

Blue Hill Public Library Annual Report 2024



Table of Contents

• Our Mission	3
• Welcome A Letter from the Library Director Rich	4
• Library Staff, Board and Friends of the Library	6
• Strategic plan	7
• Friends of the Library	
◦ An Overview	9
• Financials	10
• Thanks to our Donors	12
• Programs and Services	
◦ A Statistical Summary of 2024	24
◦ BHPL at a Glance	27
◦ Who uses the Library?	30
◦ Multi-year Trends	32
• Parting Thoughts and Acknowledgments	35



One of our youngest patrons enjoying a good book in the Larchwood Children's room.

Our Mission

*The Blue Hill Public Library
opens doors to information,
culture, community, and
the world.*



Statement of Purpose and Core Values

The Blue Hill Public Library serves all people on the Blue Hill Peninsula whose varied backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives enrich our library and community. It is a dynamic cultural center committed to the pleasures of reading, preserving the past and exploring the future by integrating new technologies with traditional collections. In addition to the resources it provides, the library hosts and sponsors lectures, discussion groups, community meetings, art exhibits, workshops, and family programs. The library believes in the transformative power of knowledge and that unbound access to ideas and information is indispensable to an informed, educated citizenry.

Vision

The Blue Hill Public Library will be the welcoming heart of the community.

- People of all backgrounds will feel a sense of belonging, shared stewardship, and engagement with the library.
- With an outdoor space to complement its interior, the library will be a campus of opportunities and a community gathering place.
- The library will be financially and operationally strong and resilient.

-Adopted by the Board of Directors August, 2024

Welcome!

Hello from the Blue Hill Public Library.

2024 is in the history books and it was another exciting year at BHPL. In the following pages, we'll share a detailed account of the year. Before we do so, let's look at some highlights.

At the beginning of 2024, we entered into a new partnership with various libraries around Hancock County, to bring into being the Hancock County Download Library. Together we are offering a more robust collection of digital magazines, audiobooks and eBooks than we could individually, as well as free access to the New York Times digital edition. In addition to this, BHPL offers free access to the Wall Street Journal and a new movie/tv show streaming service, Kanopy. To get started, see our digital services page at www.bhpl.net.

The recently-renovated Adelaide Pearson Room continued to augment the services and events that we offered the community. In February, we hosted the first annual Groundhog Day Ball, a new fundraiser for the library and a great success. In October we hosted a similar event, a dance with the country western band, Damn, Girls!, benefiting both BHPL and the George Stevens Academy Library. BHPL also hosted a panel discussion about contemporary challenges in journalism, two performances by the Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers, and a compelling lecture about youth and social media by nationally recognized author of books on navigating technology challenges for kids, Devorah Heitner. It's been a delight to see the new possibilities that this renovation has created for community events at the library.



Groundhog Day Ball



Frogtown Puppeteers

2024 also brought other buildings and grounds improvements. The bulletin board and water fountain area now features a new hot beverage bar that serves good coffee and tea. We added more outdoor furniture and purchased a new portable stage for larger events in the Pearson Room. The Wilder and Blue Hill Rooms, plus the Prior Family Foundation Foyer all got new rubber roofs and the masonry on the gable ends of the 1939 library building were repointed and repaired.



New fountain, bulletin board and coffee/tea bar.

One of the best aspects of 2024 is that we finished the year with the same great staff that we began the year with. BHPL has 15 regular, year-round staff members, including 4 full-time and 11 (at times more) part-time staff, for a full-time equivalent of 8.6 staff members.

It continues to be our honor to provide the community with a wide variety of library services, particularly in this day and age when such services are decreasing in many parts of the country. Thanks to the library's diverse funding model, this is accomplished with minimal impact on taxpayers and, we hope, maximum benefit to the entire Blue Hill Peninsula.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the library's many services, which also include the loan of equipment like radon meters, telescopes, and a camera. For more information, please see our website, www.bhpl.net, or reach out anytime.

See you at the library,

Rich Boulet
Library Director



MaiaLizCrazy at the Community Holiday Party

Library Staff, Board of Directors and Friends of the Library

Staff

Rich Boulet, Library Director
Kayleigh Thomas, Assistant Director
Claire Malina, Youth Services Librarian
Kendall Chapman, Ruth Slaven Teen Services and Outreach Librarian
Olivia Zubrowski, Circulation Coordinator
Sheri Sweet, Computer and Technical Services
Dale Quinby, Circulation Assistant
Merrill Slaven Brache, Circulation Assistant
Shannon Martin, Circulation Assistant
Leda Beth Gray, Development and Communications Coordinator
Susan Brookman, Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant
Pam Aubuchon-Fields, Statistics
Emily Young, Shelver
Zoe Pulitzer, Shelver
Levi Lyman, Shelver



Kendall & Olivia

Friends of the Library Board

Ann Pladson, President
Arlee Woodsworth Morris, Vice President
Susan Farrar, Treasurer
Nina Fleming, Secretary
Fran Jennings, Emeritus
Norman Scheutzow, Emeritus
Donna Scheutzom, Emeritus
Ellie Andy
Sandy Baroody
Carol Benson
Bonnie Copper
Benjamin Filippo
Susan Hundson
Macy Lasky
Laurie Leiser
Kate O'Dell
Malcolm Purvis
Alison Rudel
Marjorie Yesley



Elvira Bass award winner Ellie Andy with John Diamond, Rich Boulet & Malcolm Purvis

BHPL Board of Directors

John Diamond, President
Eleni Koenka, Vice President
Jessica Booth, Secretary
Shelley Kehl, Treasurer
Barbara Bramble
Caroline (Callie) Curtis
Gale Brownlow Flax
Martina Herries
Glenn Hill
Jill Knowles
Katherine Messenger
Pascale Soriano
Bruce Stahnke
Linda Viertel
Tammy Vu

Strategic Plan

The following is abridged. For the full strategic plan, see the link at the end of this section.

The Blue Hill Public Library undertook strategic planning in response to activities from recent years—the lessons from the pandemic, a changing community and ever-changing shifts in patron needs and expectations, new opportunities presented by a successful facilities renovation, as well as the acquisition of neighboring property—which make this a unique time of transition for BHPL.

With these developments and challenges in mind, the library's Board of Directors has adopted the following interconnected goals and strategies to guide the library forward.

Unifying Goals

1 | Connect more broadly with the greater Blue Hill Peninsula community.

Strategy: Create an organization-wide culture of outreach striving to broaden community participation with the library.

2 | Design a welcoming, versatile, environmentally and financially sustainable campus—outdoors as well as indoors—to better serve library users of all ages.

Strategy: Develop a comprehensive campus plan that incorporates the new property.

Coordinate potential future building additions with the campus plan.

Identify and evaluate the benefits and challenges associated with the library's aspiration of minimal environmental impact.



Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers

3 | Cultivate the resources and partnerships necessary to sustain the library's continued service to the broader community.

Strategy: Evaluate the sustainability of the library's three revenue streams - municipal, development, endowment.

Assess readiness for a future capital campaign to implement campus improvements.

Enhance board development.

Identify ways to support staff to promote retention and sustainability.

Assess the library's resilience (financial, operational, leadership, staffing, structural, and environmental) and take appropriate steps.

You can read more about the library's strategic plan at on our website.



To see the full plan



<https://bit.ly/41HS6jx>

Friends of the Library: An Overview

The Friends are an enthusiastic group of people who raise funds for materials, events, and other things beyond the scope of the library's operating budget. Most of their revenue comes from the sale of donated books. They are guided by a board of directors who make decisions about awarding their funds, typically in response to requests from the staff.

2024 was a great year for FOL activities. They raised just over \$34,000 and spent just under \$32,000 in support of library activities.

Most of the Friends' revenue is earned in the Book Nook, the always-open during library hours bookstore. The Book Nook was renovated in 2022 and has since become a regular stop for many in our community.

As for expenditures, as you see, the vast majority of their gifts support BHPL materials and programs. The Friends are also very generous to the staff during the holidays, underwriting gifts for every employee.

The Friends are a treasured part of BHPL and it's hard to imagine the library without them. Interested in getting involved? Send an email to FOLvolunteers@bhpl.net and the volunteer coordinator will discuss opportunities with you.

FOL FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

January - December 2024

FOL Revenue	
Book Sales	\$31,943.65
Book Bags	\$1,033.00
Donations	\$1,340.85
Total FOL Revenue	\$34,317.53
FOL Expenditures	
Materials and Programs	\$24,858.48
Communications	\$82.59
Misc.	\$3,177.52
Gifts	\$3,600.00
Total FOL Expenditures	\$31,718.59
Net Revenue	\$2,598.94
Available Funds as of 12/31/24	\$33,191.95

2024 Financials

The library regularly tracks the Balance Sheet and Statement of Financial Activity, which are summarized on the next two pages through 12/31/24.

