

## Annual Report FY 22

### **New Brand and Website**

A new [website](#) and brand served as the cherry on top of the library's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Funded by community donors, the library's new website and logo were unveiled at a special ceremony on December 7.

For decades, the familiar teal dot adorned signs, library cards and the website. The book and boat images built into our logo attempted to represent what we have to offer and our storied maritime history. But, as anyone who's visited a branch knows, the library is way more than books and our county extends beyond the shores of the Chesapeake Bay into rural, suburban and urban neighborhoods.

The new logo more accurately reflects the modern mission of the library- to help foster a connected and inclusive community built upon the important maritime and agricultural roots of the county. Our new website is easier to navigate, more modern and allows users to find just what they are looking for, with special quick links.

### **Library of Things Expands to Include More Museum Passes and Birding Kits**

Free passes are now available for the [Hammond Harwood House and Museum](#), [William Paca House and Garden and Museum of Historic Annapolis](#). The passes are good for general admission for up to four people during regular museum public hours. They may be checked out for seven days and can be picked up and returned at any Anne Arundel County Public Library location. Passes for [Historic London Town and Gardens](#) remain available as well.

Through a partnership with Patuxent Research Refuge, the Maryland City at Russett Library is now offering [birding kits](#). The kits consist of a pair of adult binoculars, a pair of child binoculars, a local birding guide, a tip sheet, an optic cleaning cloth and a drawstring bag. Kits, which can be borrowed for up to 21 days, can be placed on hold but must be checked out and returned to Maryland City at Russett Library only. Visit our [library of things](#) for more unusual items you can check out from the library including [fishing poles](#), ukuleles, hotspots and more.

### **Helping our Community**

#### *Community Pantries*

The [Community Pantry](#) at Discoveries: The Library at the Mall marked one year serving the needs of local residents. In FY 22, staff distributed more than 67,000 diapers and over 700 packs

of menstrual products to nearly 2,000 families from 50 different zip codes in Maryland. Someone in every family helped now has a library card as well so that they can take advantage of all of the benefits the library can provide including job help, kindergarten readiness classes, skill building and more. We are grateful to all who have donated items and funding including Anne Arundel County who provides a grant through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Additionally, Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services is now offering a baby pantry at the Brooklyn Park Library. By appointment only, diapers, wipes, clothing and toys are available to families.

### *Social Worker Partnership Expands to Five Libraries*

Licensed social workers from the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services are now available for appointments at five libraries. Residents can get connected with county and state resources available for financial assistance, immigration help, substance abuse counseling and more at the Brooklyn Park, Busch Annapolis, Deale, Edgewater and Glen Burnie libraries.

### *Masks and COVID-19 Test Kits*

With 16 branches across the county and as a trusted community resource, library staff had the unique opportunity to assist public health experts in continuing the fight against COVID. Working with our partners at the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, library staff gave out nearly 265,000 masks and more than 218,000 test kits to residents.

The public was grateful for the ability to get test kits and masks with one customer writing, “The COVID kits that you distributed made Christmas happen for our family.”

The library continues to work with public health officials to provide disease screenings, access to high quality medical information and COVID-19 protection items.

### **Equity Audit**

In FY 22, the library launched a three-phase initiative called **All Means All - Embedding Equity in Our Libraries**. Working with Due East Partners, the first part of the project included conducting an equity audit or a study of the fairness and inclusivity of the library’s policies, programs and practices. Specifically, we examined our policies, programs and practices that directly or indirectly impact staff, customers and the surrounding communities relative to their race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, color, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or other socio-culturally significant factors. A survey was provided to staff, customers and stakeholders to explore climate and culture at the library.

The equity audit results will provide the basis for crafting equity priorities along with identifying gaps, assets and strengths for all aspects of the library system. A staff committee, of varying levels throughout the organization, is currently working through the full set of audit

recommendations to develop a shared vision for equity and a practical, actionable framework for the library to implement over the next few years.

### **What Customers are Saying**

- Thank you, @aacpl, for unparalleled community service throughout the pandemic.
- "I just got my membership last week and already took a LinkedIn class - you saved me \$35!"
- "You all have the BEST customer service. You don't find that a lot around here!"
- "A lot of the librarians helped me with unemployment; it took two months, but I finally got the money"
- I had fun using the fishing rod at the Deale Pier. I caught two croakers!
- "I just wanted to thank you for helping me apply for jobs when I was out of my mind. I got it!
- You guys are a lifesaver on no nap days. You break up the monotony of no napping!
- This is a great library. I love the kindergarten readiness classes!

