

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

This year, **303,320** people visited our library locations and mobile branch, Rover.

Our patrons borrowed and downloaded **598,416** items.

We held **2,524** programs, and **33,629** people attended.

Rover our Roaming Library made **111** stops and welcomed **3,823** people.

The Poughkeepsie Big Read commemorated 60 years of the Civil Rights Act with *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton, drawing **1,150** people.







Marist students aboard Rover!

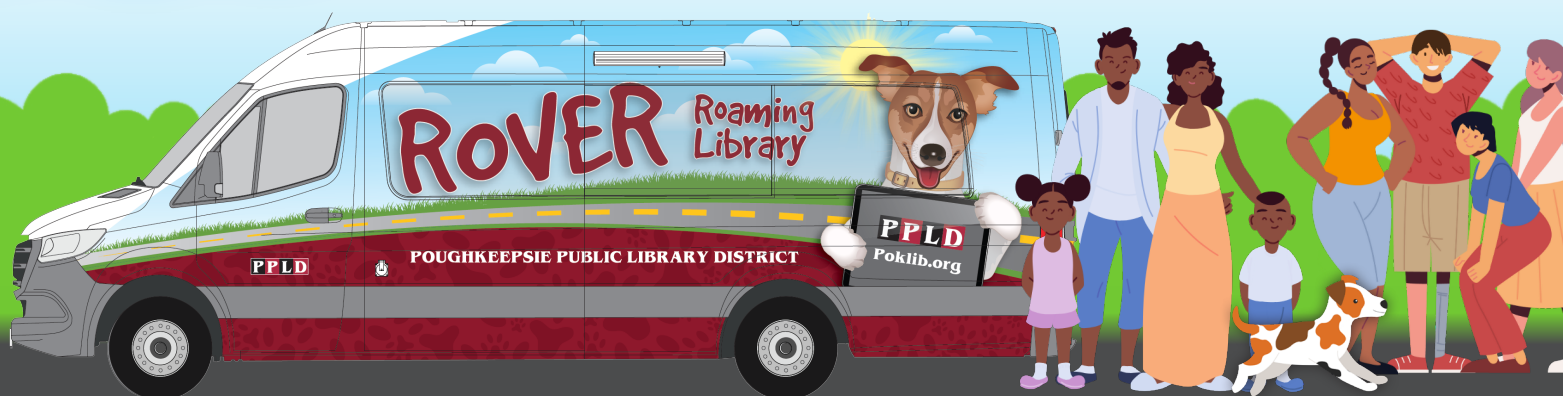


A patron has her book autographed by bestselling author David Baldacci at the Bardavon on April 26, 2024.

2024 marked the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, which we honored during our Big Read series, both commemorating Civil Rights heroes of the past and exploring social justice issues as they stand today. The series launched with keynote speaker Anthony Ray Hinton, wrongful conviction survivor and author of *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*, and closed with a powerhouse performance by Sweet Honey in the Rock to a packed Bardavon Opera House.

Highlights throughout the year included our outreach to Spanish-speaking communities, such as Oaxaca on the Walkway and La Guelaguetza, which drew hundreds to our library tables; historic walking tours of local points of interest with PPLD Historian Shannon Butler; Rover visits to farmers' markets, grocery stores, and senior centers; a record-breaking Children's Book Festival attended by over 1,450 people; summer drop-in activities for teens ranging from arts and crafts to STEM and wellness; book bags filled with books and early literacy tips in English and Spanish for each child in the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program within the PCSD; an Open House at the Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library, which showcased the new entrance and refurbishment of the Family Partnership Center; a visit from NYT-bestselling author, speaker, and historian Jemar Tisby to discuss the history and celebration of Juneteenth; and a visit from internationally bestselling author David Baldacci, another night in which PPLD packed the Bardavon.

**“There’s just so many good things about our library, it was hard to pick one! We have never found anywhere that has so many fun things going on all year long.”**  
– PPLD Patron



Students at **29** local schools read our Big Read selections. Little and Teen Read authors made visits to **7** schools. **380** students and **18** teachers created **100** animations during in-school residencies for two school districts.

We distributed **679** new children's books free of charge during our Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival, visited by 1,450 people.



Two young patrons at a DIY pickling program!

Our patrons used MAP Passes for free or reduced admission to more than **45** museums, attractions, and parks **617** times.