Balance Sheet: The library maintains a healthy and diverse portfolio of resources to support operations. Liquid assets, which include library operating funds, as well as those directed by the Friends of the Library, closed out the year with adequate funds on hand to support the library's needs, while the board-designated endowment grew over 9% after all annual distributions.



Discovery in the
Larchwood room



Summer reading

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2024

Assets	As of Dec. 31, 2024	As of Dec. 31, 2023	% Change
<i>Current Assets</i>			
Total Bank Accounts	\$275,423.15	\$251,265.10	9.61%
Accounts Receivable			
Pledges Receivable	0.00	\$5,000.00	-100%
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	\$5,000.00	-100%
Total Other Current Assets	\$8,431,520.35	\$7,689,201.75	9.66%
Total Current Assets	\$8,707,043.50	\$7,945,466.85	9.59%
Total Fixed Assets	\$2,406,318.95	\$2,406,126.95	0.01%
Total Other Assets	\$117,003.57	\$117,003.57	0.00%
Total Assets	\$11,230,366.02	\$10,468,597.37	7.28%
Liabilities & Equity			
Total Liabilities	\$31,306.31	\$33,739.83	-7.21%
Total Equity	\$11,199,059.71	\$10,434,857.54	7.32%
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$11,230,366.02	\$10,468,597.37	7.28%

Financial Activity for 2024:

Income: The library exceeded anticipated income by 9%, mostly thanks to patron generosity. Both fundraising from events and the Annual Fund exceeded expectations, with the latter setting a new record for participation and amount raised.

Expenditures: Tracked very close to budget overall. Budgets were exceeded in materials and programs due to inconsistent billing practices and cost increases for the interlibrary loan delivery service and B&G expenditures exceeding expectations.

The net result was approx. \$74k distributed to reserve funds.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

January - December 2024

Revenue	Actual	Total Budget	% of Budget
Government Grants	\$117,094.00	\$117,970.00	99.26%
Donations - Unrestricted	\$359,903.03	\$289,000.00	124.53%
Operating Revenue	\$394,365.46	\$392,350.00	100.51%
Total Revenue	\$871,357.30	\$392,350.00	109.01%
Gross Profit	\$871,357.30	\$799,320.00	109.01%
Expenditures			
Library Materials/ Programs	\$47,994.56	\$46,066.00	104.19%
Technical Services	\$30,966.83	\$31,480.00	98.37%
Building/Grounds	\$78,462.79	\$76,410.00	102.69%
Utilities	\$34,220.27	\$36,100.97	94.79%
Library Operations	\$13,842.21	\$13,924.00	99.41%
Payroll	\$553,616.05	\$558,006.03	99.21%
Development	\$17,424.79	\$20,233.00	86.12%
General Administrative	\$20,620.18	\$21,300.00	96.81%
Total Expenditures	\$797,147.68	\$803,520.00	99.21%
Net Operating Revenue	\$74,209.62	-\$4,200.00	



Portraits from Art History and Hands-on

Thanks to our Donors!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Blue Hill Public Library in 2024

\$10,000+

Anonymous
Steve Brookman **ART** +
Dr. Maxene S. Doty
Francis T. &
Louise T. Nichols Foundation
Annie & Charles Holland
Town of Blue Hill

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
The Becton Family Foundation
Clements Family Charitable Trust
Mary & Jim Crawford
Shelley & Jeff Kehl
Lawrence Family Foundation
The Jeffrey &
Susan Levitt Family Foundation
Lynn Cheney Charitable Trust
Pat Whitney Messler
Joyce Neiditz Snow
Town of Sedgwick
Town of Surry



Friends and family story time

\$1,000-\$4,999

Anonymous (2)
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The Estate of Ruth Ann Beach
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Belinda & Claustin Lawrence
-in memory of Marcia Schatz
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-recommended by Chris Baker & Jodie Ireland
Diane & Jim Lyon
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Linda & Jim May
Ms. Jane McCloskey
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Eileen McCormack **FSG**
The Merle B. Grindle Agency **SPO**
Leslie Moore **ART** +
Gretchen Nagy & Allan Sandlin
Charlie & Kathleen Osborn
Susan Pacholski
Chris & Susan Pappas



The Soulbenders at the Groundhog ball

Our goal is to properly acknowledge each and every gift. See something missing or incorrect?
Please let us know!

Lisa & Doug Petno
 Malcolm Purvis
 Ms. Susan Richardson
 Jerry Rose **ART**
 Jean K. Savalchak
 Ms. Rebecca Schwartz
 Nina Munk & Peter Soriano
 Stanley Family Foundation Grant
 Stanley Subaru **SPO**
 Thomas & Yolanda Stein
 Ann Sterling,
 Maine Community Foundation
 The Taber Foundation
 Will & Phyllis Taylor **FSG**
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 Micca & Ben Wootten
 Marjorie L. Yesley & Claude Dupuy

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 Diamond Rock Advisors **SPO**

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 Jennifer Johnson **FSG**
 Judith K. Keenan
 Lansing Wagner & Steven Keirstead
ART
 Rebecca & Gilbert Kerlin



Youth Chess Club

\$500-\$999

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 Ms. Leslie L. Anderson &
 Mr. Danton D. Nygaard **ART**
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 Rainette Bannon
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 Brenda Bennett **ART**
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 Mrs. Bradley E. Brownlow*
 The Buck Family
 Daniel & Dina Cassidy
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Jill Finsen **ART+**
 First National Bank Blue Hill
 Barrett & Jean Flanders
 Joel Frantzman
 Eric Glass **ART**
 Christopher and Sarah Gleason
 Carol & Ralph Graves
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 Patricia Gylfe
-in memory of Dr. Julie Gylfe
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 Carol Herrmann
-in memory of Robert O. Herrmann
 Hewes & Company **SPO**
 Eleanor & Leigh Hoagland
*-in honor of Curtiss Martin & the
 Martin/Drewry Family*
 Nancy Hoppin
-in memory of Charlie Hoppin
 Jill Hoy **ART**
 Laurel Huber

Douglas Klaucke & Natalie Moses
 Rick Landesberg **ART**
 Nicole Lawton
 Deborah Little & Tyler Miller
 Sally Littlefield **ART**
 Debra & Franklin Marsteller
-in honor of Rich Boulet
 William McHenry **ART**
 Marcia McKeague & Chris Austin
ART
 Robert & Katherine Messenger
 Ruth & Scott Miller **FSG**
 Paula Deitz Morgan
*-in honor of librarians of Blue Hill
 Public Library*
 Linda Murnik & Hugh Nazor **FSG**
 Mary Jo Nutt
 Paramount Corp Match
*-recommended by Robert &
 Katherine Messenger*

SPO= Event Sponsor. **FSG** = Four Seasons Giving. **ART** = proceeds from the sale of art.



Building birdhouse

\$250-\$499

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 Roger Baker
-in memory of Sarah Colletti
 Andrew Baldwin, Baldwin Inc.
 Margret Baldwin
 Sandy Baroody ART +
 Bill Barton & Marcia Wakeman
 Stan & Barbara Barwise
 Ms. Beth Barwise
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 Samantha Becker ART
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 Jim Church
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 Julia Cluett & Robert Shepley
 Mark Cluett FSG
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 Pamela Elias ART
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 Benjamin Filippo & Alison Rudel FSG
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 Sarah Jane Gillett FSG
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 Megan LeBoutillier & Bruce Gordon
 Ms. Anne Gotwals FSG
 Leda Beth Gray & David Drake FSG+
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 Margie & David Gray FSG
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 Edward B. Grimball
 Annie Guppy & David Zachow
 Suzanne Gwynn
 Ms. Elizabeth Hallett ART
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 Elaine & Michael Hewes
 Glenn & Laura Hill
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 Sabrina Hutchinson ART

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 Please let us know!

