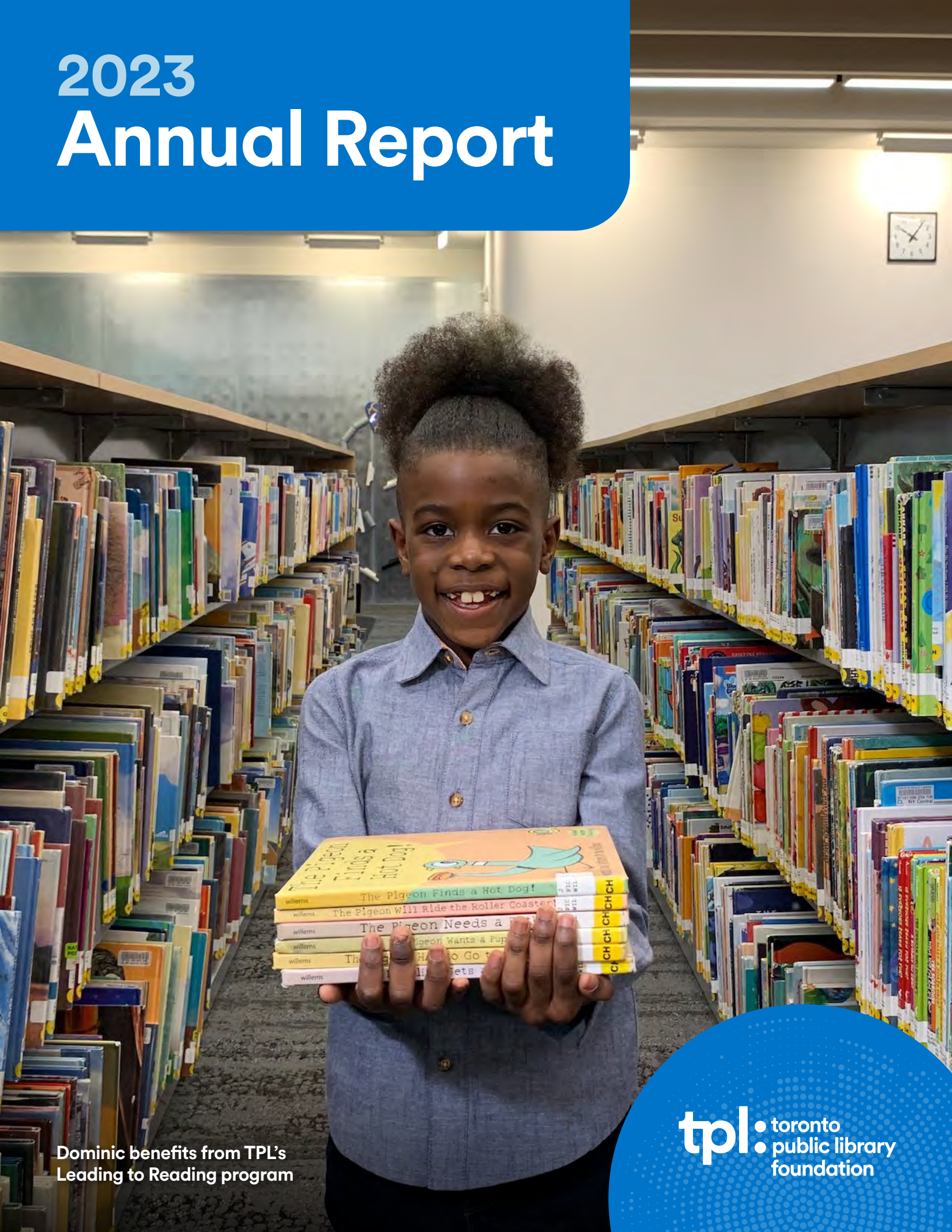


2023 Annual Report



Dominic benefits from TPL's
Leading to Reading program

tpl • toronto
public library
foundation



“

Growing up as an immigrant child, the Library provided a sanctuary. I will always be grateful to Toronto Public Library for giving me the tools to navigate the world, and that’s why I am happy to support TPL.

”

- Tracy, donor

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Toronto Public Library is committed to protecting and defending intellectual freedom across our collections, programs and spaces.

“

“It’s never been more important to stand up and speak out for intellectual freedom and to ensure voices, especially those of marginalized and equity-deserving communities, are not shut down.”

