

L.E. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

2022 Annual Report



READY...

READY for ...

READY for MORE...

READY for MORE.....

As the new Director of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, I don't think I could have arrived at a more exciting time. When I began my work here, all staff were still in the temporary location, busily planning for the move back to the newly remodeled building.

The move went very smoothly, but unless you've done it yourself, you can't possibly imagine how much goes into moving a library. Thank you to Deputy Directors Shelly Collins-Fuerbringer and Kimberly Hennings, former Director Pamela Westby, all of our staff, the Friends of the Library, the Library Board, City staff, our architects and contractors, and our generous community.

The isolation felt by so many during the worst of COVID-19 made the reopening all the more meaningful. This building is a renewed reminder that a public library is for everyone. If you haven't already, come in and enjoy the light, bright openness, comfortable seating, private study rooms, and meeting rooms of all sizes. We have events for all ages and free access to books, music, games, movies, and items ranging from cake pans to snowshoes in our Library of Things.

Thank you for your warm welcome. Enjoy the library so many of you helped build!



— Nancy Kerr, Library Director



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

After years of planning, fundraising, and construction (most of it during a global pandemic), the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library returned to its newly renovated and expanded downtown location in 2022. Funded by an \$11.5 million investment by the City of Eau Claire and \$7 million in private donations through the library's Story Builder capital campaign, the reopened building features a new third floor, an all-new layout, and plenty of community spaces.

Library staff members have been busier than ever. We adjusted our services to meet the constantly changing public health demands of COVID. We sorted through decades-worth of things, packed everything up, moved, and unpacked. We adjusted our procedures and services to fit our smaller temporary facility. We welcomed a new director and successfully completed a capital campaign. Then we packed up and moved, and unpacked again.

We are thrilled to see so many people taking advantage of our new spaces. From October through December, you booked more than 600 study and meeting rooms! We're thankful to both our long-term customers, and the new customers who are just discovering all the library has to offer. This building project would not have been possible without the support of our community and local government. Thank you!



These moving boxes held just a tiny fraction of the library's book collection.

EVENTS.....



Artist reception for Paul Cyr.

The renovated building has more, larger, and purpose-built spaces for events, including a better makerspace and a hands-on classroom with demonstration kitchen.

There is also room for your meetings! With two event rooms (the Innovation Lab and the 200-seat Riverview Room), three meeting rooms, and study rooms for kids, teens, and adults, our free bookable spaces are among the most popular upgrades.

STORIES.....

There are new spaces to spend time reading, playing, and working. This library isn't just a place to borrow. It's a place to be.



Stories in "The Cave."

SAVINGS.....

Our new features save time and money. The automatic materials handler frees staff for other tasks. The reallocation of space provides more room for public use. The building is more energy efficient and even generates some of its own energy with geo-thermal heating and cooling.

Your time is important, too! If you haven't, try out our drive-thru holds pickup window.

GROWTH.....

We removed out-of-date and unused items and increased our available shelf space. Now we can add more and better books to the shelves.

FRIENDS.....

The new building is helping to bring in new customers. Word is spreading about all the things the library has to offer: both expected and unexpected! There's something special for all ages and all walks of life.



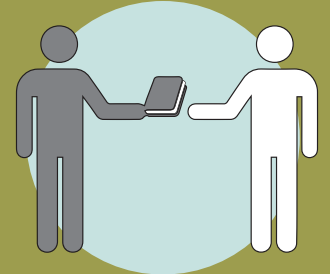
Left to right: Engineering Director/City Engineer Dave Solberg, Pete the Cat, Llama Llama, and City Manager Stephanie Hirsch.

2022 STATS

Despite interruptions in services due to the move back downtown, we realized some excellent statistics.



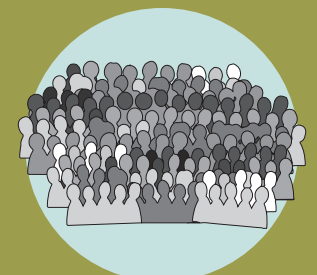
25,584
cardholders



573,270 items
checked out



387,132 uses of
library Wi-Fi



15,604 people
attended events



L.E. Phillips Memorial
Public Library

400 Eau Claire Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701

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U.S. Postage
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Eau Claire, WI
Permit No. 1557