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 Ms. Maggie Johnston ART
 Robert Jones
 Mr. Travis Jordan
 Ms. Charlotte Joslin &
 Mr. Leslie Cheek
 Ms. June Kellogg ART
 Paul Kelly & Kate O'Dell FSG
 Mr. Donald King &
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 Tony Nicholas FSG
 David Dethier & Nancy Nylen
-in memory of Charles & Maisie Dethier
 Diana Page & Oscar Ruiz FSG+
 Gregory & Maribeth Payne
 Trish Pettigrew ART
 William Pladson FSG+



Making the most of the Teen Space

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 Marjorie Wheeler ART
 Mr. Luke Williams
 Diane & John Woodruff

\$100-\$249

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-in memory of John Wells
Cusick
 Raymond J. & Stella Akscin
 Lev Alcott
 Rick Alexander FSG
 Andrea & John Allen
 Mr. Paul Allen
 Marianne Alweis

Deborah Amato
 Kathleen & Sherwood Anderson
 Mr. Stephen Anderson **FSG**
 William Anderson
 Eleanor Andy
 Pam Aubuchon-Fields & George Fields
 Patty Bacon
 Christopher & Nancy Baker
 Leda & Gregory Ball
 Hattie Barker & Beal Lowen
 Sandy Baroody **ART+**
 Jo Barrett
 Dick Bartlett & Julie Reed
 Wes Barton
-in honor of all the librarians!
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 Daksha/Janet Baumann **FSG**
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 Blue Hill Concert Association
 Blue Hill Lodge #79 IOOF
-in memory of Ken Taplin
 Blue Hill Peninsula Realty & Rentals
SPO
 Blue Hill Wine Shop **FSG**
 Blue Oceans Fund, a donor-advised
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 Mr. Thomas Boals
*-in honor of Jean Olivett's birthday
 & Mother's Day*
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 Camille Cooper &
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 Judy & Darrell Cooper
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 Annie Curtis
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*-in memory of Margaret
 "Peggy" Danielson*
 Alexandra Daugherty
 Nina Davis &
 Christopher Dadian



The kid kitchen always inspires

Bill & Deb Case **FSG**
 Philip Osgood & Lydia Cassatt **FSG**
 Cheryl Boulet CPA **SPO**
 Avy Claire **FSG+**
 Julia Clayton
 Henrietta Clews **FSG+**

Patricia Davis
*-in honor of Alicia Glen &
 Daniel Rayner*
 Tim Dawson
 Phyllis Day **FSG**

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Ms. Daisy de Puthod ART
Lorie Dechar & Benjamin Fox FSG
Bernadette Dempsey
*-in honor of our commitment to
building community at Blue Hill
Library*

Jennifer & Kurt Denlinger
Deborah Dethier
Deborah DeWitt & Charles Lucas
Nat Dickinson ART
David Dietrich
Annette Dixon

-in memory of Philip J. Dussault
Patricia Donahue
Patty Driscoll ART
Priscilla du Pont
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Meredith & Donald Eley
Matthew & Elizabeth Elliott FSG

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Verge Forbes
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Betsy P. Frawley & James M. Litton
Richard Freeman & Nancee Bender
Ms. Birgit Frind ART

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Larry Gross & Christine Skwiot FSG
Sasha Gross ART
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Richard S. Gurin
Ulrike & Cliff Guthrie

-in honor of Henry Guthrie
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Hale & Hamlin LLC SPO
Rooney Hall
Hammond Lumber Co. SPO
Handworks Gallery SPO

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Hannaford Reusable Bag Program
Mr. James Harrington
Gretchen & Jud Hartmann
Emily Hawkins
Anna S. Hayes

-in memory of Dottie Hayes
Steele Hays
Kathleen & Stephen Hayward
Healthy Peninsula

Fred & Prudy Heilner
Bruce & Martina Herries
Olivia Herron
John Hodgman & Katherine Fletcher
-in honor of the staff of the BHPL
Don & Lee Holmes



Charlie the Shark conducts an outdoor story hour

Stephanie Holmes & Colin Fay
Home Instead
Lyn Littlefield Hoopes

Ellie & Paul Horwitz
Parker & Susan Hudson
Vicki & Frank Hull

-in memory of Marcia Schatz
Kevin Hunt
Marilyn Huss

-in memory of Rev. Dr. Paul D. Huss

Luke Hutchins ART
Marissa Hutchinson & Lucie Olsen
Richard & Lorraine Hutchinson
Keith Hutchison & Lucy Rowe

Mr. Matthew Hyde
Margery & William Irvine FSG
Jeremy Jackson & Nancy
Knowlton

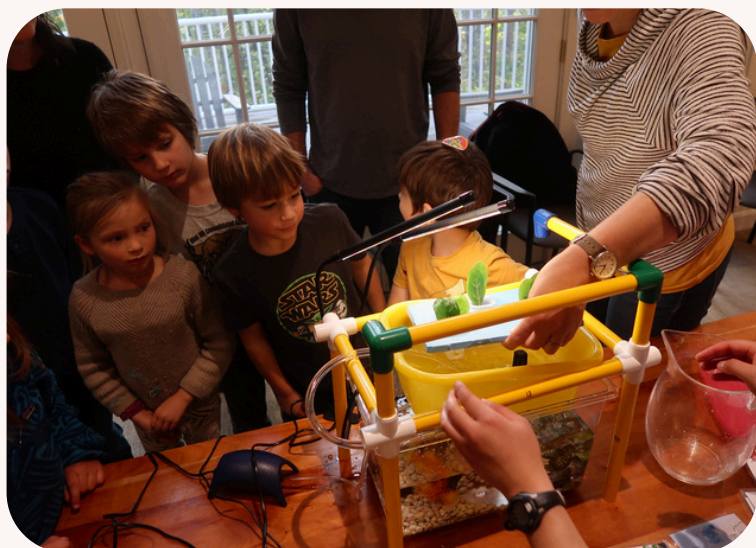
Shelley Jackson
-in honor of Rich Boulet
Anita & Eric Jacobssen
Janet Schlesinger & Jerry Jaffee
Lucy Jakub ART

Fran Jennings
Robin Jettinghoff & John Marples
FSG
Barry Johnson FSG

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Johnson **FSG**
 David Jolly & Royce Hardin
 Lauren Karopkin & David Schofield
-in memory of Emily Schofield
 Adrienne Volenik & Joel Katz
 Dr. Virginia Kaufmann
 Jeremy Kazan & Kendra Thulin
 Wyn Kelley & Dale Peterson **FSG**
 Susan Kerwin **FSG**
 Michelle Keyo & Michael Sheahan **FSG**
 Susan & Roy Kilby
 Sarah King & Aaron Ofsiany
 Kathy Kling & John Fearey
 Cynthia & George Knapp
 Judy Knight
 Dee Knisley
 The W. C. Koch Family **FSG**
 Eleni & David Koenka

Ian & Wanda Law
 Leaf & Anna **SPO**
 Gay Kelly-Leh
 Laurie Leiser **ART**
 Dana & Gigi Leonard
 Mr. Jonathan Lesser **FSG**
 Juliet Lesser & Robert Roy
 William Leuszler
-in memory of Elvira Falco Bass
 Amanda Liang **FSG**
 Robin Lincoln
 Loriman C. Looke
-in memory of Lisa Looke
 Arthur Lynn **FSG**
 Carolyn MacDonald **FSG**
 Sheena MacPherson **FSG**
 Elaine D. Mahony
 Maine Sea Grant

Maria Matthews & Michael Scott **FSG**
 Hugh McCall & Gary Freeman
 Judy McGeorge
 Ms. Ann W. McGraw
 Dee Seymour & Thom McLaughlin
 Meaghan McMonagle &
 Zachary Holderby
 Kimball & Lisa McMullin
 Carol Ann McNeal **FSG**
 Jane McNichol
 Dr. Margaret E. McVey
 Dennis & Lorraine Mechem
 Susan Fox & Greg Melville
 Ray Merrill **FSG**
 Karen Messenger
- in honor of my grandsons
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Miller
 Robert Miller
 Lorenzo Mitchell
 Rosalani Moore **ART**
 William & Carolyn Mor
 Darrin Morgan
 Lynda Moulton
 Kevin D. Murphy
 Holly & Matthew Murphy **FSG**
 Murphy-Shrewsbury Charitable Fund
 Margaret Myers
-in memory of Stanley F. Myers
 Jenna Nelson & Russell Patton **FSG**
 Rebecca Nemser
 Jane M. Nesbitt
 Ann Neuhauser & John Sanches
 Joyce Newkirk



Aquaponics for Kids

Ms. Grace Konecny **ART**
 Laura Kuhl & Ben Lakin
 Ruth Lamdan & John Wolfe
 Ann & Rick Landesberg **FSG**
 Peter Lang
 Ann Lape
-in honor of all librarians
 Elizabeth Lastaiti
 Donald Lateiner
-in honor of Judith Hallett
 Amy Fulton & John Laterra
 Shelley Latham &
 Kenton Jakub **FSG**
 Miss Tiffany Laufer **ART**

Mainescape Garden Center
 Richard & Barbara Malm **FSG**
 Barbara Manicatide
 Charles Marbach **ART**
 Laura Markey **ART**
 James L. Markos
 Eliot Marshall
 Frederica Marshall &
 Herman Kidder **ART**+
 John Marshall & Kathy Olsen
 Edwin & Shannon Martin



Pearson Room ready to go!

Our goal is to properly acknowledge each and every gift. See something missing or incorrect?
 Please let us know!