”

Vickery Bowles

City Librarian, Toronto Public Library

The Book Sanctuary Collection

In 2023, TPL declared its 100 branches and online spaces as book sanctuaries, recommitting the library to protect and defend Torontonians’ rights to freely access a broad range of diverse materials – including those that have been challenged or banned. Toronto Public Library created a Book Sanctuary collection consisting of 50 adult, teen and children’s books that have been challenged, censored or removed from a public library or school in North America. The collection isn’t comprehensive but highlights the different types of content and subjects that have been challenged or banned over the past several years.

TPL is also hosting critical conversations that explore what’s at stake when intellectual freedom is threatened. The series is supported by an Anonymous Lead Donor, and supported, in part, by Chris M. Reid.

Learn more: tpl.ca/intellectualfreedom 



Letter from our CEO

William Scott, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Public Library Foundation

Drawing from my experience as an educator, I know that a good interaction can make all the difference in someone's day, or even life. Libraries and librarians are a testament to this, helping patrons feel humanized, welcomed and healthier, whether it be through a simple greeting or helping with a specialized ask. What I have learned over the past year is that we are stronger together, and Toronto Public Library is the glue.

The function of public libraries expands far beyond just books, and our growing community of donors recognize that a thriving Toronto Public Library makes our city economically stronger and socially resilient. Our 100 branches serve as safe community hubs. Free programming helps ensure that the most vulnerable feel included. Exceptional staff provide invaluable engagement with children, teens and seniors. Vast collections of books, films and music keep Torontonians learning for life, connecting with culture, and enriching each other's relationships. Many of these critical initiatives are made possible thanks to Library donors and partners, and it motivates me and our team to do the work we do.

This year was ambitious and we are proud of the many outcomes. I thank you sincerely for all your support.



Letter from our Chair

Anne Maggisano, CFA
Board Chair
Toronto Public Library Foundation

What strikes me about the past year is how much has changed – at home in our city and globally – and how the Library proves itself to be nimble and necessary at every twist and turn. Toronto Public Library's spaces, services and programs are more relevant than ever, in the face of challenging economic and social trends that affect the wellbeing of us all, but especially those from marginalized groups. TPL is leading the way with ground-breaking solutions that benefit all residents, with programs such as the Social Services Team that brings experienced social workers into the welcoming setting of the Library to work with patrons in distress, and TPL's first-of-its-kind Sensory Room that's designed to engage and delight children with sensory processing needs.

TPL's commitment to inclusion and innovation is a beacon of hope in a city of exacerbating inequities. On behalf of the Board of the TPL Foundation, thank you for your tremendous support and belief in this important work, and for being an integral part of our donor community.



Financial Empowerment Services Initiative

Building resilience through financial confidence and success

Access to personal finance information and financial empowerment support is critical for many Torontonians, in particular, low-income individuals and families. TPL is working in partnership with community agencies, WoodGreen, North York Community House and Prosper Canada to connect Library customers with trained staff who can offer free, expert support and assist them with meeting their financial goals.

Thank you!

Lead Donors:

Bank of America
CIBC Foundation
Shawn Kimel and Kate Schatzky

Supporting Donors:

Burgundy Legacy Foundation
BNY Mellon Asset Management Canada Ltd.
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Mawer Investment Management Ltd.
RBC Royal Bank
Rita Theil

Learn more: tpl.ca/financialemPOWERMENT 

Served 2,500 Torontonians



2,000 individualized financial consultations



36 group programs and workshops (+ 8 tax clinics)



Over \$3 million was accessed by participants through tax-filing and benefits applications

(Two year pilot results)


Social Services Team Pilot

Libraries are a critical link in the health and wellness of communities

The Library is a safe space for all. Guided by the voices of people with lived experience, and to promote an innovative model for crisis support, wellness and recovery, TPL began a partnership in 2023 with Gerstein Crisis Centre (GCC) to form the Social Services Team. This collaborative, on-site service is providing mental health and crisis supports to individuals accessing the Library. Through short-term counselling, expert support, resources and programs lead by GCC staff, the Library is servicing Torontonians where they are already welcomed and where they feel safe – in a library branch.

