



2025 Annual Impact Report

RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY **FOUNDATION**

Building Tomorrow's
Community Today



Building Tomorrow's Community Today

With over a century of service to Richmond, the Richmond Public Library is deeply rooted in our community. We are a place of connection, providing strength and support that enriches our city and celebrates the diversity of our neighbors. Our library branches serve as vibrant hubs where residents come together and build community bonds.

Families gather for group story times where children develop a love of reading and adults form lasting friendships. Students and entrepreneurs find the quiet study spaces they need to turn dreams into achievements. Civic groups use our meeting spaces to plan initiatives that transform our community.

When we invest in our libraries, we create opportunities for residents of all ages. Our programs and resources help build a strong foundation for learning in school and throughout life. We support personal advancement, develop critical thinking, spark creativity, and offer practical skills for civic engagement.

As we look to the future, it is essential that we continue to ensure our libraries are accessible and equipped with modern technology. With over 110,000 library cardholders and growing, our community counts on us.

Thank you for sharing our vision of building tomorrow's community today.



Scott Firestine
Library Director



Belmont

(804) 646-1139

3100 Ellwood Avenue



Broad Rock

(804) 646-8488

4820 Old Warwick Road



East End

(804) 646-4474

1200 N. 25th Street



Ginter Park

(804) 646-1236

1200 Westbrook Avenue



Hull Street

(804) 646-8699

1400 Hull Street



Main Library

(804) 646-4867

101 East Franklin Street



North Avenue

(804) 646-6675

2901 North Avenue



West End

(804) 646-1877

5420 Patterson Avenue



Westover Hills

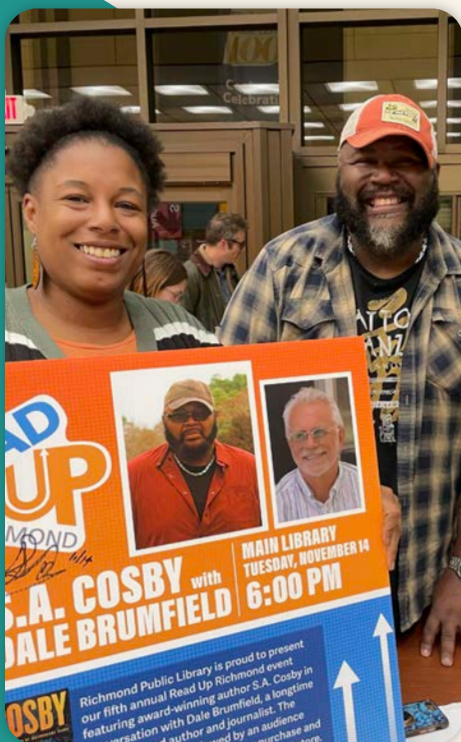
(804) 646-8833

1408 Westover Hills Boulevard

Serving Our Community

When you think of a library, you think of books. Yes, the Richmond Public Library offers access to over a million books but... we offer so much more!

We provide our community with information, education, job skills, gardening advice, social engagement opportunities for all ages, and even legal expertise. Access these free services at your favorite neighborhood branch.



Reading & Learning Resources

Start Early

Book Babies and Toddler Time programs, 'Listen and Read' books, and BOB Books for early readers.

Keep Reading

Access over a million titles, e-books, and audiobooks through Libby, Kanopy, and Hoopla.

Keep Learning

Earn your GED, learn a new language, take online courses, or explore reliable health information from MedlinePlus.

Career & Workforce Development

Build Skills

Build technical skills through one-on-one help and workshops - from basic to advanced computer training.

Find a Job

Get help with résumés and applications, and access JobNow's online career coaches.

Borrow Equipment

Sign out laptops and use free Wi-Fi at all locations.



Community & Connection

Free Spaces

Rooms for study groups, tutoring, and community meetings.

Free Fun

Music programs, art exhibits, knitting and sewing clubs, and other special-interest groups.

Book Clubs

Grab Book Club Bags (10 copies per bag, to use for 6 weeks).

Expert Help

Connect with legal resources, Master Gardeners, community organizations, and free notary services.



