



FOLMC

FY2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the FOLMC Board President

I am proud to present the Annual Report for FY24, which reflects a year of progress and strategic focus for the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County.

I joined the Board of Trustees in 2018 and was elected its President in 2023. Through many years of serving on non-profit boards in various roles, including as an officer, as well as in the local community and at the state and national levels, I have accumulated a deep understanding of board dynamics and governance practices. By working together, my Board colleagues and I pledge our commitment to guiding FOLMC towards an even more impactful future.

I have always respected the mission of FOLMC, but after spending more time getting to know our staff and everything we do to support Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), I'm even more awestruck at all the things that we can accomplish.

Libraries have made a profound transformation in recent years, evolving from primarily places to borrow books to becoming vibrant hubs for community and culture. People are seeking out the library, not only for information and resources, but also for experiences that speak to their interests in a real and authentic way.

Your support enabled us to fund over 750 unique and memorable programs in 2024, many by world-class experts in their field, who presented hands-on and inclusive library programming on a wide array of topics, ranging from MoComCon to Vinyl Record Day, social justice-themed writing workshops, even jump rope exhibitions that keep Black female cultural traditions alive.

I am incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work of our team, including our staff, board members, volunteers, and Friends who make all these things possible.

This annual report is a testament to our collective commitment to Montgomery County Public Libraries, but the success of our mission depends entirely on you.

FOLMC is an independent nonprofit that does not receive government funding; it has operated for over 40 years through the support of our Friends and donors. I hope we can continue to count on you to fund the programs, materials, equipment, and technology that enrich the library experience and transform lives in Montgomery County—now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Frances M. Frost, President
Board of Trustees

friends OF THE LIBRARY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Administrative Office

21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 310
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 776-6001 • office@folmc.org

Bookstores

Randolph Hills Shopping Center
Wheaton Library and Community
Recreation Center
www.folmc.org/bookstores

Open Daily

- Sunday – Friday: 12:00PM – 6:00PM
- Saturday: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
- Donations accepted every day until 5:00PM

**Stay up to date on all
the latest FOLMC news!**

 Facebook.com/FOLMC

 [@folmcmd](https://www.instagram.com/@folmcmd)

 [@folmcmd](https://www.twitter.com/@folmcmd)

in Friends of the Library,
Montgomery County

PROGRAMMING

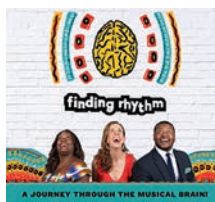
FOLMC funds and executes a range of programs that educate, entertain, and enrich curious minds.



MOSAIC CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

A program for middle schoolers to express cultural identity through the written word. Write to Right led workshops helped students develop as writers and create a supportive literary community. Honored students enjoyed a literary discussion with Leah Henderson.

Writers: 136 | Middle Schools: 19
Winners/Honorable Mentions: 23



LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH WITH FINDING RHYTHM

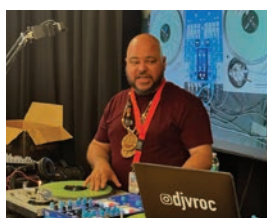
Celebrates libraries and recognizes their value in our community. "I love my library because..." virtual postcard collection shows how library patrons use and appreciate libraries.

CONTEMPORARY CONVERSATIONS

A series of talks about cultural and current issues with journalists, authors and other relevant speakers.



