

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CINCINNATI AND
HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Date: February 10, 2026

Meeting: Regular

Place: Mariemont Branch Library

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Mr. Harding, Mr. Hendon, Ms. Louis, Mr. Olsen,
and Ms. Reynolds.

Trustees Absent: Mr. Brown and Ms. Redden.

Present: Paula Brehm-Heeger, Kathy Bach, Molly
DeFosse, Staci Dennison, Kyla Hardin,
Michelle Matthews, and Holbrook Sample

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received electronically to the Clerk of the Board will be memorialized in the meeting minutes.

For all comments, The Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library (“Board”) welcomes public input in its deliberations. The Board further recognizes both the importance of public comment on issues before the Board and the ability of members of the community to express their views on matters of interest to the Library. We do have a full public participation policy which includes a 3-minute limit on in-person comments. Please remember that Public comments are for us to listen to you and your fellow community members. It is unlikely that we will make any remarks. We reflect on your comments, research subjects, and consider any relevant legal codes and issues. We will set an alarm for 3 minutes and will alert in-person speakers that their time has expired. We ask commenters to be civil, and those addressing the Board are expected to observe a level of civility and decorum appropriate for a public meeting, and refrain from vulgar, profane, or harassing remarks. The President of the Board (or other presiding officer) may terminate any

presentation deemed not to adhere to these standards.

Cleves Community Members

Beverly Meyers shared the history of the village of Cleves.

Jerri Meister, the newly appointed Mayor of Cleves, shared the community's desire to have the local branch named "Cleves."

Justin Habig, the Village Administrator of Cleves, voiced support for the previous two speakers and the development in the community that has been started as a result of the Library's development.

DIGITAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Walter R. Richaby

Good afternoon, Trustees,

My previous public comment appeared in the board meeting minutes for October 2025 but was not addressed.

I would like to again ask for clarification regarding directives on library displays. Publicly, CHPL

opposed state budget language that would have restricted LGBTQIA+ materials-language that was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

Yet, records show that in May 2025, staff were

instructed by public service director Kathy Bach not to display Pride materials in children's and teen areas "for the budget season,"

in direct reference to Pride Month in June.

This raises questions: Was that directive official library policy? And should the community expect similar actions in future budget cycles?

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Hendon recommended the following:

MAIN LIBRARY PROJECT UPDATE

The Main Library Chillers, Cooling Tower and Generator Replacement work has begun. The demolition of the cooling tower and chillers is complete. The exterior north building generator enclosure construction has begun. The new transfer switches for the generators have been installed.

The Library has approved the mockup of the screening that will be installed along the 9th Street openings.

- **Confirm the following change orders to modify the Main Library Chillers, Cooling Tower, and Generator Replacement GMP for Turner Construction which have been approved to 1) account for a net deduct for rerouting the generator electric feed and 2) accommodate**

the cost of the screening:

Contractor	Trade Contract	Number	Purpose	Amount
Turner Construction	GMP	#1	Net credit for generator feed changes	\$ (5,641.00)
Turner Construction	GMP	#2	9th Street Exterior Building Opening Enhancements	\$ 186,826.00

CHEVIOT BRANCH RENOVATION AND MT. HEALTHY BRANCH

We are working on obtaining the project close out documentation for Mt. Healthy Branch and Cheviot Branch.

- **Confirm the following change order which modifies the Cheviot Branch Renovation GMP for Turner Construction that has been approved:**

Contractor	Trade Contract	Number	Purpose	Amount
Turner Construction	GMP	#2	Credit for unused contingency	\$ (106,720.00)

AVONDALE BRANCH MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION

The exterior waterproofing is almost complete. The storm system is scheduled to be installed over the next several weeks.

On the interior, the necessary structural work is almost complete. The installation of the electrical and the duct work is almost complete.

The project remains on track to reopen in the late summer.

- **Confirm the following change order that modifies the Avondale Branch Maintenance and Renovation GMP for Turner Construction for the final design modifications for the front entry which has been approved:**

Contractor	Trade Contract	Number	Purpose	Amount
Turner Construction	GMP	#1	Final front entry design modifications	\$ 27,634.00

MIAMI TOWNSHIP BRANCH REPLACEMENT

The Library held a community engagement session on December 11, 2025 to share the design plans and gather feedback on the potential name change. As noted in the December board report, the Cleves zoning commission has approved the variances contingent on the Library changing our name to include Cleves. Several people voiced their opinions on changing the name as well as maintaining the current name.

- **Approve changing the branch name to the Cleves Branch Library based on 1) zoning variance contingency that requires a name change or a project redesign to not include any variances, 2) eliminate the confusion associated with the Miami Townships located in Clermont County and Montgomery County, and 3) in organizational alignment with other branch locations. The name change will be effective with the opening of the new location in order to responsibly spend public resources.**

The architect has completed the construction documents, and the project is currently with Turner to begin the bidding process. The guaranteed maximum price is expected in late March but in order to keep the project on track, we are requesting approval for the overall project GMP maximum, and we will report the actual amount in April 2026.

- **Authorize the Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director to modify the Branch Renovation and Replacement 2022-2027 agreement (along with necessary change orders subsequently reported for confirmation) with Turner Construction via GMP amendment subject to owner and attorney review as follows:**

Miami Township/Cleves Branch Project Budget

GMP cost inclusive of fee		\$	5,000,000.00
Owner costs estimated(design fees, permits, and furniture)		\$	1,600,000.00
Design Fees and consultants	\$	500,000.00	
Furniture and Equipment	\$	750,000.00	
Other expenses	\$	350,000.00	
Contingency		\$	500,000.00
		\$	<u>7,100,000.00</u>

NEW FUND – INTERNAL SERVICE FUND – HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

In 2023, the Library adopted a “level-funded” health care plan under which we have been making monthly premium payments to Custom Design Benefits for the services. As part of the 2026 renewal and change in the stop loss carrier, there has been a change in the accounting for the premiums and services. In order to manage the new process, we have created an Internal Service Fund. It will be used to account for the financing of services provided for health insurance. The premiums determined by our Custom Design Benefits will be deposited into the Health Insurance Fund each month and the administrative expenses, stop-loss premiums, and claims paid will be paid out of the fund as they are incurred.

