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# 2018 Evanston Public Library Annual Report

Together We Are The Library

MAIN

MAIN



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CHICAGO

HOWARD



evanston public library

# Together: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

# 2018 Annual Report

## Equity Progress Report

- **An enhanced presence in the 5th Ward through multiple partnerships including:** Y.O.U., Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Evanston Own It, Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, Family Focus, Jacob Blake Manor, Ebenezer-Primm Towers, Over the Rainbow, Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center, and Connections for the Homeless
- **Ground has broken on a new 6,000 sq. ft. library to be located in the new Robert Crown Community Center,** providing improved access on the west side of Evanston. Open date: Late 2019
- **Expanded digital literacy classes** and one-to-one support for those who most need basic digital training, including in Spanish
- ✦ **Automatic renewals decreased fines by 57% in 2018**
- **Establishment of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee**

## Staff Reflections on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Training

About 80% of EPL staff have taken a combined 700 hours of equity, diversity, and inclusion training this year. What they're saying:

"This training has allowed me to continue to be an ally for all ethnic groups/social classes/genders, and it has allowed me to become a better librarian, a more intentional librarian."

"Everyone has bias, and it is hard to realize that bias in oneself."

"I think it's pointing us towards empowering undervalued or under-represented experiences. It might be helping people to be heard where they weren't previously, which might help to build a sense of shared commitment towards a common goal."

"This training helps me to make more considerate and thoughtful decisions."

"It has increased my awareness of how inequities manifest in large and small ways, equipped me to better analyze unfair situations, and given me more confidence to address sensitive topics, and be a better advocate for people who have it harder than me through no fault of their own."

✦ **In 2018, the Evanston Public Library commissioned an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) study** to take a formal look at the realities and perceptions of equity across the Library's assets, services and partnerships. The study has catalyzed an open discussion about resource allocation and new approaches to meet the needs of the under-served.

"The study pointed to new ways for connecting with all of our stakeholders. We are absolutely and continuously committed to meeting the diverse expectations and needs of Evanston residents. A priority for us now is exploring how to more effectively engage and support the African-American community. A related challenge is engaging with our bilingual Latinx community. We recognize that a history of racism and ongoing racial disparities in our country, in our community, and in our institution creates real trust issues that require a longstanding commitment, thoughtful action, constant work and honest dialogue to overcome."

