

Friends of Prescott Public Library

GRATITUDE REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025



Dear Friend of the Prescott Public Library,

Let me introduce myself, I am Barb Collins, the new board president as of this past June. The board and I are honored to share with you the accomplishments of what Friends was able to achieve in the past fiscal year under our outgoing president, Bill Arnold.

As you will see in this report, the library is busier than ever. Attendance is up, as are meeting room bookings. The number of items being checked out has also gone up significantly. From books to our Library of Things, hotspots to seeds, DVDs to audiobooks, Prescott Public Library is flourishing!

Appreciation is always at the forefront of our minds as we work to be the best stewards possible with the monies that are so generously donated to Friends. In the past year alone, we upgraded the audio/visual equipment in multiple meeting rooms, replaced the 25-year-old task chairs with 57 new chairs for staff and patrons, purchased 80 much needed Wi-Fi hotspots, continued to supply the seed catalog and continued to look for additions to our Library of Things. We hosted the 50th Anniversary “Fest in the West” event in May, which was a huge success. In looking to the future, there are talks and plans for remodels in the Youth Services department, as well as the possibility of building a pilot branch on the north end of town.

Our library is one of the jewels of Prescott and as fabulous as it is, we are continually looking for ways to improve and enhance it for everyone who walks through its doors. Our donor's support is what allows us to do what we do for the library, and I hope that you, like me, are proud of our vibrant and special Prescott Public Library.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with ideas, questions or suggestions. I'm always excited to talk “library”.

With the deepest gratitude,

Barb Collins, President
Friends of the Prescott Public Library
friendsofpplpresident@outlook.com

Friends Board of Directors

William Arnold – President, Barb Collins – Vice President, Deb McCasland – Treasurer, Mike Gulley - Secretary, Shannon Rosenblatt, Lindsay Glanzer, Janet Steven, Mike Seifert, David Sahady, Tania Sheldahl, Rosie Hartner

Prescott Public Library

BY THE NUMBERS

July 2024 - June 2025



328,204

LIBRARY
VISITORS



25,960

ACTIVE
CARDHOLDERS



18,256

PROGRAM & EVENT
ATTENDANCE



694,531

ITEMS CHECKED OUT
(PRINT, MEDIA, AUDIO)



127,867

ITEMS
AVAILABLE



32,105

REFERENCE
QUESTIONS ANSWERED



199,146

VISITS TO THE
WEBSITE



37,750

PUBLIC
COMPUTER USAGE

Dear Friends of the Prescott Public Library,

This past year, Prescott Public Library has seen remarkable growth, renewal, and connection - and it would not have been possible without you. To all those who generously gave their time, talents, and financial support, please accept our deepest gratitude. Your dedication as Friends members, volunteers, and donors has truly strengthened the foundation of our library and the community we serve. The heartbeat of a library is its community. Your support made it stronger and more vibrant than ever. You made it possible to welcome new readers, nurture lifelong learners, and create meaningful experiences that reached all ages and backgrounds. Through your generosity, we've been able to enhance our collections, offer access to technology, and expand programs that foster curiosity, creativity, and belonging.

As you read through this report, you will discover how your generosity has helped to expand opportunities for engagement, provided programs that sparked curiosity and strengthened our community. You remind us that a library's greatest strength lies not just in its shelves or services, but in the people who believe in its mission and help it flourish. One of the highlights of the year was our "Fest in the West" celebration - a joyful gathering for all ages that brought our community together in the best way possible. From children discovering new stories to neighbors connecting over shared memories, the event captured the spirit of what Prescott Public Library strives to be: a place where everyone feels welcome. Your contributions and volunteer efforts helped make that success a reality, and we are so thankful.

As we look toward the future, we are filled with excitement and optimism. In the coming year, Prescott Public Library will embark on developing a new strategic plan - one that builds on the momentum you've helped create and charts a course for continued growth, innovation, and community connection. Your partnership will be essential as we explore new ways to serve, engage, and inspire those who walk through our doors or connect with us online. On behalf of the entire staff and our patrons, thank you for standing with us, for believing in what libraries make possible, and for helping Prescott Public Library remain a beacon of learning, culture, and community. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for Prescott - one story, one connection, and one act of generosity at a time.

