The Library celebrated so many accomplishments in 2016–2017, for which we owe a heartfelt “Thank you!” to our donors, community supporters and our creative staff, always willing to push library services to new heights. You will see their efforts at work throughout this annual report, and in the following highlights of the last fiscal year.

Facilities
Our most exciting news was the renovation and renaming of the Schweitzer Brentwood Branch on January 7, 2017. The Library Foundation led the $2.5 million campaign, the Library’s first privately funded building/renovation. Visitors enjoy drive-up window service, a media area, a materials handling machine that processes returns 24/7, a coffee/gift kiosk and a sun-filled, larger reading room.

Fundraising
The Friends of the Library book sales in October 2016 and April 2017 had total sales of $261,513.69, which funds a variety of capital projects and family programs.

New Services
Individuals now can request meeting room reservations online through Spaces at thelibrary.org/spaces.
People can tailor their news about upcoming Library programs and books at thelibrary.org/newsletter.

Partnerships/Collaborations
Grants from the Hospice Foundation of the Ozarks and The Library Foundation, and other partners provided a 20-program series, “Death & Dying: Conversations on End-of-Life Matters,” featuring four nationally known authors.

The Library joined the Downtown Council of Champions, of the Urban Districts Alliance, to send a Millennial SWAT team to collect innovative ideas from other U.S. cities.

From the Darkroom: Springfield’s Historic Newspaper Photographs is a project with the Springfield News-Leader allowing Library staff to digitize and put online thousands of newspaper photographs from 1947–1962.

Exhibits
“Missouri and the Great War,” a traveling exhibit of Missourians’ contributions in World War I and developed by Library staff and the Missouri Humanities Council, was displayed in June 2017 before its formal dedication at the Capitol and subsequent tour through Missouri.

“Explore Space, A Cosmic Journey” from the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute was part of a month-long series.


Awards
Missouri Library Association Library of the Year, 2016
Library Journal “Star Library”
National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution History Award Medal

Long-Range Plan
The Library’s long-range plan for 2016–2020 aims to build on library efficiencies and services for the public. Here’s a snapshot of successes so far:
1. Implemented wireless printing for the public
2. Completed renovation of the Brentwood Branch Library
3. Implemented online meeting room reservation system
4. Hired an Adult Programming Coordinator
5. Installed self-checkout kiosks at Schweitzer Brentwood Branch

Regina Greer Cooper
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
The Friends of the Library are devoted supporters of the Library, stretching the dollars they make in the annual spring and fall book sales to provide necessities and the “extras” that make the Library an exciting destination. Here are just some of the things the Friends provided in 2016–2017 through $100,864.53 in gifts and grants:

- Summer Reading Program entertainers
- 30 music concerts
- Children’s Picture Book Bins, washer & dryer for Youth Services and Outreach materials
- One Read programs and authors Sophie Blackall and Jacqueline Winspear
- Missouri Over There Traveling Exhibit
- $500,000 for ReNew Brentwood Capital Campaign
- Author Kevin Henkes and Seiran Chiba, Japanese Calligrapher
- Springfield Symphony Brass Quintet in “Holiday Horns”
- Music at Midtown Series — Melinda Mullins, Cindy Woolf, Abbey Waterworth
- Queen City Rock Camp Volunteer Band
- Food for African-American History Month/NAACP program volunteers
- Microphone stand, meeting room refurbishes, pager system for branch security
- Reception and installation of classic car art at Library Station
- Delivery tubs for MOBIUS/ILL materials, stools for laptop bar at Midtown Carnegie Branch, three mechanical wheelchairs for visitors

The Library Foundation, established in 1993, supports charitable giving to the Library and invests funds to help the Library keep moving forward. It plays a critical role in the life of the Library, as public funding, alone, does not support the rich programming, online resources and vast collections you enjoy.

The year’s highlight was the Foundation’s completion of a multi-year, $2.5 million capital campaign to renovate the renamed Schweitzer Brentwood Branch, in honor of its major benefactor.

The Library Foundation also engages the community through fundraisers during the year.

