



PETERS TOWNSHIP  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
OPENING BOOKS, DOORS AND MINDS

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



In early 2022, the library completed its first-ever strategic plan with the help of Procopia Consulting. The plan outlined four main goals, one of which was to “adapt the library’s physical space to meet the organization’s evolving needs.” Throughout 2024, as our staff and services continued to grow, we undertook projects to support this goal, including constructing a new office for Circulation staff, renovating the Multipurpose Room AV system, and relocating the Makerspace.

Most excitingly, we have contracted with HBM Architecture to complete a space analysis of our building. This process will provide the library with floor plans for phased interior renovations, while keeping within the current footprint of the building and reusing as much of the library’s existing shelving and furniture as possible.

Moving forward with this project will enable us to provide better services to patrons, create more efficient workspaces for our staff, and reclaim under-utilized areas within the library. We look forward to growing over the next 20 years in this building, and maintaining flexibility for whatever changes public libraries may experience down the road.

We have many new and exciting changes on the horizon for 2025, so please visit [ptlib.org/news](http://ptlib.org/news) to stay up to date!

Lacey Love  
Library Director



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# ABOUT THE LIBRARY

## 2024 Library Staff

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Lacey Love, Library Director  
Ilyanna Logan, Assistant Library Director  
Katie Marchand, Administrative Assistant  
Beth May, PR & Marketing Coordinator  
Sydney Krawiec, Program & Outreach Coordinator  
Dani Mizia, Adult Services Technician  
Nancy Martin, Archivist  
Sarah Quinn, Technology & Makerspace Librarian  
Shannon Pauley, Head of Youth Services  
Linda Esposito, Children's Librarian  
Patty Hartenbach, Youth Services Technician  
Sarah Lawrence, Youth Services Technician  
Mary Kipling, Head of Cataloging  
Nancy Lojek, Cataloging Assistant  
Dianne Finnegan, Patron Services Coordinator  
Sue Andrewson, Library Assistant  
Carol Johnson, Library Assistant  
Tracy Lucas, Library Assistant  
Jamie Mack, Library Assistant  
John Masilunas, Library Assistant  
Victoriya McKay, Library Assistant  
Roz Rider, Library Assistant  
Anne-Marie Shaw, Library Assistant  
Stephanie Shultz, Library Assistant  
Noreen Balach, Facilities Maintenance  
Ava Cilli, Youth Services Intern  
Lauren Kretz, Page  
Marlowe Grandelis, Page  
Anna Stephenson, Page

## Board of Directors

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Ian W. Parker, Chair  
Scott Beinhauer, Vice Chair  
Yvonne Weaver, Treasurer  
Beth Markocic, Secretary  
Lauren Cantwell  
Lara Clarke  
Rachel Gogos Kartofilis  
Stephen Shepard







## THE PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Peters Township Library Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for the library with financial and volunteer support. The Foundation raises funds each year to augment the library's normal operating budget. Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who made gifts to the Foundation in 2024 through the annual mailer, honor and memorial gifts, Novel November ads, sponsorships, and WCCF Gives.



The Foundation generously funded and supported a wide variety of library projects in 2024, including:

- ♦ An upgraded AV system for the Multipurpose Room, including a projector, screen, speakers, and control panel
- ♦ A flatbed scanner and computer for the Memory Lab, to help preserve and digitize family history
- ♦ Home delivery for patrons with mobility challenges
- ♦ Sponsorship of the events, Read Local Eat Local, and Boos, Brews, and Books

Our annual Novel November event brings a nationally known author to our community for an evening of conversation. In 2024, more than 200 people joined us in welcoming best-selling author and journalist Patrick Radden Keefe. We are excited to announce our 2025 guest, S.A. Cosby, the author of *Razorblade Tears* and *Blacktop Wasteland*. Cosby will join us on November 6th, 2025.

Visit [ptlib.org/sacosby](https://ptlib.org/sacosby) to be notified when tickets go on sale.



