

2023  
gratitudereport

## Dear Library lovers,

2023 was an exciting year for the Library as we wrapped up the renovation and things finally returned to normal after pandemic disruptions followed by the year-long construction process. It was a long road, but the results are worth it. Our renovated Library is amazing—full of light, activity, and creativity. Many days we see over 1,000 visitors.

Every afternoon I take a little break and walk through the Library. I love to see the variety of people doing so many different things. The north window is usually filled with 20-somethings working or studying. The meeting rooms are used for activities ranging from a construction company staff meeting to a French language conversation group. Children might be practicing their skills by reading to a dog. There are people in the Work Bench using the laser cutter or embroidery machine. There's always someone working on the community jigsaw puzzle.

My daily stroll fills my heart with joy to see what a well-designed, multi-purpose civic space can do for a town. It's all thanks to you, our donors, who've contributed to the Bozeman Public Library. Your generous investments are paying dividends for our community!



*Janay Johnson*

Janay Johnson | Executive Director



781 DONORS  
SUPPORTED BOZEMAN  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
IN 2023

# Areas of Support

Your generous support funds vital programs, services, and community events at the Library. Thank you for believing in the Bozeman Public Library's mission to create opportunities that inspire curiosity, exploration, and connection.

## YOUTH & EARLY LEARNING

Early Literacy  
Elementary STEAM  
Family Literacy Outreach  
Summer Enrichment  
Teen Services



## ACCESS FOR ALL

Bookmobile Operating  
Hotspot Lending  
Advantage Collection  
Advocacy/Education



## HEALTHY, CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Arts & Culture  
SymBozium  
Election Education  
Health & Wellness  
Kitchen Table  
Work Bench



## GROWING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Main Street Renovation  
LED Lighting Upgrades



# Crafting Connections:

## THE KITCHEN TABLE AND WORK BENCH INSPIRE INNOVATION

2023 marked a significant milestone for the Bozeman Public Library when we opened two hands-on creative labs: the Work Bench and the Kitchen Table.

The Kitchen Table celebrates the power of food to educate, connect, and inspire through cooking classes, workshops, and demonstrations led by local chefs, nutritionists, and food enthusiasts. Many exciting programs happen each week in the Kitchen Table. You might catch some teens cooking ramen or baking cupcakes, or a dad and kids making a taco bar at our Family Maker Lab. Amateur chefs have the opportunity to make and share their favorite recipes during Thursday's Table. Cooking together and sharing food is a wonderful way to build community!

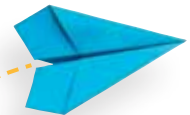
The Work Bench is a dedicated space for creativity, learning, and hands-on exploration. There's a variety of equipment available for patrons including a 3D printer, laser cutter, and embroidery and sewing machines.

People have made jewelry, custom sweatshirts and hats, replacement parts for broken equipment, jigsaw puzzles, curtains, and much more in the Work Bench. There's even a recording studio for podcasting and recording and editing music.

These creative labs are more than just physical spaces - they are catalysts for human connection and collaboration!



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**Photos (left to right):** Dragon made with 3D printer | Dollhouse created with laser cutter and hand-painted | Patch and hat with custom embroidery | Bud Johnson shares his creation 3-D printed in the Work Bench





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My granddaughter has been coming to the Library almost from the very beginning and she loves to read. I noticed the space under construction and when it opened, I came in and that's how my adventure with the Work Bench started. It's been absolutely fascinating. When some people retire, they don't really have anything to focus on. Well, when I get up in the morning, I'm already excited because I'm going to learn. And there's lots of opportunities to explore different things that interest you. For me in particular, I got started in 3D printing. I got more interested and, for the very first time in my life, did an interlibrary loan to continue to learn more.

The Library brings resources that just don't exist in any other area. And to be candid, it's free. That's a hard feature to miss because lots of times there's great information, but it's behind a paywall. The opportunity to learn, the opportunity to be included, the opportunity to share – without the Library, they would not exist.

I wish I could reach out and tell the people who supported these creative labs what it's like to have this resource. It's phenomenal. To the folks that made the decision to support this, thank you. The words are heartfelt, but they seem so small.”

– Bud Johnson, Bozeman Public Library patron



# Sharing Stories, Sharing Meals:

## THE KITCHEN TABLE'S RECIPE FOR COMMUNITY

On a rainy Thursday, the Kitchen Table was filled with warmth and camaraderie. Today's group – ranging from a newly graduated AmeriCorps Vista volunteer, to retirees, to professionals on their lunch break – have gathered for Thursday's Table. This weekly program invites attendees to learn new recipes and food traditions and is led by a volunteer eager to share their passion for cooking. Today, guest chef Matt showcased one of his go-to meals: miso glazed salmon with cucumber salad and white rice.

