

GRAND FORKS PUBLIC

A playground for **curious minds.**

WELCOMING
INNOVATIVE
CREATIVE
FUN
CURIOUS
CONNECTED
ADAPTABLE

2020
IMPACT REPORT



MISSION

To connect the community, inspire innovation, & encourage curiosity.

VISION

Grand Forks Public_ is a playground for curious minds.
We help people discover dreams, grow ideas, & change lives.

VALUES

Compassion & Connection
Inspiration & Innovation
Discovery & Curiosity

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

“A vibrant library has the power to strengthen communities and change lives.”

-Wendy Wendt, Library Director

BOARD MESSAGE

Twenty-twenty zoomed by. Literally. We had countless Zoom meetings, and we stayed busy pivoting to virtual programs, Curbside Pickup, Take & Make projects, and more. It was a year of constantly stepping outside of our comfort zones and rolling with the changes.

Staff at Grand Forks Public found new ways to continue providing library services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We decided to go where the people are—home. We promoted our digital collection through Libby, encouraging audiobooks and eBooks for education and escape, and connected people with our vast online databases, including Ancestry resources, homework help, art tutorials, language learning, and more. We rolled up our sleeves and created virtual programming, including over 120 videos featuring regular storytimes, at-home craft projects, and book recommendations. (We even tried our hand at a music video and dance video. We'll stick to our day jobs.) We kept our Wi-Fi on in the parking lot throughout the spring, allowing people to connect to it from the parking lot while the building was closed.



Once a brand-new service, Curbside Pickup, started in July and we were mostly back in the building, we started finding additional ways to help our community from a safe distance. From printing and technology services to State Park passes for socially distanced getaways to convenient book bundle options—library staff continually found new ways to do what they do best: serve.

Behind the scenes, a full renovation continued, transforming the library into a colorful, modern space. The “playground for curious minds” is now complete with a giant pink slide, thick wooden swings, bright lights, fresh carpet, and cozy, colorful new furniture throughout.

Grand Forks Public is our community’s place for connection, innovation, curiosity, and creativity—and has been for the last 121 years!

-Justin Berry, President

Grand Forks Public was recognized as a 2020 North Dakota Star Library. This award from the North Dakota State Library is given based on a series of criteria including circulation by population, program attendance, Wi-Fi usage, and more.



FRIENDS MESSAGE

Grand Forks Public Friends is a group of enthusiastic volunteers that supports the library and its mission by raising funds and promoting library programs and services in the community.

While our activities and programs were reduced in 2020 because of the pandemic, we were able to roll out one new program that worked perfectly in conjunction with the library's new curbside pickup service. We introduced the Teen Novel(ties) Book Box Subscription. This monthly themed box allows teens to enjoy a book handpicked by a librarian, paired with an assortment of "novelties"! The teens take the box home, open it, and enjoy the contents. The box and book are returned to Grand Forks Public. The program has already grown in subscriptions, and we were excited to reach an age group to whom we've not been able to adequately highlight services.



Debbie McLennan

Major Benefactor of the Year
North Dakota Library Association

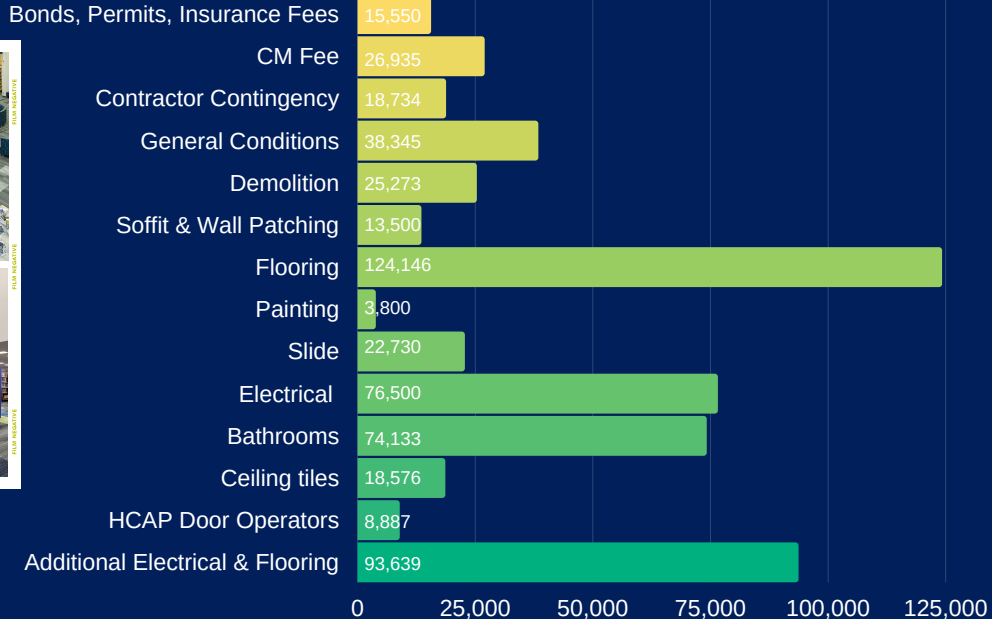
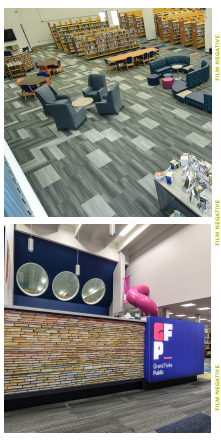
During 2020 we were also honored to have one of our own members, Friends President Debbie McLennan, recognized as the Major Benefactor of the Year by the North Dakota Library Association. This award is given to a person or persons who have made significant contributions to a library or libraries in North Dakota.

