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Thank you Vickery Bowles for outstanding service as our City Librarian

Vickery Bowles has been City Librarian since 2015, and a member of Toronto Public Library's (TPL) executive team since 1998. In November 2024, TPL announced her upcoming retirement. She has led with vision, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to equity, access, and innovation. Some highlights of her tenure include:



Championed public libraries as democratic institutions to preserve and protect democratic values and freedoms; in particular, intellectual freedom — every individual's right to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction — in Toronto and across the global public library sector.



Instrumental in TPL's open hours plan, adding more than 50,000 additional hours of service, and eliminating all overdue fines.



Advanced and championed the development of a strategy for TPL to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action including initiatives for Indigenous placemaking for TPL branches and spaces, in close consultation with representatives of Indigenous communities in Toronto.



Steered TPL's pandemic response by maintaining essential library services while expanding community support through 12 pop-up food banks, enhanced outreach programs for vulnerable Torontonians, and vaccination clinics in partnership with Toronto Public Health.

Learn more: bit.ly/tpl-vickery-bowles-retires [2]

I want to say how much I have enjoyed working with the TPL Foundation and getting to know our wonderful donors. Thank you all for believing in the value of public library service and the difference it makes in the lives of Torontonians. Your work in support of Toronto Public Library is so important and much appreciated.

Vickery Bowles
City Librarian, Toronto Public Library



Toronto Public Library Foundation



Letter from our CEO

William Scott, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Public Library Foundation

Everyone seems to have a library story. Whether I'm chatting with a prospective donor, my daughter's swim coach, or the owner of a local coffee shop, I have come to expect (and enjoy!) hearing people share the many ways a library has touched their life. Some tell me they learned to read thanks to a patient librarian, and others reflect on the successful business they run, that started as a mere idea while being researched at a public library.

TPL is a vital resource for Torontonians; ensuring we all have equitable access to a wide range of books, ideas and perspectives. But what our donors truly understand is that Toronto Public Library is so much more than books. We are an important community hub providing valuable services such as career coaching for young adults, programs for newcomers settling in Canada and technology training for seniors – made possible in part because of our generous donor community.

2024 was yet another year of growth and success for the TPL Foundation, and we could not do this work without you. My sincere thanks for giving back to your community by helping to amplify and accelerate the great work TPL does for the residents of Toronto.



Letter from our Chair

Anne Maggisano, CFA
Board Chair
Toronto Public Library Foundation

Recently, it's been hard to miss all the news headlines reporting that Toronto is a lonely city – for teens, for adults and for seniors. Even the World Health Organization declared loneliness to be a global health concern that can have a serious impact on people's physical and mental health, and their quality of life.

Libraries can help. Toronto Public Library plays a vital role in combating social isolation by offering safe, welcoming spaces, promoting social interaction through its many programs, as well as providing access to information and ultimately fostering a sense of belonging and connection.

Libraries can truly change lives and uplift entire communities; I have seen the results firsthand.

I am constantly impressed by the incredible work Toronto Public Library does and how our donors play such an important role in funding crucial initiatives. On behalf of the Board of the TPL Foundation, thank you for your generosity and for your belief in the work TPL does to make Toronto a more resilient, successful, knowledgeable and connected city.



TD Summer Reading Club

Growing Impact and Inclusivity Setting kids up for success

Co-created and delivered by over 2,200 libraries, for more than 25 years, TD Summer Reading Club has helped over 654,000 children improve their reading confidence, habits and attitudes towards reading. In 2024, to improve equitable access and belonging within summer learning opportunities, the program deepened relationships with, and designed resources to best support Indigenous communities, children with diverse abilities, and newcomers to Canada. Feedback revealed:

- 92% of children in the program felt their identities were reflected
- 96% of parents said their child maintained or improved their reading skills
- 99% will consider rejoining TD Summer Reading Club in 2025

TD Summer Reading Club has helped over 10 million children across multiple generations improve their reading confidence, attend fun and educational programs and activities, and tackle the summer reading slide. Most importantly, our collaborative approach has improved the inclusivity, accessibility, and diversity of summer learning opportunities available to kids of all ages.

Learn more: tdsummerreadingclub.ca

TD Summer Reading Club 2024 Metrics



54,133 programs supporting a love of reading

283,061 children registered





654,779 children benefitted

Community Librarians bridging the digital divide **Empowering Toronto's Seniors**

Working across the city, beyond traditional library branch settings, TPL's Seniors' Digital Literacy Community Librarians are bringing wraparound supports, access to technology, and increased digital literacy skills to our city's seniors.