Low-barrier mental health and crisis supports with community partner, Gerstein Crisis Centre delivered in the first 14 months:

- ✓ Over 18,000 engagements
- ✓ 2,140 onsite interventions
- ✓ Over 6,000 attendees participating in over 900 events and workshops

Learn more about this service at: tpl.ca/social-services-team 

Lead Donors:

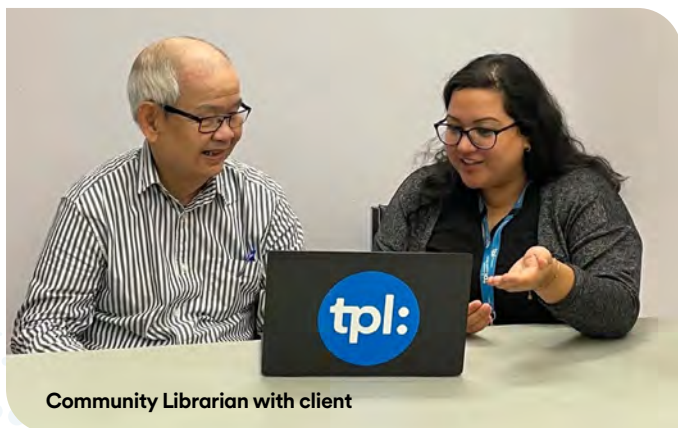
Shawn Kimel and Kate Schatzky

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Maytree Foundation
The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
The Rotary Club of Toronto



Staff from GCC working at Toronto Reference Library



Community Librarian with client

Sincere thanks

Azrieli Foundation makes \$750,000 donation to Toronto Public Library

We are heartened by the inspiring commitment of the Azrieli Foundation and shared belief in the power of education to transform lives and accelerate success. This transformational gift made over three years, is a vital investment in some of Toronto's most vulnerable groups, primarily young adults and newcomers, and is supporting two vital initiatives at TPL:



Career Coaches in Residence

fills the gap in career navigational support services by providing critical resources, career advice, mentorship and job search assistance to younger adults, as they seek to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Learn more: tpl.ca/career-coaches-in-residence 



Community Librarian for Newcomers

addresses the immediate needs of those who have recently made Toronto their home at their point of need, through skills training, digital literacy and increased access to Library resources and information.

Learn more: tpl.ca/community-librarians 

donor impact

Feeding Young Minds Initiative

Providing healthy snacks in After School Clubs

In response to the growing food security issues in Toronto, the Feeding Young Minds Initiative launched in 2023. TPL is now providing regular healthy food options at select branches during its child-focused After School Club programs, giving kids the fuel they need to succeed. The success of this past school year re-affirms the importance of this program.

- ✓ **30** TPL branches delivered **1,075 weekly After School Club programs and nutritious snacks**
- ✓ **11** participating branches are located in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) and emerging NIAs
- ✓ **11,446 children participated in the After School Clubs program**



After School at Albion branch

After School Clubs provide weekly opportunities where children can eat together, explore their interests, build new skills, and connect with their peers in safe spaces that encourage them to learn and grow.

We are grateful to Lead Donor, the Moez and Marissa Kassam Foundation, for their generous support of the program. With thanks to Supporting Donors, The Bennett Family Foundation, J.P. Bickell Foundation, Phil Cowperthwaite and Sue Hunter, Linda Dagg and Kenneth Wiener, and Adrian and Ange Rocca, for their commitment which is positively impacting Toronto's children.

Learn more: tpl.ca/afterschool [🔗](#)



A calming multi-sensory space for kids

Sensory Room

A special interactive space where kids of all abilities can learn and grow

Located at the S. Walter Stewart branch, and the first of its kind at TPL, the Sensory Room is a self-serve, child-led interactive space created for children with sensory processing needs. This bookable space is open to children of all abilities to enjoy. In the first six months of opening, the room has already seen over **700 bookings and welcomed more than 2,400 children and their families** into the space.

Through consultation with community agencies, feedback from families, and research, the Library learned that specialized spaces such as the Sensory Room help children with sensory processing needs feel welcome to fully access the Library's services, collections and programs, which reduces social isolation and encourages community connections.

The specialized equipment in the room is designed to blend sights, sounds, texture and motion to soothe and stimulate the senses, and provide a relaxing environment that supports focus, self-regulation and communication so that kids are able to learn and connect with others more easily.

In loving memory of Jae Blue, the Sensory Room was made possible through the generous support of Jae's family and friends.