Mr. & Mrs. Michael C. Nolan
 Lorna & Richard Nutt
 O'Brien Family **FSG**
 Susan O'Connor
 Lisa Oettinger **ART**
 Jean Olivett
 Owl Furniture: A Wing of the
 Geoffrey Warner Studio **SPO**
 Katherine Hall Page
 Esther Parson
 Mr. & Mrs. J. David Parsons
 Bonnie & James Paulas
-in memory of Peter O'Brien
 Gene & Laura Pellerano
 Paul & Kip Perkinson **FSG**
 Sherry Pfister
 Mrs. Ruth &
 Mr. W. Lyman Phillips
 Laurie Hoover & Paul L. Pidgeon
 Virginia & Kevin Poland
 Vicki Pollard & Howard Evans **FSG+**
 Ms. Eve Pritchard
 Joe and Laura Qualey
-in memory of Doris V. Curtis
 Larry Rabinowitz
 Katharina Radcliffe **FSG**
 Peggy & Chris Raphael
 Christine Real De Azua
 Ms. Florence L. Reed **FSG**
 Cathy Rees
 Martin & Margaret Reick

Regina Reid & Carl Haas
 Anne & Samuel Reiter **ART**
 Marc Restuccia & Robin Yurkevicz **FSG**
 James & Catherine Reuter
 Hal & Lisa Reynolds
 Ms. Elizabeth Richardson
 Ms. Rita Roberts **FSG**
 Anna Roelofs **FSG**
 Ronald Harte Antiques **SPO**
 C.S. Rosenblum
 Martin S. Rosenthal & Corinne Axelrod
-in memory of Dr. Raymond Rhinehart
 Lucy Rowe
 Melissa Roy **FSG**
 Virginia Royster
 Mia Rubow
 Tiffany & Isaac Rudloe
 Nancy Rudolph
 John Ryan
 Jim & Bridget Saltonstall
 Sargentville Thursday Club
 Eric & Eveleen Sass **FSG**
 Ruth Saxl **FSG+**
 Norm & Donna Scheutzow
 Katherine Schoettle
 Michael Schoettle
 Anne Schroth
 Lisa Harries Schumann &
 Roman Schumann
*-in memory of Elizabeth Harries-
 Wanning*
 Seth Murray & Carla Scocchi
 Elsie Sealander **ART**

ari strimling &
 Cantor Lisa B. Segal
-in honor of Janet Schlesinger
 June E. Sendrowski
 Mike & Pam Sharp
 Mimi Sheller
 Charles & Luisa Shereda
 Dorinda Sherwin
 Nicoletta Siccone **ART**
 Nicholas Sichterman &
 Mariah Hughes
 Annie Silver & Robert Kimball
 Robert Drach & Hayley Simon
 Mr. & Mrs. William R. Simon
 David Simonds **ART**
 Michael Sinclair
 Nikos Singelis
 Cameron Skene **FSG**
 Kimberly T. Slaven
-in memory of Kenneth Taplin
 Vicky Smith **ART**
 Susan Snider & Michael Percy
 Daniel G. Snyder
 Colleen B. Spangler
 Bruce Stahnke &
 Erlynne Kitagawa
 Mr. Codey Stange &
 Ms. Elise Teixido **ART**
 William & Amanda Stanton
 Ms. Katrin Starratt
 Joanne LaCarrubba Steenberg
-in memory of Lisa Looke
 Charles & Alison Stephens
 Ms. Christie D. Stephenson
 Richard Storck &
 Aletha Langham
 Nancy S. Struever
 Caroline Sulzer **ART**
 Thomas Tabor
 Bruce Talley **ART**
 Ms. Kate Tapley
 The Salon & Spa **SPO**
 W. Paul Starkey Foundation
 Mary Martha Thiel **FSG**
 Lowell Thomas
 Carrie Thornburg-Bearse
 Terri Titcomb



Damn, Girls takes a break by the fireplace

SPO = Event Sponsor. **FSG** = Four Seasons Giving. **ART** = proceeds from the sale of art.

Kevin Tompkins
 Martha Tompkins
-in honor of K. Todd Tompkins & Kelly McCool
 Marklyn Trainor
 Michael & Ann Trainor
 Jennifer & Andrew Traub
 Rick Traub
 Claire Agoliati & Douglas Trenkle
 Tri-County Beekeepers Club
 Jennifer & Paul Trowbridge
 Elizabeth True **ART** +
-in memory of Patricia True
 Harry Trueheart
 Lisa Tyson Ennis
 Marjorie Valdes
 Paul & Erin Valentine **ART**
 John & Heather Veague
 Viking Lumber
 Cynthia & Walter Voigt
 Sarah Vollman **ART**
 Dr. Sierra Wait
 Lansing Wagner **ART**
 Carolyn & Parker Waite **FSG**
 Robert S. Walker
 Leslie Walton
 Josh & Melanie Wehrwein **FSG**
 Kenneth Weinberg & Holly
 Bartlett Weinberg
 Paul & Lisa Welch
 Nancy Werth **FSG**
 Jeffrey & Anita Wessel
 Alison & Jerry Wetterskog
 Patricia Wheeler **ART**
 Ms. Jennifer Whiting
 Christopher & Elizabeth
 Wigfield
 Deborah Wiggs & Phil Norris
 Robin G. Wilder
 Stephen Willey
 Sherry Streeter &
 Jon Wilson
 Tracy Winthrop
 Barbara Wright
 Eleanor Wright
 Carolyn Yoder
 Jeffrey Young



Annual BHCS 2nd grade class visit

Quentin & Susan Young
-in memory of Jane & Walter Wolfenden
 Charles & Vicki Zelnick
 Syedell Zove & Stephen Kaufman

Up to \$99.99

Anonymous (6)
 Chrissy & Lucas Allen **FSG**
 Wendy Alpaugh
 Carlos & Jeanne Amaral
 Miriam Antich
 Ms. Justine Appel
-in honor of Radish Malina
 Stephanie Aquilina &
 Isaac Chittenden
-in honor of Claire Malina
 Bryn Arbuckle
-in memory of Gail Bartlett
 Amy Archer
 Lisa Arhontes-Marshall &
 Chris Marshall **FSG**
 Janet Astbury
-in honor of Travis Astbury
 Jackie Bahn-Henkelman

Ms. Nicole Bakeman
 Chris Baker & Jodie Ireland
 Peter Baker
 Mr. & Mrs. Bora & Zeynep Baki
 John & Mikey Bannister
 Richard Barnes & Suzanne Van Wye
 Christin Barnett
-in memory of Courtenay Haight
 Tom Batt & Galen Davis
 Scot & Trudy Bell
 Jim Bergin & Judy Garvey
-in memory of Marcia Schatz
 Nancy & Warren Berkowitz
 Paul R. Bernard
 Quint Bixby & Joe Garvey
 Mr. Charles Blake
 Chuck & Nancy Boothby
 Nancy F. Bos
 Ms. Betsy Bott
-in memory of Lynn Cheney
 Elena Bourakovsky
-in memory of Bill Raiten
 Ms. Lucy Bowick
 Lynn & Jon Braff
 Betsy Braunhut

Our goal is to properly acknowledge each and every gift. See something missing or incorrect?
 Please let us know!

Candice Bray & Peter Smith
 Trudi Brock
 Elizabeth H. Brownback
 Juanita A. Bruns
-in memory of Edward Bruns
 Quatie Bryan
 Brenda Buchanan & Diane Kenty
 Carolyn & Thomas Bugbee FSG
 Kathie & Jack Burnett
 Melissa Buxton ART
 Dorothy Caldwell &
 Arthur Washburn
 Ms. Judith Campanaro ART
 Lynn R. Carroll
-in memory of Tracy Sampson
 Priscilla L. Cash FSG
 Wayne Chadburn & Edward DeVito
 David & Mary Chapman
 Sally Debra Charnow
 Johanna Chase ART
 Odette Heideman ART
 Rev. Dr. Regina Christianson &
 Mr. Steven Whiteley
 Katherine Noble Churchill ART
 Mary L. Cockburn
 Carolyn Coe
 Peter Collins
 Paula Colwell
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Conte
 Ms. Trish Cooper &
 Dr. Woody Petry
 Laurie Copithorne ART
 Sue Corl
 Shannon Corliss
 Everett Cox
 Ms. Shirley Crumm
 Ellen & Bruce D. Cummings
 Ms. Kristy Cunnane &
 Mr. Effrem Kann ART+
 Edward & Elisabeth Curran
 Hannah Cyrus
 Christiane de Boisseson
 Suzanne & David Decrow
 Rudolph H. Deetjen III
 Thomas Delaney
 Mary Della Torre
 Leland Dennett FSG+
 Ron dePaolo

Detroit Opera Orchestra
-in memory of Charles Richard Roelofs
 Nancy H. Dewey
 Beth & Chris Dickens
 Kathryn & Andrew Dillon
-in memory of Dick Roelofs
 Sally Doremus, Mary Doremus &
 Linda Campbell
 Anne & Dana Douglass
 Sandra Doyle
-in memory of Kenneth Taplin
 Linda Dube
 Martha Dudman
 Elizabeth Duncombe
 Randy Eckard
 Henry & Denise Eckert
 James Eggers
 Anne D. Emerson

