

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2020 - September 2021



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

This was another year defined by adaptation and innovation at the Meridian Library District.

As COVID-19 case numbers and public health guidance shifted, we continued to reimagine services and programs to safely connect with our community. Our staff adapted popular early learning programs to online and outdoor environments, introduced new take-home activity kits, continued staffing a live virtual chat service, and offered free home delivery to Meridian residents. And though hundreds of residents connected with these new opportunities, many still relied on our in-building resources. Even with occupancy limited in our locations as a precaution for much of the year, our locations saw 222,263 visits. Our staff distributed thousands of free masks, gallons of hand sanitizer, and hundreds of free COVID-19 test kits to patrons coming through our doors.



Megan Larsen

Patrons visited the library for books but also for assistance navigating the bookshelves. With parents and caregivers facing ongoing challenges – homeschooling, working from home while caring for young children – many turned to library staff for help educating and entertaining their kids.

Other patrons visited the library primarily for free, reliable internet access. This resource was especially critical for job-seekers. Our staff members regularly assisted patrons as they assembled cover letters and resumes. One patron borrowed a laptop and hotspot for a job interview that required Zoom. She later called to let our staff know she got the job.

These community connections extended beyond our library walls. Our dedicated outreach team found safe ways to continue offering homework help at apartment complexes, bringing activity kits to child care centers, and providing assisted living residents with a constant supply of library materials.

In the middle of this unusual year, we also expanded our footprint with a new location: our unBound business and tech library. Originally operating out of a temporary pilot location from 2015 to 2019, we were thrilled to re-establish this unique resource in downtown Meridian. Within a week of opening, a local business owner had utilized unBound technology to make custom chocolate molds for a new product. She is now one of many regulars who return to the space to continue learning and innovating alongside our staff.

Libraries are so much more than buildings full of books. We provide critical connections, vital services, and personalized support to our community. And that work continues to be more important than ever.

ABOUT US

The Occident Club founded the original Meridian Library in 1924, and voters established the Meridian Free Library District in 1974. The District now encompasses four locations. We serve the area of Meridian, the second-largest and fastest-growing city in Idaho.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Meridian Library District will provide equal access to information, works of the imagination, and public space, offering resources and services that support educational success, economic development, an informed electorate, and overall quality of life regardless of race, nationality, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, language, ability, economic and employment status, and educational attainment.

MISSION

The Meridian Library District supports our community by enriching lives, igniting curiosity, and cultivating connections.

VALUES

Empathy: We treat our patrons and colleagues with patience, compassion, and respect.

Learning: We are committed to lifelong learning and helping patrons find what they want to know.

Excellence: We seek to exceed expectations and demonstrate flexibility.

Relationships: We are a meeting place for the people of Meridian, facilitating meaningful connections within our community.

Inclusivity: We serve and provide access to every member of the community, embracing individuals of all backgrounds.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The goals and strategies outlined in our 2021-25 Strategic Plan are designed to address our community's biggest needs. You can view the full plan at www.mld.org/strategic-plan.

Goal 1: Expand sustainable and inclusive spaces for a growing community.

Goal 2: Undertake a community-wide initiative to improve early literacy.

Goal 3: Pinpoint priorities to address the most critical service needs in Meridian.

Goal 4: Deepen awareness of the breadth and relevance of library services.

Goal 5: Develop and maintain the Meridian Library District's strong organizational culture.

HIGHLIGHTS

THE BASICS

Operated **4 library locations**,
1 bookmobile, and **delivery vehicles**



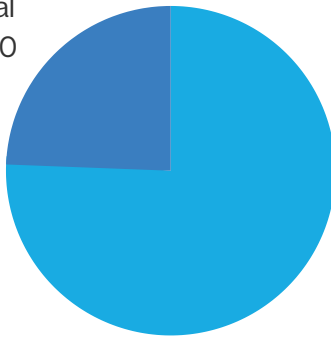
Locations were open for **8,082 hours**
and saw a total of **222,263 visits**

62,438 people –
including half the residents
in our service area – have
a Meridian Library card

LIBRARY MATERIALS

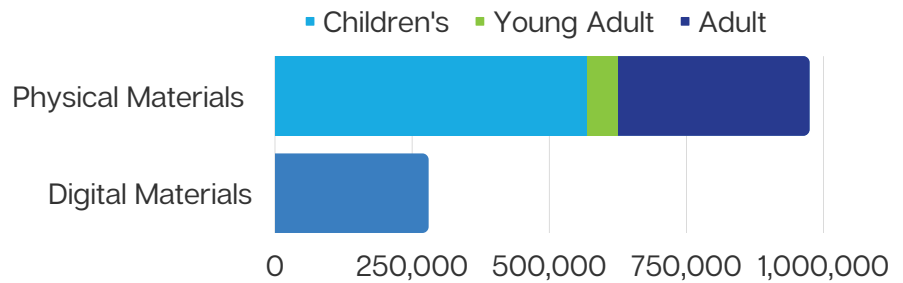
Collection of **216,886 items**

Digital
52,910



Physical
163,976

1,252,480 total checkouts



Subscribed to nine research databases for community use, including newspaper access, and early learning, fundraising, and business resources. Also **provided access to state databases**

