

MERIDIAN LIBRARY DISTRICT

Annual Report

October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019



@MeridianLibrary #myMLD



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This was a milestone year for the Meridian Library District. In May, for the first time since 1995, Meridian voters passed a significant library funding measure. The plant facility levy ushers in a new era for MLD. It will allow us to expand with new branches in North and South Meridian, renovate our 22-year-old main branch on Cherry Lane, and reopen our unBound technology branch in a renovated downtown Meridian space.

We are very grateful for Meridian's faith in the library, and we are committed to meeting the needs of our community as we look to the future. MLD remains dedicated to providing exceptional service to the citizens of Meridian, offering them every opportunity to educate themselves as they desire and discover something new.

That's why we're also proud of the smaller milestones that punctuated this year. Here are just a few highlights:

- We eliminated all late fines for MLD materials, reducing a barrier that disproportionately impacted low-income families.
- We launched a new Extreme Book Nerd reading challenge for teens and adults, which led to a significant increase in the number of patrons asking for reading recommendations and engaging in conversations about literature.
- We gave out more than 6,700 books during our summer reading program, and saw a 13% increase in participation from last year.
- We visited 1,940 Meridian residences for Library Card Sign-Up Month in September, helping many individuals connect with library resources for the first time.
- We expanded our selection of Spanish language adult fiction and added a new world languages collection. We also added new children's bilingual books to our collections.

In an Information Age with millions of stories and resources available at the tap of a finger, libraries remain more relevant than ever - uniquely positioned to support digital literacy skills along with more traditional literacy building efforts. We are excited for what the future holds as we grow and evolve alongside the community of Meridian.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gretchen Caserotti".

GRETCHEN CASEROTTI

Library Director

ABOUT MLD

The Meridian Library District serves the area of Meridian, the second-largest and fastest-growing city in Idaho.

The Occident Club founded the original Meridian Library in 1924, and voters established the Meridian Free Library District in 1974. The District now encompasses three locations and more than 90 employees. With Meridian voters passing a \$14 million plant facility levy with overwhelming support in May 2019, the District will spend the coming years renovating, expanding, and modernizing four library facilities.

MISSION

Support our community by enriching lives, igniting curiosity, and cultivating connections.

VALUES

Empathy – We treat our members and colleagues with patience, compassion, and respect.

Pro-Knowledge – We are committed to lifelong learning. We give you access to the things you want and help you find what you want to know.

Extraordinary – We strive for excellence in all areas and seek to exceed expectations. We do this by creating a culture of "yes" and demonstrating flexibility.

Relationships – We are a meeting place for the people of Meridian. We help make meaningful connections with our community.



2019 QUICK STATS

471,760
documented **VISITS**

➤ 9,000+ per week
1,300+ per day

MLD staff
responded to

51,468

reference questions
from patrons

**51% of Meridian
residents have an
active library card**



More than
40,000
unique users

accessed internet through MLD

92 MLD employees
staffed 3 locations
and 1 bookmobile



791 volunteers
logged 7,700+ hours



2019 QUICK STATS

1.6 million checkouts



Materials in our collection:

2,030 Kits, Magazines, etc.

205,298 Digital (ebooks, etc.)

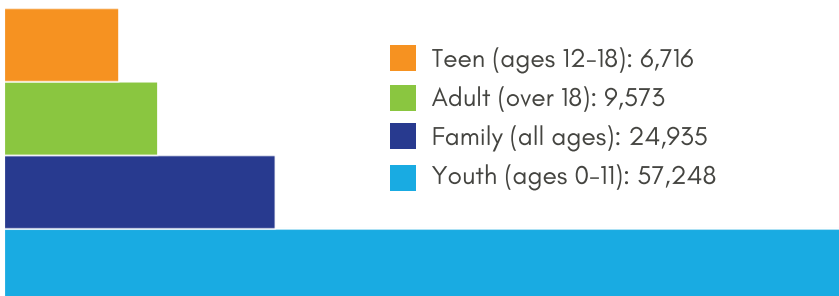
588,193 Adult Materials

786,933 Youth Materials

We added **20,684** physical items and **4,489** digital items. Circulation of print materials increased 6%, and circulation of digital materials increased 29%.