William Fletcher FSG
 Ann Flewelling & Charles Read
 Jane Freeman
 David & Carolyn Friedell
-in memory of Betsy Wade
 Doreen Garber
 Maggie Garfield
-in memory of Mary Cummins
 Susan Gerbino
 Al & Naomi Gerstein
 Jeremy Gibson &
 Katherine Marsh
 Hendrik Gideonse
 Lila & Craig Gilbert
-in memory of Courtenay & Woody Haight
 Patrick & Beulah Grant
 Dale & Amy Gray
-in memory of Kenneth P. Taplin



Hanging out at the kid kitchen

Mr. Brad Emerson
-in memory of Richard Roelofs
 Douglas G. Empie
 Marie & Walt Epply
 Pamela Fadness
 Sarah Faragher
 Bob & Nina Fleming
 Norman E. Fletcher

Deborah Grimmig
 Kathryn W. Grover
 Susan Guilford FSG
 Boyd & Susan Haight
 Judy Hakola
 Doug & Jane Haldane
 Alison Hale



Word Festival: When No News is Bad News



Hannaford Bloomin' 4 Good
Program
Hannaford Supermarket Blue Hill
Ashley Hanscom
Kay Hansen
Margaret A. Hardy
Ellen Harford
Leah Harp
Cathy Hart
Charles Caldwell Hart Jr.
Susan M. Harvey **FSG**
Nancy Hatfield
Nancy Hathaway
Mary Hennessy
Mr. Price Heppe
Groves Herrick
Judyth S. Herrick
Janice R. Hight
Alice Hildebrand
*-in honor of Ernest & Edith
Hildebrand*
Susan & Donald Hill
Susan Hipsky
Judy Holder **ART**
Bob & Joan Holmberg
Pat Horton **ART**
Pat & Pete Horton

Mark Hurvitt
Peter & Valorie Jandreau
Melody & Richard Kane
Ms. Ariel Kane-Esrig
Gary & Janice Kath
Mr. Bryan Kearns
Heather Martin & Richard Keen
-in honor of Ruth Martin
Ms. Barbara Kelly
Mr. Bob Kibler
Donald & Linda Kimmelman
Marcia & Vaino Kola
Anita Kolisch **ART**
Ms. Stephanie Koven
Marilyn Krentzman
Jane LaChance
David Laitin
W. Landon
MB Lardizabal
Mr. William Lawson &
Ms. Elizabeth Lowry
Lee G. Lehto
Tom Leigh
Claudette D. Levesque
Melody Lewis-Kane **ART**
Helena Lipstadt **FSG**
Edwin Loflin **FSG**

Amy & J.T. Loomis
Agnes & Billy Love
Halle Lyon
Elaine Maclean
Barbara Mallow
-in memory of Donald Mallow
Ariel Manacher
Melissa Marcello & Eric Sturm
Della Martin **FSG**
Elizabeth Rees & Keith Mason
John McClement
Patricia McCunney-Thomas
Ms. Candace McKellar **ART**
Jean McKillop
-in memory of Fern McTighe
Robert McKillop & Polly Pruneau
Lindsay & Stuart McLean
Moira McMahon & Jeff Allwine
Donald & Mary Rae Means
Merrill & Brenda Means
Robert & Melissa Mial
John Miller
Dave Mills
Sally N. Mills
Tom & Leslie Moore
Ms. Nancy Morris **ART**
Marion & Tom Morris
Catherine A. Morse &
Anthony Aman **FSG**
Paula & Norman Mrozicki
Molly Munn **FSG**
Katama Murphy **ART**
Edmund Murray
Peter P. Neblett MD &
Randi Neblett
Christopher B. Nelson
Thomas Nichols
-in memory of Deborah Weaver
Ms. Kathleen Noyes **ART**
Martha Ohrenberger
Steven & Carol Orlofsky
Jennifer Osborn
Larry & Bobby Ann Packwood
Gail Page
Anne & Lin Parker
Tim & Diddy Parson
Sarah Pebworth &
Julie Jo Ferhle

Our goal is to properly acknowledge each and every gift. See something missing or incorrect?
Please let us know!

LouAnna Perkins
 Jennifer & Daniel Perry
 Rebecca Peck Peterson
 Andrew Phelan
-in memory of Sheila Varum
 Jackie Pike & Gerry Estabrook
 Edward Power
 Vivian Pyle ART
 Kipp Quinby
 Alyssa Radcliff
 Nancy U. Randall
 Catherine Razi
 Ioana Razi
 Ana Reder
 Mary Lou Reid ART
 Alysia Richardson
 Lenette Richardson

*-in memory of the many good times
 there—good art shows!*

Henry Elliott & Wendy Ritger
 Ann Rittenberg
 Libby & Scott Rosemeier
 Christy Ross FSG
 Paul Sacaridiz & Jennifer Lapham FSG
 Kristin Salvatore
 Hector Sapien
 Michael Schafer
 Annelise Schantz
 Jeff & Sharon Scheff
 The Schellhase Family
 Christine Schutt FSG
 Ellen Sedgwick ART
 Philip Seib
-in honor of Louise McKinney



The Elvira Bass room



The Friends Holiday Party

Denise Sevigny ART
 Louise C. Shackett FSG
 Susan Hand Shetterly
 Ellen Shockro
 Marti Siebert FSG
 George O. Siekkinen Jr.
*-in memory of Raymond
 Rhinehart*
 Janet Simpson
 Marcia & Peter Sly
 Christina & Joseph Smith
 Ms. Elizabeth M. Solet FSG
 Tracy Spencer & Hank Davis
 Scott & Catherine Springer
-in memory of Fern
 John & Elise Stanbury
 Linda Stern & Amy Steffen
 Peggi R. Stevens
 Katherine Strater
 Corinne Sucsy
 Marc Swartzbaugh
 Thomas Sweeney
 Barbara & Pat Tedesco
 Zoe & Keith Tenney
 Steve & Diana Thomas
 Maura L. Tillotson ART
 Jeff Titon & Marta Daniels
 H. Wolcott Toll
*-in memory of Mollie (Mary)
 Toll*
 Sarah Tomkins
 Jaime Torre FSG

John & Betty Tyler
 Harold S. Van Doren
 William Van Hoff
 Marianne & David Vandiver
 Liz & John Vickery Sr.
 Anne Vogt
 Chip Wadsworth
 Anne M. Walker
 Joan & Steve Walker
 John & Jill Warren
 Tom & Marcia Wessels
 Tom & Marjorie Wheeler
 Pat & Hub White
 David & Lynn Whitney
-in memory of Marcia Schatz
 Norman & Lynn Whyte
 Lise Williams ART
 Marguerite Williams
 Nancy & John Wilson
-in honor of Rich Boulet
 Mary Lane & Richard Wilson
 Mr. David Winton
 Nina Wish Adler
 Ms. Margaret Wolfe ART
 The Woodworths
 Karen A. Wyatt
 Deborah Yost
 Susan Zec
 Adam Zemans FSG
 George & Liz Zentz
 Mr. Guillermo Zubillaga

Programs and Services

A Summary

In 2024, the library offered about 600 events. Almost every day, there is something different offered at the library for people of all ages.

Children and teens learned to play chess, played Magic the Gathering with friends, watched a hysterical puppet show from Frogtown Mountain or a magic show from Bob Lloyd, had fun with friends at the town park, listened to a special storytime with a local author, or enjoyed a tea party cosponsored with the Magic Food Bus. The library also offered a Winter Hiking Challenge in partnership with Blue Hill Heritage Trust, where children and their families could hike local trails, solve a riddle, and win prizes.



Stone soup with Anna Wind



Magic the Gathering after school club

In 2024 we hosted...

297

Adult Events

302

Youth Events

Enjoyed by

10,714

adults, kids & teens



Wreath making workshop



Performances



Family Workshops



After school activities



Lectures

Returning for another two sessions this year, Family Place Workshops offered a chance for toddlers and their caregivers to learn, meet, and mingle with each other and different community resource professionals. Also back for another year was the Summer Reading Challenge and the Pokemon Reading Challenge, suitable for a child of any age or reading level. Each challenge encourages children to branch out of their reading comfort zones to try something new! The library offered 302 interactive programs to children and teens this year, and those programs brought 5990 attendees into the library.

Adults had plenty to enjoy at the library, as well. The library offered 297 events, which brought 4724 people into the building for a wide variety of offerings. Whether it was joining in on discussion groups like Kairos, a group using contemporary and classic writings to examine the world today, or Beyond Labels, a weekly round table group about current issues, conversing in French during Salut!, events with authors like Jack Viertel, John Brown, or Amy Reading, lectures, film screenings like *A Father's Kaddish*, and activities like Chess, Knitting, or Art History and Hands-on with Margret Baldwin, there was something for everyone.