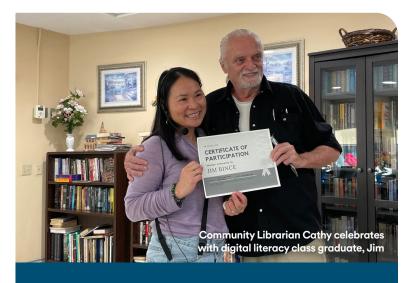
The project has played a critical role in engaging older adults in their communities—partnering with Toronto Seniors Community Housing (TSCH) to offer a welcoming, social environment for learning.

Staff expertly adapt library programs and services to meet the diverse needs of seniors—from skills training and digital literacy, to increased access to Library resources and information. By delivering reliable and consistent support directly to Toronto neighbourhoods where seniors live, TPL staff are playing a vital role in the lives of residents as facilitators of knowledge, inspiration, and social connection.

Learn more about this vital service at: tpl.ca/communitylibrarians [2]

Thank you!

Generously supported by: Anonymous Lead Donor Richard and Joan Boxer



Key Achievements

- Increasing access to vital resources for 6,691 seniors at 17 TSCH locations by four dedicated librarians.
- Improving digital skills and literacy through 1,200 programs, events, and one-on-one appointments with residents
- Providing 500 laptops and 252 Wi-Fi hotspots to help keep people connected to their community.



A point event with Literary Circle and Heritage Society

An Evening of Insight, Connection and Impact

In November, TPLF hosted *Mindful Money: Building Wealth, Giving Back*—a dynamic panel event that brought together leading voices in financial planning, impact investing, estate planning, and philanthropy. Designed to empower mid-career professionals, the evening focused on building financial literacy, fostering meaningful connections, and inspiring charitable action among a younger, more diverse audience eager to learn and engage. Guests left with valuable financial insights and a renewed sense of purpose.

Panelists (L to R): Daniel Goldgut – CEO and Co-Founder of Epilogue; Gwen K. Harvey, Founder, BridgeWater Family Wealth Services, and President of the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Foundation; Serena Hak - Head of Philanthropic Advisory Services, CI Assante Private Client and Senior Associate with CI Private Wealth; Luke Connell, Co-Founder and CEO, CarbonRun.

Leading to Reading Expansion

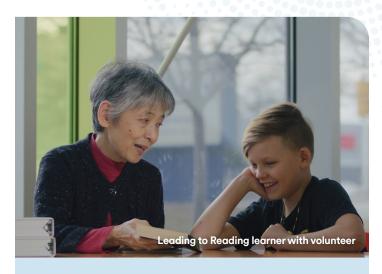
Reading Leads to Success

Fostering a love of reading and strengthening children's literacy skills is one of the most effective ways to ensure children achieve their full potential. Reading is one of the key indicators of a child's future success, happiness and well-being.

Building on more than 40 years of success, TPL's Leading to Reading program has provided accessible and barrier-free reading support to children across our city, with a focus in neighbourhoods and communities where the need is greatest. With a network of skilled volunteers working alongside expert TPL staff, kids reading below their grade level are given the support they need and encouraged to practice and improve their literacy skills. LTR leads to measurable gains in reading levels for participant and provides the tools they need to build confidence and skills. In 2024, Leading to Reading:

- Supported more than 1,600 children and volunteers
- Expanded to 8 new branches, now providing access to kids at 29 library branches across Toronto
- Supported children in all Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIA)
- Piloted therapy dog visits in collaboration with One Health Partners, to help kids reduce anxiety and improve their wellbeing

Learn more about this service at: tpl.ca/leadingtoreading





The Library continues to address literacy challenges and an ever-growing demand for this program. We are grateful for the many donors who generously support Toronto's children.

Lead Donor: Friends of Toronto Public Library, North Chapter

Supporting Donors:

Adrian and Ange Rocca
Dream Community Foundation
The Haynes Connell Foundation
The Moez & Marissa Kassam Equity Fund
The MacNamara Family
Valentina Kalyk and Kap Dilawri

Legacy Giving

The impact an enduring gift can make at TPL

Leaving an estate gift to Toronto Public Library is a powerful way to invest in the future of our city. The TPL Foundation is deeply grateful for the generous \$2.5M in contributions in 2024 from Estates of Lynne Patterson, Deanne Schenka, Elise Margareth Clemens, and many more providing vital support for priority initiatives at the Library.

Lynne Patterson's generosity through a planned gift to TPL also unlocked a matching opportunity during our Holiday Campaign, doubling the impact of support for children's literacy programs and extending the reach of her legacy.