With heartfelt appreciation,

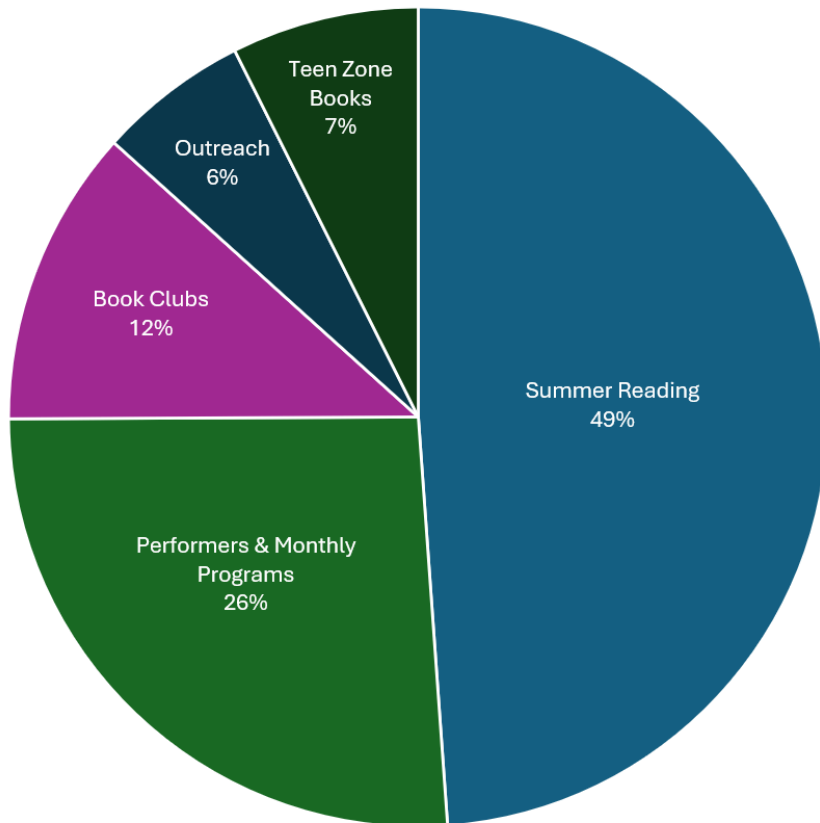
Melissa Orr
Library Director, Prescott Public Library

melissa.orr@prescott-az.gov

928-777-1500 ext.5303

Youth Services

- Hosted a Winter Reading Challenge for youth in grades K-12, where participants logged the books they read and received prizes, including a free book.
- Over 1,300 patrons of all ages registered for the Summer Reading Program, “Adventure Begins at Your Library”. Nearly 800 participants logged activities, and over 500 completed the program. Numerous performers and events were held, including live animal presentations, Lego programs, crafts and tie dye, and a final program for kids by Bubblemaniacs.
- Launched “More Choices for Voices”, a program designed for community members who communicate using Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices, sign language, and other forms of communication.
- Introduced Crafty Tales Family Storytime, a new program designed for families that blends stories with hands-on craft activities.