- Wine tastings and appetizer pairings at the International Wine Center
- A Music & Lyrics Workshop and concert with guest presenter Tom Sharpe, drummer for Grammy Award-winning Mannheim Steamroller and popular area musicians.
- A reception, lecture and book signing with Piper Kerman, author of “Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women’s Prison.”
COMMUNITY LEADERS

2016-2017 LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Andrea McKinney, President
Michele Risdal-Barnes, Vice President
Matthew Simpson, Treasurer
Bill Garvin, Secretary
Steven Ehase
Derek Fraley
James Jeffries
Catherine E. Moore
Ashley Norgard

2016-2017 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD
Carol Grimes, President
Shirley Lawler, President-Elect
Joyce Kastler, Treasurer
Pat Marsh, Secretary
Dee Biggers, Wee Read Chair
Pat Woodward, Membership

2016-2017 LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD
Joselyn Baldner
Teresa Blair
Terry Breazeale
Shara Cash
Rhonda Christopher
Laurie Edmondson
Kristen Garcia
Melissa Haddow
Molly Holtmann
Bruce Robison
Richard Russell
Julia Schreiber
Karen Shannon
Faye Sturhahn
Julie Viorel
Ex-Officio
Regina Greer Cooper, Library District Executive Director
Ashley Norgard, Attorney, Board of Trustees member
Carol Grimes, Friends of the Library President

FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE & OPERATING RESERVE CARRY-FORWARD: $16,866,959
Taxes .......................................................................................................................$12,607,043
Overdue Fines and Fees .......................................................................................$207,153
*Grants/Contributions/State Aid ........................................................................$2,721,510
Service Fees .........................................................................................................$268,945
Miscellaneous Income and Interest .....................................................................$553,091
Operating Reserve Carry-Forward .......................................................................$509,217

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: ......................................................................................$16,866,959
Salaries and Benefits ...........................................................................................$7,844,834
Library Materials ................................................................................................$1,995,944
Other Operating Expenses ..................................................................................$1,712,037
Facilities ...............................................................................................................$687,255
**Equipment and Capital Improvements .........................................................$3,098,399
Debt Service .......................................................................................................$386,650
Professional Services and Misc. Expenses .......................................................$1,141,840

* including Library Foundation ReNew Brentwood Capital Campaign funding
** including Brentwood Construction Project Expenses

2016-2017 BY THE NUMBERS

3,318,325 items checked out
1,897,042 visitors
1,665,584 website views
388,698 books and materials in collection
120,967 audiovisual items in collection
207,995 checkouts of digital media: e-books, audiobooks, videos and music on OverDrive and Hoopla
7,288 total number of programs
131,492 total attended library programs
100,722 attended children’s programs
149,475 reference questions answered
99,859 card holders
27,193 meeting room reservations
11,646.95 volunteer hours
The Summer Reading To Go program took the Library on the road, sharing books, crafts and games with children and teens in day camps, summer school classes and neighborhoods. The program reached over 11,000 kids and teens all summer.

The annual Summer Reading Program challenged us to “Build a Better World,” and the Library helped build better readers with prizes and high-energy performances by the likes of Marty Hahne, the Reading Magician; jugglers Jay and Leslie Cady; and Oh My Gosh Josh.

Eight-year-old Nora Miller and her friends raised $165 at their neighborhood lemonade stand to boost the $2.5 million Renew Brentwood Capital Campaign.

The Library joined dozens of Springfield agencies to provide resources such as free computer training to enhance the quality of life in northwest neighborhoods, a citywide project known as the Zone 1 Blitz.

In the style of the popular TED Talks, the Library Center hosted Look Who’s Talking, featuring eight-minute talks by six of the Ozarks’ most innovative and engaging thinkers about cutting-edge technology, business, the workplace, personal growth and the writing life.

More than 4,000 fans of superheroes, comics and sci-fi got their geek on at LibraryCon 2016. Kids, teens and adults joined our costume parade and mixed it up with comic book illustrators, writers and authors.

We took StoryWalks all across Greene County! We posted pages of a popular children’s storybook along the trail of local parks, and encouraged families to read a book to their children as they took a walk outside.

The Pokemon craze — remember that? — lured kids, teens and adult hunters to come in, chill out in the library PokeStops and capture some books with their virtual Pokemon.

Some 200 people of all ages jammed to the music of The Creek Rocks, Ozark folk singers/songwriters Cindy Woolf and Mark Bilyeu, in a free concert through a partnership of the Library and AARP.