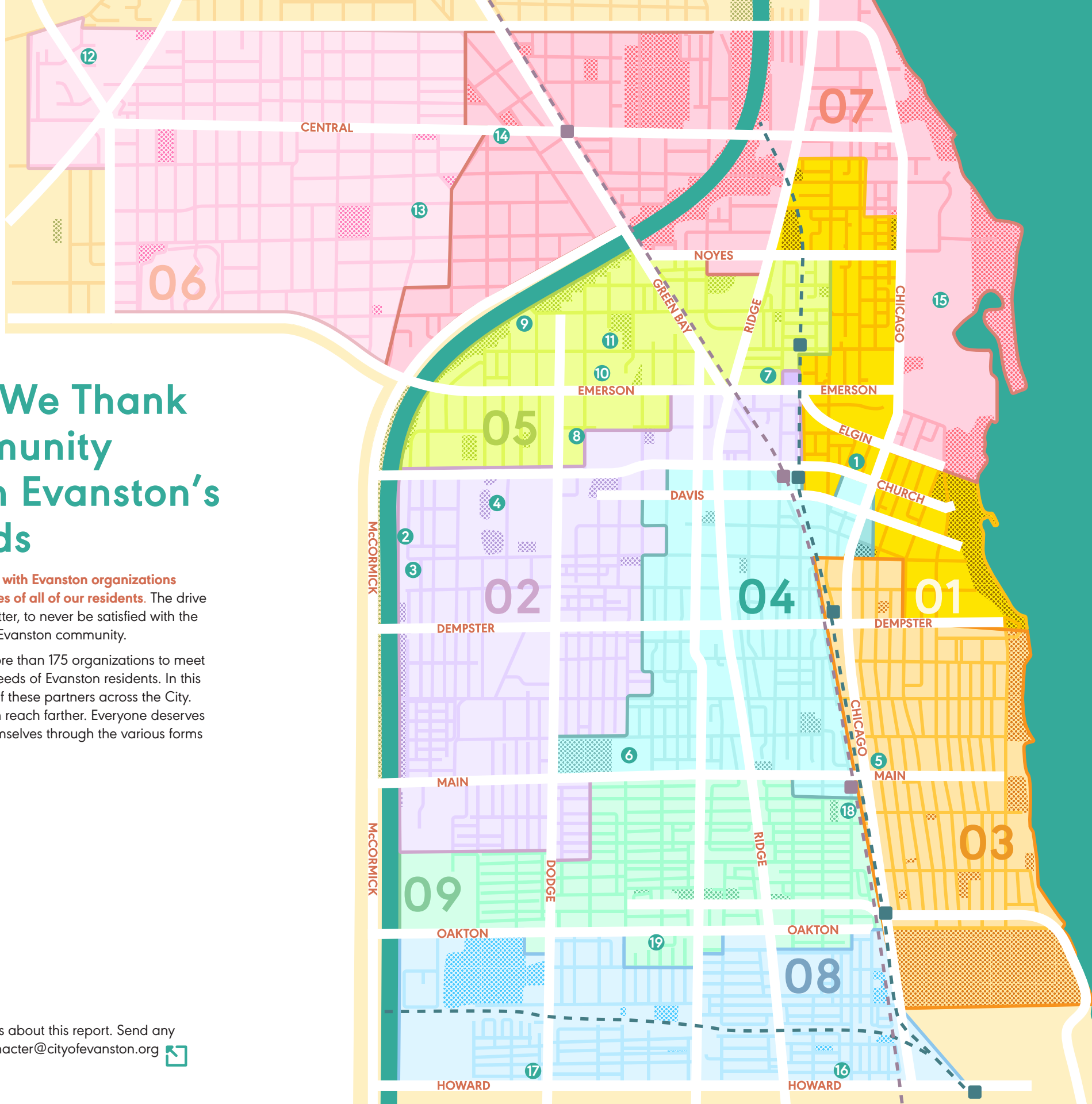
**Karen Danczak Lyons, Library Director**

# Together: We Thank Our Community Partners in Evanston's Nine Wards

We are honored to collaborate with Evanston organizations committed to improving the lives of all of our residents. The drive to constantly improve, to do better, to never be satisfied with the status quo is a hallmark of the Evanston community.

This year we partnered with more than 175 organizations to meet the diverse expectations and needs of Evanston residents. In this report, we highlight just a few of these partners across the City. Through collaborations, we can reach farther. Everyone deserves the opportunity to improve themselves through the various forms of literacy.

We'd love to hear your thoughts about this report. Send any feedback to Jill Schacter at [jschacter@cityofevanston.org](mailto:jschacter@cityofevanston.org)



# 01 Ward One



"We have partnered with the Library because it has already opened its doors to many people with disabilities. We value the commitment the Library has made to including people with disabilities in their equity and diversity efforts."

**Ann C. Sickon,**  
Executive Director,  
Center for Independent Futures

## 1 The Main Library

**The Center for Independent Futures' Change Champions** project will help us create a vision for inclusion of people with disabilities at the Library, identify potential barriers to inclusion, and increase the ability of those with disabilities to access all the Library has to offer.

**The Evanston Public Library has joined a growing network of Memory Cafés** to serve people with dementia and their caregivers through a partnership with Services for Adults Staying in Their Homes. Memory Cafés at the Library help people combat isolation and reclusiveness and also to stay engaged in their community. Funding for this program was provided in part by AgeOptions.

**Summer STEM Camps** offered four weeks of free summer camp programming at the Main Library, targeting middle schoolers of color and girls, who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields. More than 50 students learned about the engineering design process, robotics and game design. Summer STEM Camp is funded in part by Best Buy, EvanSTEM and Motorola Solutions Foundation.



