

Annual Report 2022



Letters from the Library

From our Director:



Dear BCPL community,

I am excited to present this report and the hard work and progress that it reflects. This was another year of growth and positive change for the Library, and it was exciting to see so many of you coming back in. We've built a wonderful team at BCPL and I'm consistently impressed by the creativity, dedication, and empathy that our staff brings to their work every day. In 2022 we welcomed several new staff members who have become core parts of our team and have initiated a burst of new energy and ideas. If you want to get a sense of how dynamic this change has been, just look at all of the programs we have posted on our bulletin boards and our website.

Many of our achievements are presented in this report, but I want to highlight a few of which I am particularly proud:

- Starting on January 1, 2022 we were able to completely eliminate overdue fees.
- We launched a new Peer Support Partnership with Catholic Charities, funded by a generous grant from the Klee Foundation. This program serves our patrons who are struggling with homelessness, mental health, and addiction.
- We launched a Ukrainian/English Bilingual Story Time program with a dedicated group of Community Educators from our local Ukrainian American community.
- We purchased a variety of new equipment including 3D printers, new gaming interfaces, a self-checkout kiosk, and mobile printing.

Thank you for your ongoing patronage and support of our Library!

Sincerely,

Josias Bartram
Library Director

From the Board of Trustees:



In 1902, Israel T. Deyo, R.A. Gunnison, N. McGee Waters, Martin J. Hughes and G. Parsons Nichols had a vision to build a Free Public Library Building in downtown Binghamton. With \$75,000 from Andrew Carnegie (equivalent to \$2,623,604.65 today) construction began. For the past 120 years, the vision of these five men has lived on due to the unwavering support from the City of Binghamton, Broome County, dedicated Library staff, Friends of the BCPL and your loyal support.

I'm sure these five men would be proud of how we have expanded on their vision to a point where our Free Public Library feels like a loving community center wrapped in thousands of beautiful books. We are a warming center when it's too cold, cooling center when it's too hot and a safe place when life gets too hard. Social groups gather for conversation and laughter. For 56 years The Friends of the BCPL have sponsored all the classes and programs so that they are free to anyone who wants to join in. Classes for yoga, knitting, and art are wildly popular. Children, teens and adults learn to read or play board games. Kids and teens use LEGOs to construct dinosaurs, stormtroopers or whatever their imagination dreams up. Parents and kids attend story time and kids read books to the therapy dogs; the dogs love it!

We all need a happy place where we feel safe, enjoy sitting in the quiet or can join a group and make new friends. Our library has been my happy place for many, many years thanks to the vision of Israel T. Deyo, R. A. Gunnison, N. McGee Waters, J. Hughes and G. Parsons Nichols and the generosity of Andrew Carnegie. Please stop in to walk through our beautiful Free Public Library, I would be more than happy to give you a tour and let you know of our vision for the future.

