



library
barrington area

FY 2018-2019
Annual Report



During my first visit to the Barrington Area Library in early 2018, I was fascinated by the *Network* art installation in the atrium – the intricately woven cords of different sizes, shapes, and colors intersecting in wild patterns to create a unified and unique piece of art in a public space. I later came to learn the story of *Network* and its beginnings as a collaborative project requiring the time, talent, and contribution of hundreds of local artists and community members.

Like the story of that art installation, many stories begin with heroes answering the call to adventure and embarking on a life-changing quest. Reading through this report, I hope you see yourself among

those heroes: readers, residents, organizations, and dedicated library staff and volunteers who are inspired to learn, create, and contribute daily to make this Library a magical place – and a model for public libraries nationwide.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff of the Barrington Area Library, thank you for answering that call to adventure – we’re here to help you every step of the way.

Best wishes,
Executive Director Jesse Henning

This edition of our annual report takes a deep dive into the Barrington Area Library mission statement and goals. These provide the framework and inspiration for the programs and services we offer to our community.

MISSION:

The Barrington Public Library District

- stimulates imagination
- develops information fluency
- fosters lifelong learning
- creates young readers

in comfortable physical and virtual settings.

GOALS:

Residents of the Barrington Public Library District will have

- materials and services to enrich leisure time.
- skills to find, evaluate, and use information effectively.
- comfortable and convenient environments.
- opportunities for lifelong learning.
- resources to create young readers.

So plunge into the rest of this report – we think you’ll be surprised and delighted at how our mission statement shapes us into a thriving and relevant 21st century public library.

Enabling the Future in the MakerLab

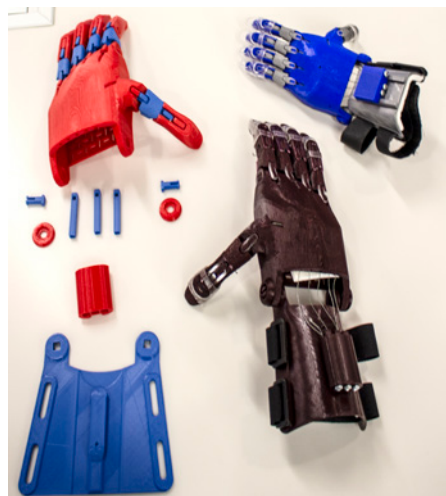
From personalized gifts, one-of-a-kind works of art, and replacement appliance parts, we're amazed at the projects that come out of our MakerLab. We've been particularly inspired by the work of Enabling The Future Barrington, a local chapter of a worldwide organization that uses 3D printing technology to create prosthetic hands for people in need.

To date, Enabling the Future Barrington volunteers from ages 5 – 85 have created almost 100 hands, donated to children in India, China, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, and other areas. While 75% of the printing is handled by a former Barrington alum now living out of state, the Library is proud to handle the remaining 25% of printing, while working with the local chapter to provide an efficient training environment and work space for new volunteers.

Formed in 2017, the local group has partnered with Chicago Cares Serve-a-thon, the Barrington Service League, Barrington High School, and a Barrington Eagle Scout, to name a few. Mentors are trained to teach others and act as International Ambassadors, encouraging and assisting others with starting additional chapters.



Our Digital Services team is proud to partner with Enabling the Future Barrington. Left to right: Chapter President Liam Meyer, Digital Services Manager Mike Campagna, Mentor and Trainer Adriel Arana, Digital Services Specialist Lauren Kelly, volunteers Chase Dyman and Courtney Dyman.



“We can’t say enough wonderful things about Mike and Lauren at the Library. We would not be where we are in this process without their efforts, and the time and care they’ve dedicated to getting things to a very high standard.”

Liam Meyer, President, Enabling The Future Barrington, and Junior at Barrington High School. “It feels really good to be able to make a difference in the world, to help underprivileged people in underprivileged parts of the world. And it’s fun: the people, the technology, and the process.”

Zach Brown, Mentor and Trainer for the Barrington Chapter, International Ambassador, 4th grader at Algonquin Road Elementary School, Fox River Grove. “It’s fun making the hands and helping people. I really like making the fingers, because I like how they move, and using the fishing line. I like helping people that don’t have hands like we do. It makes me feel good!”

