



Lexington Public Library

shhhhhhh

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

shush **no more**

Dear Friend,

Early in my career, having a quiet library was a sign you were doing your job. Today, it would be a sign that you are way behind the times.

Believe me, you won't hear a single **shhhh** from a Lexington Public Library staff member.

Our libraries are full of life. While you can still find quiet spaces to get lost in a story, most days the energy is just incredible. And we are taking books, activities and programs out into the community all the time, as you'll see in the following pages.

The value and benefits of public libraries continue to grow as we're no longer focused on "keeping quiet." We've expanded our materials, services, and expertise so we can deliver the educational experiences and resources our community deserves.

Storytime is a perfect example. Rather than a passive, buy-me-a-few-minutes-of-peace-by-reading-to-my-kid program, it's an active and engaging educational experience that prepares children for success in kindergarten.

I invite you to take a few quiet (or loud) moments with our 2017 Annual Report to catch up with many of the ways your Lexington Public Library is serving this community.

All my best,  
Ann Hammond  
Executive Director





- 5 Programs
- 8 Community Engagement
- 13 Trends and Accomplishments
- 15 Service, Operations and Facilities
- 17 Leadership
- 19 Friends of the Lexington Public Library
- 21 Lexington Public Library Foundation
- 23 Community Partners
- 25 By the Numbers
- 27 Locations

**Table of contents**

# show





# shout

## Programs

If it's a scheduled, organized event, we refer to it as a program. Some are one-time, such as in April when *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* author John Archambault drew more than 700 people to the Eastside Branch in partnership with the Child Care Council for "A Family Affair – An Evening of Storytelling and Songs." Now that was a fun, LOUD night!

Other notable author events included:

- CC Payne, a Lexington native and award-winning author of *The Thing About Leftovers*, *Something to Sing About* and *Lula Bell on Geekdom, Freakdom and the Challenges of Bad Hair*.
- Debbie Dadey, who also was born in Kentucky, author of *Mermaid Tales* and *This Side of Magic* and other books in the Keyholders series.
- Sidney Blumenthal, former presidential advisor and Abraham Lincoln biographer. Author of *A Self-Made Man: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln Vol. I, 1809-1849*.

Some programs, such as Discover Summer (remember seeing all those hot air balloons?) and Camp Digital, are extended over time. We're thrilled to have increased participation in these educational programs.

**Discover Summer** – We circulated 569,610 items during our Discover Summer program, brought to you by PNC! Program attendance was 21,532, which includes story times and special events. And, 8,321 people completed the entire program, designed to prevent summer learning loss.

**Camp Digital** – These hands-on, project-driven workshops with STEAM-based principles introduced the power of technology to tweens and teens.

This summer 190 students participated in seven classes. Students learned to record podcasts, film LEGO animations, create digital comic books, and use their coding skills to build online role-playing games.



*There were 58 programs in each branch per month on average this year. So, if you were bored, you only had yourself to blame!*

**First 5 Lex Partnership** – We partnered with Fayette County Public Schools to stock area Kroger stores with activity sheets so young ones could learn pre-kindergarten skills while parents shopped. The activities were so popular, we put them in additional stores. Talk about win-win!

**Checked Out: Virtual Book Club** – Don't have time to meet with friends to discuss a book? No problem. Tune in at your convenience to "Checked Out: Virtual Book Club." Librarians Alexa & Jenny and their guests share their insights on their top choice reads in this monthly podcast. Check out one of the episodes recommended by Jenny about Hisham Martar's memoir, *The Return*.

**741.5** – The comics and graphic novel bulletin, named 741.5 after the catalog number, is a new publication dedicated to this extremely popular genre. This bulletin, created and produced by LPL staff, is available online and in print so every fan can find what's new in comics, along with a retrospective look that helps young readers discover classic material as well.

**Phoenix Forward** – Lexington Public Library put a \$150,000 grant received from the Knight Foundation to great use in building outdoor programming that turned Lexington's Phoenix Park into an extension of the Library. A consortium of downtown groups including the city's Parks and Recreation Department and the Downtown Development Authority, Phoenix Forward used seasonal programming to make the whole area more vibrant and welcoming to everyone.





# shimmer

## Community Engagement

We believe Lexington is better when we work (and play) together, so in FY 2017 Lexington Public Library collaborated like never before to establish and offer fun, educational and community improvement activities.

We like to dream big, but even we didn't imagine how successful **On the Table Lex** would be! We partnered with Blue Grass Community Foundation, LFUCG's Imagine Lexington team, and Leadership Lexington to host over 11,000 people for a series of community conversations on March 15. Over 200 people shared their ideas for Lexington's future during gatherings at each of our public libraries. We received national accolades from the Urban Library Council (ULC) for this effort (see more details on page 13).