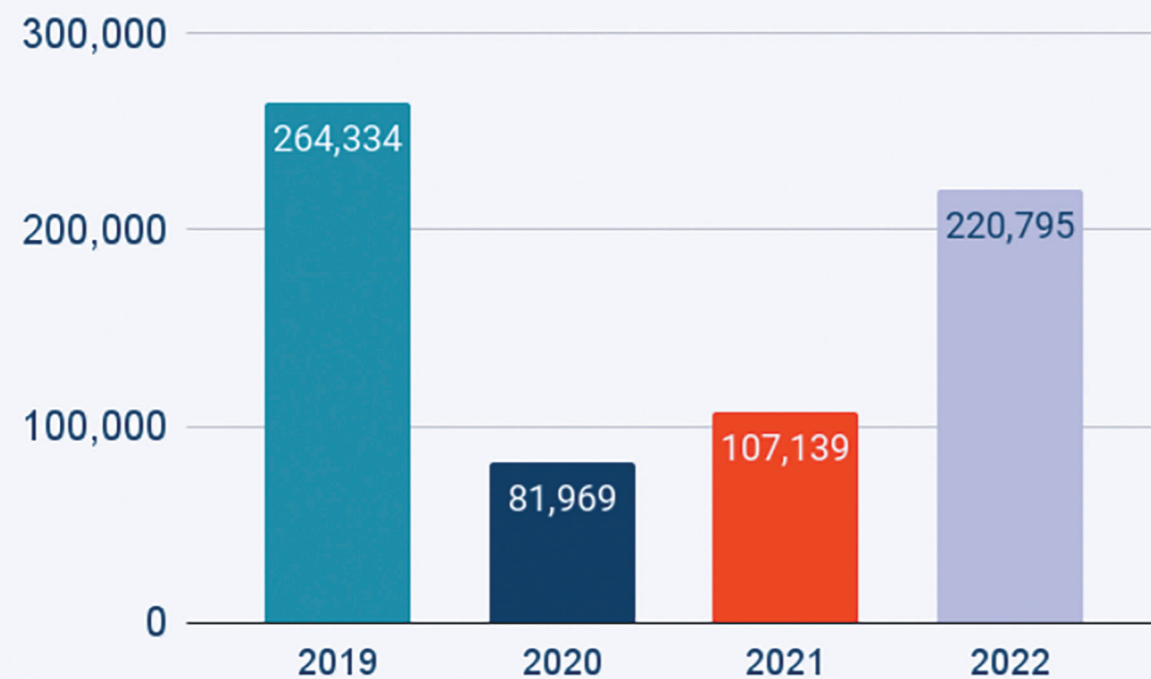
Respectfully,

JoAnne Hanrahan
President, Library Board of Trustees

Facts At A Glance

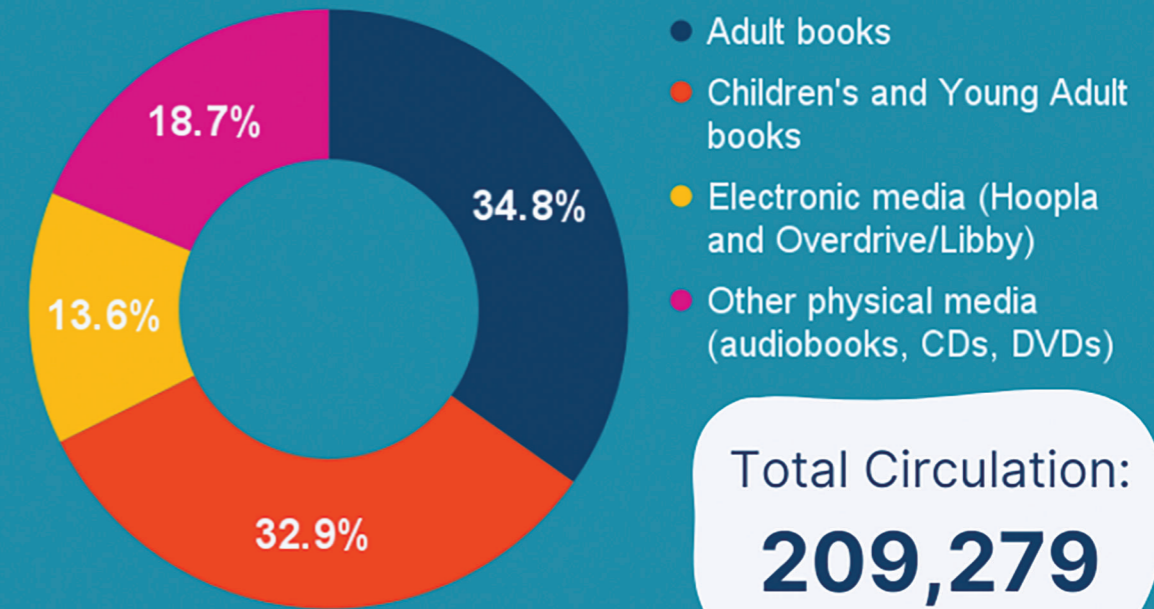
- **14,387** reference questions answered in person and by phone
- **138,177** webpage visits
- **220,795** total library visits
- **5,131** facebook followers
- **853** instagram followers
- **540** programs offered
- **7,029** total program attendance
- **28,068** items loaned through interlibrary loan
- **1,917** new patrons registered
- **15,382** public computer sessions
- **298,976** wireless sessions

Door count has risen by **106%** from 2021 to 2022.