The Barrington Public Library

WE HAVE AN
OBLIGATION TO
IMAGINE.
NEIL GAIMAN



ONE AUTHOR
ONE BARRINGTON
APRIL 2019

One Author One Barrington

This month-long celebration in April 2019 encouraged readers to dive into the fantastic worlds of author Neil Gaiman, and more than 500 participants explored their own imaginations through book discussions, arts and crafts, historical lectures, live music, dance, and a magic performance. The Library walls came to life as a colorful selfie gallery and scavenger hunt, too.



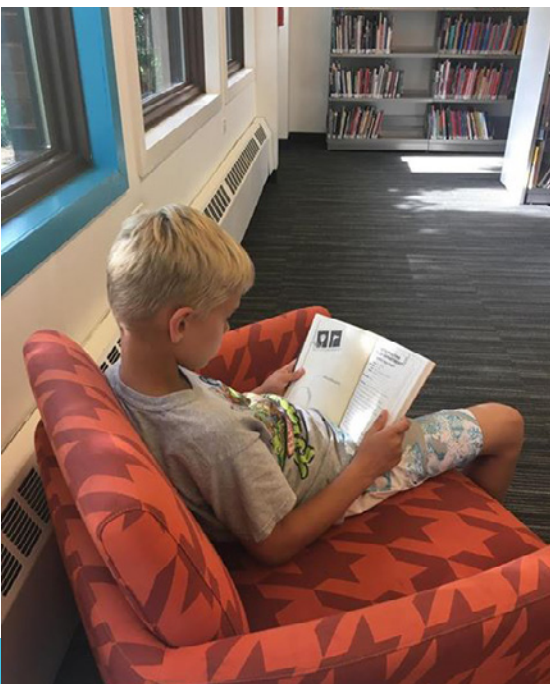
Screen-Free Week in Youth Services

What began as a one-week experiment in June 2018 is now a popular quarterly event. **The Youth Services iPads are stored away for a week, and replaced with a rotating variety of hands-on activities. Children and their families are encouraged to power down and connect with the world** around them by playing, reading, daydreaming, creating, and exploring.

What parents and caregivers say about Screen-Free Week:

"I love these days when you don't have your iPads."

"We love Screen-Free Week!"



"Loved visiting the library during 'screen free' week! My son actually read a book at the library." Jennifer



District stimulates imagination

TEDx BarringtonAreaLibrary

x = independent
organized TED



TEDxBarringtonAreaLibrary

Now entering its fifth year, our TEDxBarringtonAreaLibrary event (TED talks on a local scale) continues to inspire and energize our community. To date, online videos of previous TEDxBarringtonAreaLibrary talks have been viewed almost 29,000 times. Our 2018 speakers – community leaders Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque, Sam Oliver, and Chrissie Mena – shared timeless wisdom and practical knowledge to an appreciative audience.



Maker classes + Creativebug

Maker workshops gained in popularity this year, as customers enjoyed learning about new, state-of-the-art technology like the laser cutter and Carvey, and participating in craft projects with a social purpose, like making blankets for infants in ICU while learning about the life-saving work being done at Lurie Children's Hospital. Our MakerLab averages just under 700 visitors a month!

In late 2018, the Digital Services department added Creativebug to its collection of online learning resources. Presented by Joann Fabrics, Creativebug provides video tutorials for a variety of on-trend arts and crafts such as hand-lettering, sewing, and knitting, free to BALibrary cardholders.

