2017 was a remarkable year, with the Library winning several awards, setting circulation records, rolling out new services, and playing host to a Hollywood movie shoot. We are thankful to our community, Board of Trustees, and staff for their support, which made these outstanding accomplishments possible. We hope to see you at the Library soon.

Allen G. Zaring, IV
President
Connecting people with the world of ideas and information.
AWARDS

The library field’s leading professional publication, the *Library Journal*, recognized the Library for the fifth year in a row by designating it a Five-Star Library. For 2017, the Library ranked second among libraries in the country in the $30-million-plus expenditure category, and is one of only five libraries nationwide in this category to receive a Five-Star rating. Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director Kimber L. Fender was named the Hall of Fame Librarian by the Ohio Library Council (OLC). Cataloging Team Lead Michael Christian Budd was awarded the Service Excellence Award from the OLC and the Library’s suite of “hot” and customized services (Hot Authors, eHot Authors, Hot Tickets, Book Hookup, and CD of the Month) was the OLC Library Innovation Award winner. The Library was nominated for a “SuperOutreachPartner” award by the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board in recognition of the Job and Career Readiness series.
The Library began implementing our Strategic Plan, taking steps to secure the funding needed to continue operations and improve our facilities. We located a facility to serve as the Library’s Distribution Center, allowing for some of the Library’s support services to be relocated from the Main Library to a facility specifically designed for their needs. This will provide more efficient and safer operations within the Library. In our ongoing efforts to maintain the more than 930,000 square feet of Library space operated by the Library, several branch libraries received new roofs, windows and mechanicals. For economic reasons, the Board decided to re-purpose the Main Library North building.

Despite intensive efforts by the Ohio Library Council and Ohio’s public libraries, the percent of the General Revenue Funds going into the Public Library Fund (PLF) was reduced again in 2017. There has been no increase in Library funding in nearly 20 years. During that same time, circulation increased by 60 percent. Recognizing that we could no longer maintain our level of excellent service without additional funding as well as the need for significant investment in the Library’s sizable facilities footprint, the Board approved placing an additional 1-mill levy on the May 2018 primary ballot.
NEW SERVICE

The Library extended its award-winning personalized service with a new way to pick up Library items. Curbside Service allows cardholders to pick up materials without having to leave their vehicle. In 2017, the Library handled 611 instances of Curbside Service at 33 of our locations.

The Library also launched a personalized help service called My Librarian. Customers can make an appointment for a one-on-one session with a Librarian. During the year, the Library handled 5,995 instances of My Librarian appointments. Of those appointments, 2,345 were for Workforce Development assistance, 2,466 for personal technology assistance, and 1,184 were for reader’s advisory.

The Mariemont Branch Library also went fully mobile in 2017.
New Author Series
The Library launched a new series in 2017 designed to connect readers with bestselling authors about their lives and work. The series included visits to the Main Library by:

Timothy Snyder, author of *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*

David Pepper, author of *The People’s House*

Jane Green, author of *The Sunshine Sisters*

Jessica Strawser, author of *Almost Missed You*

Jay Asher, author of *Thirteen Reasons Why*

J.D. Vance, author of *Hillbilly Elegy*

Jamie Ford, author of *Love and Other Consolation Prizes*
In 2017, our total collection use was 24,244,502. Program attendance in 2017 increased 9.2 percent with 455,244 people coming to branch programs. And demand for our online resources including databases increased by 10 percent, with more than 4,406,000 page views.

Cardholders of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County checked out more than 21.2 million items in 2016. According the 2017 Public Library Data Service (PLDS) statistical report, that makes us the second busiest system in the United States, second only to the New York Public Library*. The report is published each year by the Public Library Association, the largest division of the American Library Association. The 2017 PLDS report is based on survey responses collected from more than 2,300 public libraries in the United States and Canada for fiscal year 2016. *The PLDS does not rank libraries. Rankings were calculated locally based on data from the survey.
24.2
MILLION TOTAL COLLECTION
USE IN 2017

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE
IN 2017 INCREASED

9.2%
WITH 455,244 PEOPLE
COMING TO BRANCH
PROGRAMS
AN ALL NEW SUMMER ADVENTURE

The revamped Summer Adventure program returned to a paper tracking system and was a tremendous success. More than 30,000 readers took part in the program which encouraged activities beyond reading including writing, art projects, and outdoor activities. Mini-brain camps introduced participants to Ozo Bots and had more than 800 participants. More than 17,000 lunches were served to children in our community over the summer and we added a year-round program to provide nutritious snacks to children at select branches. Thanks to the many donors who made these programs possible.
2017 REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Library Fund, State of Ohio</td>
<td>38,303,279.41</td>
<td>64.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>18,212,917.32</td>
<td>30.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines and Fees</td>
<td>1,218,580.33</td>
<td>2.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Revenue*</td>
<td>1,176,120.85</td>
<td>0.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings on Investments</td>
<td>281,690.67</td>
<td>0.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, Gifts, and Donations</td>
<td>117,025.00</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Restricted grants, Passport fees, supply sales, property rentals/sales, refunds, digital services.
## 2017 DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>35,546,319.49</td>
<td>62.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Materials</td>
<td>8,898,219.22</td>
<td>15.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased Services</td>
<td>8,804,267.11</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund Advances &amp; Transfers</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>3.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>1,333,151.28</td>
<td>2.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>486,320.23</td>
<td>0.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Objects</td>
<td>171,414.03</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$57,239,691.36</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
62.10%: Salaries and Benefits
15.55%: Library Materials
15.38%: Purchased Services
3.49%: Interfund Advances and Transfers
2.33%: Supplies
0.85%: Capital Outlay
0.30%: Other Objects
President  
Allen G. Zaring IV

Vice President  
Barbara W. Trauth

Secretary  
William J. Moran

Board Members  
Karen R. Clemons  
Robert G. Hendon  
Monica Donath Kohnen  
Elizabeth H. LaMacchia  
Ross A. Wright

The Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of  
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County  
Kimber L. Fender

Chief Finance and Facilities Officer  
Molly DeFosse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen G. Zaring, IV</td>
<td>term expired September 30, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen R. Clemons</td>
<td>term began November 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross A. Wright</td>
<td>Resignation effective December 31, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a list of Library hours and locations, please visit CincinnatiLibrary.org.