Thank you. Bequests are meaningful and enduring gifts that reflect the values and vision of the donor. They can be nefit loved ones while supporting charities that are closest to the heart.



Leveraging philanthropy to create opportunities Unlocking City Funding

TPLF's role is to innovate, accelerate and advocate for the work of Toronto Public Library. Philanthropic seed funding often allows the Library to try new things and pilot innovative programs and services, with the ultimate goal of establishing stable service through sustainable funding.

What often begins as an idea to meet a vital community need grows into a service seeded by donations and strengthened by collaborations and community partnerships. With proven impact and compelling results, we can then leverage seed funding to unlock longer-term support to ensure service sustainability for the future.

Most recently, the Toronto Public Library secured \$1.8 million in philanthropic support to fund two pilot projects over two years at TPL—the Social Services Team Pilot, and the Financial Empowerment Services Initiative. Both services were highly successful and generated exceptional outcomes that unlocked City funding at the pilot scale for 2025 and beyond. With reliable, ongoing service now in place, the Foundation is able to set its sights on expanding these services to meet the evergrowing need in our communities.

Successful Outcomes Help Ensure Sustainability

- Social Services Teams had more than 24,000 interactions with library customers in need of social and crisis supports
- The economic impact of the Financial Empowerment Program resulted in over \$3.3 million accessed by program participants through tax-filing and benefits applications

Learn more about Financial Empowerment at: tpl.ca/financialempowerment [7]

Learn more about Social Services Teams at: tpl.ca/social-crisis-support-services [7]



Celebrating 10 years

Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre



Supporting our Highest Priority Needs

Empowering TPL with Flexible Funding

Toronto Public Library is an agile and innovative public service that continuously adapts to changing community needs. Undesignated donor funding supports TPL's highest priorities and is critical in ensuring the Library remains nimble, effective and responsive when City funding is not available.

We are grateful to our Literary Circle members and others who give without restriction to help transform the TPL Foundation's work as we continue to innovate, accelerate and amplify the much-needed impact of libraries in our city.

Here are some of the programs and new initiatives that undesignated donations supported in 2024:



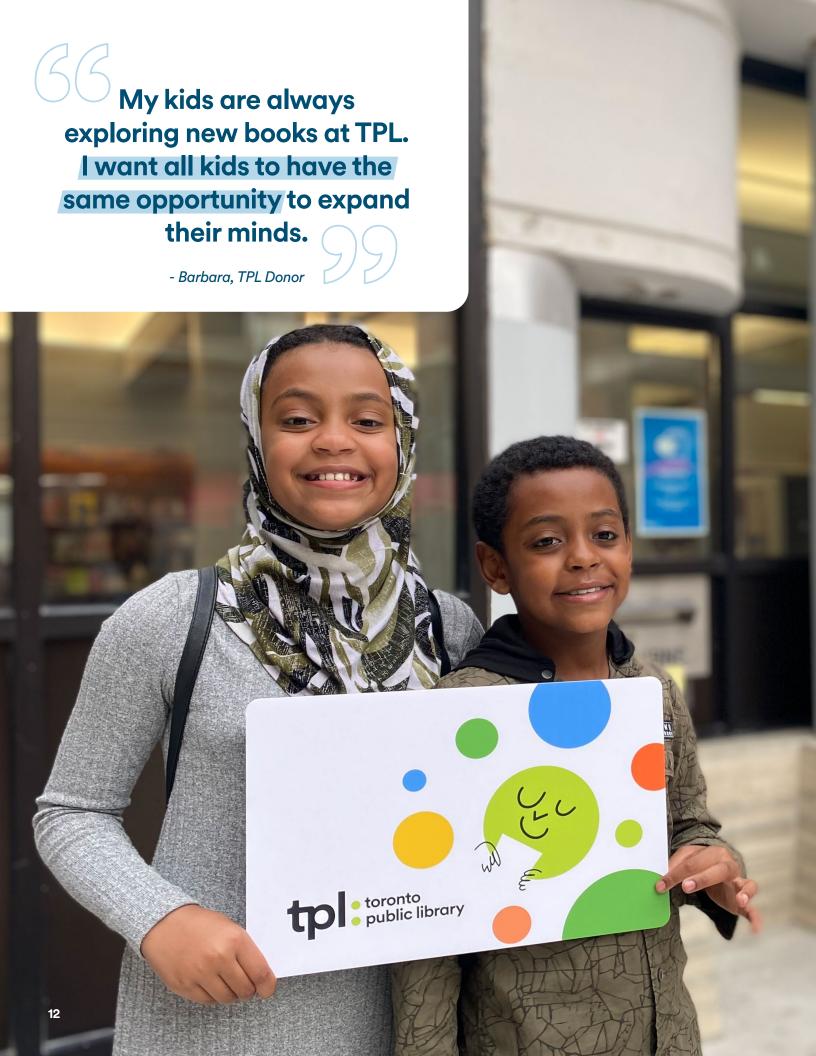
After School Clubs offer weekly activities and learning opportunities for children ages 6 to 12. Last year, 11,446 kids participated and developed new skills through activities designed to suit their needs and interests. TPL introduced the Feeding Young Minds Initiative into After School Clubs to provide healthy snack options while kids learn.