22,142
home delivery
orders reached
7,762 patrons



Loaned **100,921 items**
to other libraries
across the country, and
received **134,173 loans**
from other libraries.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

20,776 uses of
21 internet stations
in library buildings

19,586 wireless sessions



620
3D print
submissions
through unBound
business &
tech library

DIGITAL BRANCH

315,646 visits to www.mld.org

Live virtual chat was staffed
over **50 hours** a week,
and we answered an average
of **690 messages** per month

HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

This includes virtual, in-person, and community outreach events

355 children's programs
15,900 total attendance

68 young adult programs
355 total attendance

122 adult & senior programs
2,301 total attendance

29 all-ages programs
1,117 total attendance

22 self-guided activities
1,757 participants



Summer Reading reached:

- **1,277 children** through our Cherry Lane, Silverstone, and Tiny Library locations
- **1,097 children** through visits to child care centers and other community partners

- Hosted weekly Preschool Storytimes on Zoom throughout the year.
- Led outdoor storytimes at Cherry Lane and the Tiny Library in fall 2020 and spring 2021.
- Introduced hybrid Early Learning Skills and Kindergarten All-Stars programs. Families picked up supplies for activities at library locations, then followed along to staff videos at home.
- Got creative with interactive displays and scavenger hunts in our buildings.
- Reached 234 students and distributed 1,404 books through our summer mailing program, thanks to a sponsorship from Kiwanis. The program reached kids who were at home during the summer, with little access to libraries.
- Served 8 sites through the My First Books program, funded by an Idaho Commission for Libraries grant. Staff led monthly storytimes October-May, worked with 35 classes, served 587 children, and gave away 5,283 books to build home libraries.
- Provided kindergarten registration bags – including books! – to 1,453 children at 18 West Ada schools.
- Partnered with the Meridian Senior Center to distribute craft bags to assisted living facilities. The bags were designed to give staff at the facilities an activity to do with their residents.
- Equipped the Bookmobile with a printer and wireless internet to assist students with homework after school. Also added supplies to a food and hygiene pantry on the Bookmobile.
- Hosted Idaho Department of Labor and Women's and Children's Alliance for regular community outreach events. Also hosted St. Luke's COVID-19 vaccine mobile unit and American Red Cross blood drives.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