- **Approve the establishment of the Health Insurance Fund.**

REVISION OF THE 2026 ESTIMATED RESOURCES AND ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS

- **Authorize the modification of the 2026 estimated resources and annual appropriations to establish the estimated resources and annual appropriations for Health Insurance Fund:**

HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Revenue

Charges for Services	\$ 7,200,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 300,000.00
	<u>\$ 7,500,000.00</u>

Expenses

Purchased and contracted services	\$ 7,500,000.00
	<u>\$ 7,500,000.00</u>

2024 PARKING LOT REPAIR/REPLACEMENTS

The work on the parking lots is complete.

- **Confirm the following change order that modifies the 2024 Parking Lot Repair/Replacements GMP for Turner Construction which has been approved:**

Contractor	Trade Contract	Number	Purpose	Amount
Turner Construction	GMP	#2	Credit for unused contingency	\$ (40,466.00)

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS

- **Authorize the transfer of the 2026 appropriated \$20,000,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Building & Repair Fund during the year as cash flow permits as determined by the Finance and Facilities Director.**

Mr. Olsen seconded.

Voting for the motion: Mr. Harding, Mr. Hendon, Ms. Louis, Mr. Olsen, and Ms. Reynolds...5 ayes. The motion carried. **(01-2026)**.

Mr. Harding recommended the following:

ACQUISITION OF ART OBJECT RECOMMENDED

We are recommending accepting the donation of original signed 22”X17” fine art print titled, *The Voice in the Hollow – Reading at the Branch Library* commemorating the reopening of the Mariemont Branch illustrated and donated by acclaimed author and illustrator Will Hillenbrand.

Mr. Hendon seconded.

Voting for the motion: Mr. Harding, Mr. Hendon, Ms. Louis, Mr. Olsen, and Ms. Reynolds...5 ayes. The motion carried. **(02-2026)**.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

EVA JANE ROMAINE COOMBE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Brehm-Heeger reported that:

RECOGNITION & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, our staff and Library received recognition for excellence, including:

- Our new Forest Park Branch was recognized by AIA Ohio with their “Honor Award” (highest level) for a newly constructed building and was featured on the cover of *American Libraries*, in an issue that highlighted the new Mt. Healthy Branch, too.
- The Main Library was honored in the annual *Library Journal* architecture issue, appearing on the cover.
- Our third staff cohort began classes toward the Public Service Leadership Certificate program in partnership with Cincinnati State Technical & Community College. This certificate offers a path to management to those who may not have a master's degree in library and information science.
- Cincinnati hosted the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Annual Leadership Forum for library leaders from across North America. The 250 attendees visited the renovated Main Library for tours and an evening reception.
- I was selected as a recipient of the Jean-Robert de Cavel Champion Award for Meeting Sales by VisitCincy. This honors locals who work closely with VisitCincy to bring important meetings, events, and conventions to our city. I was recognized for the big impact our Library made bringing the ULC Annual Leadership Forum to town.
- We have qualified for the Auditor of State Award with Distinction.
- Kathy Bach, Public Services Director, has been selected for the upcoming C-Change class. C-Change is a transformative program for mid-career leaders to elevate their leadership skills and expand their networks.
- Maintenance Technician Bradley Rolf was awarded the FMX 2025 Technician of the Year award celebrating individuals whose dedication drive industry excellence.
- I was selected as for the 2025 Outstanding Public Service Award for Career Achievement from the American Society for Public Administration – Greater Cincinnati Chapter.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our statistics reinforce what an amazing asset we are to the community:

- 4,331,366 visits to our locations -- 175,000 more than 2024
- More than 7 million digital items borrowed, including more than 6 million downloads through Libby, numbers representing a 1 million item increase over 2024 respectively.
- Accommodated 79,000 meeting/study room reservations – 10,000 more than last year
- Faxed and scanned 197,362 documents for our customers, free of charge.
- During our Summer Reading Program, distributed more than 41,000 free books
- Collaborative tax preparation at our libraries served more than 1200 filers, saving them \$346,225 in filing fees, and helping to claim more than \$1,147,783 in refunds.
- The Library provided 64,575 meals and snacks for youth through the federally funded meal program. In addition, staff distributed 63,614 supplemental snacks for youth outside of the meal service, thanks to generous support from the Library Foundation.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

Development set a high bar for success in 2025 for Limitless Learning with the 2025 Mary S. Stern Lecture by Nicholas Kristoff. The Library Foundation sold nearly 2,000 tickets for the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and best-selling author's discussion of his book *Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life*. Special thanks to Dr. Peter and Sandy Stern and the Stern Lecture Committee for their generous donation and hard work which makes this event possible.

FACILITY MASTER PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We continued to make progress on our current Facility Master Plan with a focus on creating Welcoming Spaces. In 2025 we opened the renovated Oakley Branch, while continuing our work to have the renovated Mariemont and Mt. Washington Branches opened in early 2026

We have now completed 22 Facilities Master Plan projects since implementation of the FMP in 2019. This includes 61 new meeting and study spaces and 5 drive thrus. In 2026 we anticipate updating our FMP as we reach the end of the current 10-year plan (2018-2028)

THANK YOU

I want to again offer my personal thanks to our Trustees. Thank you to 2025 Board President Christopher A. Harding for his support and assistance, particularly during the spring state budget season. My deepest appreciation to our amazing, supportive community. And, of course, to our staff members who provide the heart and soul of our great organization.

OAKLEY & MARIEMONT BRANCH RE-OPENINGS

On December 20, we hosted the reopening of the Oakley Branch with 559 visits that day and 402 items checked out. A few weeks later we had our reopening of the Mariemont Branch on January 3, where 1,255 visits resulted in 704 checkouts. Both events were very well attended.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

I will be the speaker for the Cincinnati Regional Chamber's February Monthly Member Briefing. In March, I will attend a Public Library Leaders/Directors Advisory Board meeting in La Jolle, CA., that brings together Library thought leaders with the goal of improving and advancing public libraries in current and future endeavors.

OHIO LIBRARY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE DAY

The Ohio Library Council's annual Legislative Day will be held in Columbus on March 18.

FACILITIES AND FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Harding reported that:

2025 BRANCH MAINTENANCE – MT. WASHINGTON BRANCH, MARIEMONT BRANCH AND OAKLEY BRANCH AND REPLACEMENT OF SHARONVILLE AND MADEIRA MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

The Oakley Branch reopened on December 13, 2025 and the Mariemont Branch reopened January 3, 2026. Mt. Washington's grand opening has been set for February 14, 2026.

At the December Board meeting, we estimated the Madeira Branch mechanical equipment replacement was reported at \$2,500,000. After reviewing the bids and adjusting the installation schedule, the GMP has been executed for \$1,687,721.