Learn more: tpl.ca/sensory-room

Special thanks to TD Bank Group for their support through the TD Ready Commitment Connecting our City's Vibrant Culture

For over a decade, Heritage Programming at TPL has grown in scope and impact. Each program series, which includes Black History (February), Asian Heritage (May) and Indigenous Celebrations (June/October), has a unique cultural identity that fosters authentic learning and engagement, and is a forum for audiences to participate in some of the most important conversations taking place in our city today. Over 7,000 people attended Heritage programs and events last year, which included author talks and lectures, panel discussions, cooking demonstrations, storytelling and other cultural celebrations. This unique suite of programming at the Library appeals to a broad range of people who embrace diversity, seek engagement with their community and enjoy learning about our shared culture and history.



Indigenous Celebrations

“My favourite thing about the Library is that they have these themed months. Like Black History Month and Hindu History Month. Then I read the books that they recommend for that theme. I learn about other cultures and sometimes even my own, as I am Hindu myself.”

– Tiffany, 14 years, 2023 Social Impact Study



Youth Hub at Cedarbrae branch

North York Central Library

Receives bequest from Salvatore and Marion Brancaccio

This generous legacy gift will support the renovation of the Teen Zone to incorporate a full suite of youth services, Youth Hub equipment, collections, and vital programming for teens at this branch. As avid library users and as a former teacher (Marion), the Brancaccio family saw firsthand the impact of the Library in their community, and decided to give back.

social impact study

We know the Library has tremendous value for all who use it. We also know the importance of accountability, and over the years, TPL has demonstrated the value of the Library in terms of economic benefit.

We asked ourselves:

What if we could measure the impact Toronto Public Library has on the lives of people in our city?

Now we have.

Measuring the Social Impact of TPL

A ground-breaking study developed by TPL and innovative Danish firm Seismonaut to understand the value of the Library in people's lives. This project was made possible thanks to a generous donation from Richard and Joan Boxer.

Staff at Albion branch



social impact study

The study found that Toronto Public Library is:

1

An incredible force to combat social isolation – in a lonely city, it's a place where everyone is welcome, and different communities and viewpoints converge.

2

A place for people to better themselves, where they can tap into programs, services and collections that expand their world and help them achieve their goals.

3

A critical portal to resources and services for the most vulnerable people in our city, who cannot access them anywhere else.



Read full report at tplfoundation.ca/socialimpactstudy 



I co-founded the Toronto Public Library Foundation because the Library is a tremendous asset to our city, worthy of philanthropic investment. Over the past 25+ years, we have continued to grow our generous donor community. Now, we have an evidence-based study that shows the true impact of the Library's work. Joan and I were thrilled to contribute to this innovative study and are proud to count ourselves as donors.

– Richard Boxer



Record-breaking fundraiser

Biblio Bash raises over \$1 million for Toronto Public Library



Toronto's library lovers joined business leaders, philanthropists and city builders on April 20th at the Toronto Reference Library for Biblio Bash, presented by Tricon Residential. Attended by 41 notable authors and over 450 guests, our sold-out black tie gala raised significant funds to support TPL's Leading to Reading program. Thank you to the Biblio Bash volunteer committee and our sponsors for helping us smash our fundraising goal.

For photos, news coverage, impact video and social media visit, bibliobash.ca or search #BiblioBash

Hosted by Journalist Farah Nasser, she commented,

Raising a record-breaking \$1 million for TPLF, I was honoured to host Biblio Bash 2023. So much fun spending time with old (and new) friends at the Biblio Hotel, but the pinch-me moment was a conversation with John Irving. Unforgettable.



Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor:
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Gerald Sheff and Shanitha Kachan
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Visit: bibliobash.ca

The Carnegie Society

Donors who have given \$100,000 or more cumulatively to Toronto Public Library since 1997.

\$1,000,000+

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 Estate of Audrey Vadgama
 Estate of Wentworth Walker
 Linda Dagg & Kenneth Wiener
 Judith R. Wilder
 Anonymous (6)

Toronto Public Library had
46 million visits in 2023 -
12.5 million visits to
 branches and **33.5 million**
 visits to TPL online platforms.

Annual Donors

Donations received in 2023 from individuals, foundations, corporations and associations in support of collections, programs and services, and community spaces at Toronto Public Library.