The library also offered cultural experiences that the area might not otherwise have access to, with events like the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party, or the percussive ensemble, Boston Typewriter Orchestra. Another offering to meet community needs was the Community Clothing Swap, which gave Peninsula residents of all ages the opportunity to bring in gently used clothing, and swap it out for new-to-them clothes.



Ed Sheridan takes a break from masonry to present a puppet show



Claire reads an impromptu story

In keeping with the artistic nature of our community and to celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month, the library sponsored a Library Card Design contest, which yielded two winners, one adult and one child, and new card designs. It was a great way for our community artists to share what the library means to them, and to express what their impression of the library is. The cards have been really popular, and we've been asked if we will run another design contest.

The library will continue to bring programs for all ages to our communities that educate, entertain, and enrich the community.



Library card contest winners, Laure Markey (adult category) and Emi Gotwals (children's category)



Programs and Services

BHPL at a Glance

In 2024....



Trick or Read on Halloween

79,287

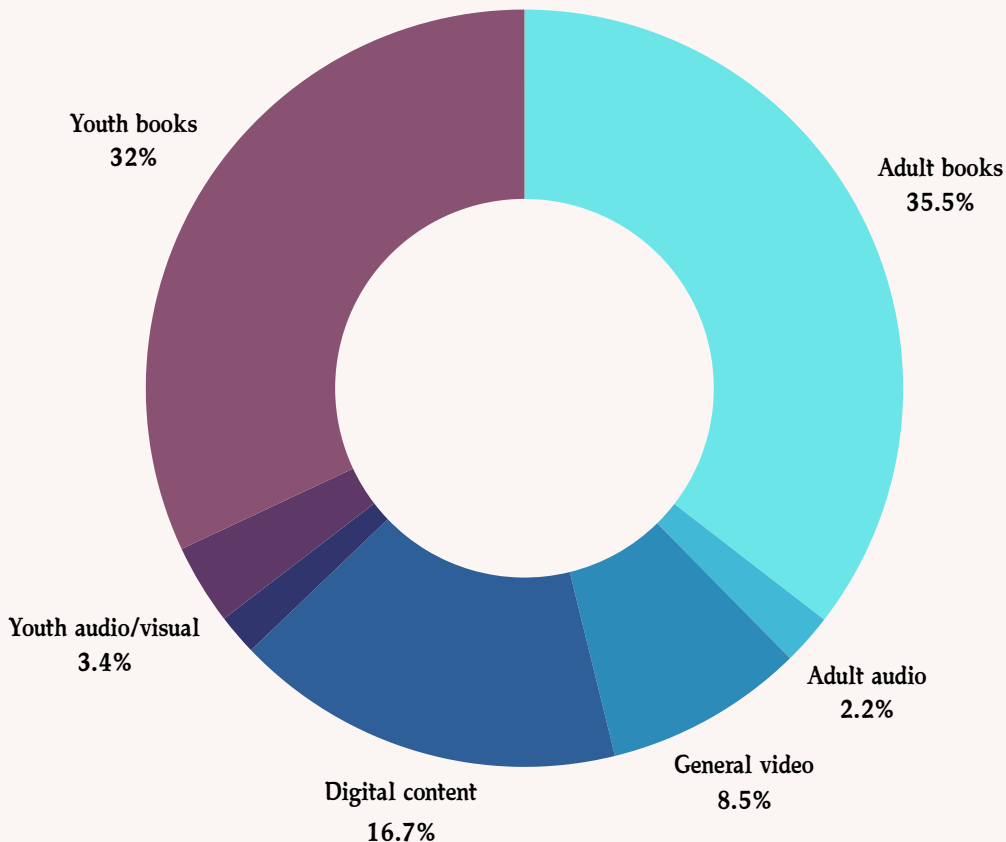
items were circulated,



Kendall checking out the telescope to a patron

96,665 people visited the library, **2,905**

Inter-Library Loans
were borrowed &
4,639
were loaned.



2,800 new items were added to the collection,
while **4,337** items were removed.



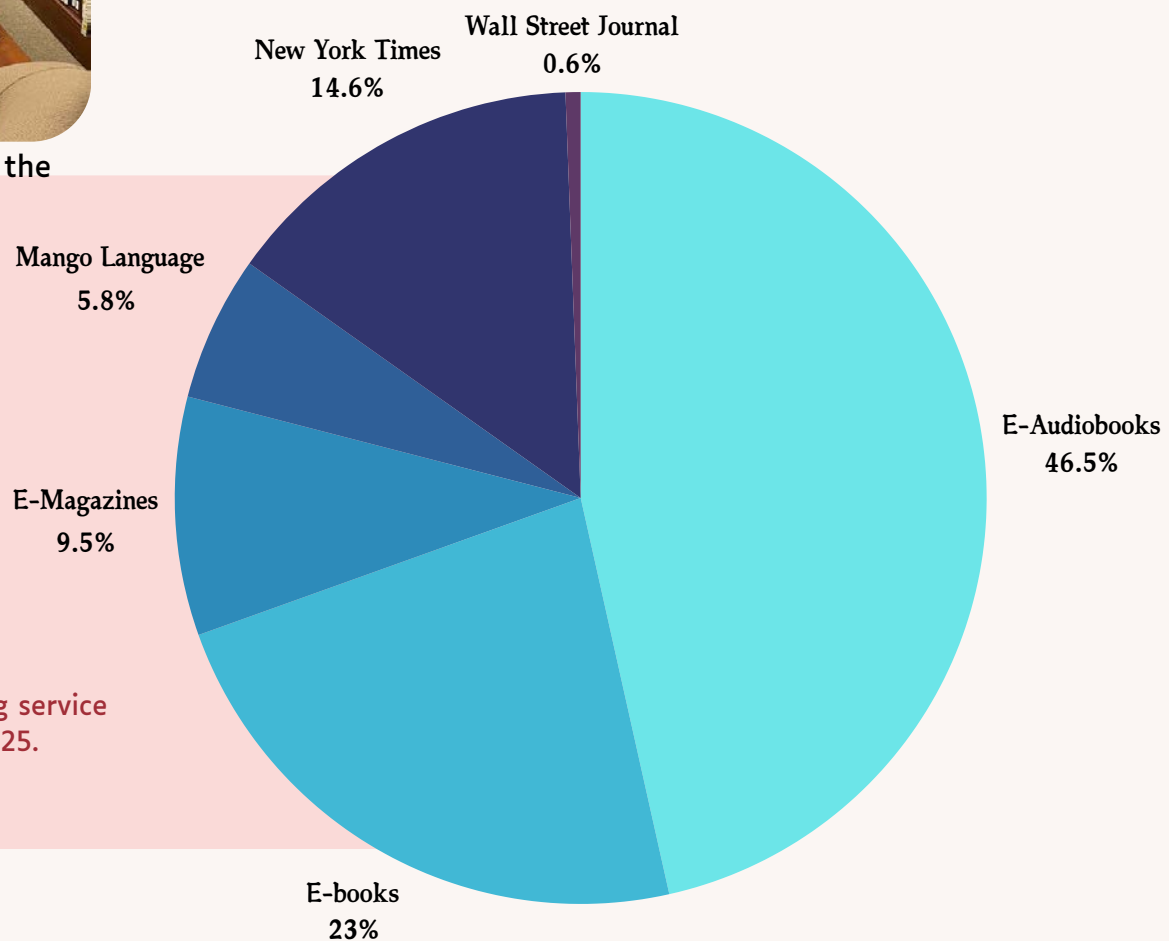
Enjoying the Star Wars chess set



Catching up on news in the
Pearson room

The library adds items to the collection continuously, with an overarching goal of working within existing shelf space, more or less as it was allocated in the architectural program associated with the 2001 renovation and expansion.

15,874
digital items were circulated.



*Kanopy film streaming service
added January 2025.

BHPL offers digital services through various delete platforms to provide e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines.

The CloudLibrary subscription provides access to over 19,941 e-book titles, and over 9,018 e-audiobooks titles, including titles for adults and youth.

BHPL joined the Hancock County Download Library and entered into a new service contract with OverDrive, which many recognize by the app's name, Libby. During 2024, the library provided access to 1,351 e-book titles and 615 e-audiobook titles through our own holdings, additional access to 4,566 e-books, 110 e-audiobooks, and 5,738 e-magazines thanks to the entirety of the consortia.