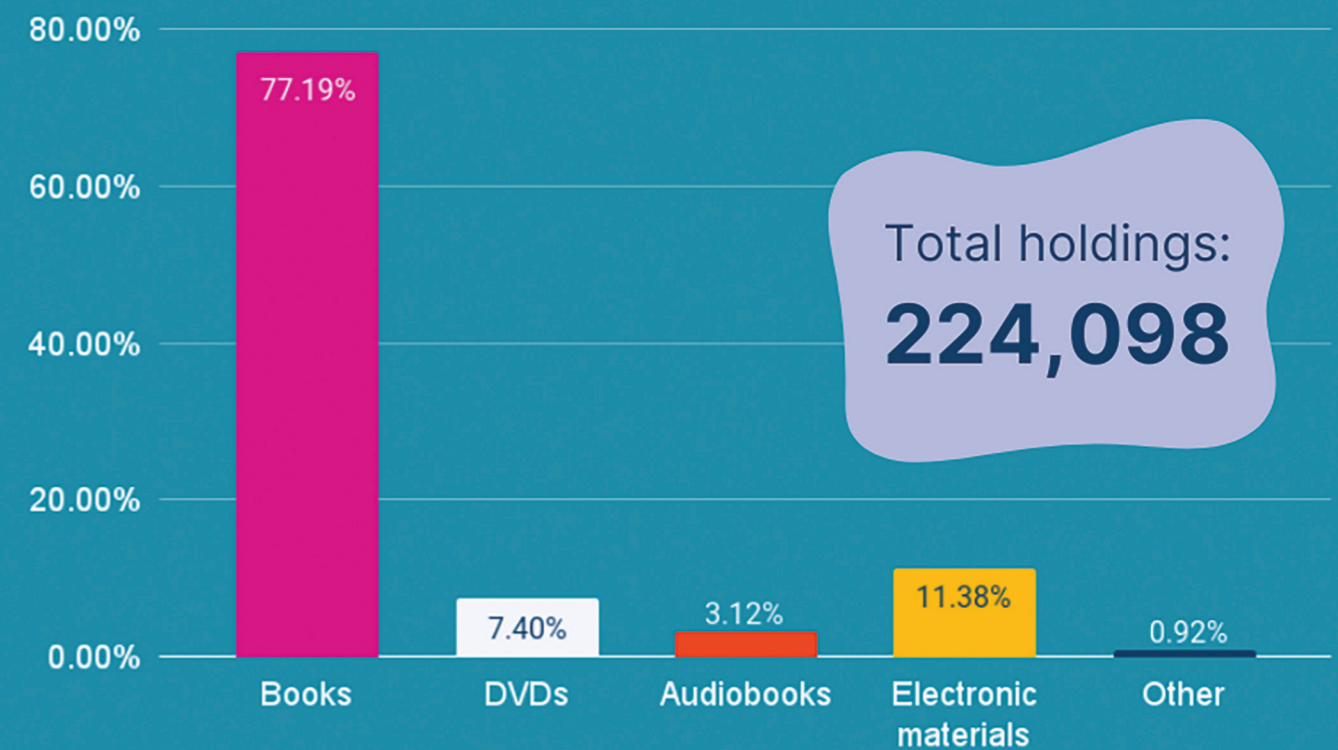


Collections

Materials circulated:



Library collections:



Peer Support Services

The peer support program was developed to serve our community's most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents, including those who are struggling with mental health, homelessness, addiction, and poverty.

As of December 2022, we have made 2,414 contacts on behalf of patrons to connect them to resources and services that meet immediate needs such as food and clothing, transportation, housing, employment, addiction recovery, and mental health and medical services.

Q&A with Iris and Josh:



Iris and Josh,
peer support
specialists

Q. What do you think is most meaningful about the peer support program?

A. We feel that the sense of community in the room is the most meaningful part of the peer program. People come in looking forward to seeing us, and each other. They have learned that they can come here to warm up, get help with their needs and find camaraderie. Getting to know people on a first name basis has helped us connect with patrons on a deeper level.