The Newcomer Entrepreneurship Initiative is helping newcomers launch and grow businesses. Funds raised will assist those new to Canada with scaling businesses, help them develop meaningful connections, provide free support during early years, and encourage newcomers to become entrepreneurs.





The Financial Empowerment Service Initiative has connected more than 3,100 Library customers with expert support staff to assist them with meeting their financial goals.



The Carnegie Society

our donors

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

\$1,000,000+

Bluma Appel Community Trust Charles and Marilyn Baillie James Davidson Bain The Bennett Family Foundation Jane Dobell Estate of Dr. Sidney Foisy-Marquis Friends of the Toronto Public Library. North and South Chapters Google Canada Google Community Grants Fund of **Tides Foundation** Shawn Kimel and Kate Schatzky Estate of Sophia Lucyk The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation **RBC** Foundation The Estate of Deanna Schenke Sun Life TD Bank Group **Toronto Star** Anonymous

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Donations received in 2024 from individuals, foundations, corporations and associations in support of collections, programs and services, and community spaces at Toronto Public Library.

\$1,000,000+

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\$500,000 - \$999,999

Estate of Barbara Jo-Anne Heggie The Martin Family

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Anonymous

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Biblio Bash

The TPL Foundation gratefully acknowledges the sponsors and donors of the 2024 Biblio Bash event.

\$100,000 +

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\$25,000 to \$99,999

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Oma Sharma

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Simon and Schuster Canada

Robyn Smith Rita Theil

Colette van den Thillart

Jason Young Anonymous (3)

> Biblio Bash 2024 surpasses \$1 million once again in support of Toronto Public Library.

Endowment Funds

The TPL Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donors for establishing endowment funds that will help sustain the Library's impact for future generations.

Marguerite G. Bagshaw Memorial **Endowment Fund** John Charles Butler Endowment June Callwood Endowment Fund **Buddy Chien Endowment Fund** Rita Cox Endowment Fund Jane Dobell Endowment Fund Fernandes Family Fund Catherine Fine Fund Norman Blaine Gash Memorial **Endowment Fund**

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Helen Weinzweig Endowment Fund

Staff Development Awards

Congratulations to TPL recipients who received the Pauline and Gordon Hinch Award in staff development and librarianship.

2024 - Elizabeth Sullivan and Andy Wang

2023 - Jason Behzadian, Asha Francis and Michelle Tse

2022 - Christine Su and Shabeena Mathiruban

2021 - Katelyn Procopio

2020 - Reenesh Manuventhan

2019 - Sharuka Thangalingam

2018 - Rumman Ferdaus

2017 – Daniela Chwedoruk

2016 - Eleni Pallotta

2015 - Eunice Rodrigues

2014 - Radha Shilesh

2013 - Sarah Qazi

2012 - Kara Miley

- Marie Belanger 2011

2010 - Christina Paschakis



Heritage Society

The TPL Foundation gratefully acknowledges individuals who have included Toronto Public Library in their will and estate plan.

Mary Agoston Jennifer Archer Michael Augustine Niya Bajaj

Rita and Gary Bates

Carole Bell Laura Bellingham Jo Bradley Margaret Bryce Pat Bull

Inez Caldwell Sylvia Chan Pat Chapman Jaffa Charny **Richard Carter** Vera Chau Joanne Cooper Penina Coopersmith Morley Coviensky Nan Cowie-Ball Jessica Crawford **Jack Cunningham Pearl Dacks** Elfriede Dalrymple

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Dagmar and Vaclav Taborsky

Mary Usher-Jones Virginia Van Vliet Peter von Pappen Manda Vranic Thandy Walcott Art Wallace

John Wallace Meghan Warby Tyler and Romi Ward Glen and Diane Warner

Jean Weihs

Daniel Weinzweig in memory of

Helen Weinzweig Maryann Weston Deana Wong **Nelson Wong** Victor S. Wong Lilian Yuan Alicia Zavitz

Anonymous (26)



board of directors and governors' council

Toronto Public Library Foundation Board of Directors 2024

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Cathy Spoel
Carmen Steinberg
Rita Theil
Bruno Vendittelli
Victoria Webster*
Vanessa Yeung

*Term ended in June 2024.