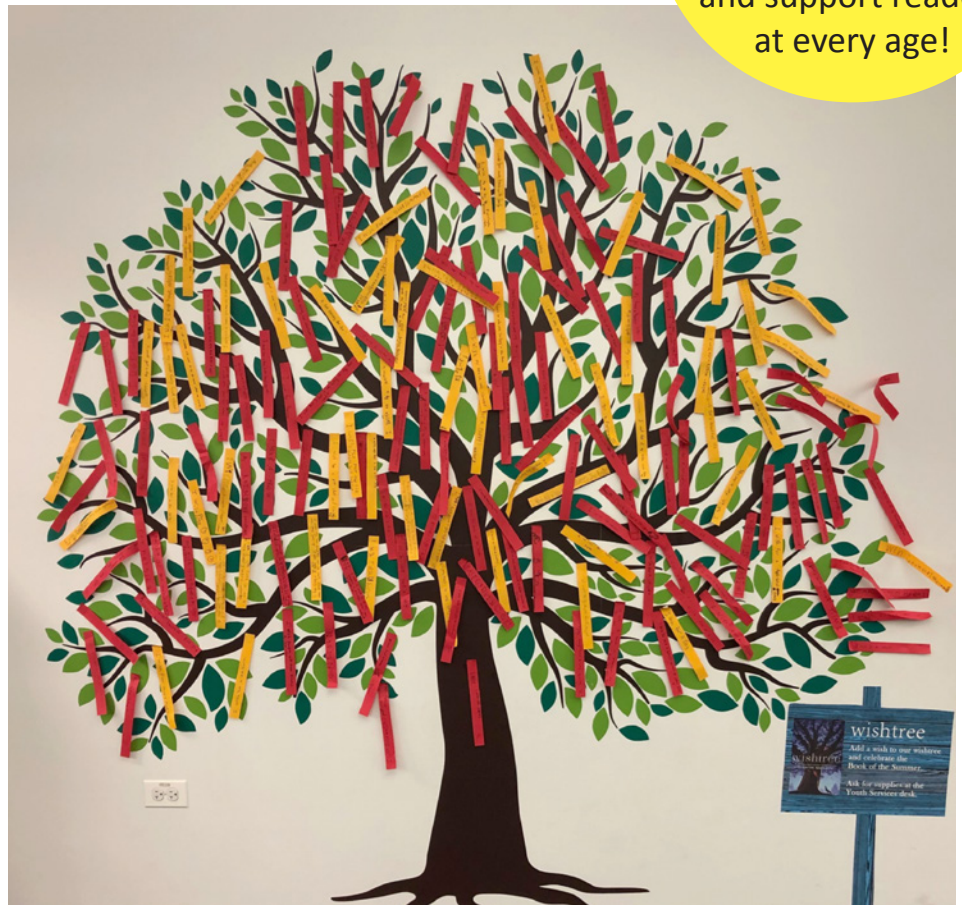
The Barrington Public Library District

Book of the Summer: *The Wild Robot and Wishtree*

In the summer of 2018, the Youth Services department explored the idea of a summer-long community read, focusing on the book *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. Children and families were encouraged to read the book, hold book discussions, and participate in Library programs that explored themes and topics found in the story.

The Wild Robot proved so successful that Book of the Summer was expanded in 2019 to include adult and teen readers as well, with Katherine Applegate's *Wishtree* as the selected title. More than 360 copies of the book and audiobook were checked out, 174 wishes were left on the Youth Services wishtree, and enthusiasm for the book led to thoughtful conversations and creative works inspired by the story.

While our mission statement specifically spells out "young readers," we strive to encourage and support readers at every age!



ict creates (young) readers

Other ways in which we create and support readers:

Story Time Nature Walk with Crabtree Nature Center: this popular recurring program combines story time with outdoor exploration and learning in a beautiful natural setting.

Local Author Fair: another popular event that has given dozens of authors across many genres the opportunity to find new readers. The Library has held five Local Author Fairs, welcoming hundreds of attendees.



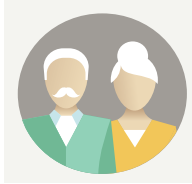
More ways we support a community of readers:

Summer Reading and Winter Library Club, Story Fest, book discussions for every age, a cookbook club, book talks by local authors and our own librarians, tech workshops on downloading e-books and audiobooks – and, of course, more than 164,000 books, magazines, e-books, and audiobooks for you to check out!



The Barrington Public Library District develops information fluency

Information fluency and critical literacy are important tools in the work of building a happy, healthy, successful life. The Library strives to provide resources and programs that empower our customers to ask questions, identify information sources, select accurate and relevant sources, draw conclusions from those sources, and present their findings.