\$1,000,000+

Estate of Dr. Sidney Foisy-Marquis
TD Bank Group

\$250,000 - \$499,999

Azrieli Foundation
Anonymous (3)

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The Bennett Family Foundation
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After School Clubs at 30 select
TPL branches provide weekly
activities and nutritious snacks
that benefitted more than
11,000 children last year.

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 In Memory of Rena Okada



More than **680,000 kids**
 benefitted from the TD Summer
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The TPL Foundation gratefully acknowledges the sponsors and donors of the 2023 Biblio Bash event.

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\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Biblio Bash was a record
breaking success, raising
\$1,025,400 for TPL.

Endowment Funds

The TPL Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donors who have established endowments and whose proceeds will support Toronto Public Library in perpetuity.

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Endowment Fund
Gwen and Peter Liu Endowment Fund
Norman Jennings McLean Fund
Muller Scholastic Endowment Fund for
Canadian Children's Literature
Rob Mummery Endowment Fund
Thomas H. Orac Endowment Fund
Osborne & Lillian H. Smith Fund
Osborne Royalties Fund
Jack Rabinovitch Reading Room
Endowment Fund
Thomas Reed Endowment Fund

Roslyn Mida Endowment Fund
Charles Graham Sanderson Memorial
Endowment Fund
Charles R. Sanderson Memorial
Endowment Fund
George and Christina Senkiw
Endowment Fund for Acquisitions
George and Christina Senkiw
Endowment Fund for the
Osborne Collection
Sophie's Studio
H. E. Stubbs Fund
Stanley Tobin Fund
Margaret & Wentworth Walker
Endowment Fund
Helen Weinzwieg Endowment Fund

Staff Development Awards

Congratulations to TPL recipients who received awards in staff development and librarianship.

Pauline Hinch Memorial Award for Staff Development

2023 – Jason Behzadian, Asha Francis & Michelle Tse
2022 – Christine Su & Shabeena Mathiruban
2021 – Katelyn Procopio
2020 – Reenesh Manuventhan
2019 – Sharuka Thangalingam
2018 – Rumman Ferdous
2017 – Daniela Chwedoruk
2016 – Eleni Pallotta
2015 – Eunice Rodrigues
2014 – Radha Shilesh
2013 – Sarah Qazi
2012 – Kara Miley
2011 – Marie Belanger
2010 – Christina Paschakis



Heritage Society

Individuals who have included Toronto Public Library in their will and estate plan.

Mary Agoston
Michael Augustine
Niya Bajaj
Rita & Gary Bates
Carole Bell
Laura Bellingham
Jo Bradley
Margaret Bryce
Pat & Doug Bull
Inez Caldwell
Sylvia Chan
Jaffa Charny
Vera Chau
Joanne Cooper
Penina Coopersmith
Morley Coviensky
Nan Cowie-Ball
Jessica Crawford
Jack Cunningham
Pearl Dacks
Elfriede Dalrymple
Ann Davidson
Bud Dilling
Lynne & Joe DiStefano
Shelley L. Dolan
Priscilla Drimmel
Barbara C. Eastman
Emelita Ervin
Carol Esbin
S. C. Esbin
Liza Fernandes
Mrs. Gale
Susan Lea Gerhard
Margaret Gillespie
George Goldberg
Clifford Goldfarb
Pat Graham
Gramaticopoulos
John & Judith Grant
Karen Gregory
Shirley Gulliford
Barbara Heggie
Mary Lue Hinds

The H&R Mida Charitable Foundation
Christopher F. Homer
Margot Howard
Mary Huang
Larry Hughsam
Caroline Ingvaldsen
Emma Jenkin
Joseph Kaposi
Selia Karsten
Judith Kidd
Janet Kim
Carol D. Kirsh
Judy Kirsh
Mark Krakowski
Jan K. Kraus
Martha Krol
Debra LaGrandeur
Elaine (downtownlaine) Iannuzziello
Dale Layton
Francelise Le Blanc
Michelle Lee
Diane Loeb
Joanne Lombardo
Fiona Lucas
Ken & Judy Luginbuhl
Teza Layos Lwin
Nancy MacArthur
J. Rory MacDonald & Nancy Harbour
Sally MacRae
Anthony Martin
Nancy Mason
Julia Matthews
McKelvey Family
Meredith Meads
Christine Medycky
Marsha Melnik
Stephanie Meredith
Lynda Middleton
Sandra Moraes
Pam Mountain
Sylvia Murray
Susan Murray
Barbara Myrvold