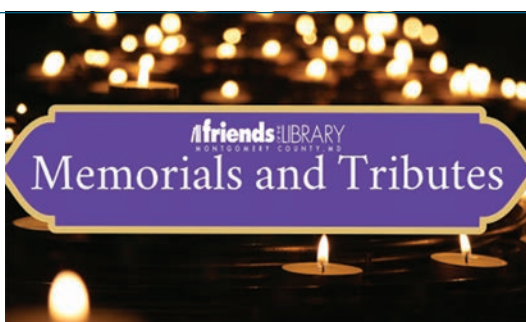
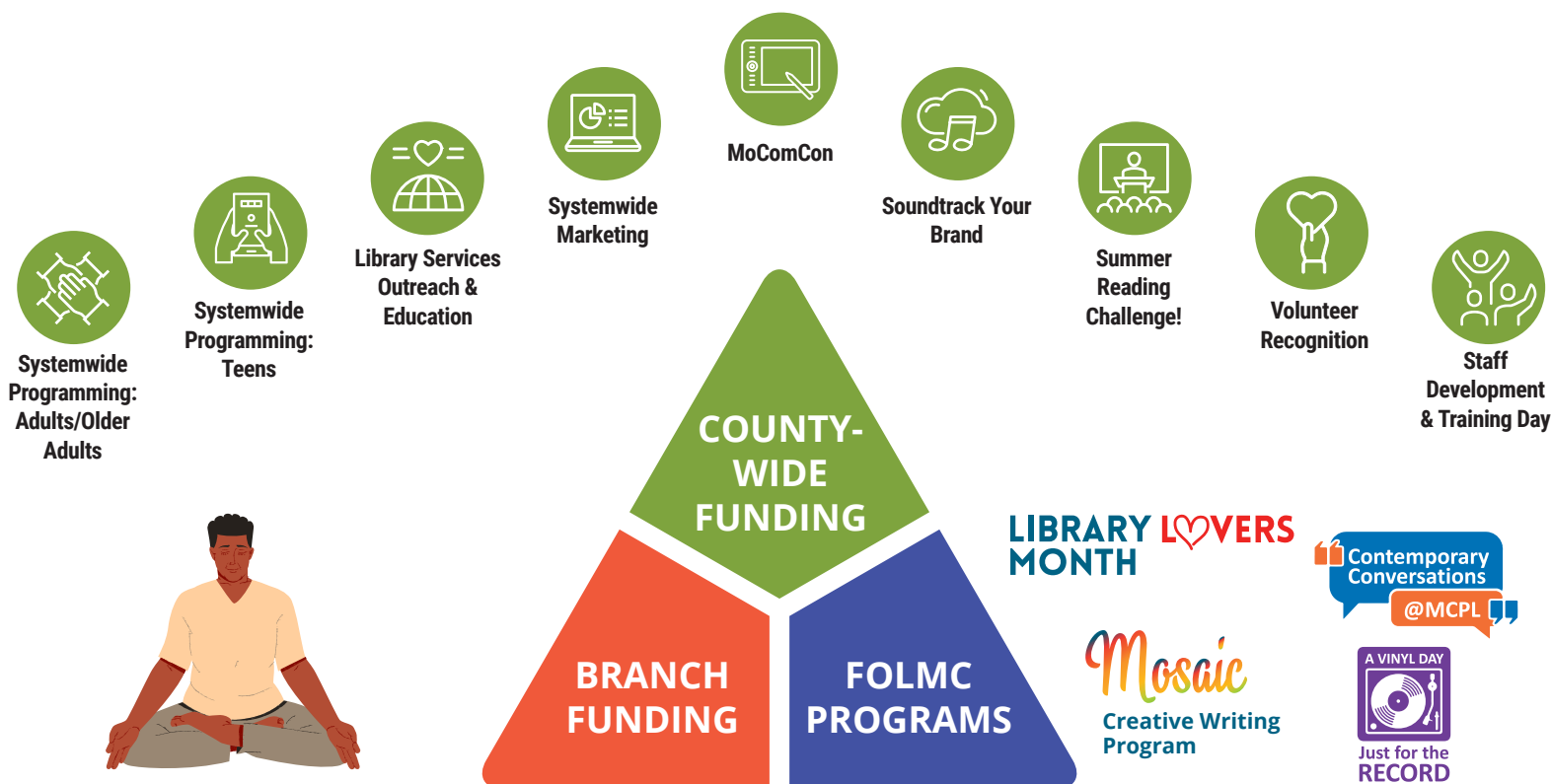
- Mahogany L. Browne, Black History Month (Rescheduled), June 3, 2024
- Bao Phi, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, May 20, 2024
- Dr. Tony Medina, Hispanic Heritage Month, October 11, 2023
- Dr. DJ Kuttin Kandi & BBoy Danny Nguyen, Hip Hop and the art of the DJ, August 12, 2023



JUST FOR THE RECORD: A VINYL DAY

A day devoted to the culture of playing, making, collecting and repurposing vinyl records through the first DJ Battle hosted in a library in the DMV, music production, songwriting & break dancing workshops, and a kids' dance party.