The Library Station lobby became a public art space when artist Seiran Chiba gave a talk on her style of large-scale calligraphy.

Author/illustrator Debbie Ridpath Ohi entertained kids and parents with her method for getting her creative juices flowing — you let it rip! Tear up pieces of paper, tape them to a poster and let the creature emerge from your shapes.

A series Death & Dying: Conversations on End-of-Life Matters funded by Hospice Foundation of the Ozarks and The Library Foundation featured nationally known authors Dr. Angelo Volandes, Caitlin Doughty, Thomas Lynch and Roz Chast. These and other gifted speakers addressed the issues with honesty, sensitivity and gentle humor.

STEAM was the hot topic all year at programs for preschoolers, school-age kids and teens. Together we explored practical and surprising lessons in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Parents got in the act, too!

Springfield Welcome Home, a local nonprofit that helps refugees settling in Springfield, partnered with the Library Center for a playdate with 25 families from several African countries.
The Friends of the Library 2016 Fall Book Sale tallied $129,476 in sales of donated used and new books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks and more at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds E*Plex.

Aspiring teen and adult writers attended nationally known author April Henry’s writer’s workshop at the Library Center.

The annual Holiday Store for Kids helped make Christmas shopping fun and affordable for children at six library branches. Gifts for the whole family, friends and pets were priced from 25 cents to $6, and volunteers helped wrap!

The Innovation Fair at the Library Center was a magnet for 200 kids and parents eager to test out a virtual reality booth, 3-D printer, Snap Circuits, BeeBots and other STEAM activities.

The December 20 sneak preview party for the Brentwood Branch renovation wowed donors and staff when the 48-year-old building was transformed into a modern, bright space with open-beam ceilings, artistic lighting, upgraded shelving, a spacious reading room and coffee/gift shop kiosk. Within days, the temporary Brentwood Branch space in the Brentwood Center closed in anticipation of the formal grand opening.

More than 250 families filled the Library Center auditorium for a visit with author/illustrator Kevin Henkes, best known for the children’s favorite “Lilly’s Big Day” and “Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse.” The Library introduced Spaces, allowing the public to request library meeting room reservations online for the first time.

People flocked to the Fix-it Fair with their broken lamps, lawn mower, vacuum cleaner and an antique radio for help. The one-day event was possible with Community Partnership of the Ozarks Tool Library and volunteer “fixers” from the Queen City Beard & Mustache Federation.

The anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War I inspired the 2017 Big Read celebration of WWI literature including “Finding Winnie, The True Story of the World’s Most Famous Bear,” and hosted the book’s Caldecott Medal honoree, illustrator Sophie Blackall. She enthralled children and adults at school visits and a talk at the Springfield Art Museum.

The How-To-Festival featured 35 free sessions with lessons on everything from playing the ukulele to beekeeping, bullet journaling, identifying wildflowers and house training your puppy.

The Friends of the Library 2017 Spring Book Sale grossed $132,037.69 in sales, drawing shoppers from four surrounding states.


Springfield’s own Wonder Woman signed autographs and posed for photos with kids and teens during a STEAM Wonder Teens program at the Fair Grove Branch.

Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey featured a month-long exhibit and series of programs about space science and the planets. Featured speaker was author of “American Eclipse” and national science journalist David Baron.

It was funded by the Humanities Council, Friends of the Library and RDW Family and Community Fund. The exhibit then began its tour at the Missouri Capitol and sites across the state. It will return to the Library District in November 2018.
Springfield-Greene County Library District

The Library Center
4653 S. Campbell Ave. • 882-0714

Ash Grove Branch Library
101 E. Main St., Ash Grove • 751-2933

Fair Grove Branch Library
81 S. Orchard Ave., Fair Grove • 759-2637

The Library Station
2535 N. Kansas Expressway • 865-1340

Midtown Carnegie Branch Library
397 E. Central St. • 862-0135

Outreach Services
The Mobile Library • 883-5366, ext. 2
Walking Books • 883-6112

Park Central Branch Library
128 Park Central Square • 831-1342

Republic Branch Library
921 N. Lindsey Ave., Republic • 732-7284

Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library
2214 Brentwood Blvd. • 883-1974

Strafford Branch Library
101 S. State Highway 125, Strafford • 736-9233

Willard Branch Library
304 E. Jackson St., Willard • 742-4258