In our **"Make It Here, Do It Here"** series, Library customers share compelling stories of how they have used our services to improve their lives and

achieve their goals. They participated in this testimonial series out of gratitude, and now we are in their debt. To learn about Rosemarie's successful job search and other inspiring stories, visit our YouTube channel (lexlibrary).

Here are some additional highlights of our year of partner-based service:

- **First 5 Lex - Read, Talk and Play from Cradle to Kindergarten:** We partnered with Fayette County Public Schools and a whole host of others to create First 5 Lex - Read, Talk, and Play from Cradle to Kindergarten, which focuses community-wide attention on school readiness and early childhood success.
- **Storywalk:** With the U. K. Arboretum and Jessamine County Public Library, we brought literacy outdoors to thousands of visitors through monthly interactive stories.





- **Animation of the Written Word:** With Lexington Children's Theatre, we promoted "Animation of the Written Word" in all Library branches last season. The Theatre group also provided content and activities for Phoenix Forward.
- **Discover Summer:** With Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center, we brought weekly book delivery and the Discover Summer programs to the facility, including a petting zoo. We were thrilled to have seven youth complete the reading program this summer.
- **Fourth Annual World Refugee Day Summit:** With Kentucky Refugee Ministries, we produced a daylong conference for professionals and volunteers who serve refugees. Over 180 participants attended, an indication that Lexington Public Library is considered a safe and trusted place in this time of international unease.
- **Adult Education:** With BCTC, we provided space at Eastside Branch for free adult literacy and GED classes.
- **Student Success:** With Lextran, we provided free transportation to students during the summer using the Student Success card.

- **Countdown to Kindergarten:** With Fayette County Public Schools, we participated in Countdown to Kindergarten as we have every year to help prepare children for successful school transitions.
- **Reach Out and Read KY:** This organization partnered with us to provide books to all participants in June at the Discover Summer kick-off parties.
- **StoryCorps Bus:** With WUKY, we hosted the StoryCorps Bus in April at Eastside Branch. It's a national honor to have this renowned nonprofit organization that celebrates the stories of everyday Americans choose our Library.
- **International Next Library Conference:** With a generous grant to pay their way, two Library staff attended the International Next Library Conference in Denmark. The ideas are flowing!
- **Homework Help Expansion:** In partnership with KentuckyOne Health, God's Pantry, Glean Kentucky, and countless volunteers we expanded our afterschool snack and homework help assistance to two library locations: Village Branch and Northside Branch.



*Lexington Public Library established the new Department of Community Engagement to focus even more keenly on this important function.*



*Including physical, web, and mobile users, the Library had over 13.8 million visits last fiscal year. That's well more than attendance at all University of Kentucky home basketball games and other events held at Rupp Arena combined!*

# shine

## Trends and Accomplishments

We gained national recognition for innovation for our role in the On the Table community discussion by winning the prestigious 2017 Innovations award from the Urban Library Council (ULC).

The ULC Innovations Initiative is a highly competitive, national award program among hundreds of leading libraries of all sizes. The purpose is to gather, share and showcase leading practices, services, and programs. Only the top initiatives are selected to demonstrate how libraries continue to evolve and serve as essential technology, education, and community leaders.

Our libraries truly are international centers where people come to learn and share. Last year we had over 300 students attend the English Language Learners Conversation Group at Central Library.

On a national and local level, Latino children are the least likely to be prepared for school. To help bridge this early literacy gap, LPL partnered with the Migrant Network Coalition on a grant-funded project to engage Latino families in a 6-month early

literacy program. Children in the ten participating families saw improvement in at least three of the five areas measured in the program.

Enrollment in Spanish language classes remained steady this year at 576 students, and we added the Senior Center as a new location. In every class, students remark that they want to learn Spanish so they can better communicate and connect with their Latino neighbors.

### Some facts about Library trends:

- We exceeded 3 million in annual circulation for only the second time in our history
- Print is still in the number one format of choice
- There is a strong demand for graphic novels and comics
- The biggest growth is in all types of e-materials. Increases included eBooks by 10 percent, eMagazines by 20 percent and e-audio books by 29 percent.
- DVD circulation was the highest it has ever been with an increase of 29 percent this year.





*The most liked social media post was a meme of a dinosaur about why reading is important. The post reached 36,618 people and had 2,418 engagements on Facebook.*



# sharpen

## Service, Operations and Facilities

People think we're about books, but we're really all about service. That's why we added two Youth Services positions and two part-time Homework Help employees this year.