Among the new items added were early literacy and STEM kits for families and teachers, and memory kits for seniors.

98,472 total attendees were counted at **3,993 PROGRAMS**



Teen (ages 12-18): 6,716

Adult (over 18): 9,573

Family (all ages): 24,935

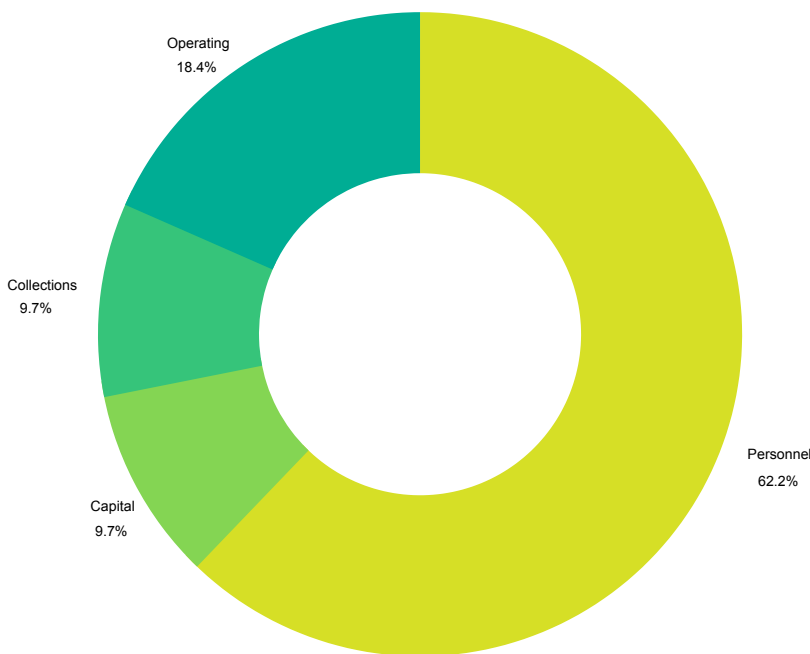
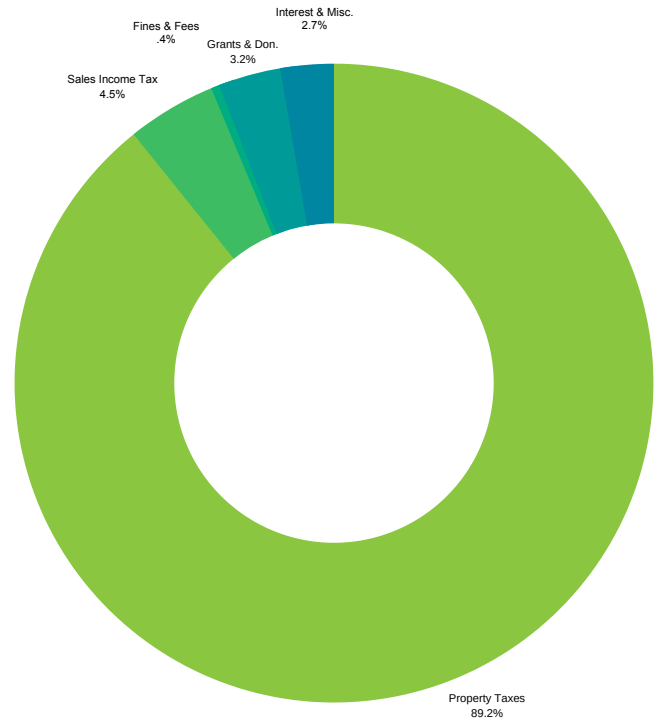
Youth (ages 0-11): 57,248