DELHI BRANCH REPLACEMENT PLANNING

The design process has begun with hopes of construction beginning later in 2026 with anticipated completion before the end of 2027. As noted previously, the existing branch will be demolished with a larger next generational Library being built on the site.

SYMMES TOWNSHIP BRANCH RENOVATION AND ADDITION

The exterior site work is wrapping up. On the interior, the mechanical system is being fine-tuned, and the training is underway on the new systems. The ceiling tile is being installed, and the flooring will be completed by the end of January. The subcontractor punch lists are in process. We hope to get our TCO in early February. The shelving and furniture will begin delivery shortly thereafter.

Turner has worked diligently to maintain the schedule and we are working to open the building in March 2026. We have extended the lease on the temporary space through April so that we can clear the space without delaying opening of the new branch.

COLLEGE HILL BRANCH REPLACEMENT PLANNING

The design process is ongoing with expected completion of construction documents by the end of March. Turner will work to bid in April with a GMP by late May. The current budget for construction is \$4.5 M with a project budget of \$6 M exclusive of the purchase price.

ST. BERNARD BRANCH PARKING LOT

The Library was recently notified by the City of St. Bernard that our parking lot constructed in 2015 does not meet zoning requirements. We are reviewing existing documentation and will meet with representatives from the city to resolve the matter.

2025 YEAR END SUMMARY

The table below represents the final 2025 available fund balances as were reported to the County in January 2026. The variances from the December 2025 report are the result of overall favorable actual activity as compared to the estimates.

FUND	2026 ESTIMATED AVAILABLE BALANCE	2026 ESTIMATED RESOURCES	2026 APPROPRIATION
General Fund	\$35,300,000.00	\$105,652,000.00	\$107,105,000.00
Building & Repair Capital Fund	22,137,819.94	20,000,000.00	38,500,000.00
Special Revenue (4 funds)	3,273,466.30	769,000.00	1,055,800.00
Permanent (44 funds)	1,706,640.65	230,000.00	424,500.00
Total	\$62,417,926.89	\$126,651,000.00	\$147,085,300.00

2026 INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Library renews our liability and property insurance lines each March 31. Based on market conditions, we expect an overall increase of 5%, which is currently budgeted. In response to changing market conditions and carrier expectations, we anticipate updating our Safe Driving policy in April to meet driver and vehicle verification and training guidelines.

OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Olsen reported that:

MANDI BEECROFT, BRANCH MANAGER, MARIEMONT

Mandi Beecroft serves as the Branch Manager of the Mariemont Branch Library, a role she has held since 2023. She earned dual Master's degrees in History and Information Science from the State University of New York at Albany. She began her professional career as an archivist, with positions at the Schenectady County Historical Society and the New York State Archives, followed by work as a university librarian and archivist at Indiana University East. She joined our Library in 2013 as the Children's Librarian at the Groesbeck Branch and was promoted to Branch Supervisor of Youth Services, dedicating a decade of service to that location. Mandi is committed to cross-departmental and systemwide initiatives. She served as the project manager for the 2025 Writer-in-Residence program, contributed to the Operation Backpack initiative, and is collaborating with her Regional Manager to analyze and strengthen the Manager onboarding.

Mandi shared the history of the Mariemont Branch and outreach events during the closure. She expressed appreciation for the project and shared the community's positive reaction.

DOWNTOWN MAIN LIBRARY MAKERSPACE REFRESH

The Main Library Makerspace reopened on February 2, following a short closure to allow for a comprehensive refresh for its 10th anniversary. The refresh means new and upgraded maker equipment, refreshed carpet and paint, updated furniture and signage to enhance functionality and user experience. The Library Foundation supported the purchase of equipment, helping ensure continued access to high-quality maker resources. As noted in the October Board Report, updated pricing for maker services is now in place and reflects supply costs only.

New & Updated Equipment includes:

- Business card printer: Business cards, postcards, greeting cards, double-sided projects
- Vinyl printers: Banners, posters, stickers, and window clings
- UV printer: Direct printing on wood, plastic, metal, and glass
- Photo printer: Iron-on transfers, labels, and photographic prints

WINTER CHECK OUT CHALLENGE: A COZY NIGHT IN

The Main Library's January Cozy Night program launched the Winter Check Out Challenge. In partnership with Bookery Cincy, the after-hours event welcomed 192 participants and featured an author panel and signing with Abby Collette/Vandiver, Heather Webber, and Kerry Winfrey, along with refreshments and activities. Each \$25 ticket included a featured author's book, supported The Library Foundation, and a tote bag. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

AFRICAN AMERICAN READ IN (AARI)

On January 31, we hosted an AARI event at the Main Library. Approximately 30 community employees and staff attended this family event that featured children's author Brittany Thurman, adult book discussions, a scavenger hunt, and activities for the entire family.

COMMUNITY PARTNER BREAKFAST

On February 24, The Library will host breakfast for our community partners at the Walnut Hills Branch. This annual event provides partners with a library update and the opportunity to share information about their organizations and connect with one another.

CINCINNATI CYCLONES READ ACROSS CINCINNATI DAY GAME

The Library is partnering with The Cyclones to promote early literacy during the Read Across Cincinnati game on March 8. Leading up to the event, select Library locations will host special activities and programs developed in collaboration with the Cyclones. During the game, attendees can visit our table for free giveaways, literacy-focused activities, and resources.

2026 WRITER IN RESIDENCE

The 2026 Writer-in-Residence (WIR) is young adult author, Intisar Khanani. An event to celebrate the 2025 WIR, Mary Kay Carson, and welcome our 2026 WIR was held on February 7 at the Mariemont Branch. Intisar will be our first young adult author. Her series, The Sunbolt Chronicles and Dauntless Path, features "mighty girls and diverse worlds." In its 11th year, the WIR program is funded by The Library Foundation with a volunteer selection committee that helps to select a local literary ambassador for CHPL annually.

END OF YEAR GIVING CAMPAIGN

The Library Foundation's end of year giving campaign and appeal was successful, with the Foundation ranking 6th place out of 129 participating nonprofits in Cincinnati Magazine's, Cincinnati Gives, online 10-day giving challenge. Between both the Gives campaign and regular mail solicitation, the Foundation received a 32% increase in unrestricted gifts.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

From January 12 through April 15, 2026, we are again partnering with United Way Free Tax Prep and AARP Tax-Aide to offer free tax preparation assistance. This year, free tax help is offered at eight Library locations: Downtown Main Library, Groesbeck, Harrison, Madisonville, North Central, Price Hill, Reading, and Walnut Hills, a newly added location in 2026.