Image credit: Jason Turner, MCPL



MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

CELEBRATE FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES AND/OR HONOR THEIR MEMORY

Fred Akuffo
Carol Bernath
Ari Z. Brooks
Cynthia & Ben Burton
Teresa Cevallos
Dennis J. Collins
Maryclare Cooper

Valentine Disler
Cora Eng
Rochelle Follender
FOLMC
Audrey Ford
Florence H. Hein
Nicolette Ogle Herr

Shirley Herring
Rita Raeleen Holtz
Michael Kallay
Sheila Nathanson
Lockshin
Therese Maviluka
Nancy & Stan Pond

Joginder Singh
Jenny Tobin
William A. Tripoli
Barry Trub
Stormy

FUNDING

Financial Support* to Montgomery County Public Libraries



System-wide Programming – Adults/Older Adults (\$7,500)

Provides programs for the County's adult and older adult populations to support life-long learning; enhance technology skills; promote active aging and wellness; and provide art, culture, and entertainment.



Systemwide Programming – Teens (\$7,500)

MCPL's Strategic Plan places an emphasis on Teens, with projects designed to attract more teens to the libraries through participating on advisory boards helping to plan programs and events.



Library Services Outreach & Education (\$3,100)

Funds outreach, education, and networking activities related to State Legislative Day and participation in Citizens for Maryland Libraries. These activities represent opportunities to discuss the value provided by libraries, funding needs for services, and potential partnerships with funding organizations such as the Maryland State government with policymakers, elected officials, and the public.



Systemwide Marketing (\$30,000)

The project's focus is marketing MCPL in general; services, programs, resources, and special events.



MoComCon (\$10,000)

MoComCon is entering its eighth year. The comic convention is open to all ages celebrating all things comics, graphic novels, and fandoms.



Soundtrack Your Brand (\$10,496)

A music streaming service that allows children's library staff to share music during programs using newly purchased branch iPads and AV Equipment Kits.



Summer Reading Challenge! (\$4,500)

The Summer Reading Challenge! is MCPL's annual signature systemwide event for children, teens, and families. It offers kids and teens a chance to fill their summer with great books and fun activities. Participants worked together collaboratively towards community-wide goals in support of the 2024 theme Adventure Begins at Your Library: La aventura comienza en tu biblioteca.



Volunteer Recognition (\$5,900)

Events in each branch to recognize the value volunteers bring to library service every day. Volunteers recognized include Library Advisory Committee members, Library Board members, and branch volunteers annually.



Staff Development and Training Day (\$12,000)

FOLMC funding pays for supplies, speakers, facilitators, refreshments, and any follow-up sessions.

Support Totaling \$90,996

** This financial support is for system-wide enhancements above and beyond the FOLMC core programs and individual branch programming that benefit patrons all year long.*

MISSION STATEMENT

To strengthen, promote, and champion Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), for it to better serve the learning interests and needs of the diverse and changing communities of the County, by

- Raising funds to enhance and supplement library programming, equipment, and services;
- Increasing public awareness of library resources and connecting local communities with their branch libraries;
- Creating volunteer opportunities for County residents to support MCPL;
- Engaging with the County's library support community to address the ongoing needs of the library system, and advocating for MCPL's budget to the County government.

VISION & VALUES

VISION

Everyone in the County values, benefits from, and supports Montgomery County Public Libraries

VALUES

Education – we facilitate awareness of public library resources for everyone

Innovation – we embrace change and evolution of libraries

Service – we give back to our community

Integrity – we operate transparently as responsible stewards of public trust

Advocacy – we are champions for our library system

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pamela H. Saussy, President (July - Dec)

Frances M. Frost, Vice President (July - Dec);
President (Dec - June)

Shelley Johnson Carey, Vice President (Jan - June)

Javiera Alarcon

Wilson Badillo

Margo Brenner Collins

Christine Crefton

Melissa King

Laura MacInnis

Maya Massey

Tony Spearman-Leach

Malanie Richardson

Denise Neary, Secretary

Kelly Metz, Treasurer

Student Members:

Josephine Abate

Shizuko "Zuzu" Suliman

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ari Z. Brooks, Executive Director