Examples:

When I'm 64: this annual series of expert speakers on “aging well” – Medicare, Social Security, housing, cash flow, long-term care, wellness – is co-sponsored by the Barrington Area Council on Aging.



Find Your Funding: Community Engagement Librarian Sam Adams-Lanham provides workshops throughout the year to introduce local non-profits to Foundation Directory Online, a resource to help them identify potential funders and grants.



Local Candidate Forum: in collaboration with the League of Women Voters – Palatine Area, the Library hosted a moderated forum with candidates for local office in October 2018.



Start Here, Change A Life: a panel of experts provided information about sponsorship, mentoring, foster care, and adoption from a panel of experts, including representatives from DCFS, the Boys & Girls Club, CASA Lake County, and Let It Be Us, who cosponsored this event with the Library.

VOLUNTEER MATCH

Since the Library already serves as a meeting and gathering place in the heart of our community, it makes good sense for us to play a role in building relationships, too. Our annual Volunteer Match is a perfect example. Local non-profit organizations are invited to attend and share information about their overall mission and specific volunteer needs. Community residents are also invited, and everybody wins: non-profits get more help in accomplishing their goals, and volunteers find satisfying, challenging opportunities right in their own backyards. Watch for more Volunteer Match events in 2020.



The Barrington Public Library District fosters lifelong learning



Rootsfest

Rootsfest was a celebratory wrap-up to more than a year of events and programming themed around the *Network* art installation. We invited ten local nature- and conservation-focused nonprofit organizations to bring displays, activities, and information. Wonderful live music, plein air painters, a coffee bar provided by Cook Street Coffee and other refreshments, and hands-on art projects gave the day a festival feeling, enjoyed by more than 300 attendees.

“All exhibits interesting and/or entertaining.”

“Loved it all, especially the music!”

“Everyone needs to know about this event.”

“Wonderful afternoon with my grandchildren.”

“Something for everyone, great community activity.”



The Barrington Public Library District fosters lifelong learning



Steen Metz presentation

The Library was honored to welcome Mr. Steen Metz, local resident and survivor of the Holocaust. Mr. Metz spoke to a packed house in September 2018, sharing the difficult story of being arrested at the age of just eight years old, and being deported with his family to the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp. Attendees of all ages brought their questions and joined in the discussion. Watch the video here:

<http://bit.ly/steenmetz>



Media Fair

In the spirit of our Local Author Fair, this new event shone the spotlight on 16 bloggers, podcasters, online shop owners, and other creative types working with new media. Visitors had the opportunity to discover new sources of information and entertainment, and to learn more about what it takes to get started as an entrepreneur in these exciting and constantly growing fields.



Local History, Family Ties

When you're ready to dig into your roots, the Barrington Area Library is the perfect place to start. Many Library customers feel a strong sense of pride about their Barrington area roots, and we're proud of our extensive local history collection, maintained by a team of expert staff and enthusiastic volunteers. Visit www.balibrary.org/local-history to explore vintage photographs, maps, historical newspapers, even old telephone directories.

This year, we added regular Genealogy Help Desk sessions to our calendar, to help customers discover our wide range of online genealogy research tools, like Ancestry, Fold3, FamilySearch, and HeritageQuest.

[Find those resources on our website.](#)

Elgin Symphony Orchestra Listeners Club

The Library was pleased to begin a new partnership with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, hosting Listeners Club events on Thursdays before ESO concert weekends.

Led by enthusiastic music lecturer, composer, and radio personality Jim Kendros, these lectures/discussions are bringing in classical music aficionados and curious listeners eager to learn more about the music they love.

Funding for these events is being provided by the Barrington Area Community Foundation – another example of a fruitful local partnership.

...in comfortable physical and virtual settings.