Paul Nazareth
Dragan Nedelikovic
Patricia Newman
Lynda Newmarch
Karyn E. O'Neill
Thomas H. Orac Endowment Fund
Debbie Owen
Virginia Paul
John Percy
Paul Petras
Susana Petti
Neil Phillips
Margaret Pilley
Tim & Carol Pinnington
Joseph Pirrello
Anna Porter
Bob Ramsay & Jean Marmoreo
H.G. Ramsay
Neil Rankin
David Rayside
Christopher Redmond
Helga Reed
Prof. Chris Robinson
Jean Baxter Robinson
Melanie Rodriguez
Terri Rothman
Heather Rumball
Mary E. Schulz
Ken Settingington
Glen E. Simpson
Margaret Sinopoli
Jennifer Smith
Maureen Spencer
Susan Spier
Jeff Stewart
Dagmar & Vaclav Taborsky
Miriam Ticoll
Virginia Van Vliet
Peter von Pappen
Manda Vranic
Thandy Walcott
John Wallace
Art Wallace
Meghan Warby
Tyler and Romi Ward
Glen & Diane Warner
Jean Weihs
Daniel Weinzweig in memory of
Helen Weinzweig
Maryann Weston
Nelson Wong
Victor S. Wong
Deana Wong
Lilian Yuan
Alicia Zavitz
Anonymous (27)



Leaving a planned gift to Toronto Public Library today helps to ensure TPL programs, services and collections continue for generations to come.

board of directors and governors' council

Toronto Public Library Foundation Board of Directors 2023

Chair - Anne Maggisano, CFA
Treasurer - John Ewing, CFA
Vice Chair - Sharilyn Hale*

Alaina Aston
Rajan Bansi*
Vickery Bowles
Maureen Dodig
Serda Evren
Linda Haynes
Marlon Hylton
Shanitha Kachan
Moez Kassam
Jennifer Liu*

Claire MacNamara
Malik Martin
Florence Narine
Vikram Rattan
Susannah K. Robinson*
Adrian Rocca
Rita Theil
Dr. Bruno Vendittelli
Jennifer Wardrop*
Victoria Webster

* Term ended June 2023

Toronto Public Library Foundation Governors' Council 2023

Honorary Chair - Gail Rose Appel


Margaret Atwood, C.C.
Alan Broadbent, C.M.
A. Charles Baillie, C.M.
Joe Berridge
Richard Boxer
Alan Broadbent
Helen Burstyn, C.M.
Wendy M. Cecil, C.M.

Kirsten Hanson
The Hon. H.N.R. Jackman
Sonja Koerner
The Hon. Margaret N. McCain, O.C.
Janet McKelvey
Dr. John Polanyi, C.C.
Anna Porter, O.C.
Bob Ramsay

In Memoriam

Avie Bennett, C.C.
Thor Edgar Eaton
George Fierheller, C.M.
Murray Frum, C.M.
John Honderich, C.M.
Jack Rabinovitch, O.C.

See the list of 2024 TPL Foundation Board of Directors and Governors' Council members:
tplfoundation.ca/board-governors-council 



Since our inception in 1997,
the TPL Foundation has
raised **\$117 million** to help
accelerate the great work of
Toronto Public Library.

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2023, excerpted from Audited Financial Statements

The Toronto Public Library Foundation's highest priority is to ensure that Toronto Public Library has essential resources to enhance its collections, programs, technology and spaces. The Foundation is committed to financial accountability and to providing clear and transparent information about our financial position.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,787,846	4,417,422
Accounts Receivable	52,005	15,982
Prepaid expenses	89,306	12,873
Total Current Assets	4,929,157	4,446,277
Investments	12,604,755	10,383,126
Total Assets	17,533,912	14,829,403
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	515,630	280,831
Due to the Toronto Public Library Board	492,575	1,019,271
Due to American Foundation for Toronto Public Library	1,926	6,192
Deferred revenue	374,266	5,147
Total Liabilities	1,384,397	1,311,441
Fund Balances		
General Fund	2,332,825	2,545,005
Restricted Fund	4,948,092	3,300,969
Endowment Fund	8,868,598	7,671,988
Total Fund Balances	16,149,515	13,517,962
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	17,533,912	14,829,403