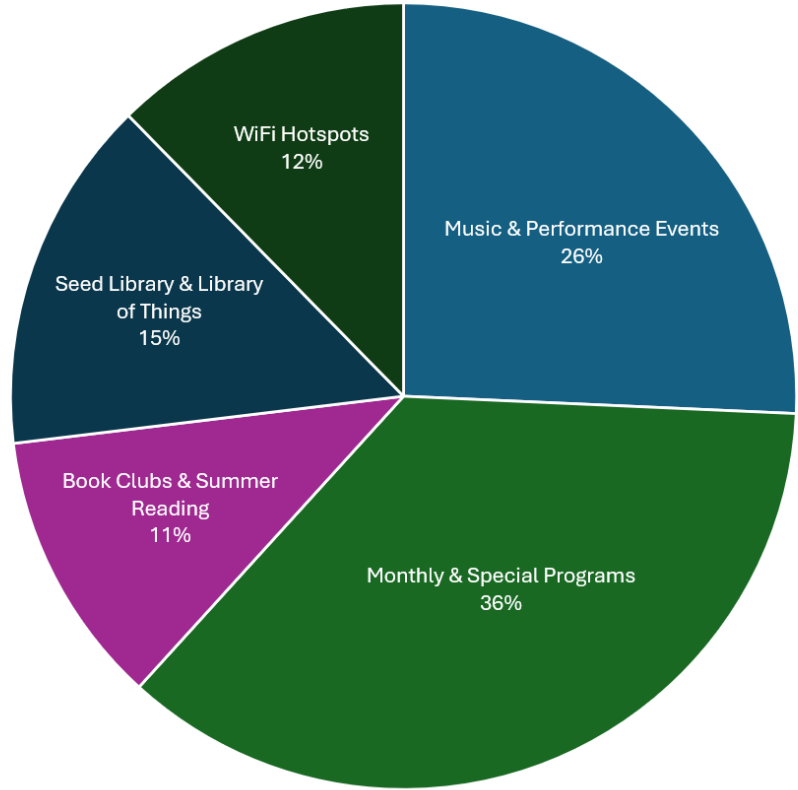


- Completed the Teen Zone redesign, which features new bookshelves and furniture. This project was funded through an LSTA grant and matching funds from The Friends of Prescott Public Library.
- Hosted four popular book clubs for readers from Kindergarten through 9th grade, with each participant receiving a free copy of each book discussed throughout the year.
- Offered a variety of holiday programs, including Christmas Cookie Houses, a Kids' Haunted House, and an Easter Egg Hunt.
- Started a new program, StoryBook and Art Adventures, a program designed for families that includes stories and crafts.
- Introduced Free Homework Help for Kids, partnering with Prescott High School's Peer Assistance and Leadership Club and North Star Partnership to provide personalized, 30-minute tutoring sessions for students in grade K-8 on any subject.



Adult Services

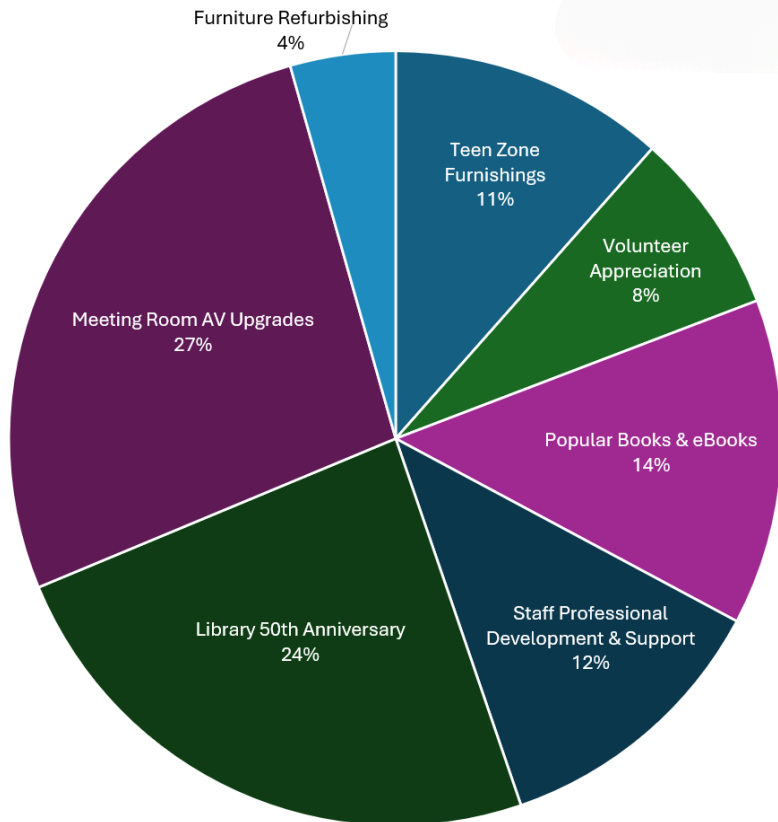
- Launched Play & Connect, a monthly program that invites adults to enjoy classic and party games while building new social connections.
- Launched CrafTea Time, a quarterly in-person program for adults to enjoy tea and make crafts guided by paid presenters.
- Our very popular Coffeehouse Concert series and Third Friday Chamber Music concert series brought folk, indie, instrumental, and a capella music groups to our community each month.
- Partnered with Yavapai County Community Health Services to start a new series of regularly scheduled Health Talks.
- Conducted a Winter Bingo Challenge for adults and teens, allowing participants to complete four fun library-themed tasks to earn a prize.
- Special presentations this year included Antarctic Revealed, Skye Pipes and Drums, Birds of the Central AZ Highlands, and 1816: A Year Without a Summer.



