

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

“There is a hunger in this digital age to hear authors together, to participate in programs, to just be in a place, a community space.”
— Carla Hayden (14th Librarian of Congress)



At **Cambridge Public Library** we continue to focus on supporting our community through our collection, our services, and our program offerings. In 2023 the library's collection grew by nearly 6,000 items reaching a total of 40,645 holdings. These materials included both physical and electronic books, audio books, DVDs, laptops, museum passes, STEM kits, and even a metal detector available for borrowing. With the introduction of our "Seed Library", patrons are even able to borrow flower, herb, and vegetable seeds for planting. In total, the library circulated 21,770 items in 2023. In addition, the public Wi-Fi, which is available inside and outside of the building 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, was accessed 7,244 times. These impressive numbers continue to prove just how important access to public library materials is to our community.

The **Cambridge Public Library** continued our partnership with Comfort Food Community, offering the Farm-2-Library program which provides fresh produce and dry goods to anyone who needs it. Our community refrigerator was visited by 1,846 community members in 2023, easing food insecurity for many and saving over 2 tons of produce from being thrown into landfills. **Cambridge Public Library** hosted a total of 202 program sessions with 2,007 individuals in attendance. On top of regular weekly programs such as StoryHour, Mahjong, and Knitters and Quilters, the library also hosted Senior Pop-Up Lunches, Financial Wellness Workshops, Tie Dye & Craft Classes, STEM Classes with Science Chef, Author Visits, Community Health Workshops and more. Our Community Room, which houses the ongoing Book Sale, was booked 123 times for meetings held by community organizations such as Girl Scouts, Battenkill Conservancy, Historical Society, Cambridge Food Co-Op, Alumni Association and many others. The library also partnered with many local residents, businesses, and organizations, such as Cambridge Central School, Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad, Battenkill Books, and the Cambridge Valley Chamber of Commerce to expand program offerings and services. It is our hope that these partnerships will continue to grow in 2024 creating more opportunities to strengthen our community both inside the library building and throughout the region.

Finally, 2023 was a year of community engagement and planning for the future of **Cambridge Public Library**. The library not only participated in the New York Forward Planning Committee, but also held a number of community engagement programs and gathered data from over 200 surveys collected in December. The feedback that was received has been vital to our planning of services, programs, collection development and beginning improvements to our facility. The library applied for a New York State Public Library Construction Grant which will help fund our first round of construction, set to begin late in 2024. This small addition will be used as a quiet space for reading, studying, tutoring, and small meetings; creating a separation of noisy and quiet areas as well as easing the need for handicap accessibility to our meeting space downstairs. **Cambridge Public Library** is committed to not only offering quality materials for borrowing, engaging and informative programs, and free services, but, to also providing a community space that is truly for everyone. 2024 is set to be a year full of growth for our little library. It is an absolute privilege to be a part of the Cambridge community and an honor to receive so much support from all of our patrons. Thank you for helping us help others!