Getting Started

Who Can Join:

You can get a FREE Richmond Public Library card if you live in:

- Charles City
- Chesterfield
- Dinwiddie
- Goochland
- Hanover
- Henrico
- Hopewell
- King William
- New Kent
- Petersburg
- Powhatan
- Prince George
- Richmond
- Williamsburg

Additionally, we never charge fines for overdue materials!



Richmond Public Library is Your Public Library

We asked for your input because great libraries are built by great communities. Your feedback matters, and this conversation continues.

What's important to you?

- More rooms for work and study; quiet, comfortable seating with charging ports
- More books, more neighborhood branches, and more community events!
- Additional cutting-edge technology and interactive learning spaces
- Improved safety, comfort, and accessibility for all (including ramps, lifts, and Braille resources)
- Greater focus on environmental sustainability and eco-friendly projects



What's Next?

Opportunities for Continued Community Investment

- Modernize collaborative workspaces and study areas
- Create inviting, comfortable seating areas that encourage visitors to stay
- Add more books, movies, and music
- Upgrade computer systems across all library branches
- Protect the James River through innovative green infrastructure and native gardens



RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY **FOUNDATION**

The Foundation supports a resilient and vibrant community through philanthropic investment in the Richmond Public Library.

What Does This Mean?

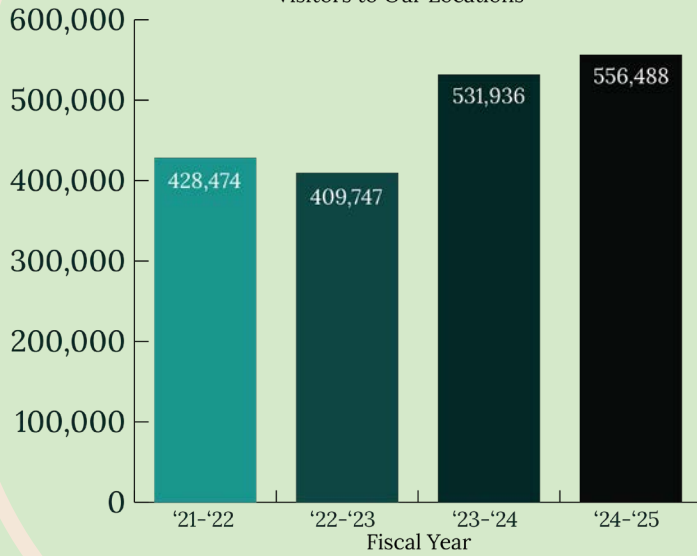
Our Foundation connects individuals, businesses, community and family foundations who share a commitment to the community. This increases our library's capacity to serve. In one way or another, we are all served by the library. Early learning, workforce development, and collaborations happen when we all work together.

This year, we've witnessed firsthand how strategic support transforms lives. Thanks to your donations, we updated children's areas, strengthened the Summer Intern program, hosted Read Up Richmond, and promoted the Memory Lab. These initiatives are examples of how the Foundation supports our community.

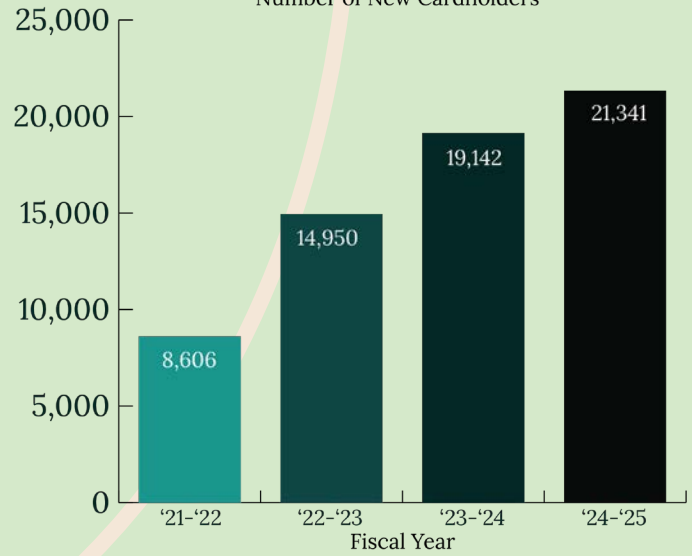
Investment in our community means a responsible investment in Richmond Public Library with modern buildings, new resources, and opportunities for all of us. Access to libraries ensures that a ZIP code never determines opportunity.

