

Impact Report 2025



ROBBINS
— LIBRARY —

Arlington's Public Libraries

A Place for All at Arlington's Libraries



When you walk into Robbins Library or Fox Branch Library, do you see the books, or the people?

A truly successful day at Robbins Library is a day in which we welcome residents of all ages and backgrounds to find library materials, find a place to sit and read, and best of all, find connections with each other.

We love the books at the libraries, but we also love the people. The people who are your neighbors, the people who are your partners in creating a wonderful community for all. It is our honor to bring you great collections, services, and spaces. It is our joy to bring you together.

We hope to see you at the Libraries.

ANNA LITTEN

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

HEATHER CALVIN

CHAIR, LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

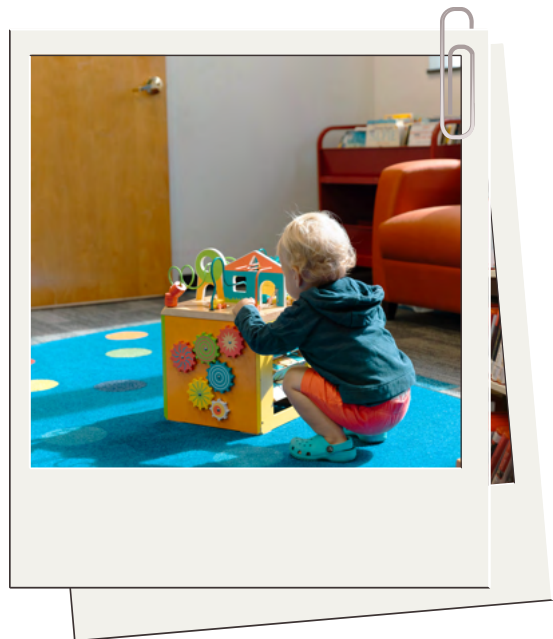
Heather Calvin, Chair	Amy Hampe
Adam Delmolino	Stephen Quinlan
Jonathan Gates	Lily Rao
Rebecca Gruber	

Stories from Our Staff

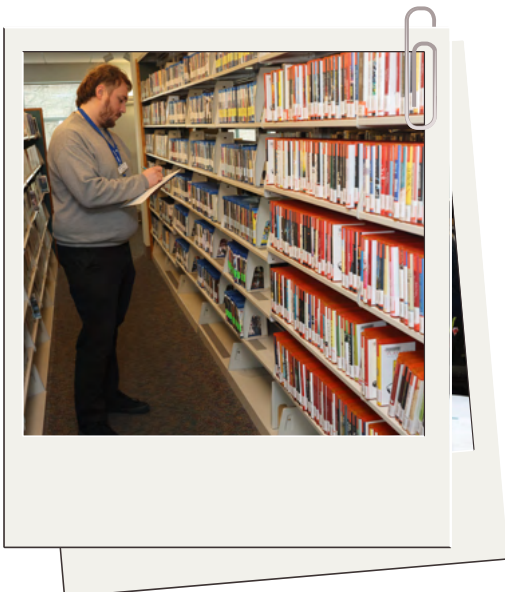


"Teen patrons and their parents often express how grateful they are to have an inclusive and fun place for teens to study and socialize. Through the Teen Advisory Board, teens are able to feel heard by creating teen-led programs. I get to see teen patrons form enthusiastic friendships across grades and schools with the peers they meet at the library."
–Stephen Toropov, Head of Teen Services since 2022

"We love getting kids started on a lifelong literacy journey! It's a real joy watching kiddos move through a series of developmentally appropriate storytimes. Babies and their caregivers start out by learning super simple stories and songs in our lapsit program. As kids age, they move into all types of programs from book clubs to art programs. Kids find so much to read and do at the library."
–Pam Watts, Head of Children's Services, staff member since 1999



"In the Speculative Fiction Book Group, every two months a diverse group gets to put their differences aside and talk about titles from genres they all enjoy equally. The different backgrounds make for rich discussions from perspectives we don't always take into consideration."
–Verónica Rodríguez, Speculative Fiction Book Group facilitator, reference librarian since 2018



Stories from Our Visitors

“

I come to the library for the Reading Room. After I walk to the library and select my new reading treasures, I sit in the Reading Room for a while before I walk home. It's a lovely outing.