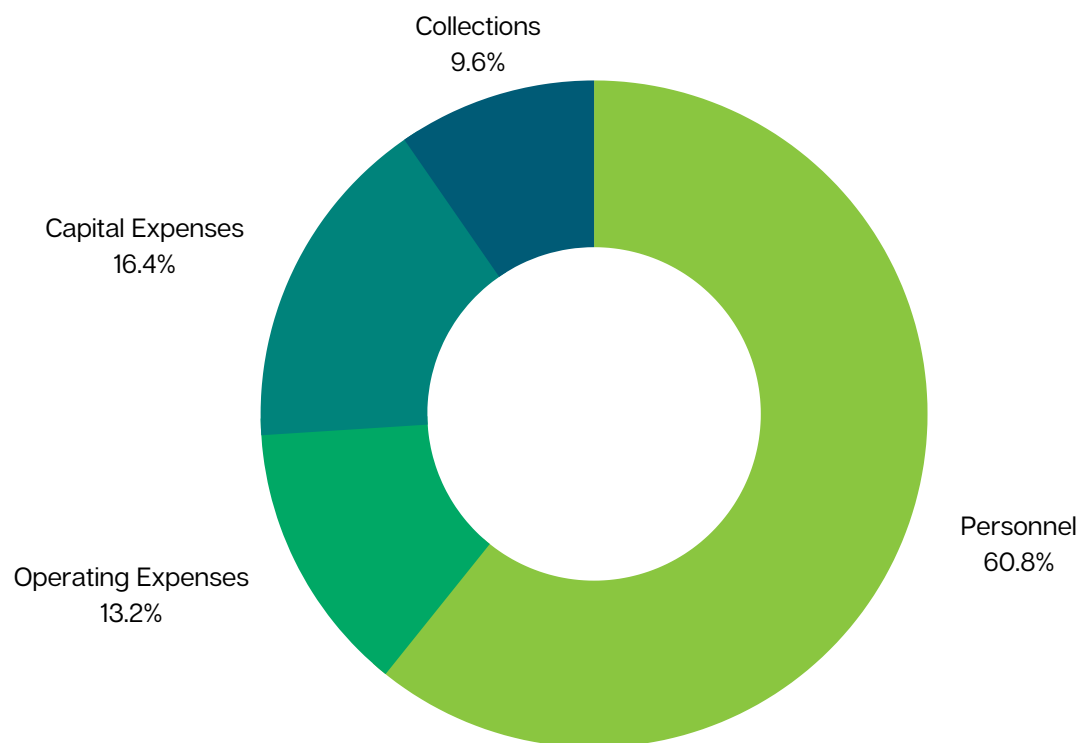
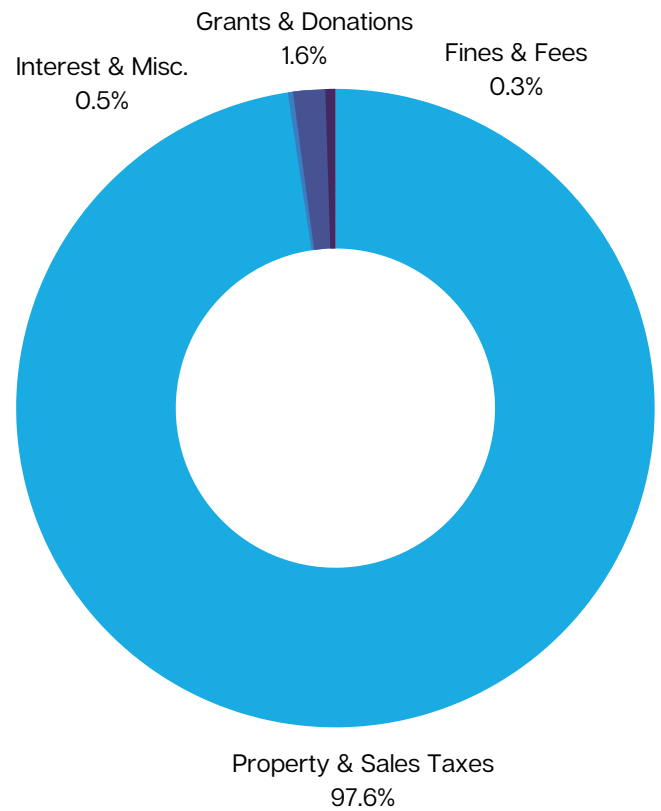
GENERAL FUND

REVENUE

Property & Sales Taxes	\$6,770,926
Fines & Fees	\$18,129
Grants & Donations	\$112,211
Interest & Misc. Income	\$35,197
Total Revenue	\$6,936,463

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$3,806,195
Operating Expenses	\$828,676
Capital Expenses	\$1,026,593
Collections	\$603,534
Total Expenses	\$6,264,998



CAPITAL PROJECT FUND

REVENUE

Plant Facilities Levy	\$1,400,000
Interest	\$4,159
Total Revenue	\$1,404,159

EXPENSES

Orchard Park –	\$121,549
Design Costs	
Total Expenses	\$121,549

CAPITAL PROJECTS

UNBOUND BUSINESS AND TECH LIBRARY

Renovations at 722 NE 2nd Street in downtown Meridian wrapped up in early 2021, and our unBound business and technology library opened for services in April 2021. unBound offers flexible meeting space, business-focused programs and books, and access to a range of technology – including 3D printers, laser engravers, and other fabrication equipment.

The final project cost for unBound was \$1,296,031 – slightly under our \$1.3 million budget. The project was paid for with 2020 and 2021 operating funds, in large part with funds from new construction tax revenue, saving plant facility levy funds for upcoming projects. unBound also received about \$40,000 in support from grants and individual donations, thanks to the Meridian Library Foundation.



NORTH MERIDIAN LIBRARY AT ORCHARD PARK

Construction of a new 15,000-square-foot library in the Orchard Park development at Linder Road and Chinden Boulevard began in summer 2021. The Meridian Library District will be a long-term tenant in the building. Tenant improvements will be covered by plant facility levy funds, private donations, and grants – including a \$250,000 grant from the Sunderland Foundation, secured by the Meridian Library Foundation. The North Meridian library is expected to open in December 2022.



SOUTH MERIDIAN LIBRARY

The Meridian Library and architects from MSR Design began planning and design work for a new branch at Lake Hazel and Locust Grove roads in South Meridian. The library will be located in the Pinnacle community under development by Brighton Homes. The new south branch will replace the Silverstone location, with a projected opening date in summer 2023.



**Meridian Library
at Cherry Lane**
1326 W Cherry Lane

Tiny Library
5159 S Hillsdale Avenue

**Meridian Library
at Silverstone**
3531 E Overland Road

unBound
722 NE 2nd Street

www.mld.org