Did you know you can receive a text notification when your on-hold materials are ready for pickup? And that we will bring your held materials out to your car at our two curbside service locations? Also, a new website feature enables you to have an online chat with a librarian during Central Library operating hours. Now that's service!

We also honed our project management skills through a number of facilities and technology improvements in our library locations, to create safer, more comfortable, and welcoming environments for our customers:

The Tates Creek Branch received new LED signage, LED lighting and new shrubs and flowers. We renovated the DVD/CD sitting area, removed the large check-out desk, and added multiple self-check kiosks. At Central Library, we replaced flooring in the public and staff elevators, installed a new building chiller and new lighting in the Friends Book Cellar.

At Eastside Branch, we changed the parking lot lighting to LED and turned unfinished storage spacing into a classroom. Beaumont Branch received an HVAC unit, new shrubs and flowers, and LED lighting in the foyer. At Northside Branch, we renovated an empty staff area and created a 3-D printing lab.

Village Branch received some display shelves for new items and a big, new outside book drop.

IT has worked diligently to provide the best technology possible and completed several upgrades, such as Northside's Digital Studio and the 290 public computers across the system. Additionally, many staff members received new computing technology. System-wide wireless networking technology upgrades improved service significantly.

We added security cameras in the Central Library Parking Garage and stairwells. Cameras and monitors at Beaumont Branch and Central Library assist with our new curbside service.





# shape

## Leadership

### Board of Trustees

A volunteer Board of Trustees governs Lexington Public Library, setting policies and overseeing the budget. In FY 2017, those members were:

- Lawrence T. Smith  
*Chair*
- Sharon K. Williams  
*Vice Chair*
- Timi Goodman  
*Secretary*
- Jordan Parker  
*Treasurer*
- Mike Burke
- Susan Wright
- Stephanie Spires

### Advisory Board

The Library also has an Advisory Board. These volunteers attend Board of Trustee meetings, participate in discussions at those meetings, and serve on standing and ad hoc Board committees. Members include:

- Jeff Binford
- Keith Bohart
- Kimberly Brennen
- Michael Chambers
- James Inman
- John Meister
- Stephanie Nallia
- Meredith Nelson
- Rebecca Self
- Dr. Timothy Sineath
- Hunter Stout

### Senior Leadership Team

- Ann Hammond  
*Executive Director*
- Heather Dieffenbach  
*Director of Library Operations*
- Tonya Head  
*Director of Library Collections*
- Jim Chandler  
*Director of Support Services*
- Colleen Hall  
*Director of Community Engagement*
- Karen King  
*Finance Officer*
- Tom Wallace  
*Human Resources Director*
- Anne Donworth  
*Development Officer*

**The Library had its best attendance ever at Library Legislative Day in Frankfort. Twenty-six Board members, Friends and Foundation Board members, and Library Administration and staff visited with 12 of our elected officials to talk about the important role public libraries play in the quality of life of our communities.**





# shop

## Friends of the Lexington Public Library

Did you know there is a group of dedicated volunteers who, as we like to say, are the icing on our cake? The Friends of the Library's 850 active members come together to provide the Library with financial, advocacy, and volunteer support.

Friends gave 11,500 hours this year to operate the Friends Book Cellar, a used book store in the lower level of Central Library, and our semi-annual book sales. Proceeds from sales in the bookstore and in the branches support system-wide library programs and underwrite important staff training and recognition events.

Support from the Friends is a vital supplement to the library's revenue and allows for an expansion of programs and services beyond what can be supported through regular operating funds. Recent examples include:

- **Discover Summer:** Along with PNC Foundation, Friends were major contributors to the success of the library's community-wide, all-ages summer

learning programs. Everything from farm animal petting zoos to live sharks to music, art, movies, and of course BOOKS helped our community's children, teens, and adults not only learn, but have fun throughout the summer!

- **Camp Digital:** This series of STEM/STEAM classes was taught in each of the library locations this summer. Tweens and teens learned how to record podcasts, create and film animations, design digital comic books, and use their coding skills to build online role-playing games.
- **Staff Development Day:** Each year, the library holds a full day of training for all staff. This year, our 260 full- and part-time staff began their day with a welcome and keynote addresses at the Kentucky Theater, followed by an afternoon of informative break-out sessions at Central Library, along with plenty of opportunities to relax and get to know each other better!