Connections by the Numbers

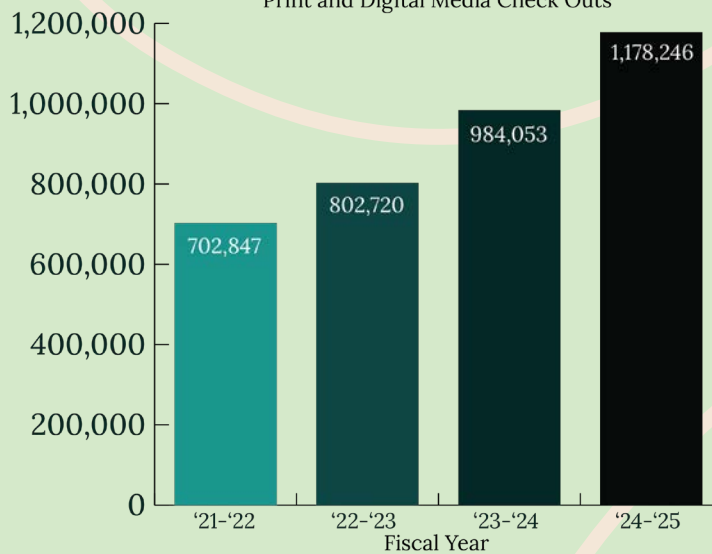
Visitors to Our Locations



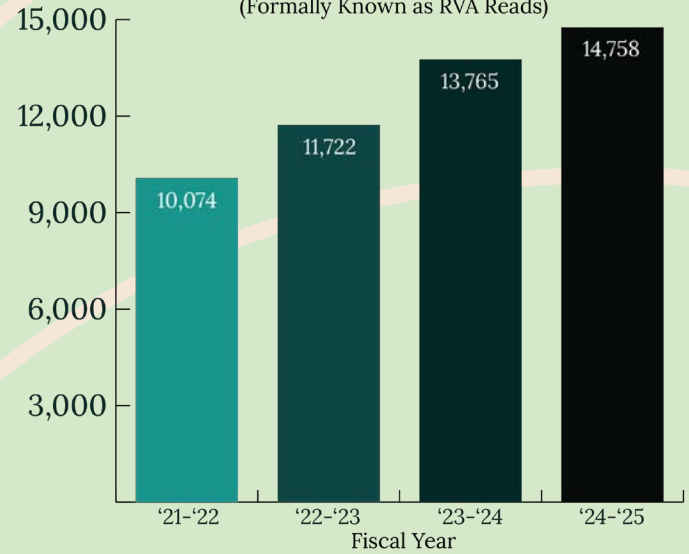
Number of New Cardholders



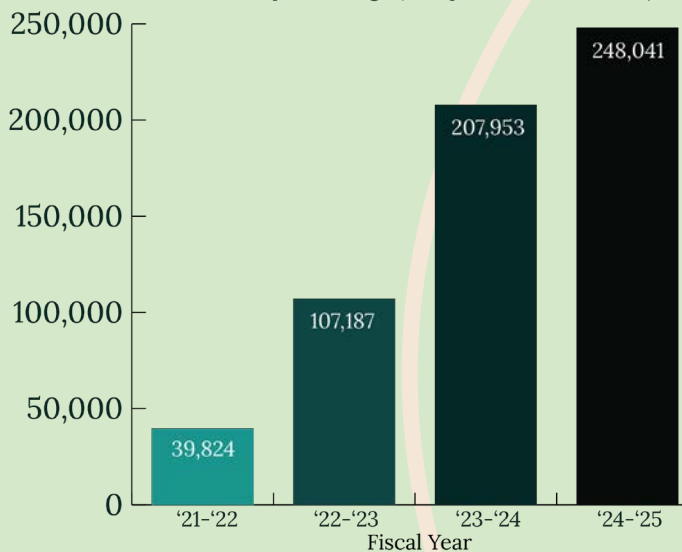
Print and Digital Media Check Outs



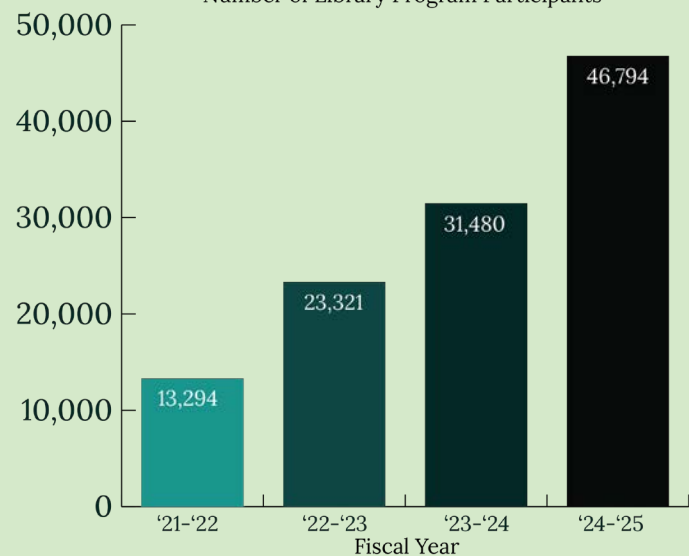
Books Given Out by Read with Ripple
(Formerly Known as RVA Reads)



Patron Computer Usage (Computer Lab and Wi-Fi)



Number of Library Program Participants



Board of Directors, Richmond Public Library Foundation

President:

J. Dontrese Brown, *BrownBaylor*

Vice President:

Fran Bradford, *McGuireWoods Consulting*

Treasurer:

Rich Peterson, *Community Leader*

Secretary:

Scott Firestine, *Library Director*

Board of Trustees, Chair:

Chris Peterson, *Community Leader*

Friends of Richmond Public Library, Chair:

Ruth DeBoer, *CPL*

Emeritus Members:

Brooks M. Smith, *Troutman Pepper*

The Hon. C.N. Jenkins, Jr.,
Commonwealth of Virginia

Foundation Executive Director:

Susan Revere

Directors:

Peter Blake, *Community Leader*

Ryan W. Childress, *Anew Climate*

Allan-Charles Chipman,
Initiatives of Change

Tori Filas, *Virginia Credit Union*

Jennifer Goins, *Community Leader*

Jamie Isley, *Leadership Metro Richmond*

Mary Lauderdale, *Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia*

Nissa Lipowicz, *Community Leader*

Dominique McKenzie, *Seven Hills Strategy Group*

Paige Newman, *Virginia Museum of History & Culture*

Sue McFadden Patow, *Community Leader*

Ashley Payne, *Country Club of Virginia*

Felix Schapiro, *Community Leader*

John E. Ulmschneider, *Community Leader*

Janet Woody, *Community Leader*

Deon Wright, *Dominion Energy*





Investing in Tomorrow's Community Today

Dear Friends,

When you invest in the Richmond Public Library, you're not just funding a building; you're fueling a movement. A movement that says education is a right, not a privilege. A movement that refuses to let a child's ZIP code dictate their destiny.

This year, we've seen what happens when vision meets action. A working parent earned their GED because our programs created a pathway. A small business owner turned an idea into a startup because our library offered the tools to dream bigger. These are not just stories; they are proof that when a community invests in itself, transformation follows.

We built home libraries for more than 1,500 young Richmonders and their families last year through Read with Ripple. We opened the Main Library's new Early Learning Center and Young Adult space, designed with the community, not just for it. We digitized thousands of documents and photographs so that our shared history is accessible, fueling connection for generations to come.