Lysette House, Deputy Director

Lance Salins, Director of Business Operations

Angela Meyers, Volunteer Manager

Grace Babbitt, Administrative Coordinator

ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

LF CPA & Associates, LLC

Laura Frene, CPA, CFA, Accounting

Paisley Green, LLC

Laura Rodini, Development
& Communications

impactHR, LLC

R3, LLC

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



MID-ATLANTIC SCRATCH LEAGUE (MASL)

Virak Sath is a DJ and co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic Scratch League (MASL) which was formed in 1997 to celebrate the art of turntablism, its shift from vinyl to digital formats, and to pass it down to younger generations. "We're not only teaching DJ'ing but also all different aspects of the culture, like beat refinery," Sath said, "You can play anything from a record, but you can manipulate the sound to whatever you want and make it totally different; that's how hip hop started, from DJs. The library is such an open space, and our objective is to spread knowledge, and so the library is the perfect place for learning this culture."

MASL was a key performer at this year's MoComCon and Just for the Record: A Vinyl Day music festival, where Sath and his fellow DJs hosted workshops, setting up turntables for younger generations to try out. "I appreciate the opportunities FOLMC has given us to do this," Sath continued, "We've done other events, like Artscape and on the big stages, but having a more intimate setting is the best way to show what we do and break things down in layman's terms. It means a lot to teach a group of kids, who have never seen anything like this before, get on the turntables and watch their faces light up."



A JUMP ROPE PROGRAM THAT KEEPS ALIVE CULTURAL TRADITIONS

The library might seem a strange place to host a Double Dutch jump rope exhibition, but DC Retro Jumpers' innovative programs for multigenerational audiences are as much about preserving an African American female cultural tradition as they are about having fun.

"The games that boys play, like baseball and football, are part of the mainstream consciousness. However, the games that girls play don't have the same level of familiarity," says Joy Jones, founder of DC Retro Jumpers. "Fewer of today's children are familiar with outdoor play and non-digital forms of recreation, which makes it crucial that traditional forms of play like Double Dutch are documented and introduced to modern audiences."

FOLMC funded Double Dutch programs at the Wheaton Library & Community Recreation Center and Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library (Silver Spring), along with writing workshops hosted by Jones. Her award-winning book, *Jayla Jumps In* (Albert Whitman & Company, 2020), details one girl's quest to start a Double Dutch Team and, in doing so, finds her place in her community.

"Libraries are centers of knowledge and culture. Double Dutch not only develops physical strength and dexterity but also cultivates creative and critical thinking. Having Double Dutch programming in the library keeps alive some of the female traditions from previous generation, and I am glad we are not losing that."



A STUDENT-LED SOCIAL JUSTICE WRITING PROGRAM

FOLMC supported a series of social justice-themed writing workshops from Write to Right, a free writing program created by high school senior Tara Prakash, who is also the Inaugural Maryland Youth Poet Laureate.

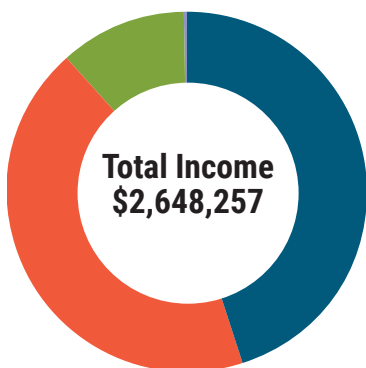
Prakash's programs enabled participants to engage in what's happening in the world by examining recent headlines and creative literary journalism pieces. "We teach writing as a tool towards social justice and a vehicle for community change," Prakash said.

"Our mission is around the power of language and words, so being able to teach in a library emphasizes that," Prakash continues, "The library is such a public space—a magical space—that's accessible to everyone. In school, the program is limited to students, but in the library anyone can participate. Anyone can come and take part. We're bringing people together over a shared love of literature."

FOLMC is supported in part by funding from the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County



FINANCIALS



45.1% Earned Income
\$1,194,954

43.4% In-Kind
\$1,150,204

11.2% Contributed Income
\$296,970

.2% Other Income
\$6,129

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – FYE JUNE 30, 2024

Audit presented by Aprio, LLP, February 2025



82.1% Program Services
\$2,305,605

16.6% Management & General
\$466,848

1.3% Fundraising
\$35,687