As Matt took center stage, his enthusiasm radiated outward. With deft hands and a keen eye for detail, he guided participants through each step of the recipe, sharing insights, techniques, and personal anecdotes along the way. But the demo was more than just a cooking class; it was a celebration of community and culture. As Matt shared stories of his culinary journey and the inspirations behind his dishes, participants joined in.

“What grocery store in town has the best fish?”

“I would love to make this with cucumbers from my garden but mine haven't done well for the past few years. Does anyone have any tips?”

“I checked out the best cookbook from the Library. Let me write the name down for you!”

With each exchange, the spirit of community grows stronger. And when the time came to sample the featured menu, the feedback was a resounding “DELICIOUS”!

In a world where the relentless pace often obscures simple joys, the Kitchen Table stands as a haven of community, embodying the essence of libraries as dynamic centers for learning and expression. Here, amidst the aroma of spices and the shared laughter of newfound friends, we are reminded of the timeless pleasures that bind us—good food, good company, and the enduring strength of community.

Photo: Guest Chef Matt leads Thursday's Table



“What makes this place so special?...”





...I've had to go to a library because I had no place else to go that was safe. I've never met my dad and my mom is a pharmaceutical drug addict. Home was an idea. The library would be home no matter what. So while I didn't have money as a little kid, I had a gold mine right up the block. It was a library. That's how a guy like me ends up with this pedigree. I have a ninth-grade education if you're counting credits. But I kept going to libraries, kept teaching myself.

And today, I'm a writer. I'm a communicator. I'm a creative director. I literally do all the same things that I did starting in the library.

My grandfather signed his name with an X. What an honor it is to be a literate grandson and make every nickel from my ability to write and communicate. Where do you think I got the goods to teach myself? The library. Would you like to talk about Winslow Homer? Jackson Pollock, who my son is named after? Bamboo fly fishing? Where does a kid

from the ghetto find these influences? At the library. This place is responsible for my whole life.

Now I look at what the library does in my life and how much it pours into me, my wife, and most importantly maybe, my granddaughter to know that she has this place to come up in. And all those other grandbabies who are going to grow up in a place like this amongst the smart people that we're going to spit out into the world. And the one thing I know for sure - you don't find cruel kids in the library, you find kind kids in the library.

It is no chore to share my feelings with the world about this really special place. In fact, it's an honor. Libraries saved my life."

- Greg DuBose, Bozeman Public Library patron



232,620 PATRONS  
PATRONS SERVED IN 2023

**Photo:** Bozeman resident, Greg DuBose, works remotely from the McLeod Reading Room.



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The Library is our family's happy place.  
But our Library is so much more than a place –  
it's a space filled with possibilities.  
As a parent, I'm grateful that our daughters  
have this invaluable resource to nurture  
their mind and spirit.

– Alissa Kost, Bozeman Public Library patron



# Your generosity has opened a new chapter

The exceptional nature of the Bozeman Public Library is a reflection of our community's shared commitment to excellence. By investing in this vital resource, you, your friends, and neighbors have demonstrated the belief in the power of knowledge, creativity, and lifelong learning to enrich the lives of all who call this region home. Thank you!

## Spent to support your Library

Growing with our Community .....	\$2,087,610
Youth & Early Learning .....	\$40,679
Healthy, Connected Community .....	\$29,410
Access for All.....	\$20,676
Other .....	\$1,289
In Kind Goods & Services .....	\$106,247
<b>Total support to Library .....</b>	<b>\$2,285,911</b>
Foundation Operations Costs.....	\$290,451
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$2,576,362</b>

## Sources of support

Contributions.....	\$392,294
Restricted grant for future branch.....	\$3,000,000
Special Events .....	\$94,027
Endowment Appropriations.....	\$69,475
Interest & Dividends.....	\$196,677
Other Income.....	\$19,824
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$3,772,297</b>

Year Ending December 31, 2023. Does not include investment gains/losses. Comprehensive audited financial statements are available at [bozemanlibraryfoundation.org](http://bozemanlibraryfoundation.org).

## Bozeman Public Library Foundation

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Director of Development  
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Andrea Kavert,  
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39,351 INDIVIDUALS  
ATTENDED YOUTH SERVICES  
PROGRAMS IN 2023

Photo: Alissa Kost and family enjoy time together at the Library.





**BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

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