- Provided books for three monthly book clubs, and supplied seeds for the Seed Library throughout the year.
- Added 22 new Book Club sets to the collection, which is triple the normal amount typically added on an annual basis.
- Chair Yoga, Sky Talks, and Prescott Writers continued to be monthly favorites.
- Installed new charging stations for patrons' phones and devices, featuring multiple cord options and built-in UV sanitizing during the charging cycle.
- Continued offering Wi-Fi hotspots so patrons can access reliable connectivity for work, school and other uses.
- Added a 15-minute Express computer station for quick access and printing, available to visitors without requiring a library card.



Additional Support & Special Projects



Staff Professional Development

- Two staff members attended Ryan Dowd training, gaining valuable de-escalation strategies for working effectively with patrons experiencing mental health challenges.
- Circulation Manager, Bud Garso, was selected to attend the 2025 Arizona Library Leadership Institute, held March 31- April 2, following a competitive application process.
- Eleven staff members received CPR training and earned certification by Jeremy Sarge, Fire Engineer with the COP Fire Department.
- Hosted an all-day Staff Training Day in October by featuring sessions on process and service improvements, strategies for working with difficult patrons, safety practices, and tips for working with the new library system, Koha.

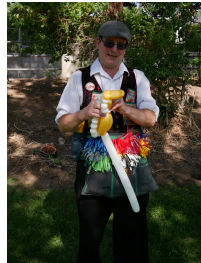
“Fest in the West” Library’s 50th Anniversary

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Goodwin St. library building, the Friends supported a variety of special programming, outreach events, commemorative displays, and contests which culminated in a large event at the library - Fest in the West.



- Author Visit - Youth Services hosted award-winning children’s author Dusti Bowling in January, featuring visits to four local schools and a public event at the library to give kids in the community the opportunity to meet and chat with an author.
- Youth Writing Contest - February’s “It Happened in the Library” writing contest invited youth ages 12-16 to create stories set in a library. The submissions were imaginative, unique and demonstrated deep appreciation for the library.
- Children’s Bookmark Contest - Youth Services hosted a community-wide contest in April with the public voting on winners across multiple age categories.
- Adult Author Program - In May, Adult Services hosted bestselling author Nancy E. Turner, where she spoke about her writing and publishing journey, and engaged the audience in a lively Q&A session.

- Library Passport & Outreach - To promote Fest in the West, staff launched a Library Passport program, encouraging patrons to collect stamps by attending events or using specific library services. Outreach at locations and events such as the Farmer's Market, Genealogy Resource Fair, Earth Day and Chamber of Commerce Open House helped to build excitement. Patrons earned raffle tickets for every two stamps, entering them into drawings for prizes donated by local businesses and the Friends.
- Historical Display - Throughout May, the library's Betty Ritter Viewerie showcased a large, staff-designed exhibit highlighting Prescott Public Library's history, featuring vintage photos, library cards, promotional materials, and milestones from the Carnegie Library era to today.
- Fest in the West Finale'- This culminating event brought together city departments, volunteers, the Friends and many community partners for an evening of fun for the community attended by more than 2,500 people. Live music, a touch-the-truck area, a resource fair, and engaging activities filled both the library and the surrounding grounds for a joyous celebration of the library.





Volunteers

The annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon in December was another successful event, with nearly 100 of the 130 volunteers attending. Volunteers in fiscal year 2025 dedicated 12,000 hours to supporting the library, which is equivalent to more than 5 full-time employees. Staff selected two book menders for the Volunteer of the Year award, who have volunteered at the library for a combined total of 45 years!

The inaugural Afternoon Tea event occurred in April, with 34 volunteers receiving Presidential Volunteer Service Awards including a pin and a letter from former President Biden. Bronze was awarded to 26 volunteers for having over 100 hours, silver was awarded to 6 volunteers for having over 250 hours, and gold was awarded to 2 volunteers for having over 500 hours of volunteer service.