Q. Tell me about some of your favorite moments working in the peer support space in 2022.

A. Our favorite moments are when people smile at us and tell us positive stories about how we've helped them. We like it when people come in to update us on their situation. The patrons who come here have come to expect us being here and we believe they appreciate our presence as much as the resources we have to offer.

Q. Can you tell me more about the sense of community in the room?

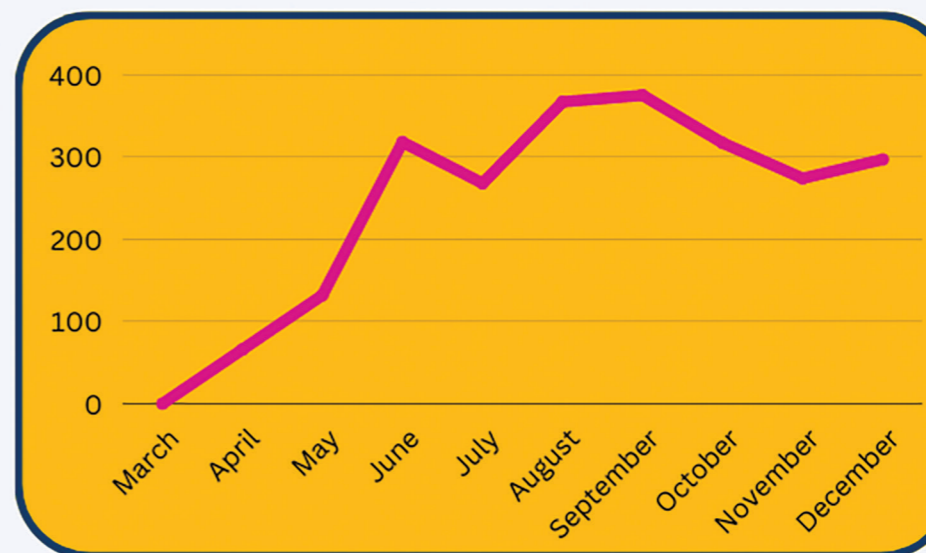
A. In the beginning of our program very few people knew or understood what we were doing here. We now have regulars who are in almost every day, who we have come to know on a first name basis. We engage in daily conversations with many of them, and the patrons talk amongst themselves as well, and many of them have made connections they didn't have previously.



Pictured from left to right: Laurie Accardi, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Broome County, Amanda McIntyre, Executive Director of the Klee Foundation, Jason Garnar, Broome County Executive, Joanne Hanrahan, President of the Board of Trustees and President of the Friends of the Broome County Public Library, Josias Bartram, Library Director, and Jared Kraham, Mayor of Binghamton.

We thank Catholic Charities of Broome County for partnering with us to provide these necessary services. We thank the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation and the Friends of the Broome County Public Library for their generous support of the program.

Number of Contacts Made Per Day



In 2022, we offered **292** program sessions for adults. Here are some of the highlights:

Queer Coffee Hour

Queer Coffee Hour began in September 2022 as a program for LGBTQIA+ adults to socialize and build community in Broome County. We work with Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP) to offer services to the community.

Care Kits (for homeless patrons)

In December 2022, the Library gathered donations of warm clothing, personal hygiene products, and snacks to distribute to homeless patrons. With the help of community volunteers, we packed and distributed 55+ kits.

Dungeons and Dragons

In November 2022, our Tabletop Role Playing programs began. Patrons enjoyed the first BCPL adventure campaign with Gabby Bonilla, our Dungeon Master.

We offered **272** program sessions for youth aged 0-18. Highlights:

Foster Grandparent

In July 2022, we began the "Borrow a Grandparent" program. Children of all ages can visit the Children's Room and read, work on homework, chat, color, and/or play games with our Foster Grandparent, Grandma Sherann.

Ukrainian/English Bilingual Storytime

Our Ukrainian Bilingual Story Time began in September 2022. Community educators read a traditional Ukrainian folktale in both English and Ukrainian, followed by a related craft activity.

LEGO Club

LEGO Club is held every Friday morning throughout the summer. We recommend a fun theme, but youth are welcome to build whatever they wish. Every participant's finished creation is placed on display at the Library for all to admire.