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

Property Taxes	\$5,250,307
Sales Tax Income	\$265,688
Fines & Fees	\$24,842
Grants & Donations	\$185,985
Interest & Misc. Income	\$158,669
Total Revenue	\$5,885,491



EXPENSES

Personnel	\$3,477,688
Capital	\$542,492
Collections	\$543,385
Operating	\$1,030,143
Total Expenses	\$5,593,708

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tiny Library celebrates a successful first year

The Tiny Library opened to the public in October 2018. Housed in a repurposed shipping container, the interactive learning space is specifically geared for children ages 0-5. In addition to a rotating selection of board and picture books and a small parent-teacher collection, the Tiny Library offers early literacy kits purchased with grant funds from the Meridian Rotary. All materials and interactive activities are focused on the five early learning practices: talking, playing, singing, writing, and reading.



National Medal for Museum and Library Service

The Meridian Library District was one of 10 recipients from across the country to receive the National Medal in May. Awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the medal is the nation's highest honor for institutions that make significant contributions to their communities. The prize included a \$10,000 cash award that will be used to create a new Children's Book Festival in 2020. It also brought StoryCorps to MLD for three days to record and preserve stories from the community.



SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Library of Congress Literacy Award

The Meridian Library District was among 15 organizations from across the country honored for implementing best practices in literacy promotion, an award that came with \$5,000 to support ongoing work. Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden was present at the award ceremony in DC (pictured below).

Other accomplishments

- Received a \$42,600 grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to create **Meridian Moves**, a community health and wellness program.
- Received a \$20,000 Blue Cross Employee Foundation grant for the **Story Trail** memory lane project, a collaborative project with the Meridian Parks Department and the Meridian Senior Center.
- Received a grants from POWER Engineers and the Idaho STEM Action Center to create and furnish a makerspace called the **LABrary** at the Silverstone branch.
- Brought Cherry Lane lobby restrooms in line with ADA accessibility requirements with a \$79,000 Community Development Block Grant from the city of Meridian.
- Received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2019 fiscal budget.



MLD STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Library Director **Gretchen Caserotti** served as Chair of the Association for Library Service to Children's Budget Committee and was elected to the University of Idaho McClure Center for Public Policy's Advisory Board.
- Assistant Director **John Thill** served as the Idaho Library Association's Legislative Chair.
- District Programs Manager **Megan Egbert** served on the prestigious 2019 Caldecott Award Selection Committee, which determines the most distinguished American illustrated children's book of the year. Megan also served on Brooklyn Public Library's Librarians of Tomorrow Steering Committee.
- Youth Services Librarian **Skye Corey** was named a Mover & Shaker by Library Journal magazine, the second MLD librarian to be named out of only eight in the state of Idaho.
- Silverstone Branch Manager **Nate Pedersen** graduated from the Meridian Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Meridian Program, and Technology Services Manager **Jason Su** was accepted into the next year's cohort.
- Public Services Librarian **Emily Brock** and Page Supervisor **Allie Poole** served on the Idaho Library Association's 2019 Conference Planning Committee.
- Material Services Manager **Cheri Rendler** served on the Idaho Library Association's Idaho Book Award Committee.
- With funding from a Future of Libraries Fellowship, Digital Services Librarian **Jenaleigh Kiebert** and Tech Library Assistant **Alex Johnatakis** completed an online "Tiny Toolkit" as a resource for libraries looking to open non-traditional small spaces like MLD's Tiny Library.
- Community Librarian **Justin Prescott** served as chair of the Data Subcommittee for the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services.

The staff members at Meridian Library are highly respected in the field, both in the state of Idaho and nationally, and they have a growing reputation. Their passion for their work shows in the impact they make with the individuals in the community as well as on the profession.





SILVERSTONE BRANCH

3531 E. Overland Road
Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 884-2616

MAIN BRANCH

1326 W. Cherry Lane
Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 888-4451

TINY LIBRARY

5159 S. Hillsdale Ave.
Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 576-3511