SEARCHOHIO RETURNS

On February 9 Ohio's public library inter-library loan service, SearchOhio was relaunched. The service pause since early August, 2025 allowed for the development of a new lending and borrowing tool. A benefit to the new SearchOhio is simultaneous searching in SearchOhio and Ohio academic libraries' OhioLink. The two services will merge on February 16.

LIBRARY RESOURCE GUIDE

Cincinnati Public Health Department is inserting a QR Code to our [Community Resources Guide](#) on the after-visit summary of all of their 43,000 patients. The Resource Guide is updated quarterly and provides information to community resources such as food pantries, meals, disability and Veteran's services. It is available in English, French, and Spanish.

NEW EDUCATOR NEWSLETTER

We are introducing a quarterly email newsletter designed for educators. This publication will highlight our services, instructional resources, and tools available to support teachers, homeschool families, childcare providers, and those involved in formal or informal education. This will expand awareness of the Library's role in supporting learning across the community.

CELEBRATING VALENTINES DAY CREATIVELY

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the Library is offering a new collection of free, literary-themed and Library-inspired cards. These family-friendly valentines can be picked up at any Library location or downloaded from CHPL.org. They offer a fun, creative way for people of all ages to share their love of reading, the Library, and their community.

FEATURED UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- February 11: Tech Basics: Email, Walnut Hills Branch
- February 12: Minority Business Assistance Center: On-Site, Forest Park Branch
- February 13: Ohio Works: Business Beginnings, Anderson Branch
- February 16: Advocating for Residents in Long-Term Care Communities, Delhi Township Branch
- February 18: Hello Homeschoolers: Science of Sound, Miami Township Branch

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Louis reported that:

POLICY UPDATE PROJECT

Over the past several years, we have updated policies on an as-needed basis. We are now taking a comprehensive approach by reviewing all HR policies and guidelines to ensure consistency, compliance, and alignment with current practices and organizational values. Human Resources is reviewing existing policies and developing recommendations for consolidation, updates, additions, or removal where appropriate. These recommendations will be shared with a staff work group for input and brought to the Board for review and approval on a rolling basis throughout 2026. This process will result in clear, more concise policies that provide reliable information, support staff, and strengthen operational effectiveness across the system.

IMPACT AWARD AND BUNNY DEHNER PRIZE RECIPIENTS

We are also excited to share that we have not one, but two Impact Award winners and Bunny Dehner Prize recipients of \$1,000 this year: Emily Mays, Youth Librarian in 1 South and Steve Causey, retired Public Safety Supervisor, are both recipients of this honor.

Excerpts from Emily's nomination include:

Emily's work and leadership on the pilot program at the Juvenile Justice Center has been invaluable. Every month, Emily leads a group of staff who visit the teens in the Juvenile Justice Center and provide them with resources, snacks, games and enjoyment. The most important thing Emily brings to this program is empathy and her ability to listen without judgment as the kids tell the stories of their lives to a caring adult. Since this pilot project started, we have seen multiple kids at Main Library who recognize staff from this program and now have a touchpoint in the real world. They feel welcomed at the Library because of the work Emily has done in making sure these teens feel safe. Thank you, Emily, for being a true leader in teen services.

Please join me in congratulating our Impact Award Winner, Emily Mays!

Excerpts from Steve's nomination include:

Steve Causey has been instrumental in both short-term stabilization efforts and the development of long-term strategies to support sustained success in our branches, while also contributing to system-wide initiatives as needed. His leadership has been consistently effective, serving as a liaison and coach for Public Safety Services staff, employees, and management teams.

Steve's manager notes that he exemplifies transformational and servant leadership. He is widely respected for his ability to identify challenges and implement practical, sustainable solutions, always pairing concerns with clear paths forward. His leadership on CHPL's Restorative Practices Committee is notable, advancing culture-building efforts that foster inclusivity, empathy, and connection across the system. Steve has consistently been recognized as an outstanding asset to CHPL whose leadership, professionalism, and commitment to the Library and our customers has positively shaped the organization and our service to the community. Congratulations, Steve and we wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement!

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

We are excited to announce that this year's Rookie of the Year recipient is Seth Longland, Branch Manager

at the Covedale Branch! Seth's nomination included the following accolades:

Since joining CHPL in January 2025, Seth has demonstrated a strong alignment with CHPL's core values and had an immediate, positive impact on staff and customers. He quickly established trust through visible, hands-on leadership, outstanding customer service, and a consistently positive approach.

Seth identified key challenges and prioritized creating a welcoming and well-organized environment. His leadership brought stability and renewed positivity to a branch that had experienced significant change. While it can take years for a culture to shift, Seth managed it in less than one year! He consistently has a willingness and eagerness to learn and try innovative approaches, while adopting best practices. We are looking forward to seeing the impact Seth will continue to have at CHPL!

Please join me in congratulating our Rookie of the Year, Seth Longland!

STAFF & RETIREE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The thirteenth annual Staff & Retiree Recognition Program will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at the Main Library, beginning at 5:30 pm, with the program to commence at 6:15 pm. This year, service recognition pins will be awarded to all staff reaching a five-year increment anniversary. This year's event will recognize Seth Longland as Rookie of the Year and Emily Mays and Steve Causey as the Impact Award and Bunny Dehner Prize recipients for their contributions and service. We look forward to celebrating those receiving recognition and those being honored for their service and accomplishments.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Harding moved the Board approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Minutes of the Annual Meeting held December 9, 2025
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 9, 2025
- Monthly Financial Reports – for the periods ending December 31, 2025 and January 31, 2026
- Media Activity Report – December 2, 2025 – February 1, 2026
- Contributions, Gifts, and Donations – December 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS RECEIVED GREATER THAN \$1000
 December 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026

12/05/2025	Joseph and Susan Pilcher	Support for Library programs	5,000.00
12/10/2025	Library Foundation	Support for Library programs	7,320.00
12/16/2025	Library Foundation	Turner Construction - Homework Help Support	5,000.00
12/16/2025	Library Foundation	Tom Jones - Support for Makerspaces	25,000.00
12/19/2025	ATLA	Memorial Bench for Anderson Branch	2,500.00
12/23/2025	Friends of PLCH	Support for Library programs	2,333.00
12/23/2025	Friends of PLCH	Support for Library programs	30,000.00
12/23/2025	Friends of PLCH	Support for Library programs	30,000.00
12/23/2025	Friends of PLCH	Support for Library programs	30,000.00
12/29/2025	Friends of PLCH	Support for various Library staff and public events and engagement	56,659.00
12/29/2025	Friends of PLCH	Support for Library programs	83,000.00
01/23/2026	Library Foundation	Support for electronic materials	7,025.00
01/23/2026	Library Foundation	Jones Fund - Support for Main Library Programs	9,922.37
01/23/2026	Library Foundation	Support for Stern Lecture Series	40,000.00
01/23/2026	Library Foundation	EJRC Distribution	52,971.63