### 2024 Foundation Board

Maura Kelly, President • Shar Campano, Vice-President • Marji Dickson, Treasurer • Diane Lioon, Secretary  
Sue Freyder • Kathleen Gallant • Meghan Greenwood  
Linda Hlavinka • Kay McEvoy • Matt Siconolfi



# PTPL ARCHIVES

The PTPL Archives underwent a number of changes over the past year. Long-time Local History Librarian Margaret Deitzer retired in December 2023, and Nancy Martin joined the library as Archivist in February 2024. Throughout the past year, the Archives acquired 21 new donations of material, including three scrapbooks created by the Peters Township Society of Farm Women between 1918 and 1959, a scorebook and financial records of the Hackett Giants baseball team from the 1934 and 1935 seasons, and nine linear feet of records from the Peters Township Chamber of Commerce dating from the chamber's incorporation in 1954 up to 2021.

The Archives prioritized advocacy and outreach in 2024, hosting an American Archives Month celebration in early October with a Local History Trivia Night, catering to both amateurs and experts of Peters Township history. Other activities included historically themed scavenger hunts, a Price is Right game, and an I Spy sheet created for children. The Archives also launched a new program in collaboration with Peters Township Community Television (PTCT), *Live from the Archives*, which is now available on YouTube.

Over the past year, the Archives made great strides in accessibility, scanning more than 1,100 pages of holdings. Many, along with their accompanying metadata, have been uploaded to *PA Photos & Documents* where they are accessible to remote users at [ptlib.org/papdcollections](http://ptlib.org/papdcollections).





# YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Department offers programs, materials, and services for our youngest readers and their families. Youth Services was very busy in 2024, hosting more than 530 programs for children and teens that more than 13,000 people attended—an increase of 30% over 2023! Much of this increase is due to new outreach initiatives, which you can read about on page 10. We introduced several new children's programs to our lineup this year, including Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, Sensory Storytime, First Steps First Stories, and American Girl Book Club.

Sensory Storytime is offered in partnership with a local pediatric occupational therapist. Caregivers are welcome to ask questions about occupational therapy and sensory processing while participants listen to a story, move their bodies, and engage in sensory input. Kindergarten Readiness helps to promote early literacy and reinforce basic reading by focusing on a new letter each week, participating in calendar time, and having caregiver participation in parent-child skills and activities.



The library passed out over 1,200 pairs of eclipse glasses at Rolling Hills Park on April 8. Parks & Rec had activities and a food truck was on site. Folks of all ages came out to see this once in a lifetime event for our area. Additionally, the Animal Fair returned to the library in 2024. This event brought together 11 animal organizations from the surrounding area, including Canine Companions, South Hills Pet Rescue, Rabbit Wranglers, and more. About 250 patrons stopped in to check out the event, and children were given a stamp card with the opportunity to earn a free book.





American Girl Book Club



Bodies in Motion



Daniel Tiger

In April, we hosted an all-ages Bookmark Contest sponsored by the 84 Lumber Sign Shop. We received 135 creative entries, and look forward to continuing this new partnership. Our 2024 summer reading program, "Adventure Begins at Your Library," kicked off with a performance by local singing duo Josh & Gab, goodie bags, crafts, friendship bracelets, and the announcement of our Bookmark Contest winners. Summer reading wrapped up in mid-August, and was a tremendous success. More than 500 readers logged 530,000 minutes, 19,000 books, and 245,000 pages! We distributed 212 halfway prizes, and 146 readers completed the challenge to receive prize baskets.

The Youth Services staff visited many local preschools and homeschool co-op groups in 2024, as well as hosted field trips from St. John's Preschool, where parents visited the library with their child and learned about resources and literacy activities.

Other highlights this year included Preschool Palooza, visits from the Pittsburgh Zoo and National Aviary, pumpkin painting, tie dye, bingo nights, World Travelers Camp, and Flamingo Friday. Daniel Tiger made a very special visit to our neighborhood for our August Night with WQED program, where participants listened to a story, completed crafts, and had a special photo opportunity with Daniel himself! Special thanks to Clearview Federal Credit Union for sponsoring our WQED programming.



