

ANNUAL REPORT

CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

625 NE 4th Avenue
Camas, WA 98607
360.834.4692
www.camaslibrary.org

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A department of the City of Camas



ABOUT THE LIBRARY



Camas Public Library is the only independent, municipal library in Clark County, Washington. Its jurisdiction extends to the city limits of Camas and, through reciprocal borrowing agreements, the Library serves patrons throughout the region. Likewise, Camas residents enjoy borrowing privileges at most Pacific Northwest libraries. The beautiful building is approximately 35,000 square feet and held 96,006 physical volumes at the end of 2021.

The Library is governed by the City of Camas with support from the citizen-comprised Board of Trustees.

The 2021 Library Board Trustees were:

Rosemary Knapp, Chair

Julie Hill, Vice Chair

Jen Smith, Secretary

Robin Owens Webster, Trustee

Jessie Wimer, Trustee

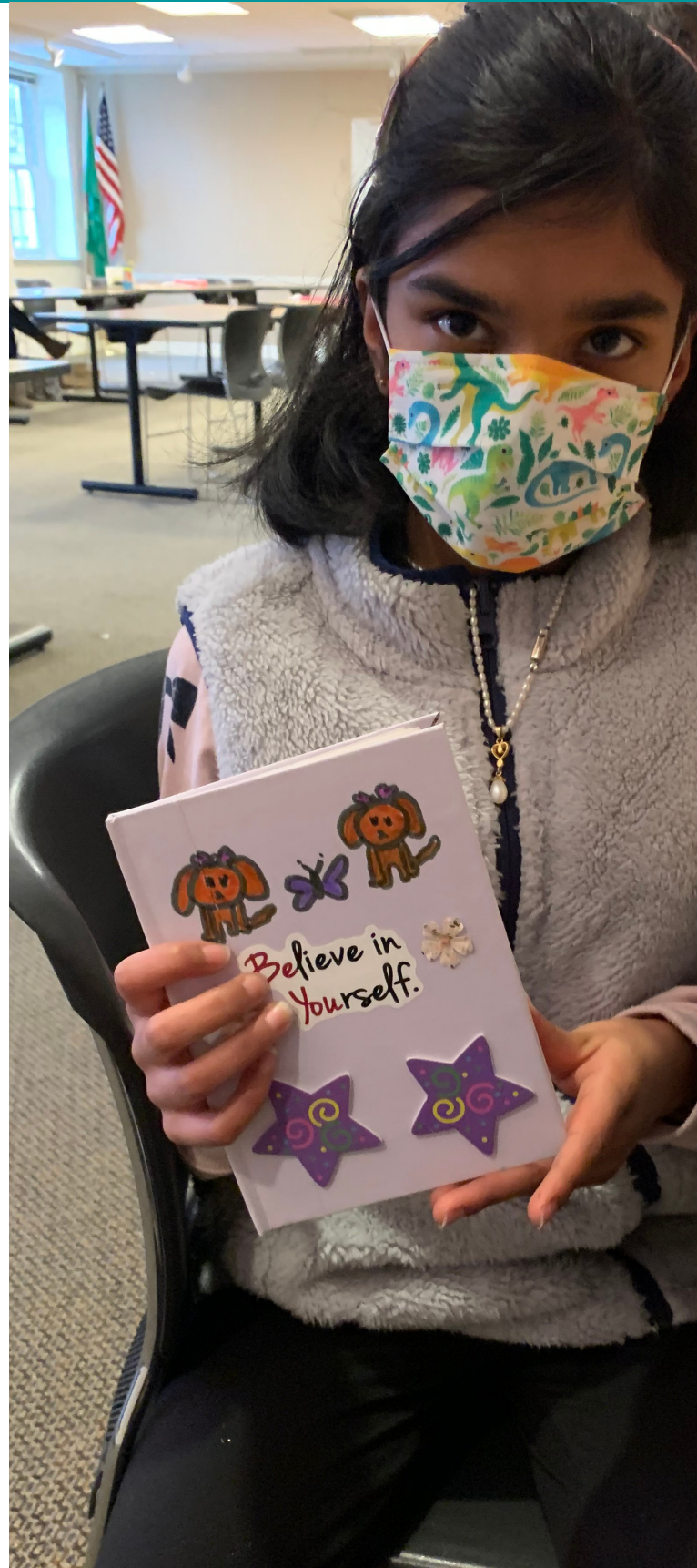
Bonnie Carter, Councilmember Liaison

Our mission: We Share, Explore, Reach, Value, Enrich. We SERVE our community.