# 02 Ward Two

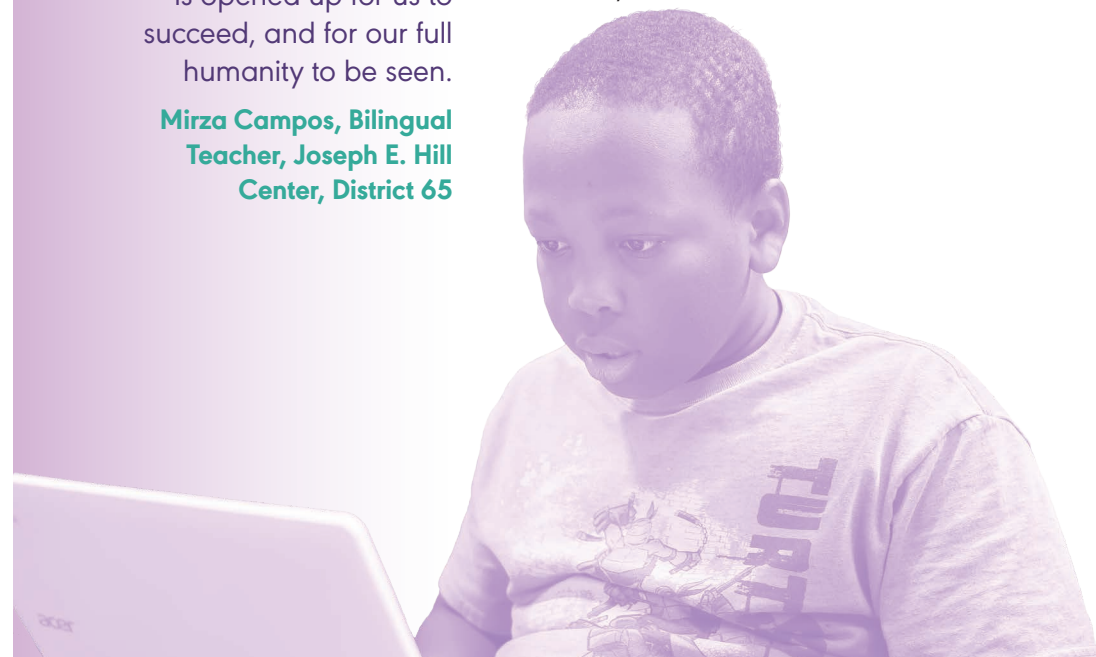


"Thank you so much for partnering with us. You are so generous with your time, expertise and materials."

**Audrey Sherer, Family and Community Engagement Specialist, Family Center, Joseph E. Hill Center**


"The Evanston Public Library has helped organize Latinx leaders to regularly come together for a common purpose: to harness the power of our community to connect children and families to resources they need and to create a sense of belonging. As a builder of community, the Library serves as a gatekeeper. By opening the door, to connect that which has been disconnected, space is opened up for us to succeed, and for our full humanity to be seen.

**Mirza Campos, Bilingual Teacher, Joseph E. Hill Center, District 65**



## 2 The Joseph E. Hill Education Center


**Evanston Public Library brings engaging early literacy programs** backed by sound educational research, books, and parenting education to the Joseph E. Hill Center each year through approximately 145 hours of service to more than 400 of Evanston's youngest learners. These enrichment opportunities, including Storytime, PACT, and ABC Boosters, help build foundational literacy skills needed for successful beginnings at school.

The Library's Youth Engagement Services also brings monthly STEM programming to this location. 

## 3 King Arts

**In conjunction with Y.O.U, we provide programs** at King Arts Elementary School, exposing middle school students to engaging activities on coding and robotics while building connections with librarians from the Evanston Public Library teen space, The Loft.

## 4 Evanston Township High School

**Mobile hotspots provided by Evanston Public Library give students without an internet connection at home a month of free internet service** with each check out. Internet access is crucial for learning, homework assignments, and being a part of a community of students. 

# 03 Ward Three



## 5 Chicago Ave./Main St. Branch Library

The Chicago Ave./Main St. branch pays special attention to English language learners at Lincoln Elementary School. ELL students visit the branch in the fall for an introduction to library services. Efforts are taken to offer books in foreign languages matched to the native languages of the families. The students and their families meet the library social worker and the **Latinx Engagement Librarian**. Staff also introduces families from this group to the Summer Reading Program.

**This branch is a regular, welcoming, and safe space for the youth of Park School.** Through regular visits to the Library, Park School youth and students without disabilities are able to connect and enjoy camaraderie and stories in the cozy shared space where all are safe and free to be themselves.