# TWEEN AND TEEN SERVICES

At the beginning of April, we welcomed a new addition to the Youth Services team, Sarah Lawrence, who oversees much of our teen and tween programming. Teens and tweens were inspired by pop culture in 2024, with programs revolving around the Barbie movie, Taylor Swift's album release, and the new season of the Netflix show, "The Summer I Turned Pretty." Highlights included decorating "Weird Barbies," creating "I am Kenough" shirts, and playing Swift vs. Shakespeare. Some other favorite programs included Spa Night, a Leap Day party, trivia nights, video game tournaments, a root beer float social, and classes on college essay writing, financial aid, and financial literacy.



A particular highlight of tween programming is our chess clubs, targeted for 1st through 6th graders. This year, we welcomed Frank Gavlak, "Mr. G," who volunteers his time to run the Youth Services chess program. Mr. G. prepares a lesson, followed by 45 minutes of game play and one-on-one instruction. Our monthly chess program has morphed into two programs a month, and we are proud to now offer a beginners and intermediate chess program. As a result, Mr. G. is able to accommodate more students and better serve the different levels of the players. This fall, we offered a two-part chess program to our homeschool community for the first time. The program filled with a waiting list and was a hit.



Crafting and cooking classes remained very popular with teens and tweens in 2024. We baked our way through cupcakes, sprinkle surprise cookies, and Snickers pies, fooled the senses with food imposter terrariums, and blind-tasted our favorite Easter treats. Tweens and teens crafted a variety of projects, including watercolor book trackers, 3D valentines, clay dragon eyes, origami bookmarks, and miniature book ornaments.

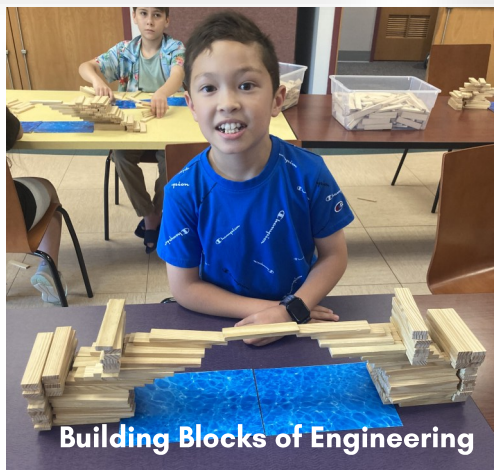
The Youth Services Department also continued to focus on STEM programming. A new partnership with the Makerspace taught teens how to sew, needle-felt, 3D model, and use the Cricut machine to create a variety of projects. We also offered a series in partnership with a local STEM teacher, called the Building Blocks of Engineering, where participants explored simple STEM concepts through Keva planks. Teens and tweens also utilized CAD and a laser cutter to create their own customized projects with the Carnegie Science Center Fab Lab.



**Writing Contest Reception**



**Teen Sewing**



**Building Blocks of Engineering**

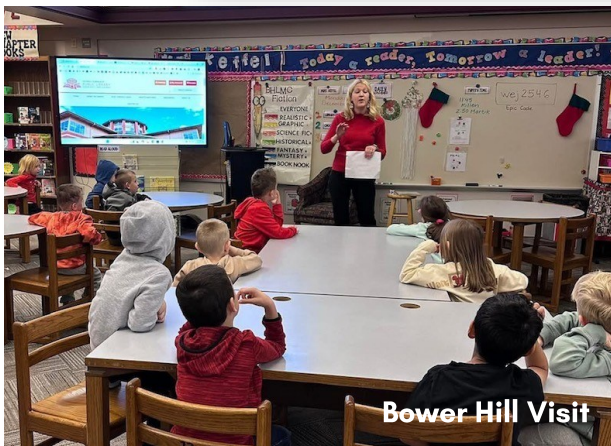


**3D Valentines**

Creative writers also had many opportunities to connect and create at the library in 2024. They could choose between one of our three creative writing groups—Tween, Middle School, or High School Writers' Clubs—that met monthly year-round. Youth Services also held its second annual Tween and Teen Writing Contest. Entrants were invited to submit fiction pieces that explored the theme, "Hidden." Twelve teens and nine tweens entered the contest in April and were honored at a special reception on May 7<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by more than 50 participants, friends, and family members.