Items borrowed from our branches totalled **598,416**, including **468,568** physical items and **129,848** digital items.

**932** people used our free Notary Services and **1,605** used our public fax machines.

**Interested in making a gift to PPLD?** Your generosity will help us meet the growing demand for our extensive collections, Ebooks, educational classes for the Hispanic community, after-school programs, and our computer resources and training. Honor a beloved family member or a friend with a memorial gift in their name.

Consider making a qualified charitable distribution to PPLD, sourced from your required minimum distribution (RMDs). Visit [poklib.org/your-library/volunteer](https://poklib.org/your-library/volunteer) for more information. Thank you for your support.



Representatives from NAACP with our 2024 Big Read flagship author Anthony Ray Hinton.

We had **462,049** virtual visits, including **389,132** hits on our website, **52,819** visits to our databases, and **20,098** views on our YouTube channel.

We had **70,251** logins on our public computers and WiFi.

Our librarians answered **13,471** reference questions and **531** Spanish language questions.



Staff and students with Andrew Aydin, co-author alongside civil rights icon John Lewis, of the 2024 Teen Read title, Run.



## FINANCIALS

### Revenue

Real Property Taxes: \$9,396,344  
PILOT Payments: \$340,005  
Library Charges: \$27,643  
Interest Earnings: \$88,417  
Grants: -  
State Aid: \$300,129  
Gifts & Donations: \$194,848  
Miscellaneous: \$121,009  
Interfund Transfers: \$999,685

**TOTAL: \$11,468,081**

### Expenses

Salaries & Wages: \$4,974,243  
Employee Benefits: \$2,382,176  
Library Materials & Information Services: \$537,720  
Equipment: \$64,073  
Circulation & OPAC Management Fees: \$124,742  
Operations: \$1,505,834  
Debt Service: \$134,675  
Increase in Fund Balance: \$10,321,315

**TOTAL: \$11,468,081**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Moira Fitzgibbons**, City, *President*  
**Dianne Blazek**, Town  
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**Patricia Ferrer-Medina**, Town  
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**James Nurre**, Town  
**Patricia Ryan**, Town, *Treasurer*  
**Laurel Spuhler**, City

### FRIENDS OF PPLD

The Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District contributed **\$118,398** to promote the importance of the library as an informational and cultural force in the community; to stimulate use of the library's services and resources, to assist the Library District in meeting the needs of the community.

### IN MEMORIAM:

#### PPLD STAFF MEMBERS

- **Jewel S. G. Ratzlaff**
- **Matthew Darcy**
- **Darshan Russell**
- **Virginia Saunders**
- **Catherine Davies**



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

If I had to sum up the PPLD in a drawing, I would sketch a set of speech bubbles. We all value the district's physical spaces--the Boardman Road branch and Friends bookstore, the Sadie Delaney Peterson library in the Family Partnership Center, and the historic Adriance building on Market Street. But as this year's annual report makes clear, the PPLD is much more than its bricks-and-mortar structures. Our library district is a community conversation.

Our dialogues take many forms. As an avid Hoopla audiobook user, I get to hear authors tell stories in their own tones of voice. At the recent screening of the documentary *Free for All: The Public Library*, I chatted with other audience members about the roles played by libraries in our educational and social growth. Serving on the Board for seven years has taught me how carefully the PPLD's librarians, event planners, and technology specialists attend to patrons' interest in the district's offerings. Every time you check out a library resource or participate in an activity, you make your voice heard in the community.

Even small moments of interaction can have a big effect. Amid all the demands on our time, the PPLD encourages us to get together with friends and neighbors for tai chi, game tournaments, Books-and-Brews discussions, or just brief greetings amid the stacks. The knowledge we share in these encounters expands our minds; the jokes and stories we exchange sustain our spirits.

Because this year's Big Read selections commemorate the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the Revolutionary War, we will have many opportunities in the fall to speak with each other about the region's historical past. Doing so will also give us a chance to imagine new possibilities for the future. Let's show up, speak up, and keep the conversation going.

– **Moira Fitzgibbons**,  
*President, Board of Trustees*

**ADRIANCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie

**BOARDMAN ROAD BRANCH LIBRARY**  
141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie

**SADIE PETERSON DELANEY  
AFRICAN ROOTS BRANCH LIBRARY**  
29 N. Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie

On the front cover: **ROVER THE ROVING LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE!** poklib.org/rover