Our vision: We bring families together, make people happy, provide patrons with information, foster community connections, and welcome everyone.

Our values: Be friendly, embrace growth, encourage collaboration, and inspire each other.

Our equity statement: We pledge to educate, engage, act, and change to create a race equity culture in the Library and its community. This will be filtered through our mission, vision, and decision principles.



YEAR IN REVIEW



"Thanks for being flexible."

I found myself repeating these four words quite a bit in 2021. To staff, as we *tried* to plan for big events like Summer Reading and Read for Change, or small ones like book clubs, when we didn't know if they'd be held virtually or in person. I said it to patrons, who understood that sometimes it was necessary to shift plans and services, and who kept coming back to storytime even when it was held in the park in October. And I said it to stakeholders, who missed meeting in person but acknowledged the need for virtual meetings.

Flexibility was key to our success in 2021. We kept an open mind when it was best to reopen the Library, and did so on March 15. With safety protocols in place, we haven't had to close again due to Covid since. In addition, we asked the community to choose the theme of the second-annual *Read for Change* and adapted the events and book around the winning choice--community healing. Born out of the theme, the *Block Party at the Library* was a highlight of the year. Finally, our staff continue to discover and dream up creative new ways to serve our community given Covid protocols. I'm grateful to them for putting you first, and I'm grateful to you, our community, for--you guessed it--being flexible.

-Connie Urquhart, Library Director



MOVING BOOKSHELVES



PREPARING TO REOPEN



PREPARING TO REOPEN



CURBSIDE PICKUP STATION

BY THE NUMBERS



IN-PERSON VISITS

2019: 544,458
2020: 34,086 January - March
2021: 56,244 March 15 - December

CURBSIDE PICKUPS

2019: N/A
2020: 7,225 June - December
2021: 3,970

CATALOG VISITS

2019: 27,942
2020: 58,104
2021: 43,511



2,723
new patrons

LAST YEAR: 1,286

LIBRARY APP USE

The Library added a mobile app to its offerings in April. By December,

495

patrons had downloaded the app (75% of those on Apple devices). Also, the app had been used

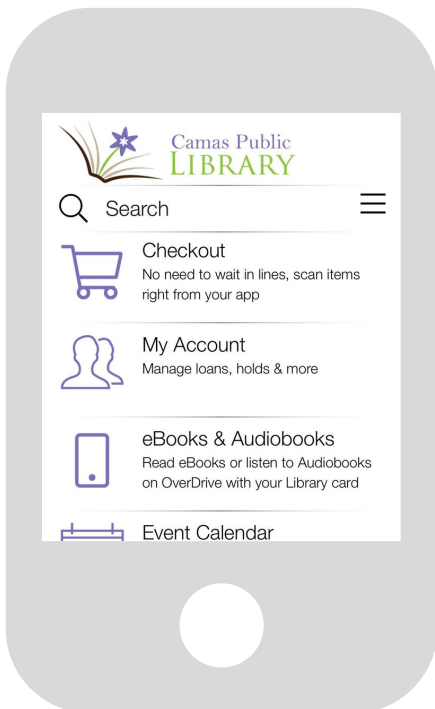
7,374

times for self-checkouts, searching the catalog, managing user accounts, and much more.

21,470

total borrowers

LAST YEAR: 18,823



BY THE NUMBERS

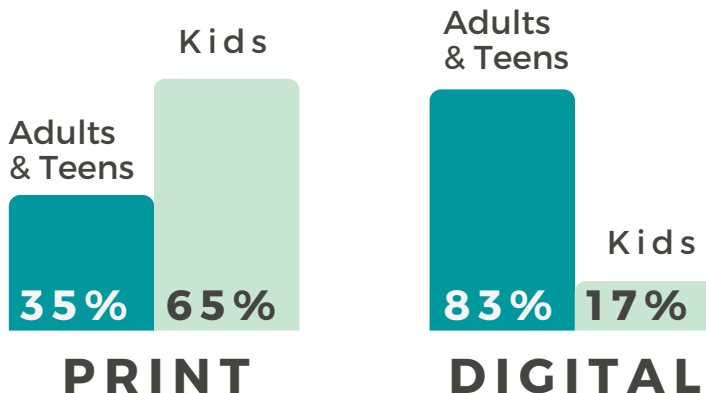
Collection Use



347,782

Checkouts in 2021

THIS IS A **33% INCREASE** FROM 2020
AND A **2% DECREASE** FROM 2019



The results are in, and...