# OUTREACH



The Youth Services Department took great strides toward meeting its goal of increasing community outreach in 2024 with a new school district outreach initiative. We launched this initiative by hosting the PTSD principals and assistant principals at the library to discuss the importance of the partnership between the school district and public library. Youth Services staff presented information about summer reading, the library's digital resources, program offerings for all ages, and outreach options.

After this meeting, Youth Services staff visited schools for teacher in-service days, spoke at PTA meetings, attended open houses and kindergarten registrations, shared stories in many classrooms, and visited every library class at McMurray and Bower Hill Elementary schools. In addition, all fourth grade English Language Arts classes took a field trip to the library. During their field trip, students and teachers learned about the PTPL Archives, Makerspace, digital resources, and more. Prior to their visit, parents and caregivers received a form to register their child for a library card. As a result, we distributed about 200 library cards to students.

The Peters Township Library Foundation also conducted another major outreach initiative for the library in 2024, coordinating a home book delivery service with Meals on Wheels for those who were unable to visit the library. Books were also delivered to individual homes, nursing homes, and senior facilities. Foundation volunteers also maintained and stocked five Little Free Libraries in the area with donated or withdrawn books.



# MAKERSPACE

The Makerspace was extremely busy throughout 2024, hosting more than 125 programs and 208 Book-a-Librarian sessions. Each program focused on a different piece of Makerspace technology. Programs like Cricut Machine 101, Embroidery Machine Basics, and Intro to Machine Sewing taught participants the functions and operations of the featured equipment. Project-based programs like Cricut Creations, 3D Modeling, and Needle Felting allowed participants to complete a guided project. We made a wide variety of projects throughout the year, including winter-themed mugs, embroidered eyeglass cases, and 3D-printed plant pots.

The new Makerspace To Go collection—housing equipment like coding robots, 3D printing pens, an embroidery machine, and more—launched in 2024 and encouraged library patrons to use Makerspace equipment at home for personal projects. The collection was a big hit with over 270 circulations in 2024.

Our in-house Makerspace Equipment was also used frequently by patrons, with over 112 uses throughout 2024. A great STEM learning tool for all ages, our 3D printer provides a unique service for our community; we completed a wide variety of 3D prints for patrons in 2024 ranging from prototypes for new inventions to models of existing structures to spare parts for a BMW motorcycle.





# ADULT SERVICES

Daytime activities for adults have continued to grow with large groups attending monthly Crafternoons, Bingo, and Social Club. The library has also added two more support groups to the monthly lineup—Gentle Grief Group and Dementia Support Group—bringing our total monthly club meetings to 14. We offered a variety of educational programs in 2024 on topics including gardening, travel, downsizing your home, green burials, local history, and the opioid epidemic. We ended 2024 with a series of historical programs about World War I, as well as remembering Pearl Harbor and looking at the Marquis de Lafayette's time in Pennsylvania.



Adult participants brushed up on their culinary skills through our regular Cookbook Club, classes to make pizza crust and sourdough starter, and The Great PT Bake-Off competition. Readers also got some spice at Romancing the Reader, an author panel which brought eight local romance authors to the library. Another author panel focused on Fantasy and Science Fiction genres is in the works for 2025. A series of early winter programs helped raise awareness for the citizen science initiative The Great Backyard Bird Count, where participants learned about local birds and helped record them to contribute to a global bird count.