Toronto Public Library Foundation Governors' Council 2024

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See the list of 2025 TPL Foundation Board of Directors and Governors' Council members: tplfoundation.ca/board-governors-council



Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2024, 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.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets	•	•
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	9,149,655	4,787,846
Amounts receivable	25,800	52,005
Prepaid expenses	44,983	89,306
Total Current Assets	9,220,438	4,929,157
Investments	15,747,585	12,604,755
Total Assets	24,968,023	17,533,912
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	488,919	515,630
Due to the Toronto Public Library Board	1,586,557	492,575
Due to American Foundation for Toronto Public Library	18,783	1,926
Deferred revenue	2,841,000	374,266
Total Liabilities	4,935,259	1,384,397
Fund Balances		
General Fund	2,916,514	2,332,825
Restricted Fund	6,400,085	4,948,092
Endowment Fund	10,716,165	8,868,598
Total Fund Balances	20,032,764	16,149,515
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	24,968,023	17,533,912

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended December 31, 2024, excerpted from Audited Financial Statements

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Donations and sponsorships	10,008,457	8,459,639
Donations-in-kind	30,529	143,582
Investment income	1,660,933	780,722
Total revenue	11,699,919	9,383,943
Expenses		
Administration	1,147,420	1,044,503
Fundraising	1,845,894	1,509,440
Charitable	618,998	584,541
Total expenses	3,612,312	3,138,484
Excess of revenue over expenses before charitable		
activity and fair value change in investments	8,087,607	6,245,459
Charitable Activity		
Grant to TPL	4,448,747	4,288,553
Grants to others	1,400	
Total Charitable Activity	4,450,147	4,288,553
Excess of revenue over expenditure after charitable activity	3,637,460	1,956,906
Fair value changes in investments	245,789	674,647
Excess of revenue over expenses after charitable		
activity and fair value change in investments	3,883,249	2,631,553
Fund balances, beginning of year	16,149,515	13,517,962
Fund balances, end of year	20,032,764	16,149,515

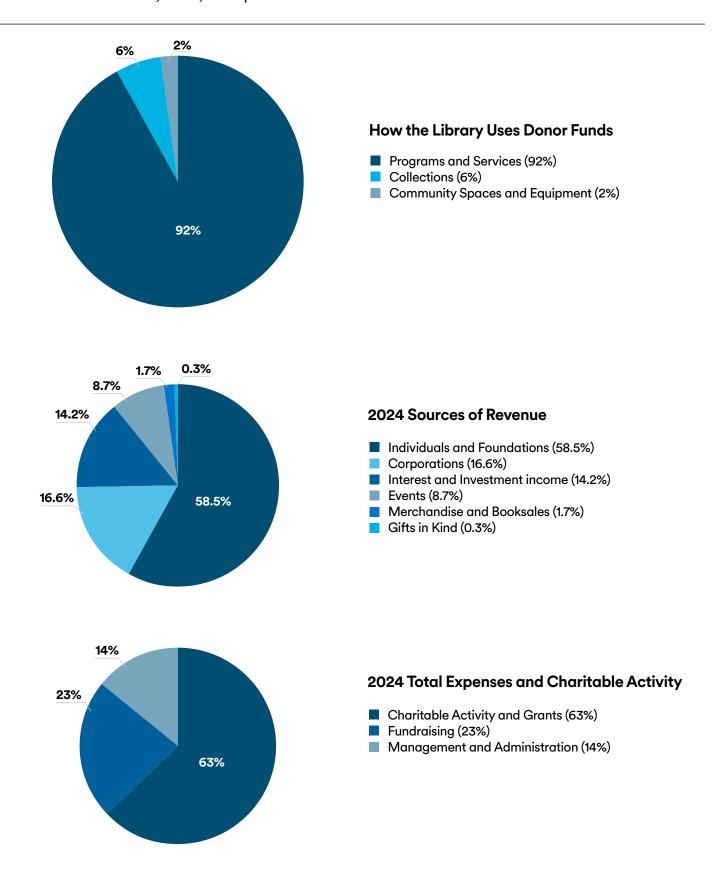
View 2024 Audited Financial Statements





2024 Financial Highlights

Year ended December 31, 2024, excerpted from Audited Financial Statements



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As a retired teacher from the TDSB,
I saw first hand what an amazing
difference Toronto Public Library made
in the lives of my students.

-Wanda, TPL Donor



Join the Conversation



