



COUNCIL BLUFFS
Public Library

COUNCIL BLUFFS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Council Bluffs Public Library provides our community access to enrichment, connection, and discovery.

www.councilbluffslibrary.org

Annual Report
FY25



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Fiscal Year 2025 was full of measured steps towards increased access of library services and resources in the community. It began with the true launch of the Cochran Library Kiosk in July 2025. Throughout the year, we increased program offerings to promote usage of the kiosk, FIRST AVE, and Cochran Park. The year ended with the introduction of Willow On Wheels, an outreach vehicle to support programs and offerings throughout the City and County. This past year we also welcomed nationally recognized authors to our community, launched a snack program for teens which received an award, and expanded program offerings to youth through registration programming for school aged clubs. We also introduced new material offerings with Playaways and Whazoodles in the kids area and created designated World Language sections throughout the library to support our diverse population. We were not unaffected by funding challenges that occurred due to cuts at the Federal level, but we rose to the occasion and found ways to minimize the effect on the community. I hope that you find this past year's report encouraging and it energizes you to use your public library in whatever way benefits you most. Read on through this Annual Report for more information and a snapshot of all of things accomplished this last fiscal year.

ANTONIA KRUPICKA-SMITH

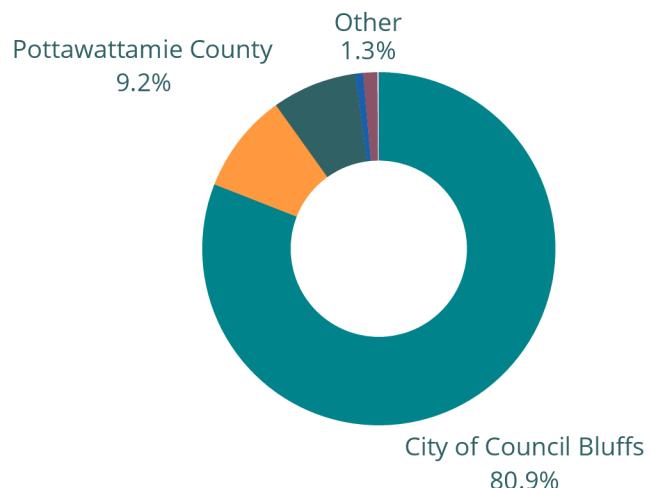
Library Director



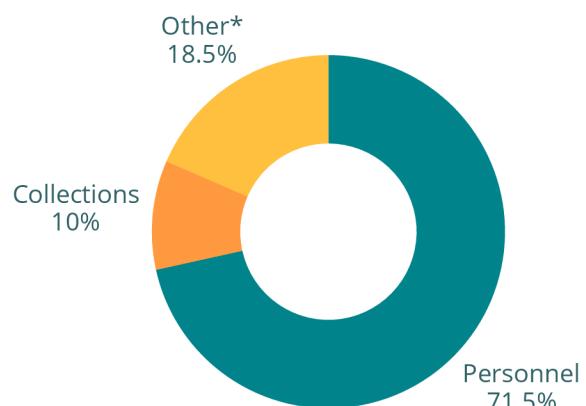
Year by the Numbers

Collection Size	149,459
Items Added to the Collection	19,175
Physical Items Borrowed	227,111
Digital Checkouts	116,536
Homebound Items Delivered	3,516
Interlibrary Loan Items	5,134
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Total Card Holders	55,603
New Card Registration	4,578
Visits	243,630
Meetings by the Public	1,884
Public Computer Sessions	27,218
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Program Attendance	45,060
Reference Questions	19,762
Reading program Participants	1,721

Revenue



Expenditures



*Many costs associated with the upkeep and repair of the Library property are reflected in other City budget areas. "Other" is in reference to expenses such as technology, supplies, and general facilities upkeep.

Program & Service Highlights

New collections to address audio accessibility

Through usage data and feedback from the community, we learned that compact disc options are increasingly difficult to utilize because of the reduction in playing devices. To address this with our youngest patrons, who are less likely to be able to utilize our downloadable content, we introduce two new formats for listening enjoyment for youth. Because of the success of these collections, we will continue to invest in self-contained audio options for our community.



Technology Upgrade to Meeting Room A & B



Meeting Room A & B audiovisual technology was upgraded to allow for expanded access to the spaces, better accessibility, and increased flexibility for community use.



For recognition of the work done to establish the Teen Snack Program, the Council Bluffs Public Library received the Iowa Library Association Library Philanthropy Award for excellence in work outside the typical library mission at the Annual Conference.

Our Community Reads: Found Community



The Our Community Reads: Found Community kicked off in Spring 2025 with three selections for the community to engage with and read. The two month reading initiative started with a community fair celebrating culture and diversity. Funding from the Iowa West Foundation through the Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation supported every 2nd and 6th grader receiving a copy of their book selection. Both grades also got author visits from the author for their respective book. The author of the adult selection spoke to a packed house at the library and shared her writing journey and the unique experience she has had with her debut title being such a success. This is the 3rd year of the program.



Community Engagement and Outreach



With the opening of the Cochran Library Kiosk and the increase in community events and partnerships, the City of Council Bluffs funded an outreach vehicle for library staff to use when serving the library kiosk and bringing activities and resources to all parts of our community. This dramatic increase in the library presence in the community over the past 12 months has allowed for the library to better serve the community through engaging programming, increased material access 24 hours a day, and stronger connection throughout the entire footprint of Council Bluffs and surrounding Pottawattamie County communities.

The outreach vehicle has opened the door to new opportunities of engagement not possible previously. The library is poised and ready to serve the Council Bluffs community in new and impactful ways.



Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation



Projects supported by the Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation include:

- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Library programming including community-wide programs such as Our Community Reads: Found Community and the Summer Reading Challenge
- Technology updates like the audiovisual upgrade in Meeting Room A & B
- Author visits from Alexander McCall Smith, Ed Yong, and Nita Prose

The Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 that supports the library on projects and initiatives that are outside the scope of general operating expense covered by the City of Council Bluffs.

Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library



Projects supported by the Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library include:

- Wrap and staff training for Willow on Wheels
- Discovery Pass program and offerings
- Program support for youth, teen, and adult departments
- Staff training, recognition, and appreciation
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

The Friends of the Council Bluffs Public Library is an independent 501(c)3 that comprises of members and volunteers that support the library and run a small used book store in the Council Bluffs Public Library location.

To learn more about supporting the work of the Friends or the Foundation visit councilbluffslibrary.org



The Council Bluffs Library is recognized as a primary community resource for educational support, self-directed learning, cultural development, advancing literacies, and building public prosperity and well being.

The Council Bluffs Public Library:

- Offers superior customer experiences
- Encourages learning and discovery
- Is inclusive and provides access to all
- Cultivates collaboration and innovation
- Believes in the freedom to know
- Fosters a positive work environment
- Provides wise stewardship of public resources

Main Location
400 Willow Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Cochran Library Kiosk
Near the corner of
S 22nd St and FIRST AVE trail