



# 2024 Annual Report at a glance

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## Director's Message



**Elektra Greer, Director**

What an incredible year of excitement and expansion for our library community as several long-term projects came to fruition. After three years of planning, fundraising and community input, we created a lovely Reading Garden and Performance space on the undeveloped East property of our library. It's been often quoted, all you need in life is a garden and a library, and we certainly agree. Well, and a passport!

In 2024, we also launched our first International Student Exchange with our Sister Library, ZB Bibliotheek of the Netherlands. This first-of-its kind library exchange received national recognition from the American Library Association, and 2025 is bringing new opportunities for international learning and growth for our library youth.

Finally, 2024 was another year of record-breaking programming numbers, thanks to our amazing youth services team.

## Assistant Director's Message



**Jessie Ansari, Assistant  
Director**

2024 was another incredible year at Nederland Community Library, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it! Through story-times, after-school programs and events, I get to watch the kids of Nederland evolve, grow and cultivate a love of learning, build their vocabulary, comprehension and reading skills. It's the best. The Library continues to be a special place, safe and welcoming place for folks to gather, learn, laugh, cry, and connect.

# 2024 Our Values in Action

Service. Community. Adaptability. Equal Access. Intellectual Freedom.



Summer learning at its best!

## Strategic Goal 1

**Provide library spaces that are inviting, stimulating and comfortable for a wide variety of uses.**



In August 2024, we celebrated our new outdoor Reading Garden! This new space ignites the imagination and expands our ability to serve our community, from outdoor children's programming to evening author talks and concerts. This investment in our community was three years in the making and was definitely completed in Ned-style! (Check out the Moose prints!)

Beginning in the summer of 2025, Nederland library cardholders will be able to rent the outdoor space at cost; it's a community-held asset, after all!

## Strategic Goal 2

**Materials:** Ensure that our community has access to materials in a variety of relevant and useful formats.



During the summer of 2024, we revamped our Children's area. By moving shelving, we were able to create an enclosed play-space that also showcases our toy library and early literacy kits. Our Juvenile non-fiction section was re-categorized into genres. Many libraries are moving toward genre-fying their collections to make it easier for kids to browse through areas of interest. There are so many incredible children's non-fiction books, we want to be sure we can showcase them to our community!

## Strategic Goal 3

**Equality:** Provide information literacy, small business support, job skills training, and access to health resources, in pursuit of a secure, informed and technologically capable community.



In 2024, we dedicated staff resources to ensuring our website meets and exceeds Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Staff attended trainings to better understand the barriers patrons with disabilities face when accessing digital content and we applied for (and received!) grant funds to improve our services for patrons with disabilities.

We also applied for and received funds to provide our community with tele-health options at our library, connecting patrons with medical expertise not always available in our rural, mountain community. Telehealth options are rolling out in 2025.

Our Youth Services team redesigned our after-school programs, increased outreach to schools and expanded our early-literacy collections, furthering our commitment to NCL being a pillar of literature and literacy in our community.



## Strategic Goal 4

**Programming: Provide programming for patrons of all ages and backgrounds that educates, informs and helps build community.**



From meditation and philosophy to suncatchers and hot chocolate, the Library hosted events and programs for all ages, engaging 4,979 patrons in library programs in 2024.

In 2024, we launched the first-ever Sister Library International Exchange program, receiving national recognition through the American Library Association for innovative programming.

Scavenger Hunts and Take and Makes were huge hits with our younger patrons, and our adult patrons appreciated our current event programs.

## Strategic Goal 5

**Trusted Resource. Become known as a top resource in the community.**



In 2024, the library continued to provide community focused resources and services. We fostered meaningful connections and partnerships, with local Health and Human services, the food pantry, clothing closet, seniors group, and other local non-profits. Collaboration with the Town and non-profits like the Historical Society in 2024 meant that we were able to host culturally significant programming, and help celebrate our town's 150th Anniversary.

The library also hosted several local and statewide representatives, encouraging community conversations on issues of democracy, sustainability and equity.

"The public library is the great equalizer."



## Strategic Goal 6

**Staff and Volunteers. Support a staff that is enriched through professional development and training, and who are enthusiastic to see the library thrive and achieve its goals.**



Leadership skills are vital to those who work in small community libraries. Jess Ansari was accepted into a competitive educational leadership program, the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Leadership Institute, which is designed around the unique framework and challenges that small and rural communities face. Thirty applicants were selected in 2024 to participate in an 18-month immersive program, that will culminate in September 2025, at the ARSL Annual Conference.