New Library App

After more than a year in development, the Library rolled out its new custom app in June 2019. The new app allows users to:

- Access a digital version of their BALibrary card
- Manage multiple accounts
- Search the catalog for books, movies, and more
- Browse and register for events
- Contact the Library with questions, and find us on social media

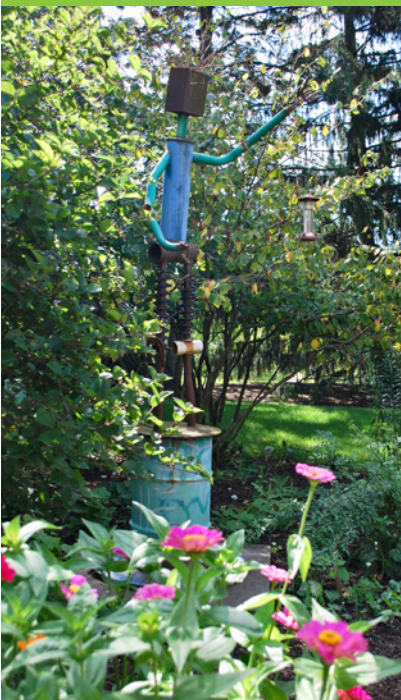
We truly appreciate the compliments and helpful feedback about the app that we've received from customers. Haven't tried it yet? **Download the app for free now in the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple App Store](#).**



Campus Improvements

Significant repairs and improvements were made to the Library property over the past year.

- The lower parking lot was completely rebuilt. The upper parking lot was resurfaced and repaired.
- New outdoor lighting was installed around the parking lots, sidewalks, and plaza.
- The plaza stairs were repaired. Driveways and parking lots were restriped.
- Landscaping was improved.



In addition, a group of Library employees volunteered their time to clean up and revive the garden area in the southeast corner of the Library campus. Visible from the second floor study area, the garden is now a colorful oasis for humans and pollinators.





We circulated 880,849 items – both digital and physical

The Library currently owns...

- **113,270** print items
- **11,713** CDs and Audiobooks
- **18,345** DVD & Blu-rays
- **34,799** e-Books
- **12,407** e-Audiobooks
- **3,108** downloadable videos

Popular Titles:

Fiction: *The Woman In The Window*, A.J. Finn

Book Club: *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, Gail Honeyman

Biography: *Educated: A Memoir*, Tara Westover

Juvenile Fiction: *Wishtree*, Katherine Applegate

Movie: *The Greatest Showman*

25,333 resident cardholders and 5,918 reciprocal borrowers checked out an average of 28 items each

Customers placed an average of **6,879** hold requests each month

The average turnaround time between a customer's hold request and the item being ready for pick-up is less than **4** hours.

8,812 orders on items to be delivered to our lockers





Visits:

317,729 visits – nearly **900** per day

1,760 community meetings in the Zimmerman and Meeting Rooms

8,338 study room sessions for collaboration and independent work

22 study room bookings across **9** rooms per day

Our meeting rooms are available free of charge – a valuable and much-needed community service!

Programs:

744 children's programs for **28,857** children and caregivers

14 passive participation children's programs, with **7,555** participants

22 Young Adult programs for **1,536** teens

287 adult programs for **8,104** attendees

Staff Expertise:

Customers signed up for **410** one-on-one appointments this year – from e-book help to MakerLab tutorials

Staff answered a total of **16,486** reference and readers' advisory questions





Twitter

“Happy to hear from the @balibrary about exciting summer reading activities! #broserreads” @Blessman239 via Twitter

“Thank you to my favorite place @balibrary #NationalLibraryWeek” @SchulhofSusan via Twitter

“What a great #ComiCon by @balibrary. Plenty to do for kids...local artists, @BarringtonHS220 kids volunteering all over. So much that it tired my kids out! Can’t ask for a better local library!”

@Waxler81 via Twitter

“I spent so much time at the @balibrary as a child, it’s hard to imagine the person I’d be without it. Love your libraries.”

@philocats via Twitter

“Story Fest at the Barrington Area Library was a fantastic way to spend a Sunday afternoon! I was happy to see so many Barrington 220 families there. #NBSColtPride @balibrary”

@NBSLibrary via Twitter



Google

Five Star Review ★★★★★

“I’m a middle schooler who walks here almost everyday (except for Wednesday and Thursday) and every time I walk in I’m always greeted with a friendly hello. This place is probably one of the nicest and friendliest libraries I know. Everyone should be proud of this. And especially all of the sections you have are so well planned out and I have seen some not planned ones. Keep up the good work.” R. Sasser via Google

Five Star Review ★★★★★

“Awesome library. You must go here with your little kids. They have a lot of things for you and the kids to do. They even have a studio room.. they have a lot of of movies and games you can rent blueray disc too. They have this cool little backpack kits you can rent and do with your kids. If you live close to this library you must go.” Joe G Family via Google



Reviews and comments



Five Star Review ★★★★★

“Knowledgeable staff, outstanding facility and awesome collections....couldn’t ask for any more from a library!”