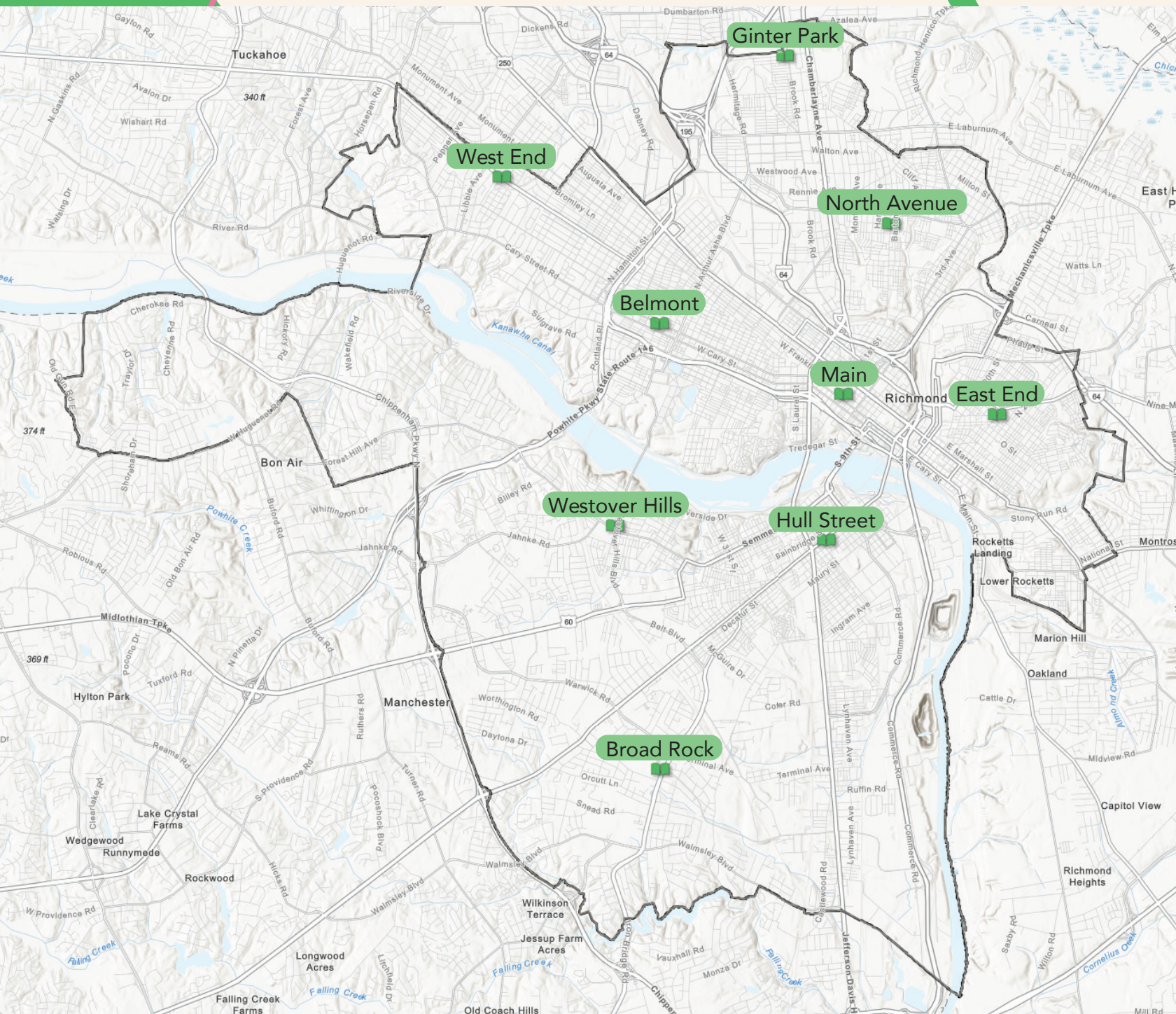
This is more than philanthropy. Each dollar entrusted to us strengthens the foundation for families to prosper, businesses to grow, and neighborhoods to thrive. You are helping us prove that when communities choose to prioritize accessible education and resources, we build a future where equity is not just aspirational, it is inevitable.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for believing in this vision, for standing with us, and for helping us turn possibility into reality. Together, we are not just imagining a better Richmond; we are building it.

Together we will.



J. Dontrese Brown
Board President



Donate Today



Richmond Public Library Foundation relies on donations to support Richmond Public Library's mission to Inform, Enrich, and Empower.

rvalibrary.org/about/foundation/

Contact Us

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