens participating in this program.

Overall, 443 teens attended a total of 28 programs at the library in 2016.

The Fargo Public Library will continue to offer fun, inventive programming for teens in the future with several new programs planned for 2017!

## 2016 TOP TEEN PROGRAMS





## OUTREACH SERVICES 2016

The Fargo Public Library is dedicated to serving the Fargo community including those who are unable to visit one of our three locations. Our Outreach Services are made possible by our team of dedicated and hardworking volunteers.

In 2016, Outreach delivered 15,669 items to 7,225 patrons at 24 sites. Our volunteers gave us a total of 3,507.4 hours. The most recent estimate for the value of an hour of a volunteered time in North Dakota is \$25.24, making their donation of time and talent to the Fargo Public Library worth \$88,526.78.

## OUTREACH PARTNER AGENCIES

Bethany Retirement Living Bethany on 42nd Crossroads Senior Living Edgewood Vista Elim Rehab & Care Center Eventide Fargo Ecumen Evergreens Good Samaritan Society Fargo Housing Authority Sites One Oak Place	Pioneer House Assisted Living Riverview Place Rosewood on Broadway Touchmark at Harwood Groves Retirement Community Trollwood Senior Center University Drive Manor Villa Maria Vibra Hospital Youthworks
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### We're looking for "Library Heroes"

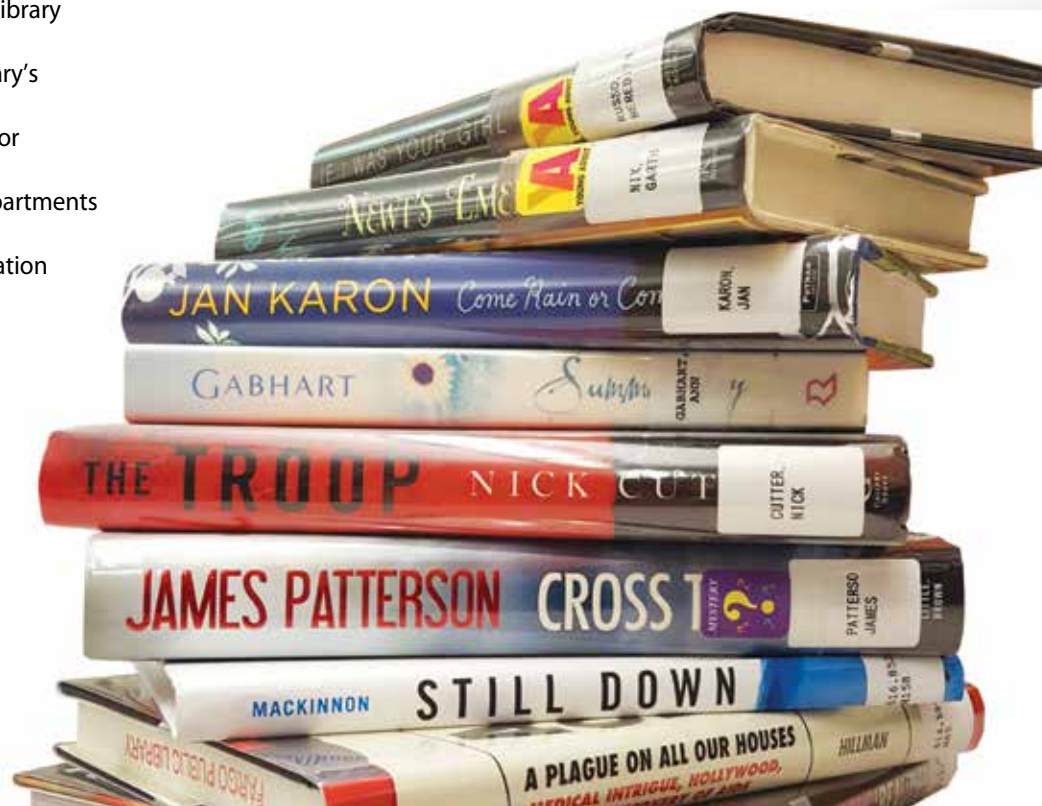
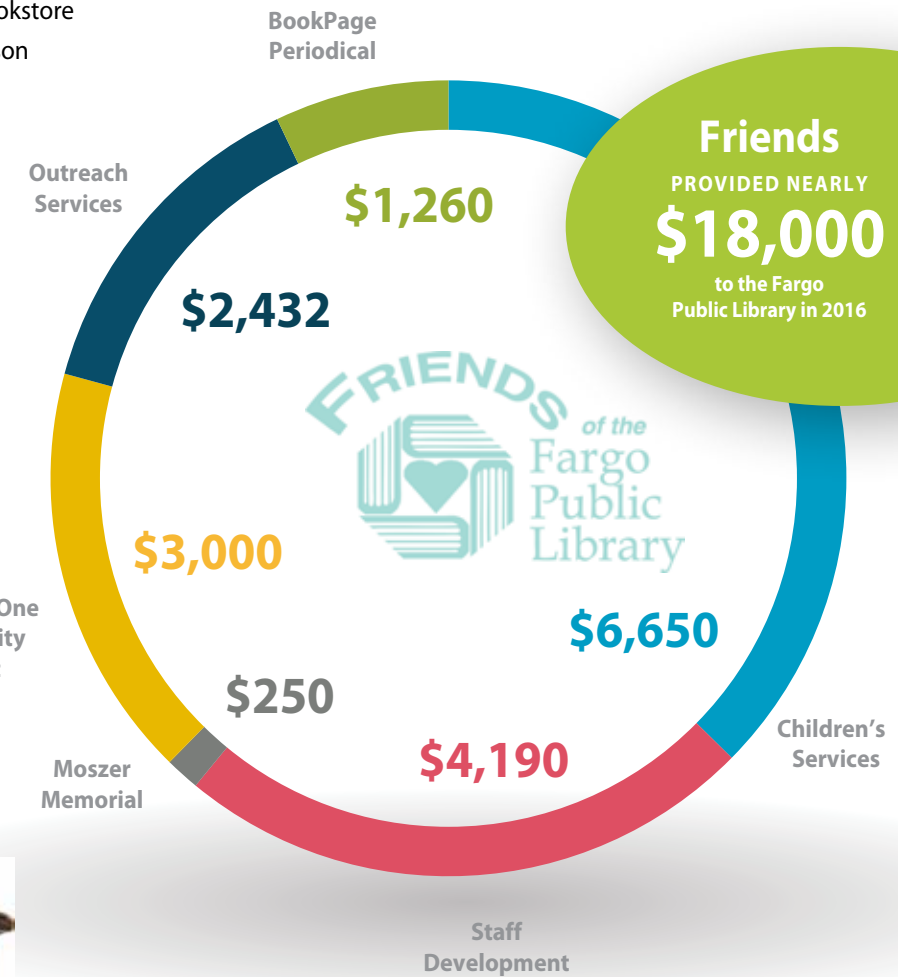
...AKA volunteers! You can be a hero by taking the library out to people who love to read but can't get to the library themselves. Through the Fargo Public Library's Outreach program, readers at local senior centers, nursing homes, and senior apartments get books, movies, music, and information about the world. You get to be a hero.

TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT  
**Pam Strait**  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR  
[pstrait@cityoffargo.com](mailto:pstrait@cityoffargo.com)  
**701-241-8111**



## FRIENDS OF THE FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

The Friends of the Fargo Public Library, a non-profit organization of library-loving volunteers, raises money through memberships and donations and by selling used books. The Friends organization operates a bookstore in the Main Library, resells books at the Carlson and Northport libraries, and conducts special large sales. These efforts and resulting revenue enabled the Friends to provide nearly \$18,000 for the Fargo Public Library in 2016. That funding helped support and expand a variety of services, programming and equipment purchases. The Friends in 2016 also geared up for a membership campaign to be conducted during the coming year.



### For more information about the Friends

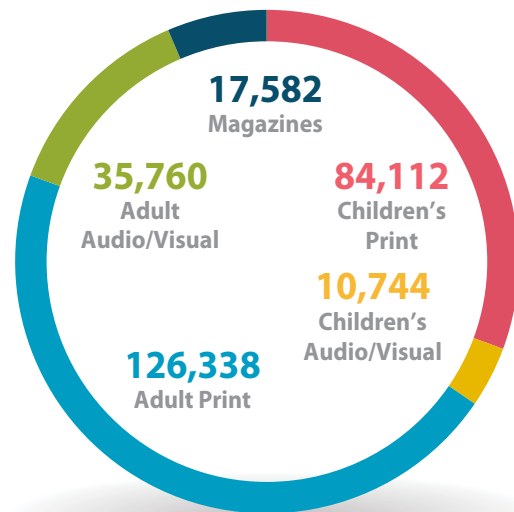
CALL: (701) 364-2665  
EMAIL: [Friendsoffargopubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsoffargopubliclibrary@gmail.com)  
MAIL: Friends of the FPL • P.O. Box 1365  
Fargo, ND, 58107  
VISIT: [www.cityoffargo.com/CityInfo/Departments/Library/FriendsoftheLibrary](http://www.cityoffargo.com/CityInfo/Departments/Library/FriendsoftheLibrary)