- Personnel Change Report through February 4, 2026

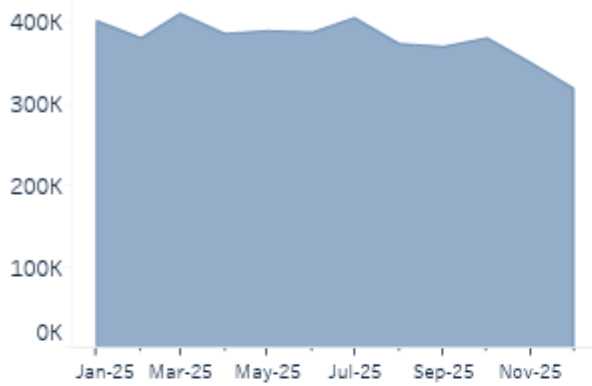
<u>ACTION</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>FULL NAME</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Appointment	New hire	Claytor, Pamela M.	Branch Shelver	Mt. Healthy	0.30	1	12/07/2025
Appointment	New hire	Gilbert, Shelby L.	Public Safety Team Leader	Public Safety	1.00	7	12/07/2025
Appointment	New hire	Gross, Emalee	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Oakley	0.50	4	12/07/2025
Appointment	New hire	Hundley, Emma	Brand Coordinator	Brand Team	1.00	9	12/07/2025
Appointment	New hire	Jones, Timothy L.	Public Safety Specialist	Public Safety	1.00	6	12/07/2025
Appointment	New hire	Pearce, Laura	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Oakley	0.50	4	12/07/2025
Appointment	New hire	Wildman, Camilla	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Oakley	0.50	4	12/07/2025
Appointment	New hire	Summers, Katelyn	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Pleasant Ridge	0.50	4	01/04/2026
Appointment	New hire	Lunde, Kayla	Branch Shelver	Blue Ash	0.30	1	01/04/2026
Appointment	New hire	Deitzel, Alexander J.	Branch Shelver	Walnut Hills	0.30	1	01/04/2026
Appointment	Rehire	Pfeiffer, Andrea C.	Branch Shelver	Oakley	0.30	1	01/04/2026
Appointment	New hire	Gordon, Doris	Monitor Mentor	West End	0.375	6	01/18/2026
Appointment	New hire	Encinias, Nevarez G.	PT20-Library Customer Adv	1 South	0.50	4	01/18/2026
Appointment	New hire	Gadzala, Abigail M.	HW Help & Enrichment Asst	Wyoming	0.30	4	01/18/2026
Appointment	New hire	Slider, Abigail	PT20-Library Customer Adv	1 South	0.50	4	01/18/2026
Appointment	New hire	Scott, Jaina	Branch Shelver	Mt. Washington	0.30	1	02/01/2026
Appointment	New hire	Emmert, Edward C.	PT24-Library Customer Adv	Sharonville	0.60	4	02/01/2026
Appointment	New hire	Dupont, Haley M.	PT20-Library Customer Adv	1 South	0.50	4	02/01/2026
Appointment	New hire	Dwyer, Sarah	Branch Shelver	Anderson	0.30	1	02/01/2026
Appointment	New hire	Edwards, Gavriella	Line Asst Phys Proc	Catalog&Processing	1.00	2	02/01/2026
Promotion	Promotion	Burdette, Marlietta K.	Library Customer Spec	Anderson	1.00	5	12/07/2025
Promotion	Promotion	Vickey, Jennifer L.	Branch Supervisor - YS	Sharonville	1.00	9	12/07/2025
Promotion	Promotion	Wild, Jasmine F.	Library Customer Spec	Monfort Heights	1.00	5	01/04/2026
Promotion	Promotion	Soper, Lisa M.	Payroll & Budget Super	Fiscal Office	1.00	10	01/18/2026
Change	Change in FTE	Berry, Kiara J.	Library Customer Adviser	St. Bernard	1.00	4	12/07/2025
Change	Change in FTE	Craig, Stephanie	PT24-Library Customer Adv	Symmes Township	0.60	4	12/07/2025
Change	Change in FTE	Most, Graham R.	Library Customer Adviser	St. Bernard	1.00	4	12/07/2025
Change	Lateral transfer	Ehrnschwender, Molly B.	Youth Librarian	Wyoming	1.00	7	12/07/2025
Change	Lateral transfer	Spinelli, Emily J.	Library Customer Spec	1 South	1.00	5	01/04/2026
Change	Change in FTE	Beatty, Kalah J.	Library Customer Adviser	College Hill	1.00	4	01/18/2026
Change	Change in FTE	Sexton, Carrie A.	Library Customer Adviser	1 South	1.00	4	01/18/2026
Change	Transfer	Rader, Twyla L.	Customer Service Sub	Customer Service Subs	0.725	4	01/18/2026
Change	Change in FTE	Longeway, Alyssa M.	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Delhi Township	0.50	4	02/01/2026
Change	Change in FTE	Bennett, Aaliyah C.	Library Customer Adviser	Anderson	1.00	4	02/01/2026
Demotion	Voluntary Demotion	Short, Crystal R.	Sorter	Sorting and Mat Retrieval	1.00	2	01/18/2026
Departure	Departure	Anderson, Valarie M.	HW Help & Enrichment Asst	Covedale	0.30	4	12/23/2025
Departure	Resignation	Shawver, Nat	PT20-Library Customer Adv	1 South	0.50	4	12/09/2025
Departure	Resignation	Ikemba, Asad	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Delhi Township	0.50	4	12/09/2025
Departure	Resignation	Robinson-Thomas, Tamara R.	PT20-Library Customer Adv	3 South	0.50	4	12/19/2025
Departure	Resignation	Moore, Dana M.	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Pleasant Ridge	0.50	4	12/20/2025
Departure	Resignation	Trek, Asa	PT20-Library Customer Adv	North Central	0.50	4	12/22/2025
Departure	Resignation	Gulasy, Miranda M.	Events Supervisor	Programs & Events	1.00	9	12/30/2025
Departure	Resignation	Scherer, Linda A.	HW Help & Enrichment Asst	Cheviot	0.30	4	12/30/2025
Departure	Resignation	Couch, Fred A.	Public Safety Specialist	Public Safety	1.00	6	12/31/2025
Departure	Resignation	Simpson, Kirsten N.	Branch Shelver	Anderson	0.30	1	01/03/2026
Departure	Resignation	Summers, Katelyn	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Pleasant Ridge	0.50	4	01/07/2026
Departure	Resignation	McGuire-Fox, Autumn R.	HW Help & Enrichment Asst	Delhi Township	0.30	4	01/08/2026
Departure	Resignation	Payne, Kristen L.	Construction Proj Leader	Capital Plan & Proj Mgmt	1.00	10	01/09/2026
Departure	Resignation	Hedges, Taylor M.	Youth Librarian	Covedale	1.00	7	01/14/2026
Departure	Resignation	Casto, Jeffrey E.	Library Customer Spec	Outreach Services	1.00	5	01/16/2026
Departure	Resignation	Collins, Kiana R.	PT20-Library Customer Adv	Monfort Heights	0.50	4	01/25/2026
Departure	Resignation	Richtand, Tracy W.	PT20-Library Customer Adv	1 South	0.50	4	01/26/2026
Departure	Resignation	Winks, Caroline	Branch Shelver	Symmes Township	0.30	1	01/29/2026
12/2/2025 - 2/4/2026							