# ADULT SERVICES

Summer brought around the largest number of adult participants in the summer reading program to date. There were 182 adult readers logging their reading and activities in Beanstack to earn prizes. Our Summer of Adventure also included a community scavenger hunt for patrons to discover new places here at home, as well as a contest to take a photo of their library card on vacation. WAGGIN cards made their way to Gettysburg, Deep Creek, San Diego, and even as far as Iceland and Italy!

September 7<sup>th</sup> marked the fifth annual Read Local Eat Local author showcase at the library, featuring local writers, illustrators, and food trucks in a unique festival celebrating the talent in our local community. Twenty-one authors and three food trucks headlined this year's event, with over 400 visitors purchasing books, meeting authors, and grabbing lunch. Save the date, because Read Local Eat Local returns Saturday, September 6, 2025!

Our annual Boos, Brews, and Books 18+ Halloween party returned in October. This year's theme was "The Midnight Carnival," and patrons joined us for drinks, food, potions and elixirs from Bombash Botanical, a magician, caricature artists, and a costume contest.





# LIBRARY STATISTICS

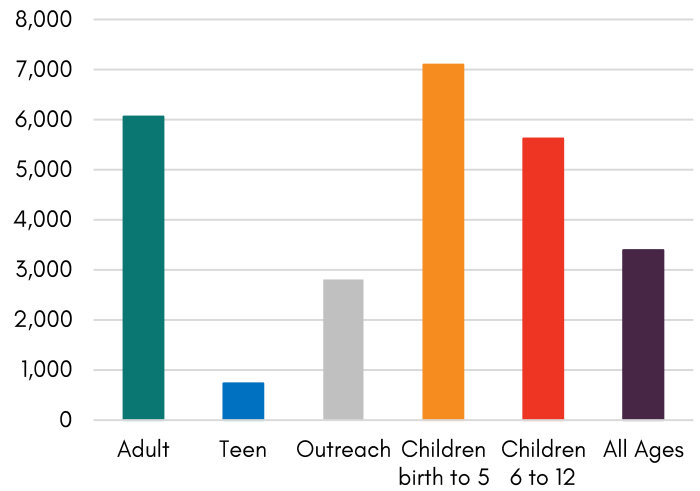
This past year more than 23,000 community members attended library programs, both virtually and in person—a 26% increase over 2023! We also provided services and programs to another 2,800 patrons through outreach and community events, and to 1,700 community members who used library meeting rooms.

In 2024, we signed 3,700 patrons into study rooms, checked out 900 seed library packets, created library cards for 1,800 new patrons, and welcomed almost 120,000 patrons through our doors!

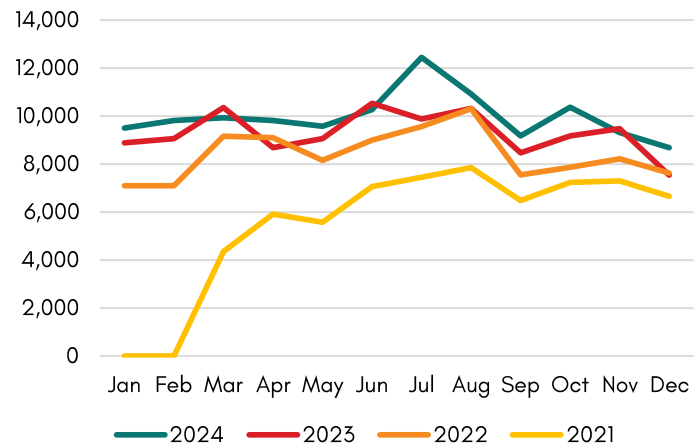
The library circulated around 300,000 items in 2024, both digitally and physically. Some of our most popular collections were our Wonderbooks and picture books in the children's section, and our Makerspace To Go items and large print collections in the adult section.

We added a new digital resource, JobNow, to our offerings in 2024. This database has resources for job seekers, including test preparation practice, career coaching services, and individualized resume review and feedback. JobNow has resources and assistance available for job seekers in all stages of their careers. Take a look at [ptlib.org/jobnow](http://ptlib.org/jobnow).