# 04 Ward Four



## 6 Robert Crown Community Center

**Groundbreaking for the new Robert Crown Community Center and Library was celebrated in July. The new 6,000 square foot library branch will be the first new library construction since the Main Library was rebuilt in 1994.** The community center/library model is an innovation in the U.S., although already popular in Canada. It is expected that this new library, located in Evanston's busiest community center, will be a popular destination for Evanston families, providing increased access and attracting new families to the Library.

# 05 Ward Five



## 7 Ebenezer Primm Towers and Jacob Blake Manor Apartments

**We bring weekly computer instruction** and monthly visits with books and more to residents living on low incomes in these apartment buildings.

## 8 Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

**is a Library pilot site for new neighborhood digital literacy centers.** This program is expanding to the Evanston Own It network of churches in the 5th Ward.

## 9 Over the Rainbow

**We visit this residential facility for physically disabled adults every month.** In addition to getting to know residents and bringing materials for easy checkout, we also provide resources that help to supplement programs and activities held here.

## 10 Bookbags for Home Daycare Providers

**Through our Bookbags for Home Daycare Providers program, our youngest residents** in home daycare and their care providers receive curated deliveries of high quality children's books each month. Funding for this program is provided in part by the Evanston Community Foundation Communityworks Program.

## 11 Family Focus/Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center

**Our involvement in afterschool and summer programs** at these locations helps provide regular literacy and STEM enrichment for children year-round.

# 06 Ward Six



“To our patrons who struggle to put food on the table, it is an incredible gift to be able to pick out books for themselves as well as for the children in their homes every month. The Library has become a part of Hillside Food Pantry and helps embody the joy of being a community of people helping people.”

**Pastor Maiya Lueptow,  
Hillside Church**

“The Evanston Public Library outreach program at Three Crowns Park has made a tremendous impact on our residents by keeping them up to date with current movies, books, and services, offered with kindness and compassion. More than 30 residents use the resources provided by the Library. These resources give our residents purposeful living, intellectual stimulation and much more.”

**Mary Beth Dentzer,  
Health Services Administrator,  
Three Crowns Park**



## 12 Hillside Pantry

The Community Engagement team visits Hillside Food Pantry each month with a pop-up library. We provide access to information about services and programs, library card sign-up, and access to free, donated books.

## 13 Three Crowns Park

Staff visit each month to provide access to books, DVDs, and audio books to the elderly residents here. One avid participant in these visits just celebrated turning 102 years old!

# 07 Ward Seven



## 14 North Branch Library

The North Branch Library maintains strong connections to District 65 students, providing an introduction to the library for all Haven sixth graders and all Kingsley first graders. Students from Lincolnwood and Willard Schools also have regular class visits. Voter registration, books groups held on-site and at Fleetwood-Jourdain, as well as collaboration with Central Street Business Association all form part of the life of this branch library.

## 15 Northwestern University

Northwestern and Evanston Public Library partner in multiple ways including public lectures at the Main Library with Northwestern scholars and the steady presence of volunteers and work/study students. Programs like Book Buddies match NU students with early readers. Generous funding through Northwestern’s Good Neighbor Fund makes the Evanston Public Library social work program possible.

# 08 Ward Eight



## 16 Outreach to Local Business

What do the Clean Wash Laundry and J & S Food Mart on Howard Street have in common? These businesses were among the many throughout the city of Evanston that welcomed Evanston Public Library staff during National Library Card Sign-Up month in September. Through this targeted outreach to foodmarts, laundromats, Goodwill, and other locations, we talked with customers, sought out individuals new to library services, and issued new Evanston Public Library cards.

## 17 Evanston Vet Center

Through partnering with the Vet Center, Evanston Public Library provides monthly access to their outreach support team at the library. Community Engagement staff sit on the Veteran’s Community Advisory Board, host pinning ceremonies and have hosted a Veteran’s Resource Fair.

# 09 Ward Nine



"ABC Boosters is an invaluable program. The kids eagerly engaged in the literacy activities. This unique one-on-one program is one of the greatest educational resources in Evanston."