- Statistical Report for December 2025 and January 2026

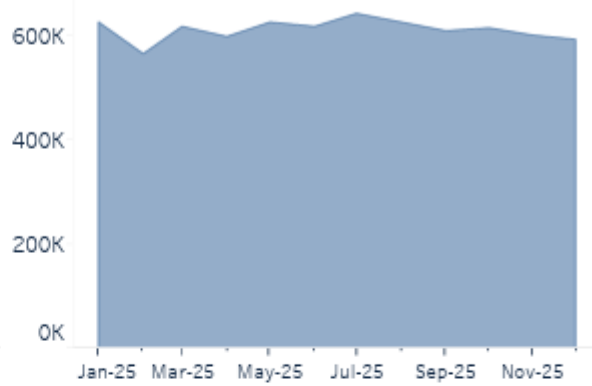
Statistical Report - December 2025

Trailing 12 Months of Data

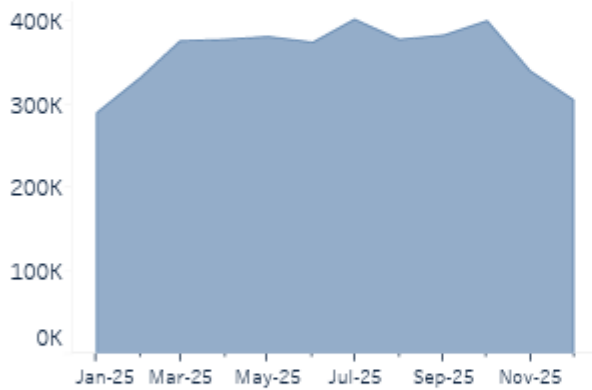
Original Circulation



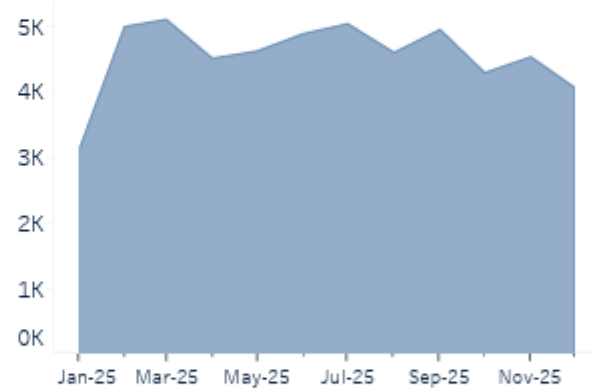
Digital Circulation



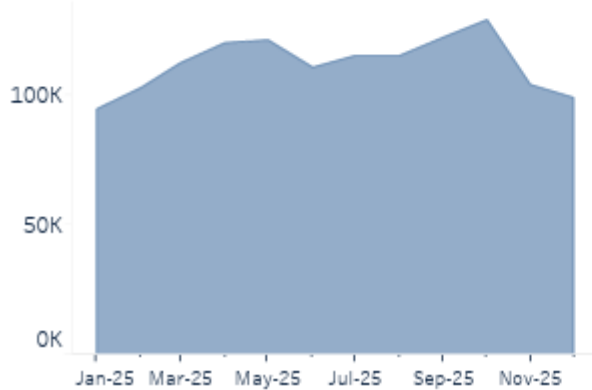
Visits In-Person



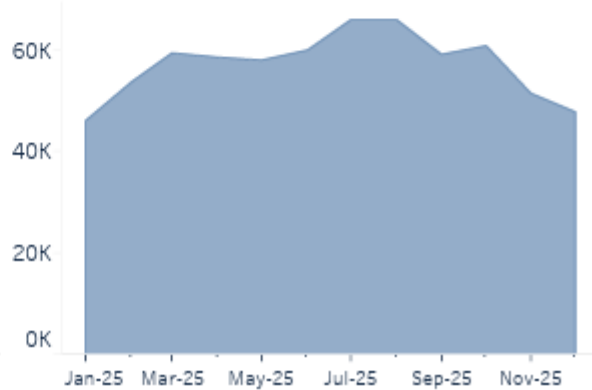
Visits Curbside & Drive-thru



Wi-Fi Sessions



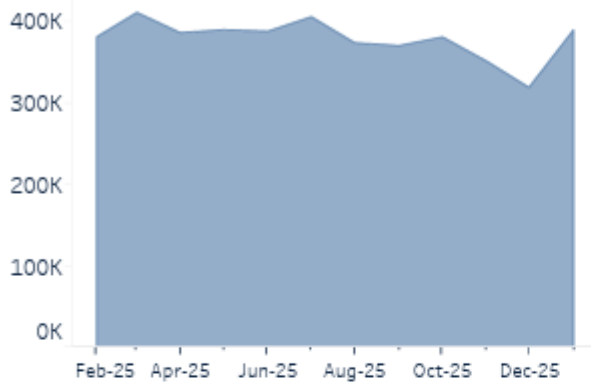
PC Sessions