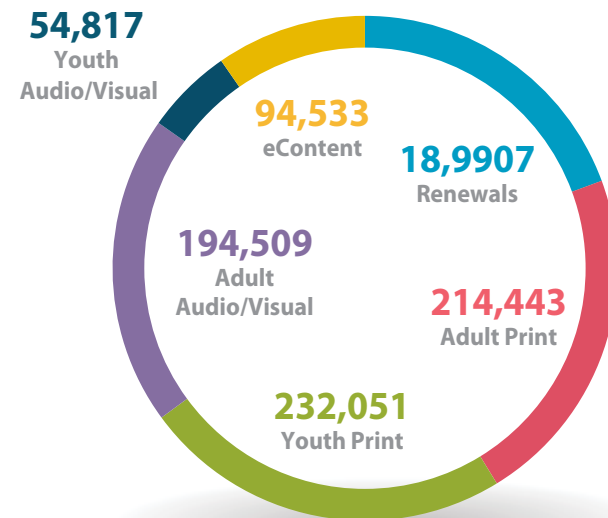
## 2016 FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

The Fargo Public Library continues to focus on growing and improving our electronic collections to meet the increased needs of our community. New digital offerings in 2017 will include hoopla, a streaming platform for music, movies, television and comics, which will add to the library's electronic collections.

### 2016 COLLECTION



### 2016 CIRCULATION



## TOP 10 CIRCULATED TITLES IN 2016

### Adult

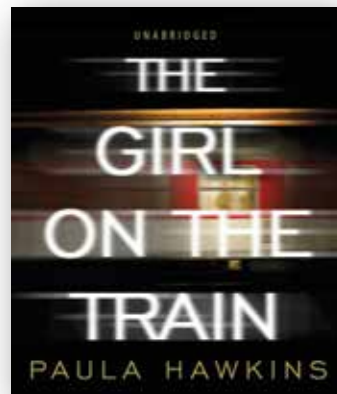
1. *The Girl on the Train* – Hawkins, Paula
2. *Extreme Prey* – Sandford, John
3. *See Me* – Sparks, Nicholas
4. *Tricky Twenty-Two* – Evanovich, Janet
5. *15th Affair* – Patterson, James
6. *The Murder House* – Patterson, James
7. *The Last Mile* – Baldacci, David
8. *The Latehomecomer* – Yang, Kao Kalia
9. *Off the Grid* – Box, C.J.
10. *All the Light We Cannot See* – Doerr, Anthony

### Teen

1. *Divergent* – Roth, Veronica
2. *The Fault in Our Stars* – Green, John
3. *The Maze Runner* – Dashner, James
4. *Red Queen* – Aveyard, Victoria
5. *DC Comics: Zero Year*
6. *The Heir* – Cass, Kiera
7. *The One* – Cass, Kiera
8. *The 5th Wave* – Yancey, Rick
9. *The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall* – Alender, Katie
10. *Winter* – Meyer, Marissa