– M.H.

”

“

I have been attending Cookbook Club since 2019, and have found it a really lovely way to connect with people of all ages from the community who I wouldn't otherwise know. There's something really special about connecting over food, where personal stories and personalities and memories all come into play. I love it and look forward to it every month. – R.H.

”

“

I love the Library of Things! I lived overseas for 35 years and returned to the US this past year. I had more than 3,000 photos (pre-digital) and was able to scan them by borrowing the photo scanner from the library! What a life saver.

– S.D.

”

“

With two kids at home, the library was the best space to concentrate. I spent many many hours working on the quiet 2nd floor at the Robbins Library over a period of three years while I was completing my Master's degree in Education.

– B.S.

”

“

The Fox Branch Walking Group brings me to the Library. It is truly a joy to all who participate. In addition to the obvious benefits (walking! outdoor exercise! nature!), it provides great camaraderie, and a sense of community and belonging. It affords newcomers and those who've walked with us longer a chance to familiarize oneself with places that our Town offers. – R.F.

”

Arlington's Libraries by the Numbers

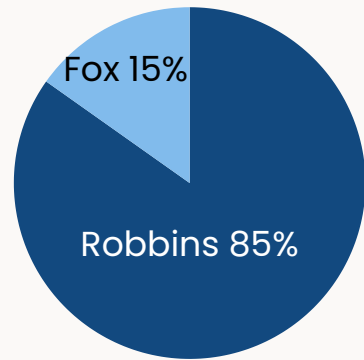
Thousands of Arlingtonians helped us achieve something special at the Libraries this year: 1,016,846 checkouts! Residents borrowed more items than ever, including print materials, audiobooks, and Library of Things collections, placing Arlington fifth in statewide circulation.

Circulation of Library Materials



1,016,846 Total circulation

5th in the Commonwealth in total circulation!
4.14% increase over FY24



Physical materials circulation

263,875

Digital materials circulated
20.56% increase over FY24

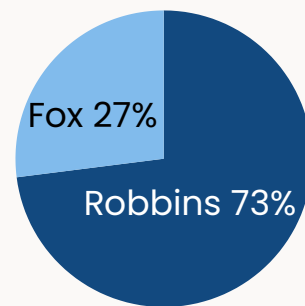
752,971

Physical materials circulated
0.60% decrease over FY24

Library Visits

322,685

Total visits to both libraries
0.95% increase over FY24



Fox Branch visits (88,539)
0.74% increase over FY24

Robbins visits (233,461)
0.73% increase over FY24

Programs and Services

1,049 Library programs **27,000** Program attendees

54,140 Reference questions answered

Library Staff Members

26

Full-time staff

19

Part-time staff

9

Library pages (shelving and other tasks)

Working Together to Support Our Libraries

In FY25, the Town of Arlington provided approximately 81% of the Libraries budget. To help bridge the gap between community need and the municipal budget, Arlington's Libraries received critical philanthropic funding from four support organizations. Proceeds from their efforts help cover library materials, equipment, and other operating needs.

Supporting Our Libraries in 2025



The appointed Board of Library Trustees oversees policies and manages funds held in Trust for the Libraries.



The Foundation manages the Annual Appeal and raises major gifts for the Libraries.



The Friends of the Robbins Library support the Libraries through volunteering and targeted funding.



The Fox & Robbin Shop supports the Fox Branch Library through resale of children's clothing and other items.

There Are Many Ways You Can Support the Libraries

- Visit the Robbins and Fox Branch Libraries
- Get a library card to borrow physical and digital materials
- Visit the 24/7 branch at robbinslibrary.org
- Use library databases
- Borrow tools, art, and other unusual library collections
- Attend a Library program
- Subscribe to the Library's newsletter
- Join the Friends of the Robbins Library
- Donate to the Arlington Libraries Foundation
- Shop at The Fox & Robbin Shop
- Purchase a book at the Friends of the Robbins Library 4th floor book sale