



2019 Annual Report

Executive Summary

2019 was a year filled with change and innovation for the Aurora Public Library. We launched our first ever community-wide book discussion, Aurora: United We Read with Sonia Sotomayor's book, *My Beloved World*. It was exciting to hire a new Executive Director, Michaela Haberkern, in March of 2019, as she brought her deep experience and passion for serving the public to this role. Staff and customers also celebrated West Branch's grand reopening on September 3, when our hours officially expanded.

Our library's strategic plan focused our efforts in the community. We created opportunities for school success for students, families, and teachers. The library's summer reading challenge "It's Showtime at Aurora Public Library" wrapped up at the end of July with 5,855 people registered, a 36.9% increase over last year. This important literacy program helps students bridge the educational gap between school years. Our plan also helped us welcome and support new immigrants, as we delivered over 115 English as a Second Language and English Language Acquisition classes to over 1,300 attendees. We offered opportunities for customers to express their creativity and feed their imagination through high-profile events such as our collaboration and participation in First Friday events, where we average over 300 participants. Our most popular First Friday in October featured live music from Chicago Latin Groove and food tasting by local Puerto Rican food truck, Chupacabra, to over 400 people.

In 2019, we connected with our residents in meaningful ways. Our bookmobile drove through the streets of downtown Aurora celebrating diversity in the Aurora Pride Parade and our love of our country on Independence Day in July. The Bookmobile also participated in a Touch-A-Truck event at Blackberry Farm. The event was attended by many young children and their parents and grandparents, a total of 567 visitors. Our Outreach department continued to bring books and services out into the community to over 28,000 customers. The Children's department help us connect with our local schools through booktalks, storytimes, homework support, and outreach.

What's even more exciting? There are more changes to come. In 2019, we worked with the community and the City of Aurora to increase the library's levy in 2020, which will enable our organization to continue to evolve and adapt. We will strive to respond to our amazing community in 2020 and beyond!

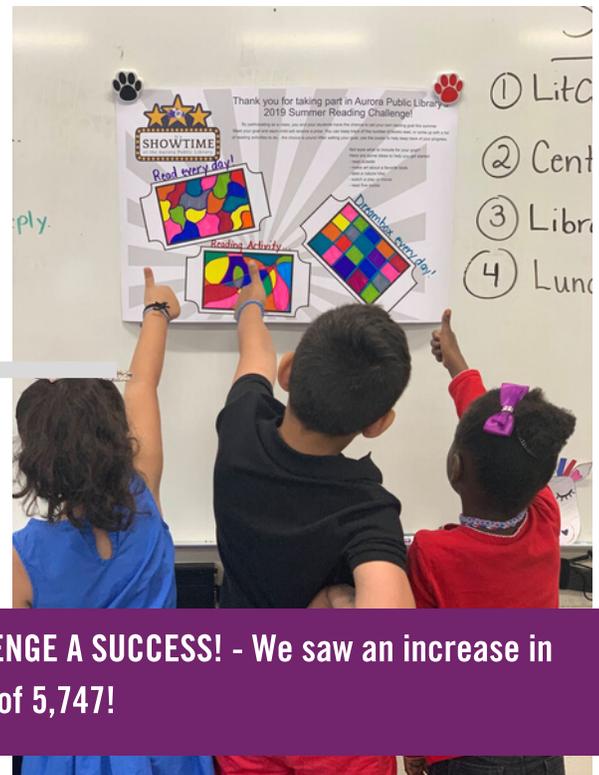
2019 Highlights



THE PUBLIC - APL, in partnership with Hesed House, featured a private viewing of the movie on March 18 with special guest director Emilio Estevez and Ryan Dowd.



NEW DIRECTOR - Michaela Haberkern was appointed director on March 2.



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE A SUCCESS! - We saw an increase in participation with a total of 5,747!



WEST BRANCH RESTORES HOURS - Hours are restored to match Santori Library.

2019 Highlights

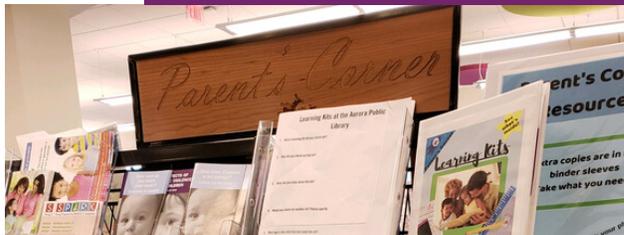


NEW WEBSITE - In September we launched our new website!