Jasmine Sebagala, ABC Boosters Site Coordinator



## 18 Reba Early Learning Center

Through a collaboration with Jumpstart, Northwestern and EPL Youth Engagement Services, the popular Book Buddies program comes to Reba for 12 weeks in a row. College students pair up with children to develop language and literacy skills.

Since 2012, the ABC Boosters program, an early literacy initiative, has connected Evanston teens with rising kindergarteners to work on literacy skill building over the summer. The program is made possible through funding by and coordination with the Evanston Community Foundation, Youth Job Center, the Mayor's Youth Employment Program, the City of Evanston, District 65 and District 202 and served 110 children at four sites this year. It is newly active at Reba Early Learning Center. The ABC Boosters program has shown success in improving letter recognition in young learners specifically identified as needing extra help.

## 19 Chute Middle School

Students in the Chute Middle School Advanced Media Arts class in partnership with KIDS Global Network and PhotoVoice created photographic and textual explorations of issues such as immigration, gun violence, bullying, and global warming. The students work was celebrated in a family night and exhibited prominently in the Library.

# 2018

## Social Work at the Library

- 653 meetings with patrons
- 45 hours spent on staff interaction/training
- 28 community partners collaborating to provide comfort and support to those in need

The inaugural Mental Health & Wellness Fair brought together 25 mental healthcare organizations and practitioners to provide access to clinical, legal, financial and holistic assistance, as well as free mental health screenings. This event is part of our continuous collaboration with organizations such as Metropolitan Family Services, In-Home Counseling for Seniors and the Chicago Behavioral Hospital.

# 2018

"My goal is to create a welcoming and homey environment for our Latinx patrons and ensure that our services, information resources, and collections are known and relevant to our Spanish-speaking patrons. The library is one of the few places in our society that can still be considered a safe space, and I want EPL to be that for our Latinx patrons here in Evanston."

Mariana Bojorquez, Latino Engagement Librarian

## Service to Our Spanish Speaking Residents

American Library Association sponsored a visit to the Guadalajara Book Fair where our Latino Engagement Librarian gained firsthand access to the latest Spanish publications and purchased more than 100 new Spanish language books for the collection.

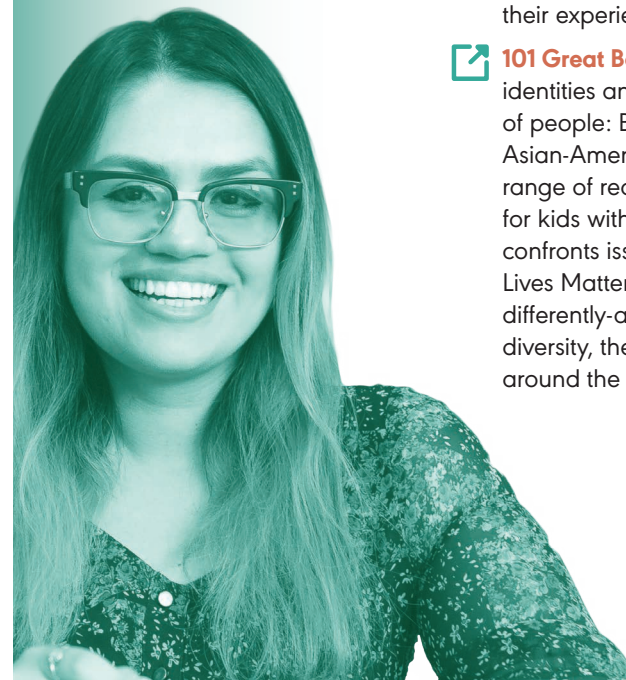
*Do We Have A Migration Crisis? Refugee and Asylum Basics* was presented to the public through a partnership with the Center for Forced Migration Studies at the Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University.

## New Stories; More Voices

*Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine was the 2018 EPL pick for EvanstonReads. This 10-week community reading program provided a touchstone for talking candidly about racism.

In a Human Library, the "books" are people and "reading" is a conversation. Through The Human Library, more than 150 conversations allowed people to shared lived experience of being LGBTQ, Black, biracial, disabled, transgender, physically-challenged, Muslim, or cognitively-challenged, to name just a few of the "books" available to "read". As one visitor said: "This was a wonderful opportunity to humanize people from various backgrounds and hear about their experiences."