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended December 31, 2023, excerpted from Audited Financial Statements

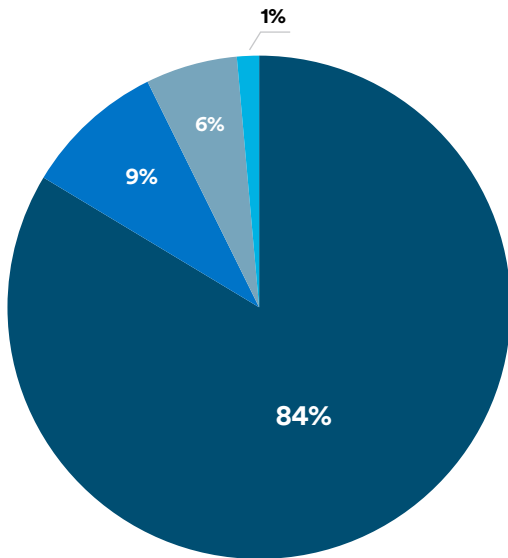
	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue		
Donations and sponsorships	8,459,639	6,375,245
Donations-in-kind	143,582	215,797
Investment income	780,722	768,282
Total revenue	9,383,943	7,359,324
Expenses		
Administration	1,044,503	889,142
Fundraising	1,509,440	1,270,826
Charitable income	584,541	408,063
Total expenses	3,138,484	2,568,031
Excess of revenue over expenses before charitable activity and fair value change in investments	6,245,459	4,791,293
Charitable Activity		
Grant to TPL	4,288,553	3,784,429
Grants to others	-	20,000
Total Charitable Activity	4,288,553	3,804,429
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure after Charitable Activity	1,956,906	986,864
Fair value changes in investments	674,647	(1,635,225)
Excess of revenue over expenses after charitable activity and fair value change in investments	2,631,553	(648,361)
Fund balances, beginning of year	13,517,962	14,166,323
Fund balances, end of year	16,149,515	13,517,962

[View 2023 Audited Financial Statements](#) 



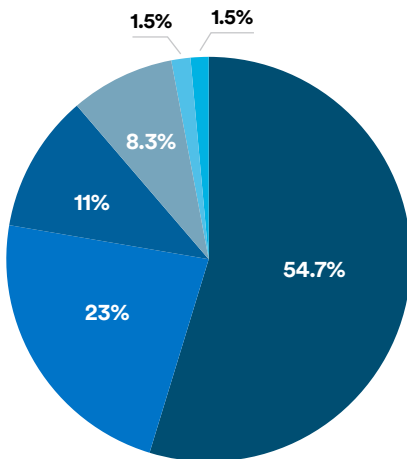
2023 Financial Highlights

Year ended December 31, 2023, excerpted from Audited Financial Statements



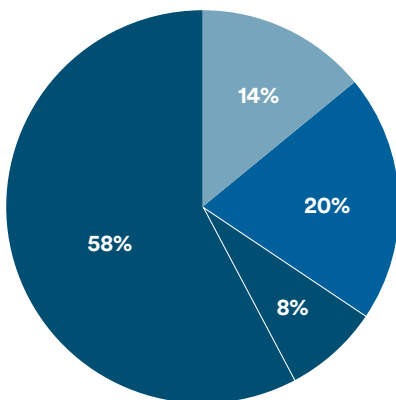
How the Library Uses Donor Funds

- Programs and Services (84%)
- Community Spaces and Equipment (9%)
- Highest Priority Needs (6%)
- Collections (1%)



2023 Sources of Revenue

- Individuals (54.7%)
- Corporations (23%)
- Events (11%)
- Interest and Investment income (8.3%)
- Gifts in Kind (1.5%)
- Merchandise & Booksales (1.5%)



2023 Total Expenses and Charitable Activity

- Gifts to Qualified Donees (58%)
- Fundraising (20%)
- Management and Administration (14%)
- Charitable Activity (8%)

“

Why do I support the Library?
TPL is always working to offer relevant, timely, and much-needed **barrier-free supports and services to Torontonians. Not only do I benefit directly, but I see the benefits of their work in my community.**

- Andrea, donor

”



Fort York branch

Join the Conversation



Charitable Tax Number: 886554476RR0001

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