



2013 Annual Report



Grand Forks Public Library
2110 Library Circle
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www.GFLibrary.com

Letter from the Library Board President

If supporters of the Grand Forks Public Library will remember 2013 for anything, I hope it will be the work countless volunteers, staff, and public officials did to get a library facility project moving forward again. For although GFPL saw its share of challenges in 2013, mostly facilities-related, it is also true that this year was the one in which we all, as a community team, successfully laid the groundwork for finally answering “the library question” for Grand Forks.

For the entire 2013 year an all-volunteer Library Working Group held focus groups with countless civic organizations, gathered data on 21st Century library trends, and debated the need for public information services in the community. The result of this work was a report—released to the public in October—that encouraged the Library Board and local governmental officials pursue a renewed effort to solve what has become a chronic GFPL facility problem. As the report notes, “A public library is an investment in the people of a community, a great equalizer of knowledge and aspiration. The social and economic benefits extend to citizens of all ages and income levels. The GFPL is well used and citizens have voiced support, but the current facility is maxed out, aging, and inflexible.” For these reasons and more, the report recommends, “A new facility is the most cost-effective, flexible solution to meet the future needs of a growing Grand Forks Region.”

So say we all. A tremendous thank you goes out to this Working Group and its Co-Chairs Sandi Marshall and Molly Soeby.

So it is that, having learned from the past and looking optimistically toward the future, the GFPL Board of Trustees has followed-up on several of the Working Group’s recommendations, including cultivating partnerships with local organizations (public and private) whose missions parallel ours, working to establish a Library Foundation to help attract private money to help defray the public cost of any future building projects, telling better the library story to the public and getting the community more involved in the effort.

In this way the GFPL Board hopes to build on the foundation laid by the Library Working Group in 2013 and move forward on a major building project in 2014. As an exercise in creative place-making, the positive impact a new library facility will have on Grand Forks is easy both to quantify and imagine. The increase in poverty in the state generally, despite our economic boom, and the *increased* use of libraries statewide as a result makes a dynamic new facility vital to the interests of a growing university town: a new, interactive facility will make a palpable difference in the lives and aspirations of the most vulnerable, least privileged among us.

And as we learned this year, Grand Forks has spoken on this issue: citizens both desire and are willing to support not only a new library, but one that pulls together, in one space, several of the recommendations and priorities outlined by both the NV360 project and the City’s own strategic plan. “Public facilities play an important role in many fragile neighborhoods as well as in the lives of many low/moderate income and precariously housed families,” Grand Fork City’s *5 Year Consolidated Plan (2010-2014)* reminds us. “Continued City investment in public facilities, with both beneficiary types in mind (neighborhoods and families) will offer long-standing community benefits.”

The Library Board couldn’t agree more. And as Mayor Brown put it in his “State of the City” address this year, “A great community deserves a great library. Our Community must engage a robust, open and honest dialogue about the very essence of a Library and the means by which to move forward. From the very beginning, libraries served to accumulate, coordinate and provide access to information, in order to play a meaningful role in society.”

Grand Forks is ready to move forward on the library question. But the Library Board and staff cannot do so alone. With help from the public and private sectors, the Friends of the Library, the City, County, and even State, Grand Forks hopes to develop a truly collaborative, innovative 21st Century public space for all its citizens.

On behalf of the Grand Forks Public Library Board of Trustees,

Brian James Schill,
Library Board President

Connect the Community

Collaboration is very important to the success of the Grand Forks Public Library. One of our strongest partnerships is with our **Friends of the Library**. These volunteers host several book sales each year. With the money raised at these events, the Friends help support the Summer Reading Program, author events, and other library programs. The Friends of the Library also purchased a new microfilm reader and many other resources for the library. Other partners include the Children's Science Center, NOVAC, the Grand Forks Symphony, the North Dakota Ballet Company, the UND athletes and the Arts Department, and many more. These connections brought **230,967 customers** into the library this year.



Enrich the Mind



In 2013, the Grand Forks Public Library offered 521 library events, which **10,876 people attended**. Nearly 300 of those events were specifically for children, which 8,734 people attended. Children's events included LEGO Robotics sessions, a Children's Gardening Series, Cooking in the Kitchen events, a chess club and, of course, our Summer Reading Program and many more. Events for teens included our Manga Club, a Teen Advisory Board, and a Haunted Stacks event. Adults attended computer classes, book clubs, a writers' group, genealogy training and various author events. There definitely has been something for everyone at the Grand Forks Public Library this year!

Inspire the Imagination

In 2013, the Grand Forks Public Library had **29,128 registered** customers who checked out **771,216 items** from the library. These items included traditional library materials as well as e-books and audiobooks that are downloadable from Library2Go on the library's webpage. The library also offers downloadable e-magazines through Zinio on our webpage. For those who enjoy technology, the library even offers Nooks for checkout and librarian assistance for those who are new to e-readers.



The Year in Numbers

Revenue	2013	2012
City of Grand Forks	\$1,425,799.88	\$1,392,377.60
Grand Forks County	544,468.56	524,425.10
State Aid in Lieu of PPTR	120,864.02	119,446.02
Grants	13,724.94	31,603.85
Library Fees/Services	50,160.90	45,764.56
Donations/Interest/Etc.	18,991.44	31,144.08
Total	\$2,174,009.74	\$2,144,761.21

Expenditures	2013	2012
Wages & Salaries	\$940,212.62	\$864,977.20
Benefits	354,758.75	327,239.42
Supplies	82,983.12	76,754.38
Utilities	70,902.85	63,940.05
Services & Contracts	197,172.08	125,186.85
Building Maintenance	60,282.59	57,317.41
Operating Expenses	64,522.94	50,566.83
Books & Periodicals	226,036.44	204,257.78
Capital Expenditures	17,935.65	33,870.95
Transfer to Capital Acct.	0	300,000.00
Other	31,835.21	1,560.53
Total	\$2,046,642.25	\$2,105,671.40