### **Connecting with Teens**

The library provides a welcoming, safe space for all teens to be themselves, have fun and access the resources they need. Each of our locations is unique, with its own personality and design.

Online, the library has a wide variety of resources for every teen's needs. Visit the [Student Center](#) to find research databases and homework help and test drive skills for the Maryland Driver Test by taking the [MVA Practice Test](#). Find volunteer and AACPS service hour opportunities using Anne Arundel County's [Youth Engagement Activity Hub](#). Download teen eBooks and eAudiobooks instantly from our collection on [Overdrive](#).

In FY 22, the library launched a special [Instagram account](#) just for the teens of Anne Arundel County! Follow us for book recommendations, photo challenges, Club 1117 Review Crew excerpts, highlights from teen events and more! Love TikTok? Follow our new [TikTok account](#) for fun library videos and Booktok reels!

### **New Facility/Renovations**

#### *Riviera Beach Library*

Work continues on the \$15.9 million [new Riviera Beach Library](#) in Pasadena. The 20,000-square-foot building will double the size of the old facility at 1130 Duvall Highway and is expected to open in Spring 2023. The new library will be located in a more visible spot on the campus of the former facility. The Riviera Beach Library is currently operating out of a temporary site at the Riviera Beach Shopping Center.

#### *Refreshes for Six Library Facilities*

Six libraries received carpet replacements and improvements in FY 22 thanks to funding from Anne Arundel County. Improved libraries include: Broadneck, Brooklyn Park, Eastport-

Annapolis Neck, Edgewater, Glen Burnie and Maryland City at Russett. [Stop in](#) to see how great these enhanced spaces look.

### **What's Coming: Expanded Kindergarten Readiness**

Thanks to \$559,500 in funding from Anne Arundel County, in FY 2023, the library will be able to expand its Kindergarten Readiness program. With two new vehicles and six additional staff, the library can bring its well-known school readiness programs to underserved communities. Kindergarten Readiness and community engagement have long been priorities at AACPL. We will continue those efforts and focus our work in the following areas:

- Increased emphasis on community outreach, with prioritization of services to county areas of greatest need
- Commitment to providing ongoing robust early literacy programming and family support services at all 16 library locations
- Cooperation with community partners to continue to support a collective impact approach
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program refresh and classroom kits
- Comprehensive training and support for staff on programming and outreach best practices and community resources and challenges.

Stay tuned for more details on this exciting initiative.

### **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Anne Arundel County Public Library. It is comprised of volunteers representing all areas of our county. Trustees come to their volunteer roles with a range of experiences and backgrounds, and a strong desire to ensure the long-term vitality of our public libraries. In FY 22, the body included:

- William A. Shorter, Jr. Chairman
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## **Library Foundation**

The Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that raises funds for critical needs not normally met by public funding. Contributions from individuals, businesses, grant-making foundations and organizations support resources and strengthen essential programs and services that engage life-long learning in person at all 16 branches and at library headquarters plus virtually and digitally, online. A body of 15 volunteer board members oversees the operation of the library foundation, along with a staff of three development professionals.

Since its founding in 2006, the library foundation has raised over \$4 million from private sources. Some of the initiatives funded (from over \$450,000 granted back to the library in FY22) include **hundreds of programs** at the library's branches and virtually featuring authors, musical and dance performances, demonstrations, storytelling and much more; **thousands of incentives and reading prizes** including books, earbuds and journals for children, teens and adults; **augmented welcoming spaces** such as better signage, book displays, couches and other seating and charging stations; **amplified access to technology** such as hotspots with unlimited data, SMART Boards, specialized virtual meeting equipment plus additional computers and docking stations; and the **continued, expanded flexibility to respond to a different service model** that allows the library to meet its customers where they live and provide tailored access to valued resources, outreach programs and services.

The community's philanthropic support allows the library foundation to respond to the many evolving and changing needs of the library and our community and makes possible services and opportunities that couldn't happen without this commitment. Ongoing community support allows the library to transform and expand to meet the needs of a growing community by providing endless possibilities, opportunities and resources for growth and enrichment for all. Our planned gift program includes The Anna E. Greenberg Legacy Society and The Legacy of Learning Society.

FY22 Library Foundation Board of Directors:

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