101 Great Books for Kids 2018. Our list reflects the identities and wide experiences of a diverse array of people: Black, Latino, White, Native American, Asian-American, Latinx, and Southeast Asian. A wide range of reading levels are featured, as is nonfiction for kids with interests in different areas. The list confronts issues of immigration, LGBTQ issues, Black Lives Matter, and struggles with poverty, or being differently-abled. To meet the needs of international diversity, there are books in translation and titles from around the world.

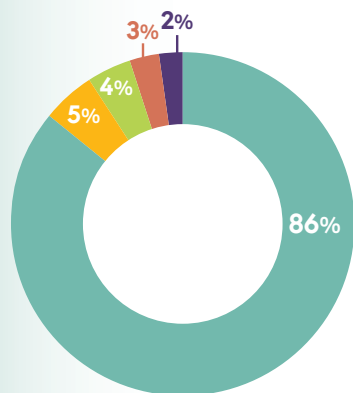


# 2018 Operating Fund

## Revenue

Total: \$7,707,507.54

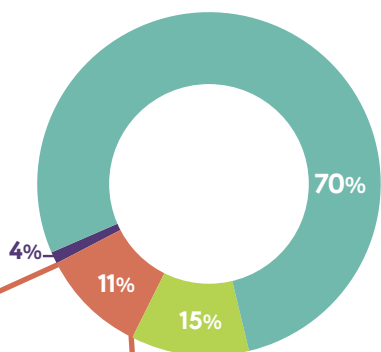
- 86% Local Tax
- 5% Restricted Grants
- 4% Contributions
- 3% Fines/User Charges
- 2% Transfer from Endowment



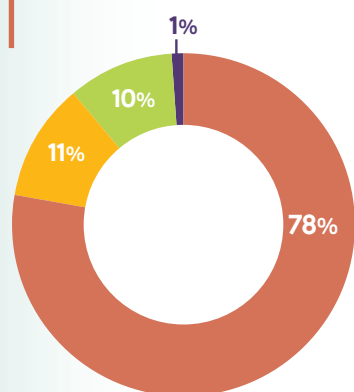
## Expense

Total: \$7,257,751.34

- 70% Personnel Costs
- 15% Services, Supplies, Equipment
- ★ 11% Library Collection
- 4% Shared City Services



## Spotlight on Collections



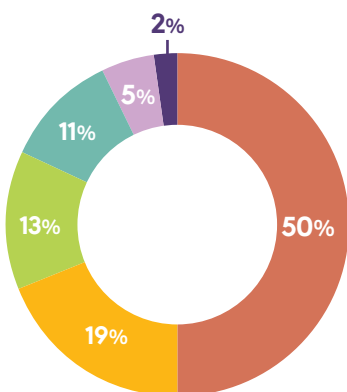
## Collection Revenue

Total: \$835,000

- 78% Local Tax
- 11% IL Per Capita Grant
- 10% Contributions
- 1% Restricted Grant

## How We Spend \$835,000 in Collection Dollars

- 50% Books
- 19% Streaming Services, Databases
- 13% Movies, Music, Audiobooks
- 11% eBooks, eAudiobooks
- 5% Hotspot service
- 2% Magazines, Newspapers



The Illinois Public Library Per Capita Grant, funding from the Kline Family Foundation and individual contributions from the public make up over 20% of our collections budget, allowing us to respond to requests from the community and offer a variety of digital and print collections.

## Thank You.

While we are funded at a fraction of our neighboring libraries, through private support we continue to strengthen and expand our most valued programs, services and collections. In 2018 we enjoyed another record year in contributions, which are up 31% over last year.

In 2018 local tax revenue made up 86% of the Library's budget, while philanthropic support from over 1,300 donors and partners helped us close the funding gap and increase opportunities to engage in lifelong learning in every corner of Evanston.

As volunteers, partners and donors, we all contribute to the collective impact of the Library in Evanston. Thank you to each and every one of you who recognize the role this Library plays in our community. Together, we are the Library.

- EPL collection ranked 6th among Illinois Public Libraries for number of print holdings
- Circulation of digital media increased 20% between 2017 and 2018

Photography by Lynn Trautmann, LTPhoto  
Design by Amanda Schwarz, Fisheye Graphic Svcs



Coming your way in 2019!