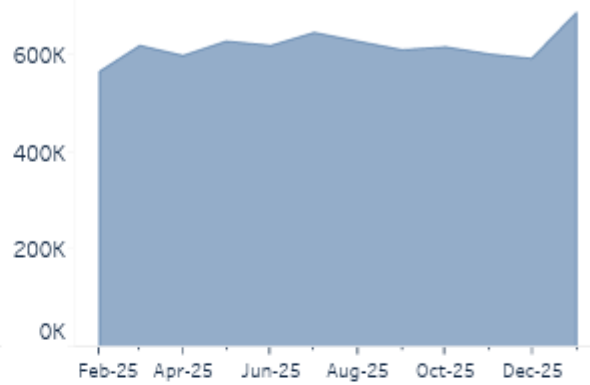
Statistical Report - January 2026

Trailing 12 Months of Data

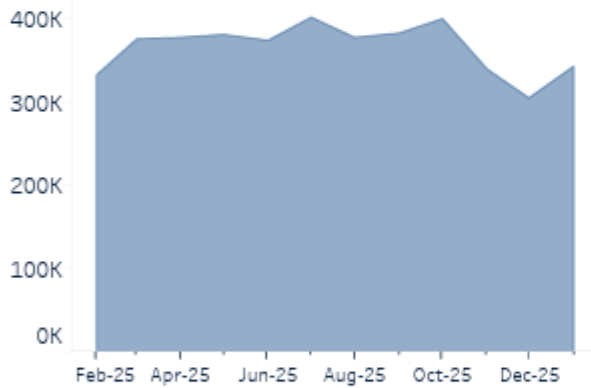
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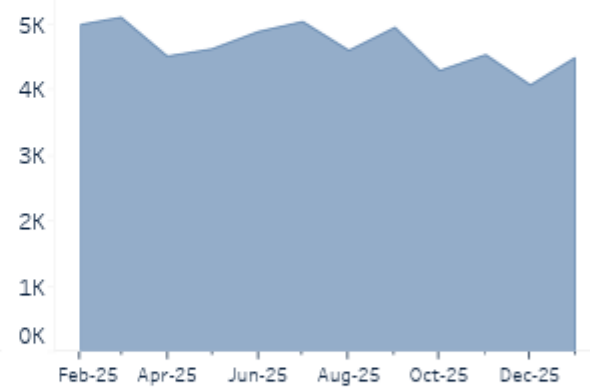
Digital Circulation



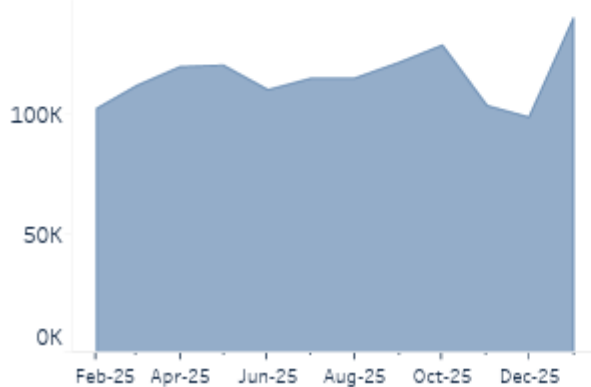
Visits In-Person



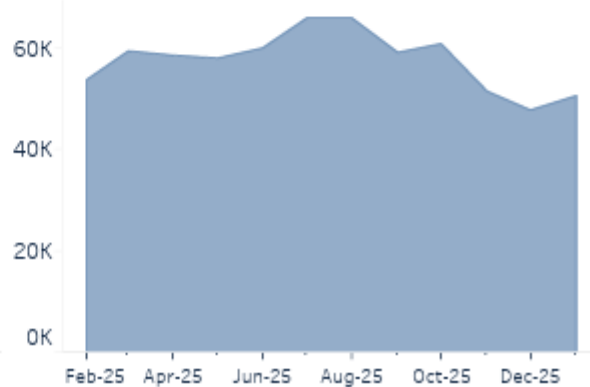
Visits Curbside & Drive-thru



Wi-Fi Sessions



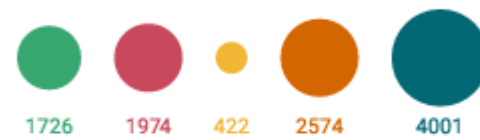
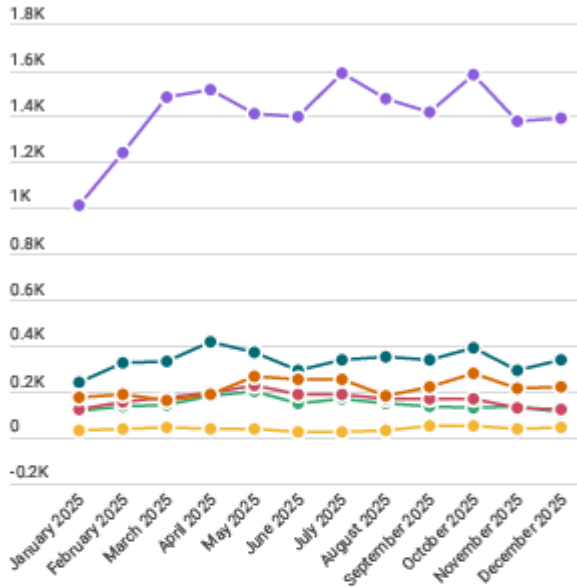
PC Sessions