Our other offerings in 2022 included:

The Hungry Ear

Total attendance: 330

Summer Reading

Total attendance: 378

Gentle Chair Yoga

Total attendance: 414

Beginner/Advanced Beginner Yoga

Total attendance: 448

Bingo

Read Between The Dines Book Club

Acoustic Jam

Sit & Stitch

Recipe Swap

Scrabble Night

Tiny Art Gallery

Reiki

First Thursday Book Club

One-Shot RPG Club

Voter Registration Drive (with League of Women Voters)

Cutest Pet Contest

Donation Drive for RISE

Cult Classic Film Night

All Ages Pride Event

Art Without A Purpose

Knitting Group

Ancient History programs with Dr. Timothy Bridgeman

All Ages Game Day

AIDS Quilt Panel Making

Tech Thursdays

We also offered:

Summer Reading

Total attendance: 373

Lapsit Storytime

Therapy Dogs

Grab-N-Go Bags

Total distributed: 2,639

Crafty Kids

Teen Craft & Chat

Family Game Day

Preschool Storytime

Family Storytime

Homeschool art classes

STEAM days

Homeschool Science Fair

Tri-Cities Opera's Stone Soup

Binghamton Philharmonic's "Quaver has a feeling"

The Ancient Undersea Reptile Show with Mike & Roberta Straka

We thank the Community Foundation for South Central New York and the Roger Kresge Foundation for their generous support of Youth Services programs.



Spotlight: Sherry Kowalski

Sherry Kowalski serves as our **Assistant Director**. She works diligently to keep the operations of BCPL running smoothly. We'd like to highlight Sherry's perspective.

Q. You've been at BCPL for 16 years, what is your favorite part of working here?

The people, staff, and patrons! I feel very fortunate that I have been able to work with so many wonderful people. Helping patrons is so rewarding. It is also educational. You never know what questions people will ask when you are at the Information Desk. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't learn something new while researching an answer for a patron.

Q. How do you envision the future of BCPL?

I envision BCPL being the heart of the community. We have been expanding our programs and services to meet the community's needs and I see us continuing to add to the great work we have done so far.

Q. What stood out to you this year?

We are finally seeing a return to pre-pandemic activity levels! People are coming in to use our computers, check out books and DVDs, use our Wi-Fi and attend our programs. It makes me so happy to welcome back our regular patrons and to meet new patrons!

A thank you to our staff:

BCPL employs 27 staff members who make the Library the amazing community center that it is. We thank staff for their tireless efforts to serve our community.

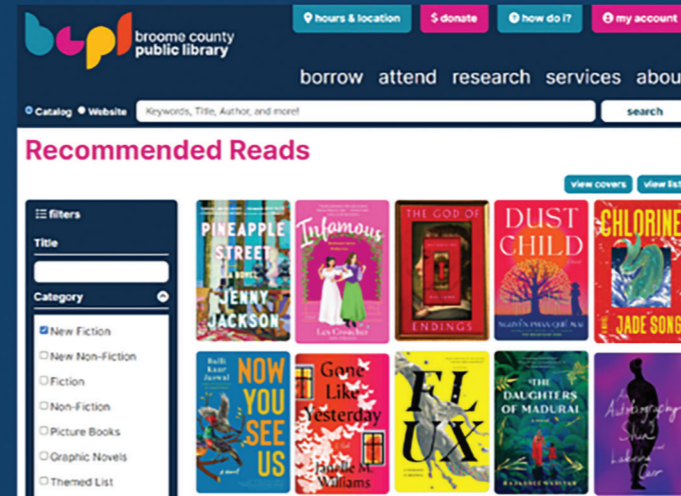
Our digital makeover

In 2022, the Library got a digital makeover! Our website had not been updated in 10+ years. A committee of Library staff worked with LibraryMarket to design our new website. LibraryMarket had previously designed our new logo.