Total volunteer hours per year: 1, 560

## Strategic Goal 7

**Sustainability: Ensure adequate funds to achieve the goals of this plan and ensure a sound financial trajectory into the future.**



After years of complications with our HVAC system, we invested in updating our HVAC control systems. This \$35,000 investment was only possible from prudent stewardship of library funds by the NCL Board, which has allocated money to our long term maintenance fund each year.

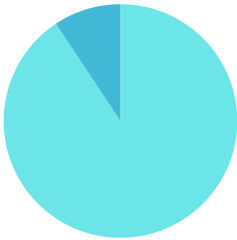
Fundraising from the Nederland Community Library Foundation ensures we will also be excellent stewards of our new Reading Garden and performance space.

# Financial Summary

## Operating Revenue

Grants + Donations + Fees (\$54, 905)

9.3%



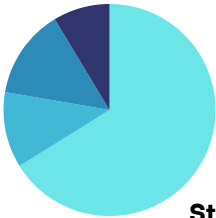
Property Tax (\$532, 929)  
90.7%

## Operating Expenses

Programming

13.7%

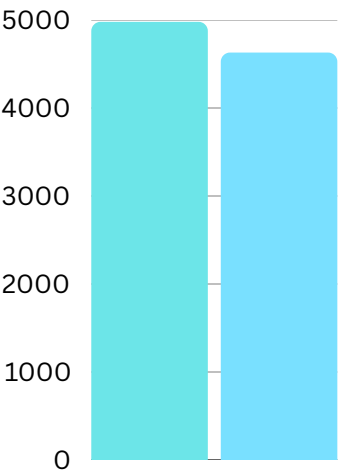
Collections + ILS + Courier  
11.6%



Staff Salaries + Wages  
66.1%

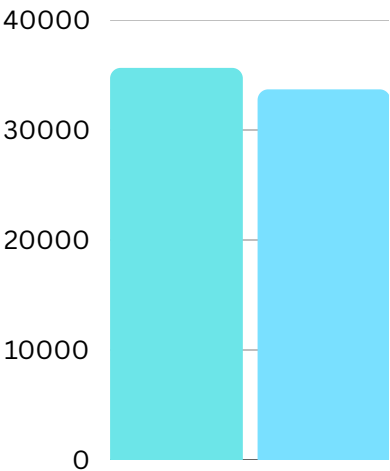
# Key Performance Indicators

## Program Attendance



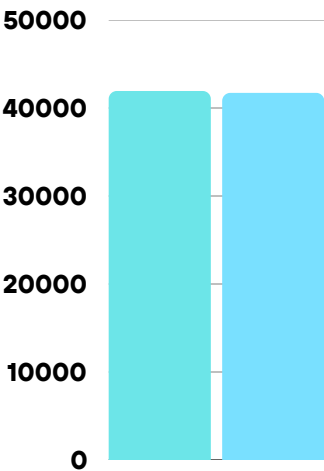
2024 Program Attendance (4979)  
2023 Program Attendance (4630)

## In-Person Visits



2024 In-person visits (35, 646)  
2023 In-person visits (33694)

## Materials Circulation



2024 Materials Circulation (41, 932)  
2023 Materials Circulation (41, 718)

# Innovation

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2024 was a year for new partnerships and expanded programming! From our first Sister Library International Exchange, to our Reading Garden, to expanded Youth Services programs, and securing funds for tele-health options, our library continues to lead peer libraries in delivering a wide range of outstanding programs and services to our community.



## Facing the Future

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After 2024's expansive year, 2025 will be a year of continuity and organizational stability. Trust and clarity of purpose are needed in times of turbulence. This year, the library will be more actively partnering with the Peak-to-Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance to ensure our most disadvantaged community members are being supported. We are also investing in improving physical accessibility to our library resources to better accommodate our patrons with disabilities. New adaptive technologies for patrons with low vision will be available by the summer of 2025.

In 2025 we will also be launching our first outdoor Reading Garden programs on our small stage: stay tuned for live music, authors, and information on how community members can rent the space for their own events.

In partnership with our Sister Library, ZB Bibliotheek in the Netherlands, we will be co-hosting a traveling exhibit showcasing historical, digital collections from both our libraries. We will be featuring fearless women of the 19th and 20th centuries from our regions, Mountains to "Zeeland" (Sea land). Think Nederland's Goldie Griffith, the last of the Wild West Cowgirls!

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