# shepherd

## Lexington Public Library Foundation

Lexington Public Library Foundation funds innovation within our public library system. The Library's vision is that this will be a community engaged in a lifetime of discovery, and private donations help Lexingtonians learn and play in dynamic new ways.

We use 100% of gifts to create change by adding new services, programs, facilities, or technology, not day-to-day operations. Because we serve all people, businesses and organizations, charitable donations to the Library Foundation are quite literally a gift to our entire community.

Support from the Library Foundation empowers change within our public library system. Recent examples include:

- **Phoenix Forward:** Indoor/Outdoor programming and installations at Central Library and adjacent Phoenix Park to reinvigorate the downtown spaces through the Knight Cities Challenge. Highlights include the new Discovery and Play Lab at Central Library, two mobile book carts to

bring materials into the Park, and a Charlie Cart, or portable teaching kitchen, to teach culinary literacy there and throughout the city.

Partners: Lexington Downtown Development Authority, Lexington Parks & Recreation, Downtown Lexington Corporation, Blue Grass Community Foundation, Knight Foundation, and many others.

- **Campaign For Our Future:** Honorary Chair John R. Hall and Chair Jim Elliott are leading a capital campaign for library facilities, specifically for the new Eastside Branch. Volunteers have raised over \$600,000 in pledges and will continue to build on this progress in FY18.

- **Homework Help:** Provides an afterschool snack and assists students with school assignments and reading at two Library locations four days each week throughout the school year.

Partners: Fayette County Public Schools, Glean Kentucky, God's Pantry Food Bank, and KentuckyOne Health.





**Community Partners**

2017 was a record-breaking year for the Library Foundation, and we thank the many donors who contributed nearly \$500,000 in support this year! For a complete list of donors, please visit [www.lexpublib.org/foundation](http://www.lexpublib.org/foundation).

- \$100,000+**  
 John and Donna Hall\*  
 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation  
 William R. Kenan Charitable Trust

- \$25,000+**  
 Friends of the Lexington Public Library  
 PNC Foundation  
 The Randleigh Foundation Trust

- \$10,000+**  
 Lee Carroll  
 Suzanne and Jim Elliott  
 The Shukla Family

- \$5,000+**  
 James Bassett III\*  
 Bertha Lebus Charitable Trust  
 Blue Grass Community Foundation  
 Karen and Mike Burke\*  
 Anne and Richie Donworth\*  
 Ann and Mark Hammond\*  
 Pin Oak Charitable Fund at Blue Grass Community Foundation  
 Patricia and Timothy Sineath\*  
 Chris and Larry Smith\*

*\*indicates a multi-year pledge*

share





## By the Numbers

Some records were meant to be shattered, and we did just that with more than 3 million items checked out in 2017. Also, the Library had 989,876 wireless sessions last year, which is a significant milestone.

Materials circulated: **3,123,865**  
*(that's a new record!)*

Collection size (physical and digital): **566,307**

Library visits: **1,836,517**

Computer sessions: **345,405**

Questions answered: **569,166**

Program attendance: **91,162**

Website visits: **7,650,473**

Mobile app views: **3,901,793**

Staff (FTE): **189.5**

Social Media Presence:

- **23,627** total followers across all social media platforms
- **4,676** new followers across all platforms this year.
- **21,245** total post feedbacks (counting likes, shares, favorites, retweets and pins)

# shatter





# shelter

## Lexington Public Library

### LOCATIONS

#### Central Library

Jenny Paul, Manager  
140 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

#### Eastside Branch

Rob Parmley, Manager  
3000 Blake James Drive  
Lexington, KY 40509

#### Tates Creek Branch

Elliott Applebaum, Manager  
3628 Walden Drive  
Lexington, KY 40517

#### Beaumont Branch

Abby McCurry, Manager  
3080 Fieldstone Way  
Lexington, KY 40513

#### Northside Branch

Jenny Lewis, Manager  
1733 Russell Cave Road  
Lexington, KY 40505

#### Village Branch

Betty Abdmishani, Manager  
2185 Versailles Road  
Lexington, KY 40504

### FREQUENTLY REQUESTED PHONE NUMBERS:

**ASK A LIBRARIAN**—Text: 859-379-0079; Phone: 859-231-5500, ext. 1005

**General (All locations)**—231-5500

**Conference Room Reservations**—231-5504

**Friends Book Cellar**—231-5505

**Kentucky Room**—231-5500, ext. 1008





For quick access to everything we have to offer, download LexPubLib2Go, our easy-to-use mobile app.  
And, stay engaged with us through our social media pages:



**shush** no more





Lexington Public Library

[www.lexpublib.org](http://www.lexpublib.org)