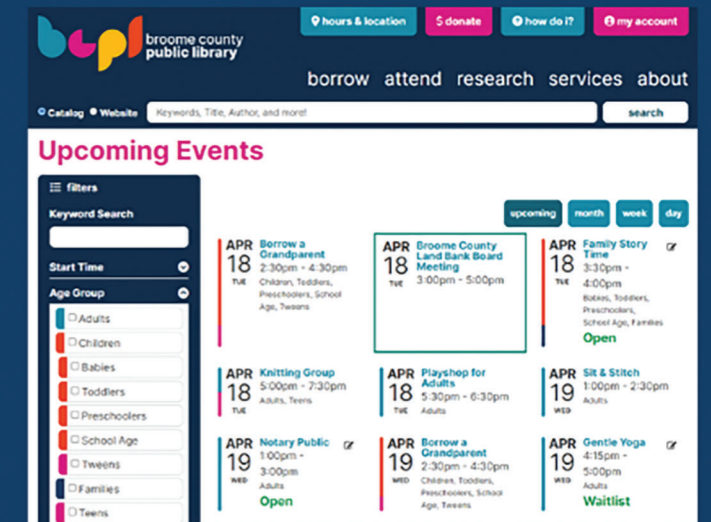


Some features of the new website include:

A Recommended Reads section for multiple ages with lists for new books, themed lists, and staff picks:

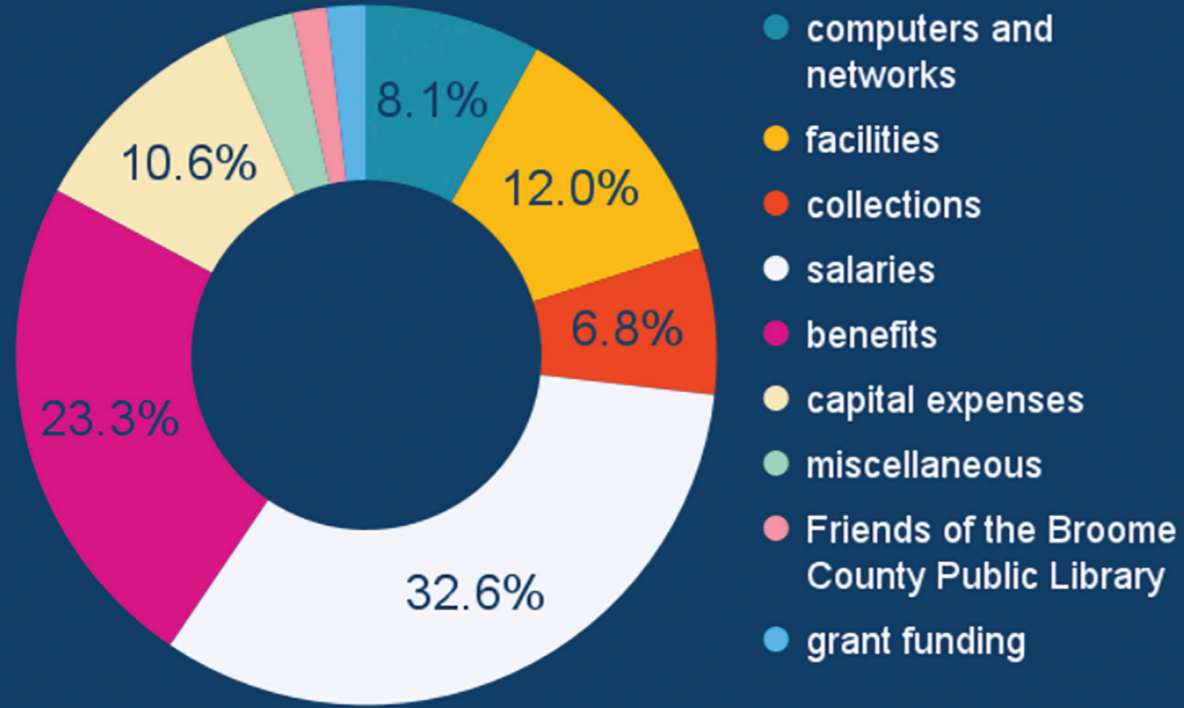


A calendar of events with filters for adults, children, families, and teens:

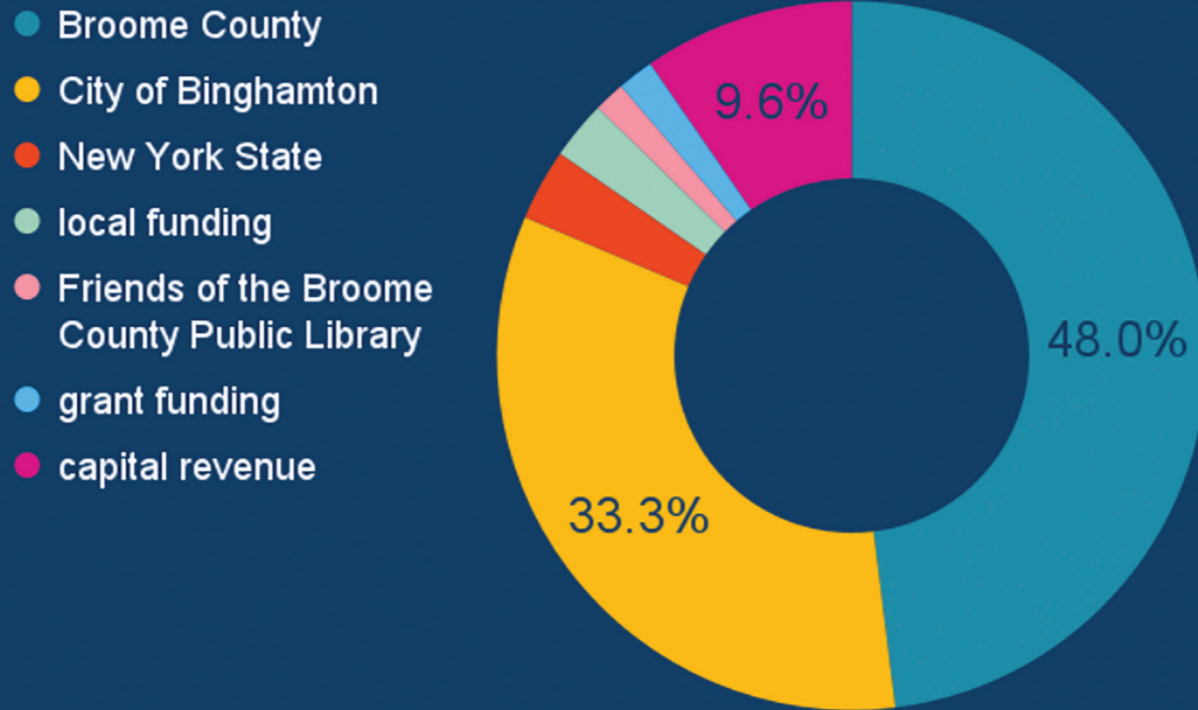


Financial Overview

Operating Expenses



Operating Revenues



Renovations



In 2022, we were able to replace the carpet in Youth Services and add some color!



Carpet was replaced upstairs as well, including in Local History.



We installed new security cameras throughout the building to increase safety.

Thank you for your support in 2022!

City

Binghamton City Council:

Giovanni Scaringi
Sophia Resciniti
Angela Riley
Aviva Friedman
Joe Burns
Philip Strawn
Thomas Scanlon

Jared Kraham, **Mayor of Binghamton**

Megan Heiman, **Deputy Mayor**

County

Jason Garnar, **Broome County Executive**

Colleen A. Wagner, **Deputy Executive**

Michael A. Ponticiello, **Deputy Executive**

Broome County Legislators:

Stephen J. Flagg	Jason E. Shaw
Scott D. Baker	Matthew J. Hilderbrant
Kelly F. Wildoner	Erin V. Micha
Kim A. Myers	Susan V. Ryan
Daniel J. Reynolds	Louis P. Augostini
Greg W. Baldwin	Robert Weslar
Matthew J. Pasquale	Mary A. Kaminsky
	Mark R. Whalen

State

Donna A. Lupardo, **New York State Assemblywoman**

Fred Akshar, former **New York State Senator**

Kathy Hochul, **Governor**

Antonio Delgado, **Lieutenant Governor**