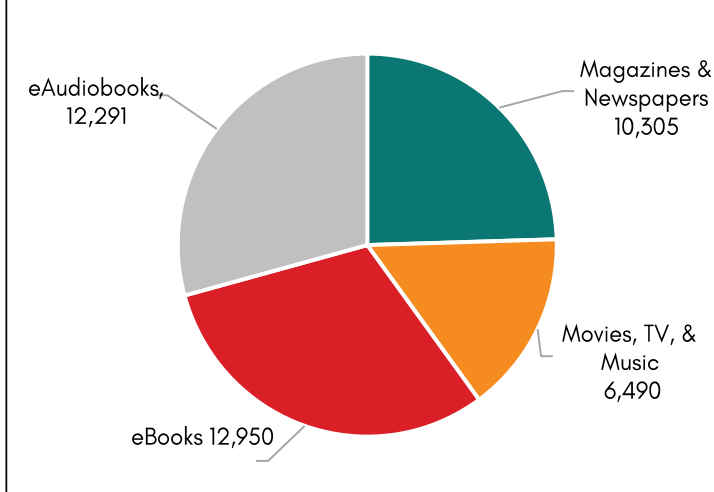
## Program Attendance



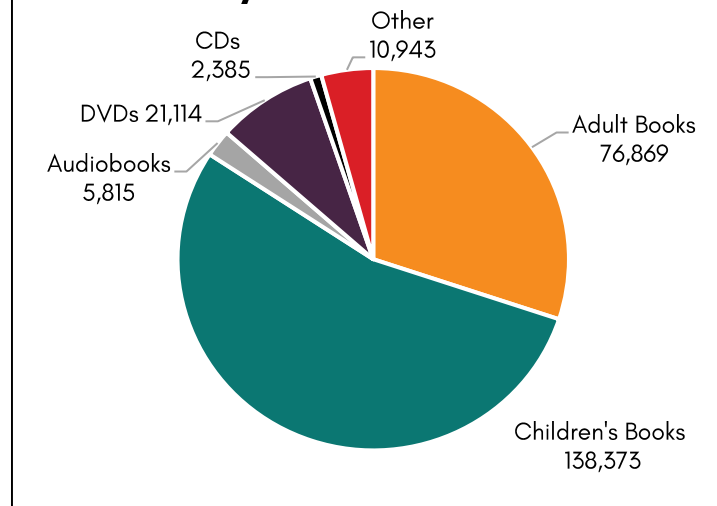
## Visitor Count



## Digital Circulation

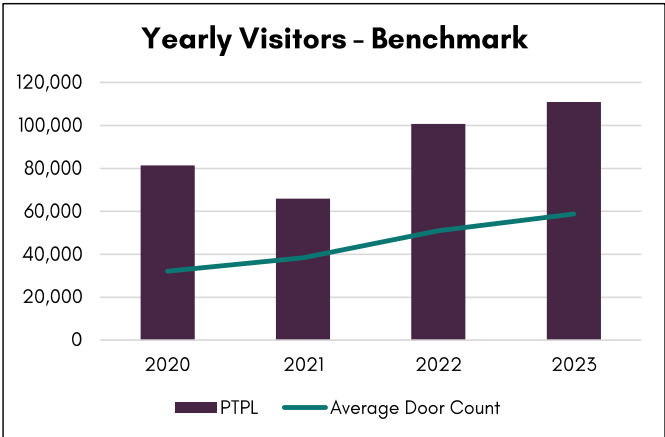
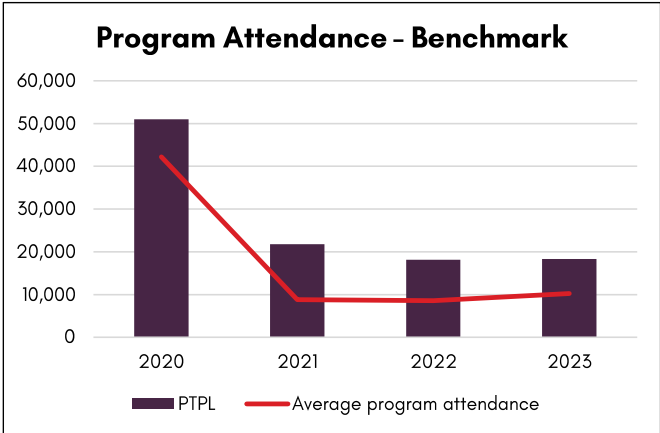
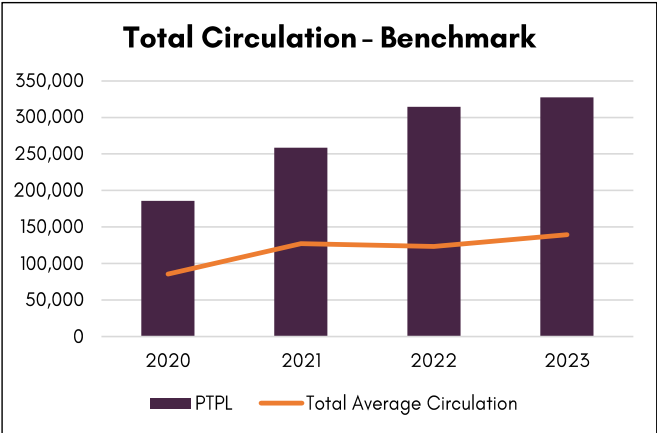


## Physical Circulation

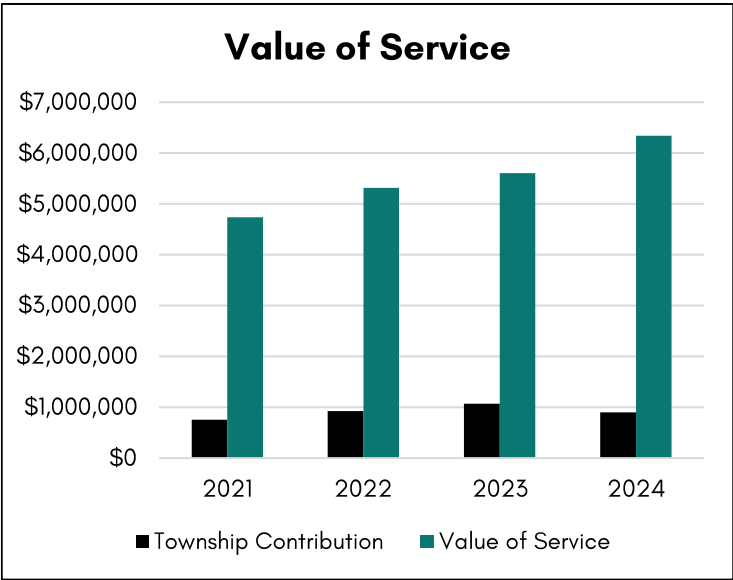




One of the most effective ways to measure the success of a library is to look at comparable libraries. The three charts below show Peters Township Public Library statistics compared to the average statistics of similar libraries across Pennsylvania. We looked at the circulation, yearly visitors, and program attendance from 50 PA libraries with similar service populations. While PTPL has followed very similar trends and changes over the years, our statistics remain well over the average of comparable libraries, and we have consistently outperformed our cohort.



Another measure of library success is the monetary value of services provided to the community—our return on investment. PTPL's value of service was obtained through an online calculator that determines how much money library services would cost if patrons had to pay for them directly. For example, the average cost to purchase a DVD is \$18.00, and PTPL loaned around 27,000 DVDs last year, for a total of \$496,000 that the Peters community did not have to spend on these services. For every \$1 of Township funding the library receives, we put \$5 to \$6 of value back into the community. These numbers include our collection, programming, digital downloads, and technology usage, among other library services.







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**Peters Township Public Library**  
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