In 2021, children outpaced adults and teens with nearly double the checkouts from our print collection. From our digital collection, the story is completely flipped, and then some.

COLLECTION USE: BEFORE AND DURING THE PANDEMIC

Collection	2019	2020	2021	Change compared to 2020	Change compared to 2019
Adult Fiction	61,842	54,641	71,725	31% ↑	14% ↑
Adult Nonfiction	46,917	30,904	38,933	26% ↑	-21% ↓
Teen Fiction	12,000	14,573	21,982	51% ↑	45% ↑
Teen Graphic Novels	5,053	2,041	5,567	63% ↑	9% ↑
Children's Fiction	32,935	26,154	39,338	50% ↑	16% ↑
Children's Nonfiction	34,422	19,763	32,819	66% ↑	-5% ↓
Children's Graphic Novels	11,042	5,808	14,813	155% ↑	25% ↑
Picture Books	54,954	31,536	53,938	71% ↑	-2% ↓
DVDs: Children's	8,552	3,743	4,538	21% ↑	-88% ↓
DVDs: Feature Films	17,204	8,050	7,997	-1% ↓	-115% ↓
DVDs: Nonfiction	855	608	1,117	84% ↑	23% ↑

CHECK OUT

WHAT CHECKED OUT

{Top 5 in each area*}



ADULT FICTION

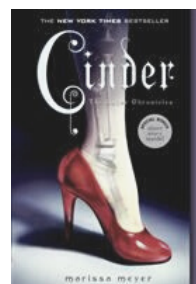
1. *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
2. *The People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry
3. *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
4. *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
5. *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller

*Circulation numbers in each category are the sum total of print, ebooks, and audiobooks checkouts, wherever distinctions are made available.



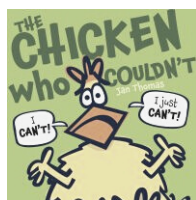
ADULT NONFICTION

1. *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama
2. *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson
3. *Atomic Habits* by James Clear
4. *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey
5. *Nomadland: surviving America in the twenty-first century* by Jessica Bruder



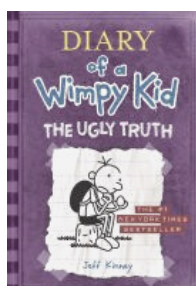
TEEN FICTION

1. *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer
2. *Five Total Strangers* by Natalie D. Richards
3. *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins
4. *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins
5. *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas



CHILDREN'S EARLY READING

1. *The Chicken Who Couldn't* by Jan Thomas
2. *5-Minute Girl Power Stories* by Disney
3. *Alien Tomato* by Kristen Schroeder
4. *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon* by Kat Zhang
5. *I'm a Frog!* by Mo Willems



CHILDREN'S FICTION & NONFICTION

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u><i>The Ugly Truth</i></u> | 1. <u><i>Getting to Know...Nature's Children</i></u> |
| 2. <u><i>Old School</i></u> | 2. <u><i>LEGO Play Book</i></u> |
| 3. <u><i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i></u> | 3. <u><i>Minecraft Guide Collection</i></u> |
| 4. <u><i>Dog Days</i></u> | 4. <u><i>Minecraft: Guide to Ocean Survival</i></u> |
| 5. <u><i>The Last Straw</i></u> | 5. <u><i>Minecraft: Redstone Handbook</i></u> |



All of our top-circulating children's fiction titles are from the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Where we went

- Back to School Nights
- BookMoBus stops
- Farmer's Market
- Kindergarten orientation
- Liberty Middle School class visits
- Read to Grow preschool storytimes
- Virtual classroom visits