Student Art Month, a perennial April treat



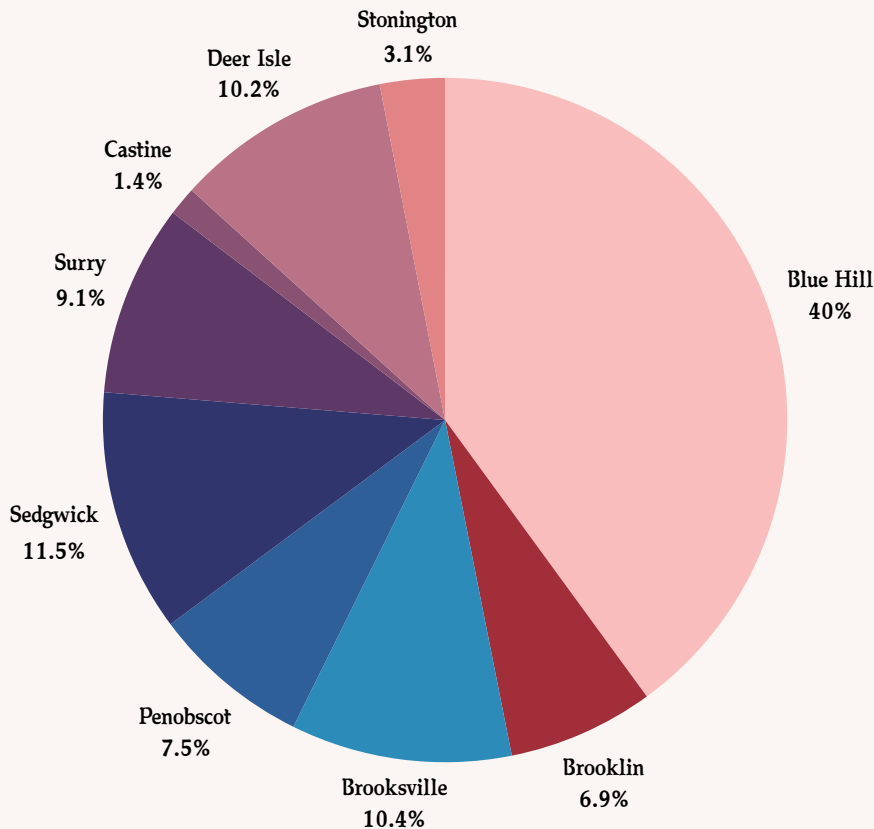
Telecommuting in the Wilder room

There were **3,404**
computer sessions &
18,851 WiFi sessions.



Programs and Services

Who uses the Library?



These pages tell you a bit more about our library cardholders. Because Blue Hill is the primary service center community for the nine towns of the Blue Hill Peninsula, and because anyone can join the library for free, many of our patrons live outside of the town of Blue Hill. In many ways, BHPL is a regional library for the western part of Hancock County, while also working cooperatively with other full-service libraries in nearby Castine (Witherle Memorial), Brooklin (Friend Memorial), Brooksville, Deer Isle (Chase Emerson), and Stonington.

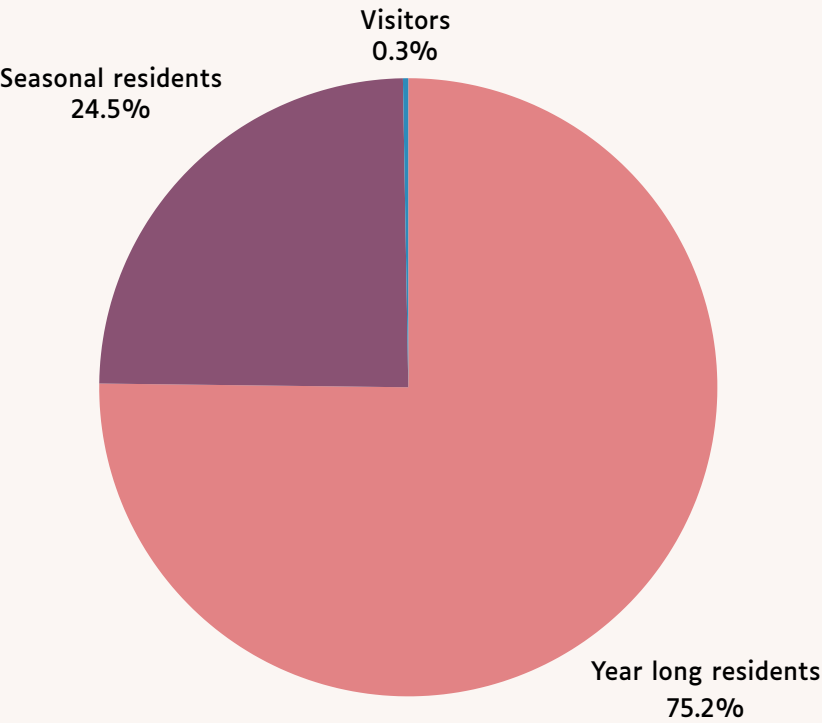
The majority of our patrons are year-round residents.

Category	Number of Patrons
Seniors	1,788
Adults	3,974
Teens (12-18)	494
Children (0-11)	285
Other Libraries	297



Kids showing their solar eclipse models they made in a program with UMaine Extensions 4H

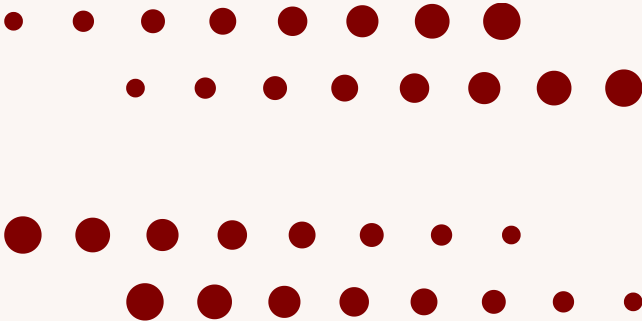
Patrons by Residency



Art teachers Lee Park, Judy Park, Nick Patterson, and Penny Ricker, some of the people who made Student Art Month possible.

Patrons by Municipality

Town	Population (per 2023 census)	Library Card Holders
Blue Hill	2,811	2320
Brooklin	817	401
Brooksville	843	606
Penobscot	1127	436
Sedgwick	1283	666
Surry	1834	526
Castine	1222	79
Deer Isle	2274	593
Stonington	906	178



Programs and Services

Multi-Year Trends

Patron Visits
2015-2024



As you can see, the library is a busy community hub, with just under 120,000 annual visits post-pandemic. There are also services that are offered off-site, such as a weekly toddler playgroup in the Town Park, as well as use of library services outside on our grounds.



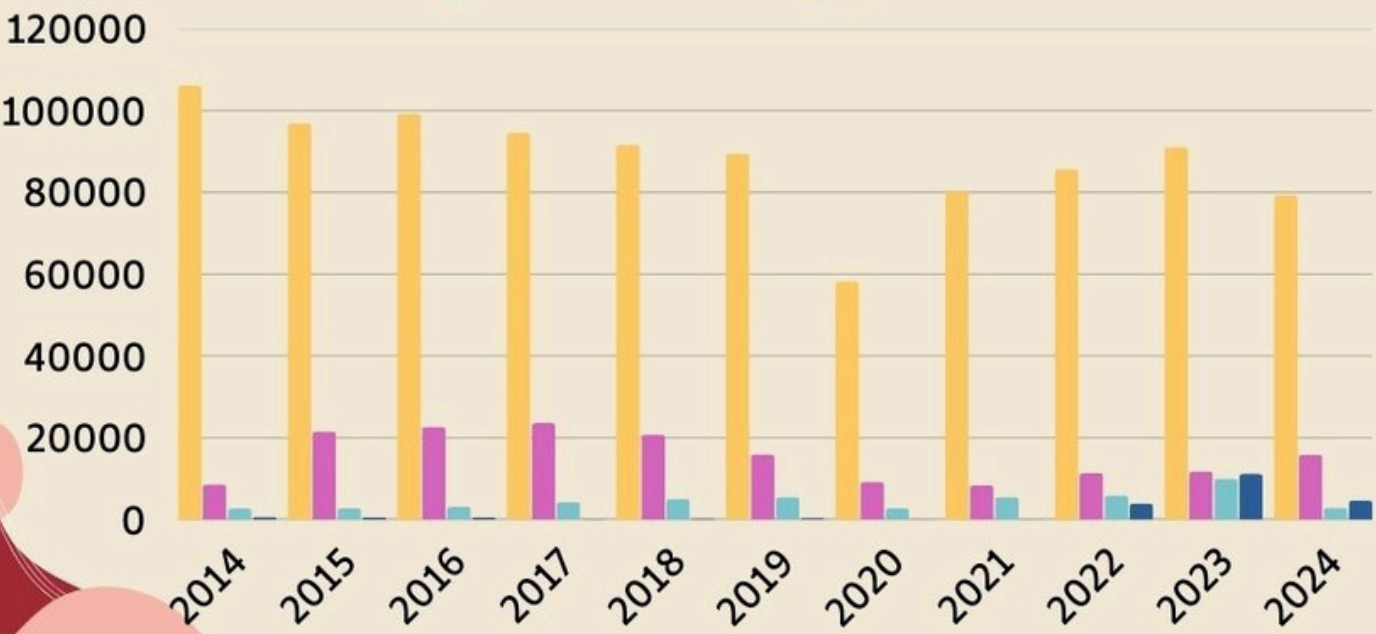
Kneisal Hall children's concerts

Loans of books and other materials remain the most popular library service, though digital items and interlibrary loans (ILLs) have been increasing since they dipped in 2020 during the pandemic.

