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The year 2017 brought cosmic exploration, returning community events, minor facility renovations and library leadership to Bentonville Public Library.

BPL kicked off 2017 by hosting Explore Space: a Cosmic Journey, on display here January 21 – March 16. Our library was 1 of 14 libraries nationwide selected to host the traveling exhibit. It was the perfect way to debut a new telescope loan program, as well as a good complement to summertime’s solar eclipse! High attendance to library events and exhibit viewings, along with positive feedback from patrons, proved Explore Space as a successful project for BPL.

Signature library events returned in 2017 that celebrated literacy, creativity and community. We were pleased to again present, partner and promote Bentonville’s Youth Literature Festival, Free Comic Book Day, Summer Reading Program and Breakfast with Friends. These key events join an impressive slate of regular programs that positively impact our library patrons’ lives.

In 2017, Bentonville Public Library worked with the Bentonville Library Foundation to reconfigure or “repurpose” specific areas of the facility to make best use of the existing floorplan. Thousands of library materials were shifted and minor facility renovations were complete last fall.

Fall also brought the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Annual Conference to Northwest Arkansas. Bentonville Public Library hosted more than 100 library colleagues statewide at an Open House that featured local culinary flavors and Chef Vince Pianalto of Brightwater. Open House attendees shared high praise of our library facility, the special program, yummy food offerings and Bentonville’s hospitality. Additionally, ten BPL staff presented professional development sessions at the ArLA annual conference on various topics. I am extremely proud of our library team for leading change and sharing our initiatives with ArLA peers.

By year-end, BPL recorded higher attendance at library programs and events, totaling 67,577, a 7% increase over 2016. Summer reading increased 30% with a substantial growth in participation by adult readers. But, circulations and library visits dipped -1%, compared with the previous year. Despite a slight decrease in some activities, our staff at Bentonville Public Library continues to work hard to serve our patrons and looks forward to another great year in 2018.

Hadi S. Dudley, M.S., M.A.
Director, Bentonville Public Library
Fall’s “Repurposing” Project
A project approved and funded by the Bentonville Library Foundation!

Strategic Goals:
- To reconfigure or “repurpose” specific areas
- To make best use of the existing floorplan
- To improve connectivity of related spaces
- To allow library staff to share resources
- To enhance how patrons navigate the library

Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey
A national traveling exhibition investigating the fascinating world of space science and astronomy!

- Exploring topics such as Our Solar System, Space Observation, Space Exploration, Space Weather, Star Formation, Asteroids, Comets, and more!
- More than 7,900 viewed exhibit or attended Explore Space library events.
- Debuted new Orion telescope loan program!

Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey was developed by the Space Science Institute’s National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) in partnership with the American Library Association’s Public Programs Office, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and the Afterschool Alliance. The project was made possible through support from the National Science Foundation. BPL’s original telescope was donated by Supporting STEM and Space and is supported by the Sugar Creek Astronomical Society (SCAS). The popularity of Orion prompted a second telescope donation from the Lombardo Family.
Arkansas Library Association Conference & BPL Open House

Thanks to our Culinary Partners

- Brightwater: a Center for the Study of Food
- Cooking Studio of Downtown Rogers
- Core Brewing & Distilling Company
- Crepes Paulette
- Cycle Path Café
- Dough Zone
- Edgewood Creamery
- Fred’s Hickory Inn
- Pat’s Bakery
- Ramo d’Olivo
- Tavola Trattoria
- The Forge
- The Spice & Tea Exchange of Bentonville
- Yeyo’s Mexican Grill

More than 100 librarians, library workers and special guests attended BPL’s Open House!

BPL Staff Presentations at ArLA Conference

- Advocacy
- Art Projects
- Book Repairs
- Civics for Kids
- Explore Space
- Media Mentorship
- Leadership
- TableTop Games
- Volunteer Programs
- Writing Media Releases

Special recognition to Bentonville Schools’ Ignite Photography Students and Cindy Adams, Event Planner, for their service! Thanks to our Sponsors, Supporters, Friends - CCIA, Tech Logic, Records Imaging Systems, Inc., Reference USA, as well as our Community Partners – All AV Services, Bentonville Parks & Recreation, DBI, Visit Bentonville and The Walmart Museum.
BYLF3 was our most successful festival, reaching over 2,925 readers!

A special StoryWalk® was unveiled at Train Station Park! People were encouraged to stroll through the park and read One Dog Canoe written by Mary Casanova and illustrated by Bentonville’s own, Ard Hoyt. The project was unveiled at the Youth Lit Fest, with Casanova and Hoyt in attendance.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.
FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

FCBD5 was our biggest comic celebration ever, with more than 1,250 attendees!

BPL welcomed many special guests: Lourds Lane, our everyday heroes from the Bentonville Fire and Police departments, a Stormtrooper from the Diamond Garrison of the 501st Legion, and a Mandalorian Mercenary from the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club - Bes’uilik Clan, among others.

Fifth Annual!!!
2017 BUDGET & STATS

675,787
Circulation

296,311
Library Visits

67,577
Program Attendance

22,761
Computer Usage

26,553
Material Requests Filled

5,187
New Library Cards*

7,536
Outreach**

1,351
Library Tours**

41,586
Summer Reading Hours

20.25
Staff Full-Time Equivalent

827
Meeting Room Groups

11,130
Meeting Room Attendees

135,568
Collection Size

$3,000,000
Collection Value***

Library Expenditures
- Personnel Salaries $782,936
- Personnel Benefits $237,477
- Library Materials & Digital Resources $235,911
- General Operating & Maintenance $294,588
- Capital Expenditures $10,074
Total Expenditures $1,560,986

Library Revenue
- Cost-Recovery Fees & Overdue Fines $54,796
- Grant Funds & Donations $11,290
Total Revenue $66,086

Contributions
- Materials & In-Kind $56,742
- Sponsorships & Donations $180,771
- Volunteerism $323,316
Total Contributions $560,829

*Does not include BPL Tech Cards issued to local students
**Outreach and Library Tours included with Program Attendance
***Estimated value. Collection Size and Value does not include digital materials such as eBooks, databases or eLearning resources
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Walmart Neighborhood Market Midtown
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- engage our community
- encourage discovery
- and promote literacy
by offering lifelong learning opportunities!