JC via Google

Five Star Review ★★★★★

“Beautiful library and lots of kid friendly things to do! Gotta love a life size Lite Brite board !! The slide is awesome too for the little ones!” **T DiCarlo via Google**

Facebook



“Love the new app! So excited to have easy access to my library card, search for books while walking around and check on my account. This is such a great tool to have. Thank you to everyone involved.” **T. de Harde via Facebook**

RE: the new Library app – “This has been great! A replacement for the physical library card, which I often don’t carry with me. Thanks!” **M. Delack via Facebook**

“Thank you! Martina Mathisen gave a fantastic performance. Hope to see her perform again.” **J. Lucas via Facebook**

RE: TEDxBarringtonAreaLibrary – “Thank you for organizing this lovely event tonight!” **D. Young via Facebook**

Instagram



“The kindergarten students from @stanneschoolbarrington are having so much fun at @barringtonarealibrary Thank you for hosting us!!” **Inspired_apple1 via Instagram**

“Super envious of this beautiful library #workfieldtrip #barringtonlibrary” **therealschoenherr via Instagram**

“Thank you @barringtonarealibrary for having me at the local author fair!” **daynazimm via Instagram**

“I stumbled upon this event on Facebook, and I had to show up for this wonderful cause! Looking forward to more community opportunities like this. Thank you for organizing.” **maharani.millie via Instagram**

Better Together

This year, the Barrington Area Library partnered with 78 local nonprofit organizations and businesses. These creative collaborations resulted in co-hosted events, outreach visits, off-site programming, Summer Reading incentives, art exhibits, and unique opportunities like Volunteer Match, Rootsfest, MAKE With A Mission, and more. We offer our sincere thanks to all of our local partners – **let's keep making great things happen together!**

AARP

American Legion

Anna Shea Chocolates

Art In Nature

Barrington 220 School District and Schools

Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce

Barrington Area Community Foundation

Barrington Area Conservation Trust

Barrington Area Council of Governments

Barrington Area Council on Aging

Barrington Area Development Council

Barrington Area Moms Demand Action

Barrington Area United Way

Barrington Bank & Trust Company

Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club

Barrington Cultural Arts Center

Barrington Cultural Commission

Barrington Farmers Market

Barrington Lions Club

Barrington Park District

Barrington Township Food Pantry

Barrington's White House

Bartlett Tree Experts

Billet-Doux Stationery

BStrong Together

California Pizza Kitchen

Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies,
Northern Illinois University

Chicago Master Gardeners

Chicago Wood Turners

Ciao Baby

Citizens For Conservation

College of DuPage

Community Career Center

Cook Street Coffee

Crabtree Nature Center

Cuba Township Food Pantry

Daughters of the American Revolution –
Signal Hill Chapter

Douglas Automotive

Edward Jones

Elgin Symphony Orchestra

Ella Bonella

FISH Food Pantry

Flint Creek/Spring Creek

The Garlands of Barrington

Girl Scouts - Northern Illinois

Go Green Barrington

Heinen's

Hope's In

JourneyCare/JourneyLife

Kaleidoscope School of Fine Art

Lake County Forest Preserve District

League of Women Voters – Palatine Area

Let It Be Us

Lurie Children's Hospital

Mane In Heaven

McGonigal's

National Alliance on Mental Illness–
Barrington Area

Native Seed Gardeners

NeuroBalance

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Pinot's Palette

Pinstripes – South Barrington

POSRG

Quintessential Barrington

Rahab's Daughters

St. Anne's School

St. Anne's Young At Heart

Savory Salads

SCORE (volunteer business mentors)

Shakou

Small Business Administration Illinois office

Smart Farm

SOUL Harbour Ranch

South Barrington Park District

Starship Travel

Walk-On Farm

Windy City Bulls

WINGS