In her nomination, Wendy Wendt, director of Grand Forks Public, wrote: “Debbie is a compassionate and enthusiastic voice when we at the library most need it. When we’re getting out of our comfort zones, trying new things, experimenting, and exploring what a library can be and do, she’s the person who tells us to go for it, gives us moral support, and encourages us to request funds from the Grand Forks Public Friends.” Debbie says she never would have received this award without the support of the Friends board and members for all the “crazy” ideas she’s proposed, or without the library staff who provide the great programs and services the Friends promote. Congratulations, Debbie!

If you’d like to be involved in this dynamic group, please consider becoming a member. Annual membership dues, which are very minimal, can make a large impact when we work together. Membership information can be found in the library or on the library’s website: gflibrary.com.



RENOVATION COST BREAKDOWN



\$560,748
Total Investment

REVENUE**2020****2019**

City of Grand Forks	\$1,989,599	\$1,946,075
Grand Forks County	\$810,490	\$765,057
State Aid/Intergovernmental	\$158,375	\$161,110
Grants	\$15,000	\$5,000
Library Fees/Services	\$6,494	\$31,241
Donations/Interest	\$26,430	\$55,735
Total	\$3,008,408	\$2,964,218

EXPENDITURES

Wages & Salaries	\$1,316,568	\$1,276,986
Benefits	\$555,394	\$500,064
Supplies	\$61,200	\$63,400
Utilities	\$55,075	\$61,768
Services & Contracts	\$170,245	\$200,970
Building Maintenance	\$83,067	\$69,640
Operating Expenses	\$57,927	\$81,584
Books & Periodicals	\$127,179	\$180,629
Capital Expenditures	\$39,415	\$4,502
Transfer to Capital Account	\$200,000	\$350,000
Total	\$2,666,070	\$2,789,543

1 CONNECT

- _ Create a warm, energetic atmosphere that inspires all who enter it & serves as the community's living room.
- _ Deliver an exceptional experience for every patron, at every encounter.

2 DISCOVER

- _ Bring bold & creative adventures to the library's physical & online presence, inviting curious minds to never stop exploring.
- _ Meet customers where they are—in the library & beyond the library walls.

3 INNOVATE

- _ Serve as a Technology Innovator and Idea Lab.
- _ Empower staff to bring fresh ideas to the table & experiment with new offerings, focusing on community needs to inspire our direction.



THEN & NOW





35,665

audiobooks checked out



50,426

ebooks checked out



7,694

items added to collection



905

new cards issued



14,335

items loaned via Curbside



5,977

reference questions answered



145,435

website visits



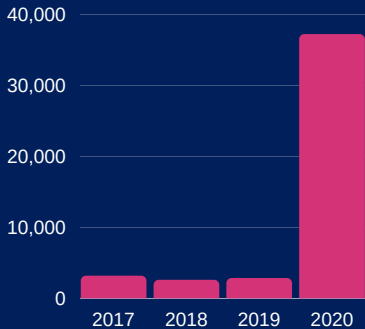
52,253

Wi-Fi sessions

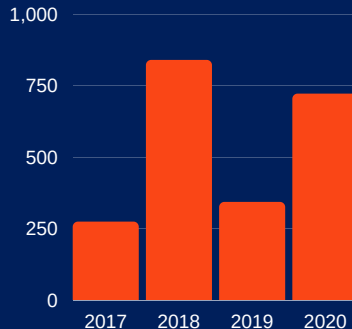


84,823

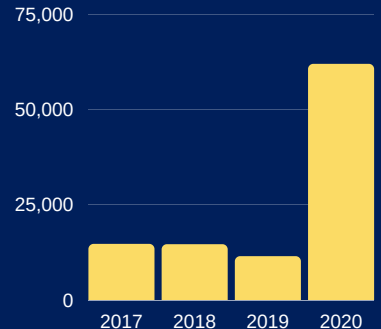
virtual program views



ADULT PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



TEEN PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



CHILDREN PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



ONLINE DATABASE LOGINS



EBOOK & AUDIOBOOK CHECKOUTS



LIBRARY2GO USERS

Grand Forks Public
2110 Library Circle
Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-8116

gflibrary.com