Who we saw

1,180 kids

234 teens

462 adults

Top events

- BookMoBus** July 7: 321 people
- Back to School Night** August 26: 236 people
- BookMoBus** July 14: 229 people
- BookMoBus** July 21: 223 people
- BookMoBus** July 28: 195 people

With a total of 41 outreach events this year



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



BOOKMOBUS STOP



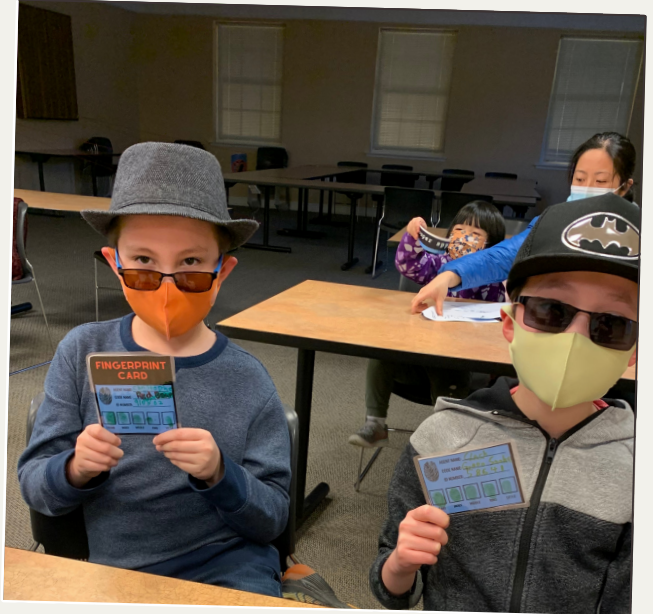
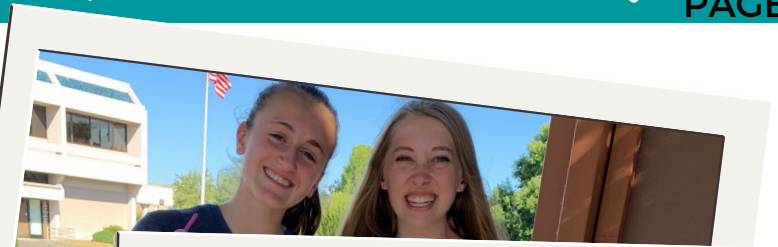
FARMER'S MARKET

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

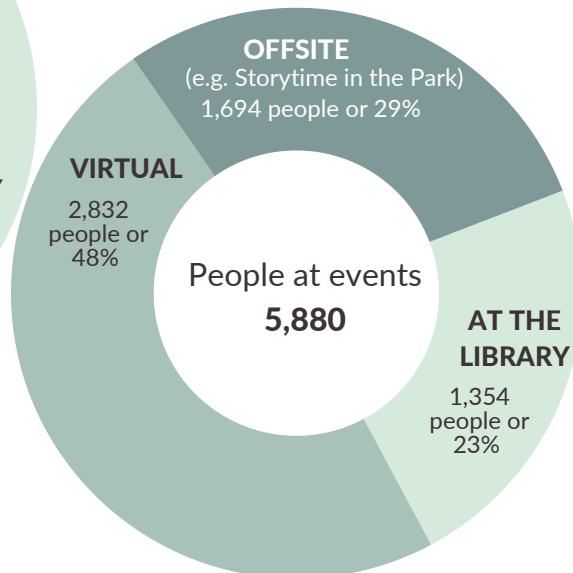
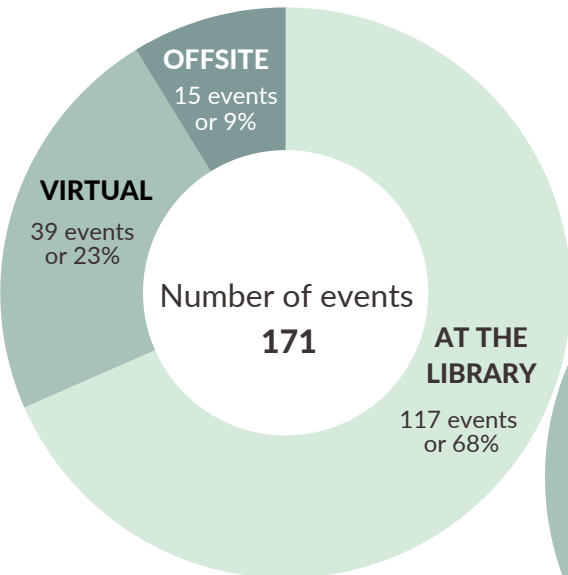
At the Library



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SPY SCHOOL



HOW YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR EVENTS



NEWSLETTER
15,146 subscribers



SOCIAL MEDIA
4,776 follows



PARTNERS
Camas School District,
Downtown Camas
Association, Friends &
Foundation of the
Camas Library, Camas
Parks & Recreation
and more!