- Statistical Highlights – 2025 Makerspace Use at CHPL

2025 Makerspace Use at CHPL

Usage by Branch



Sessions by Year

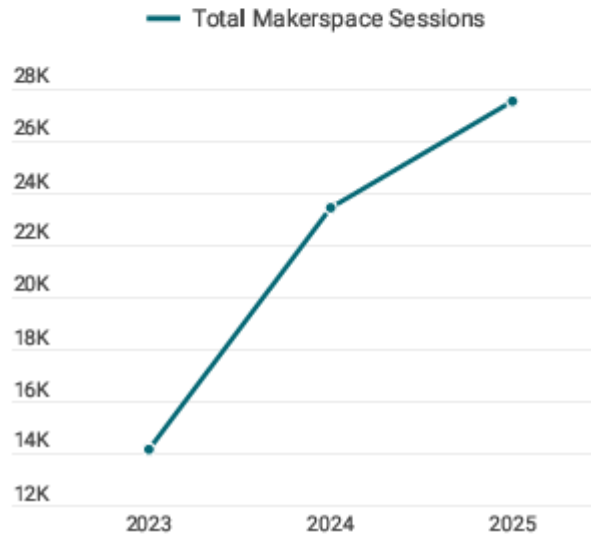


27,508 sessions in 2025

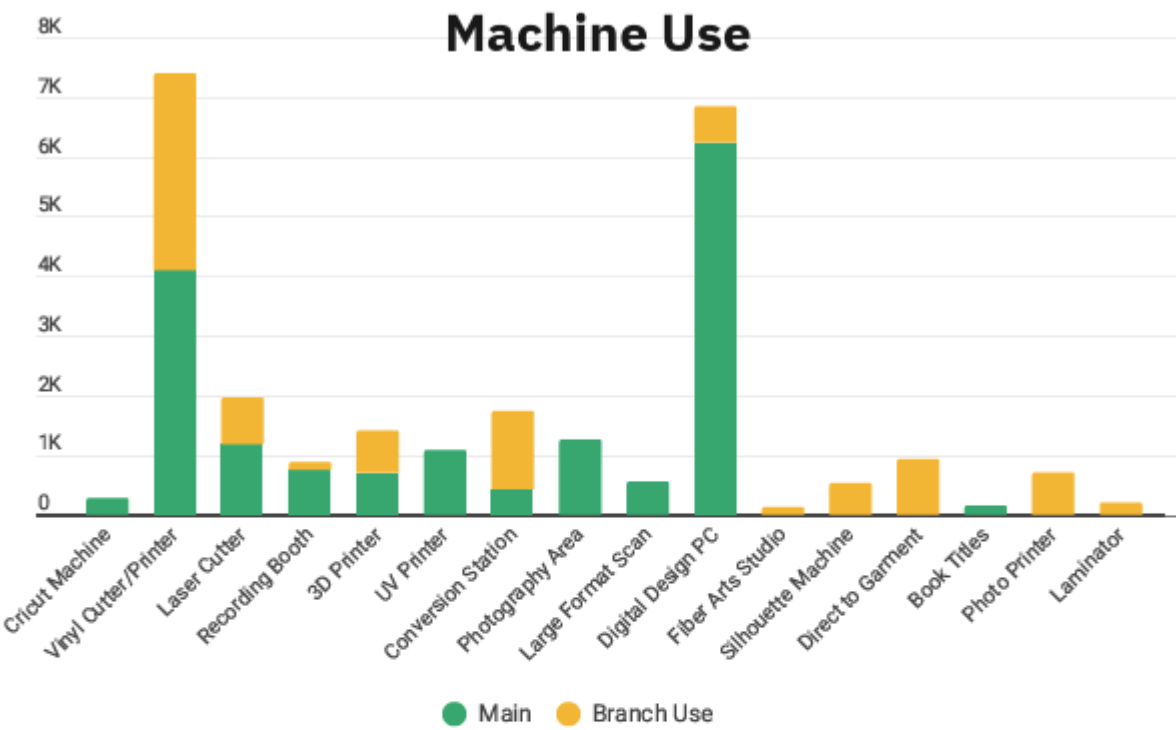
17.6% increase over 2024.



23,409 sessions in 2024

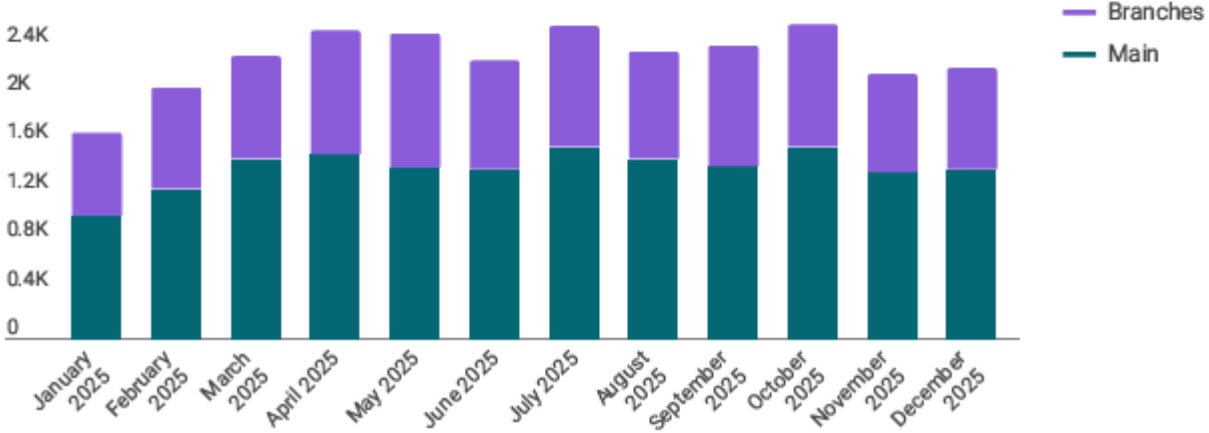


2025 Makerspace Use at CHPL



The most popular machines are the vinyl cutters/printers, digital design PCs, and the recording booths. Customers also used CHPL available sewing machines and button makers hundreds of times throughout the year.

Systemwide Monthly Use



- Investment Report (summary of invested balances) as of January, 2026

Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library
Investment Summary as of January 31, 2026

	Amount As of 12/31/2025	Amount As of 01/31/2026
Fifth Third Investment:		
General Fund	\$19,512,200.50	\$19,512,200.50
Building and Repair	\$15,887,370.00	\$14,642,370.00
Total	\$35,399,570.50	\$34,154,570.50
Fifth Third Operating Account:		
General Fund	\$19,916,341.02	\$17,247,099.87
Insurance Reserve	\$230,000.00	\$230,000.00
Special Revenue Funds	\$3,204,363.62	\$3,362,918.76
Building and Repair	\$24,846,327.49	\$23,941,977.79
Internal Service Fund	\$0.00	\$55,891.11
Permanent Trust Funds	\$1,758,224.84	\$1,735,963.48
Total	\$49,955,256.97	\$46,573,851.01
STAR Ohio:		
Building and Repair	\$1,317,932.91	\$1,322,369.73
Total	\$1,317,932.91	\$1,322,369.73
U.S. Bank Managed Investments (Trust Funds):		
Total	\$6,778,407.00	\$6,779,407.00
Grand Total	\$93,451,167.38	\$88,830,198.24

Mr. Hendon seconded.

Voting for the motion: Mr. Harding, Mr. Hendon, Ms. Louis, Mr. Olsen, and Ms. Reynolds...5 ayes.
The motion carried. **(03-2026)**.

The Regular Meeting was then adjourned.

President

Attest: Secretary