Library Homebound Services

The Books on Wheels program was expanded to include a partnership with Meals on Wheels, expanding the homebound community served by 30%. A new BOW logo was designed and implemented as well.



Building & Technology Upgrades

The wooden furniture on the main level was meticulously refurbished by a local company. Multiple meeting rooms received much needed technology upgrades including new computers, TVs, and sound equipment. The Upper Conference Room was outfitted with new chairs.

Thank you, Friends...

Richard Ach & Carey Behel • Ann Alexander • R. & V. Allen • Alta Vista Garden Club • Julia Alver • George & Teresa Anas • Roger Antony • Rudy Arena • William & Sharon Arnold • Isabel Arnone • Kit Atwell • Laurie Back • Harriet Bade • C.F. Bagby • Ray and Donna Baldwin • Carol Barry • Eileen Barry • Al Bates • Timothy Bauerschmidt & Ramie Liddle • William Becker • Sandra Bennett • Roy & Donna Bennett • Myrna Benson • Cheryl Berry • Richard Besser • Edoardo Biagioni • Glenna Bissegger • Roy & Eileen Blockinger • Billy & Kathleen Bond • Judy Book • L & L Borok Foundation • Kelly Boryca • Christine Bothell • Susan Brannon • John & Patty Brenner • Deanne Curtice Brewster • Dr. Robert & Mary Bricker • Doug & Jane Bristol • Fred & Nancy Bronsdon • Robert Browne & Laurie Katon • Peter Brubaker • Carolynn Bryan • Valda Bryant • Joel & Debbie Bump • Newton Bunce • Kenneth & Marilyn Buresh • Richard & Denise Cady • Ski Cahall & Dicy Apperson • Jean Canoose • Judith Carson • Frank & Loretta Chambrone • Phil & Carol Clayton • G. Clizbe • Steve & Barb Collins • James Conley • Jane Cook • Neil Cooperrider • David & Joan Crooks • Kirk & Catherine Cunningham • Larry Cunningham • Henry & Linda Dahlberg • David & Deb Dahlby • Mary Day • Marjory DeRoeck • Ralph Dinsman • Dr. Sam and Leigh Downing • Bill Doyle & Kathryn Fitzpatrick • Andre Doyon & Linda Saferite • Mary Drake • Nancy Dubow • Royal Dunkelberg • William & Thelma Dunn • Kristi Edwards • Timothy Ellis • Janet Elsea • Harriet Engelmann • Joanne Ericsson • Ever Loved Inc. • Mark Farber • Debra Favour • Lucy Fields • Steve Finucane & Marjorie Bernardi • David Fizzell • Sharon Foltz • David & Jeri Fornara • Martha Forward • Gary & Jeanette Frank • William Franklin • Dave Frechette • S. E. Friedman • Kay Gaffney • George Garlets • Francine Garner • Robert & Patricia Gerling Endowment Fund Stanley Gershgol • GFWC The Monday Club • Leah Gilbert • Peter & Leslie Glenn • Shirley Goldstein • Michael Goldwater • M. & J. Gould • Frances Greer • Susan Grieshober • Janet Grossman • Mike & Patti Gulley • Robert & Pamela Haber • Judith Harde • Steve Harms • Alice Harris • Rosemary Pinet Hartner • Dianne Haselfeld • James Hays & Beverly Biggs • Jim & Martha Helle • Everett Hendricks • Robin Henry • Marilyn Henze • Joyce Hershberger • Sandy Hester

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in the lives of patrons and in your community.

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—thank you—



FRIENDS *of the*
PRESCOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY

215 E Goodwin St.
Prescott, AZ 86303

Friends of Prescott Public Library established an endowment with the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) to create an avenue for lifetime giving to benefit Prescott Public Library for future generations. The ACF and its affiliates steward the gifts placed in their care with an eye toward permanence and growth. Please consider a planned gift in your will or estate plan.



www.friendsofprescottpubliclibrary.org

Our mission is to enhance the library through fundraising, advocacy, and volunteerism. Through Friends donations and Book Sale proceeds, we support library programs, additional copies of popular book titles, outreach, resources, and special projects.