MATERIAL CIRCULATION

2014-2024

Physical Items Borrowed Digital Items Borrowed
ILL's Borrowed ILL's Loaned

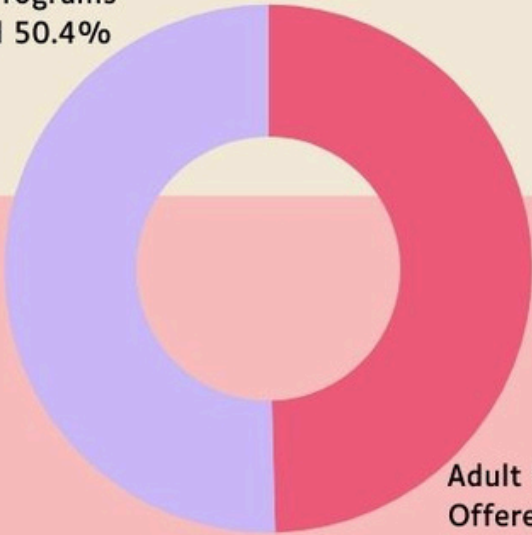


Sheri providing some tech support

Attendance of Library Events & Community Meetings

2015-2024

Youth Programs
Offered 50.4%



Adult Programs
Offered 49.6%

Library Event Attendance



Community Meeting Attendance



Library-sponsored events and use of the two meeting rooms remain a big part of overall library activities. In 2024, BHPL provided just under 600 library-sponsored events, 297 for adults and 302 for children. Coincidentally, the library also provided space for 599 community meetings with an estimated 4,000 attendees.



Portraits created in an art workshop with Margret Baldwin

Parting Thoughts

Thank you for reading our 2024 Annual Report. As you've leafed through these pages, I hope you have gotten a sense of all of the fun, dedication, thoughtfulness, and hard work that goes into trying to make the Blue Hill Public Library the very best library that it can be.

Something that struck me as I read through these pages is how many compelling photos we were able to include. Every one of those pictures was taken during 2024. While 2024 was a great year at the library, nearly every year brings about similar "kodak moments." We are so lucky to have such a vibrant, well-used library as a cornerstone to our Blue Hill Peninsula community.

None of that happens by accident. It starts with a dedicated, creative staff, who are supported by an engaged community of board members, Friends, and donors who make their work possible. And, as the saying goes, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. That means we've inherited the momentum and tradition of vibrant library services from the very beginnings of the Blue Hill Library in 1796, from the 19th and early 20th century Ladies Social Library at Town Hall, from Miss Pearson and her "Blue Hill Experiment" that built the Blue Hill Public Library building in 1939, and from the investments that were made in the library around the turn of the 21st century and since.

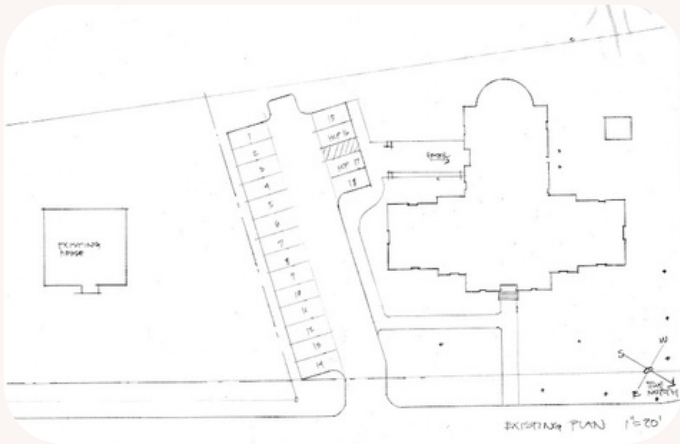
Looking ahead to the future, I am especially excited by the possibilities that come with expanding our campus footprint to incorporate the property that we purchased at 13 Parker Point Rd. (See back cover). We are at the very beginning of the planning stages, having just retained the services of Stahnke and Kitagawa to help us envision the best ways that this campus expansion can serve the community and we invite you to participate in public meetings about these changes in the next year.

Thank you for your support for and engagement with the library. It is our honor to serve you.

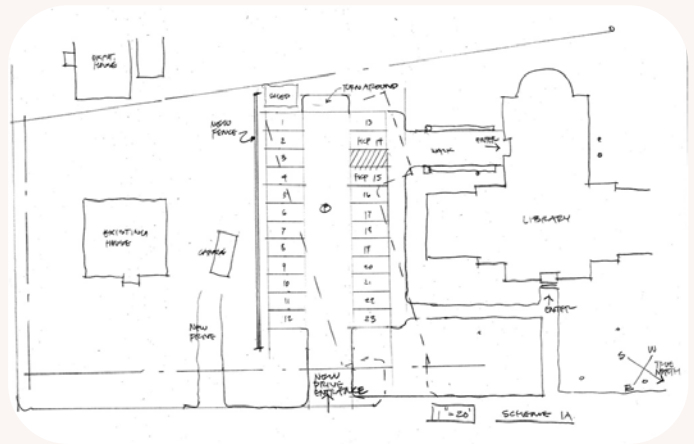
Rich Boulet
Library Director

Acknowledgments:

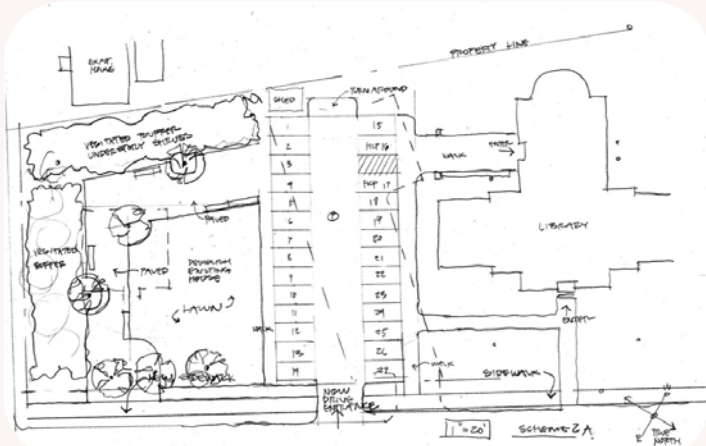
This report was designed by Kendall Chapman. Photo assistance from Claire Malina. Data compiled by Pam Aubuchon-Fields. Sections were authored by Kayleigh Thomas, Rich Boulet, and Sheri Sweet. Proofreading and editing by Shannon Martin and Leda Beth Gray.



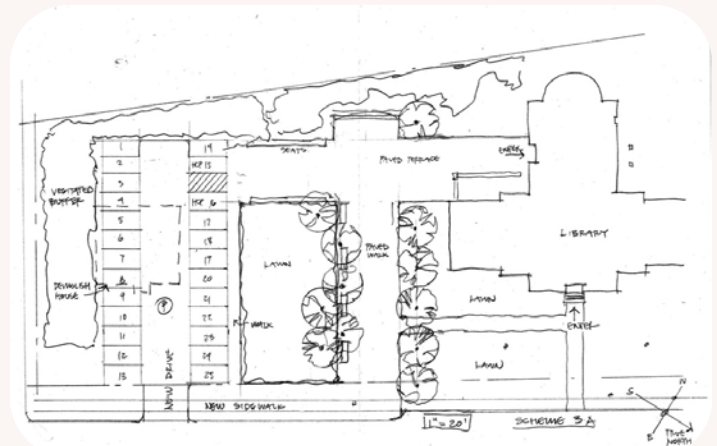
Existing plan



Scheme 1

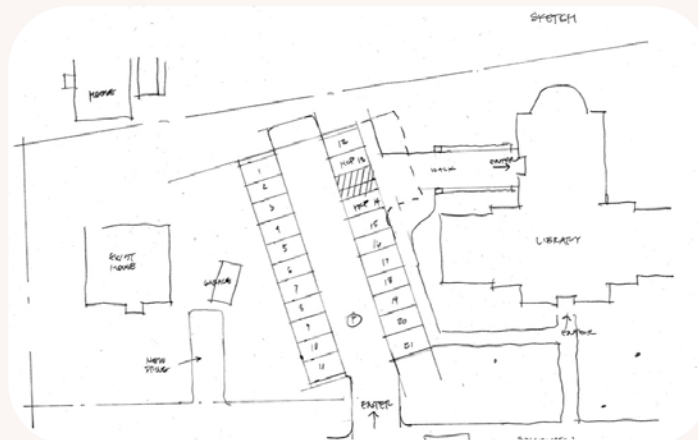


Scheme 2



Scheme 3

Concepts drawings of possible future changes to the library campus.



Scheme 4

Designs by Bruce Stahnke, 2015.



Community Holiday Party