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT



Reading Programs

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Summer Reading

THEME

Rediscover Your Library

PARTICIPANTS

Kids: 886
Teens: 128
Adults: 292



EVENTS

45

ATTENDEES AT EVENTS

1,471



Soap Carving for Teens, August 2021.

Book Clubs

ADULTS

Cover to Cover
Meet Cute
Books read: 18

TEENS

Mind Readers
Rainbow Reads
Books read: 8

KIDS

Page Turners
Story Explorers
Books read: 18



Community Block Party, July 2021.

READ FOR CHANGE

THEME

Community Healing

Chosen by our community via several surveys

BOOK

Beartown by Fredrik Backman

Free books given to community: 217

EVENTS

16

ATTENDEES AT EVENTS

822



EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

From a Distance



STORYTIME IN THE PARK

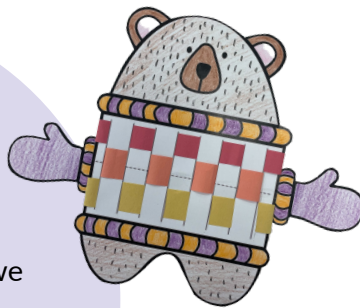
TOP 5 MOST WELL-ATTENDED EVENTS

		<u>Attendance</u>
July 23	Block Party at the Library	500
June 12	Badge Book Pick-Up	225
July 15	Storytime in the Park, Louis Bloch Park	136
July 08	Storytime in the Park, Fallen Leaf Lake Park	117
July 22	Storytime in the Park, Lacamas Park	108

The biggest crowds drawn to Library programs this year were all to events held outside of the Library building itself. The Block Party and the Badge Book Pick-Up were both on Library grounds but outdoors, while the storytimes were outside in various parks. This could be attributed to any combination of limited indoor room capacity or indoor programs offered, and the desire families had to socially distance (but still to leave their homes!).

TAKE & MAKES

The Library's doors reopened in 2021, but we continued to offer activities for patrons to enjoy from the safety of their homes. For this, *Take & Makes* were a great choice. These could be anything from a simple craft for preschoolers to intricate DIY kits for adults. We define them as any take-home kit not also combined with virtual components. Popular kits included Sweater Bear (pictured), Tiny Art, and Crystal Snowflakes.



1,468

KITS PICKED UP

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



240 online events with 2,911 participants

Top events: Introduction to Pacific Northwest Ecology; Bring Back the Pollinators; and Winter Bingo



Kid Librarian was a popular way to connect with community via social media.

Kid Librarian

In 2021, 8 kids gave book recommendations and shared their artwork.

It's one of our most popular social features, and all of our 2022 slots are booked!





CAMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY 2022 Work Plan



BUILDING NEEDS

HVAC replacement

Roof

Courtyard*

Early Learning Center*

STEM Room*

Security system replacement, including door locks/keys

Replace doors at 4th and 5th Ave entrances

Teen Room Renewal Phase II

New furniture (lounge seating highest priority)

Replace monument signs

*These projects could be folded into one renovation, tied into early learning



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Planning stage

Staff training

Community conversations

Surveys

Asset mapping

Mission, Vision, Values

Analyze, synthesize

Communicate



SPECIAL PROJECTS

STEM Kits

Launchpad

Northstar Digital Literacy

Diverse Book Audit Follow Up

Authority Processing

Collection Maintenance, Focus on Large Print, Picture Book, Adult Nonfiction

Gallery Reboot

Volunteers: submit budget proposal for coordinator, procure volunteer management software



The City of Camas will be working through an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation process in 2022 and staff will be heavily involved in this project. The new software will impact all City staff, including Library.