AURORA: UNITED WE READ - One book, One Aurora. We held 11 different programs with 502 attendees!

STRATEGIC PLAN - Our strategic plan came to an end. Here's what we achieved!



- Learning Kits in our Parent's Corner: 12 new kits circulated over 192 times in a 12-month period.
- 326 new DVDs in the Marketplace circulated over 650 times in one month!



- Worked with local community partners to deliver technology experiences, including:
 - Presented at Kiwanis, EAST Aurora STEM- A – Palooza (100 + students, parents, teachers and local community members)
 - Participated at Cowherd Middle School STEM fair (100 + students, parents, teachers and local community members), BP's Junior technology Fair (200+ Junior high school students)



- 40 English as a Second Language classes held at Santori in 2019, with 290 attendees
- 79 English Language Acquisition classes held at Eola in 2019 with 1,021 attendees
- 41 Citizenship classes offered at Eola this year with 445 attendees



- Week of the Young Child Resource Fair - Attended by 378 parents & children
- Presented the Teacher Open House on August, 2 with 75 teachers attending

Statistics

579,934
TOTAL
VISITS

TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

114,870

+6%
from
2018



DATABASE SESSIONS

19,913

1,095,295
Internet
Sessions



102,077
Total
E-circ

1,378,475
ITEMS CIRCULATED

56,807 NEW TITLES | 524,008 COLLECTION SIZE

112 STAFF Full Time Equivalence
6 RETIREMENTS
22 NEW HIRES

We answered
119,888
of your
questions



Fan Favorite

Trending posts

1. The Case of the Mixed Up Coats 16.3k
2. Staff Shout-out during Polar Vortex 11.5k
3. Storytime Prom Sneak Peak 7k
4. Bookmobile #ThrowBackThursday 4.4k
5. Storytime Prom video 4.3k

4,714 ^{+12% MORE THAN 2018}

f FOLLOWERS

461 Followers | 218 Followers | 2,308 subscribers

Aurora Public Library, Illinois
Published by Andrea Tiberi [?] · January 22, 2019 · 🌐

At Eola Road Branch we have The Case of the Mixed-Up Coats! If you were at the library yesterday morning and own a coat similar to this one, please check to see if you have the correct one in your possession. The owner of the missing coat is from out of state and would like their car keys back.



✔ **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**
Boost this post for \$27 to reach up to 7,900 people.

16,291 **2,299**
People Reached Engagements [Boost Post](#)

Aurora Public Library, Illinois
Published by Mimi Meza-Gotto [?] · January 30, 2019 · 🌐

A VERY SPECIAL shout out to our APL staff who are at West Branch and Santori Library today!
#APLibraryIL #CommittedToProvidingWarmingCenters



✔ **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**
Boost this post for \$27 to reach up to 7,900 people.

11,546 **1,491**
People Reached Engagements

141

Aurora Public Library, Illinois
Published by Mimi Meza-Gotto [?] · April 26, 2019 · 🌐

The 4th annual Eola Road Branch Storytime Prom is coming up on May 3! Here's a sneak peek at the preparations (yes we did build a giant gumball machine) and a look back on years past. Our 2019 theme is...Welcome to Candy Land!
#APLibraryIL



✔ **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**
Boost this post for \$27 to reach up to 7,900 people.

6,998 **593**
People Reached Engagements [Boost Post](#)

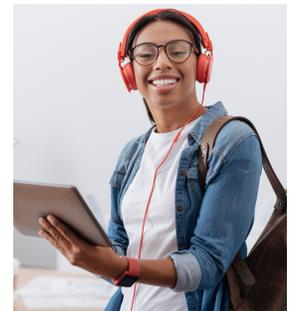
Aurora Public Library Foundation

In 2019, Aurora Public Library Foundation received the following in philanthropic support:

New digital bookmobile campaign: \$149,000



Technology Endowment: \$300,000



Events: \$33,250

2019 event proceeds benefit the digital bookmobile campaign, homebound residents and Township residents



Other: \$19,400

Unrestricted donations, APL programs and specific library locations



Since 2008, Aurora Public Library Foundation has received greater than \$5,000,000 in philanthropic support. We are grateful for the generosity and kindness of our donors. Please visit APLFoundationIL.org for the 2019 Honor Roll of Donors.





**The Aurora Public Library Board of
Directors, Foundation Board of
Directors and staff thank you for
another great year!**