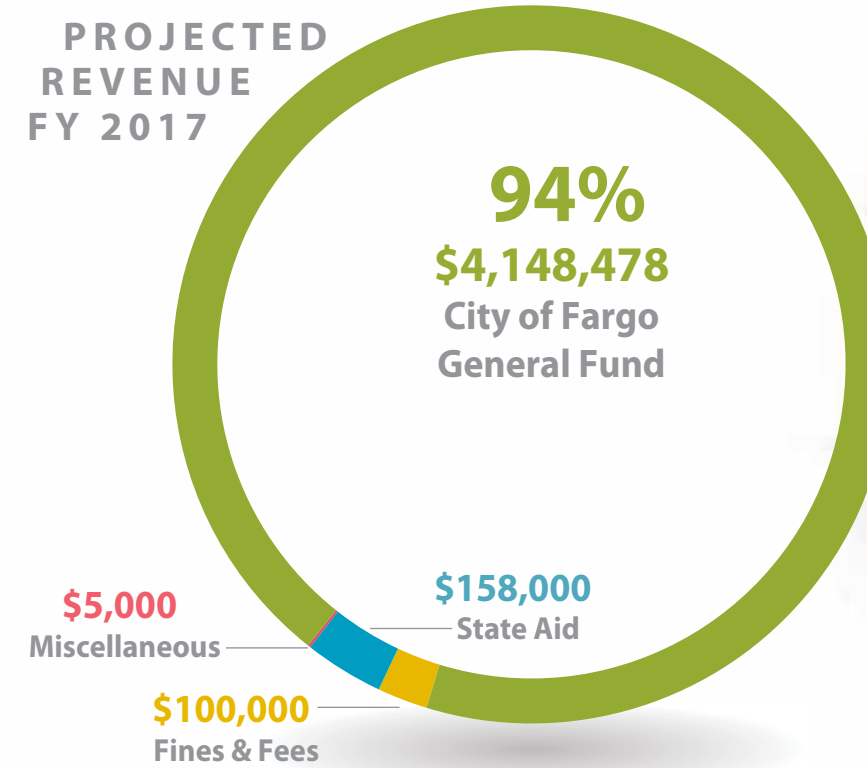
### Children

1. *Do You Want to Build a Snowman?* – Glass, Calliope
2. *Pete the Cat and the New Guy* – Dean, Kimberly and James Dean
3. *Bitty Baby and Me* – Larson, Kirby
4. *Guinness World Records*
5. *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* – Willems, Mo
6. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Long Haul* – Kinney, Jeff
7. *Pete the Cat's Groovy Guide to Life* – Dean, Kimberly and James Dean
8. *Pete the Cat and the Bedtime Blues* – Dean, Kimberly and James Dean
9. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal* – Kinney, Jeff
10. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days* – Kinney, Jeff

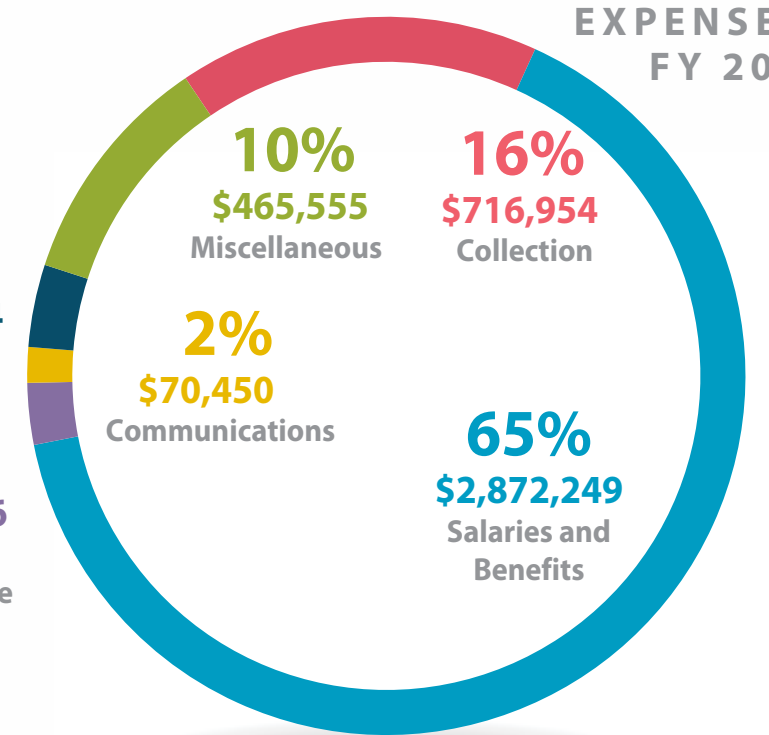


## BUDGET • PROJECTED REVENUE • FY 2017

### PROJECTED REVENUE FY 2017



### PROJECTED EXPENSES FY 2017







The Fargo Public Library is a department of the City of Fargo.

The library has three locations in the community:

**MAIN LIBRARY**

102 3rd Street North

Fargo, ND 58102

(701) 241-1472

**DR. JAMES CARLSON LIBRARY**

2801 32nd Avenue South

Fargo, ND 58103

(701) 476-4040

**NORTHPORT LIBRARY**

2714 North Broadway

Fargo, ND 58102

(701) 476-4026

[www.fargolibrary.org](http://www.fargolibrary.org)

...at the touch of a button or the turn of a page.