A Brief History

Baltimore County Public Library was formed when 12 local independent libraries were combined into one system in 1948. The original 12-branch system has grown since that time, and now features 19 locations and four mobile library units.

Baltimore County Public Library is governed by a seven-member board appointed by the County Executive. Trustees are appointed for a five-year term and may be reappointed for an additional five-year term. The board operates under the Annotated Code of Maryland. The board has the legal authority to see that the library system is well managed and operates in accordance with the laws as well as policies established by the board itself. While quasi-independent, the library system relies on Baltimore County Government for many of its services, including facilities, technology, security and some human resources and purchasing functions.

Mission
Providing opportunities to explore, learn, create and connect.

Vision
Empowered and engaged individuals for a more inclusive and connected Baltimore County community.

Values
• Our customers and communities
• Equal access and intellectual freedom
• Flexibility and collaboration
• Diversity and inclusion
• Continuous improvement
Numbers of Note

491,721 Total Cardholders
9,565,264 Items Circulated
9,165,406 Library Visits

9,565,264 Items Circulated
- 3.31M Adult Books
- 2.87M Children’s Books
- 2.20M Media
- 1.19M Downloads

491,721 Total Cardholders
- 493 Full-Time Equivalent Positions

Meeting Room Users
- 77,204

Storyville Visitors
- 108,592

Library Visits
- 5.05M Virtual
- 4.11M In Person

9,165,406 Library Visits
- 9,165,406 Library Visits

1,726,709 Items in Collection
- 1.5M Physical Items
- 240K Downloadables

Financial Information

Expenditures
- Salaries and Wages $22,591,867
- Employment Taxes and Benefits $6,533,757
- Circulation Materials $7,343,761
- Rent and Utilities $1,147,683
- Other Expenses $3,151,668
- Total $40,768,736

Revenue
- General Fund $33,819,745
- State Aid $7,968,176
- Fees for Service $2,362,290
- Grants, Foundation and Gifts $811,408
- Total $44,961,619

Current, Future and Past Capital Projects

- $2.8 million renovation of the Catonsville Branch – Scheduled to start in 2021 and for completion in 2022.
- $3.7 million renovation of the Reisterstown Branch – Started June 2020 and scheduled for completion in June 2021
- $517,000 addition of parking lot at the Hereford Branch – completed 2020
- $1.7 million roof replacement of the Towson Branch and Administrative Offices – completed 2019
- $1.7 million renovation of the Randallstown Branch – completed 2017
- $3.5 million renovation of the Hereford Branch – completed 2016
- $400,000 renovation of the Essex Branch – completed 2015

*FY2019 Stats and Information

Renovations are a collaborative effort of Baltimore County Public Library and Baltimore County Government with additional funding often from grants through the Maryland State Library Capital Grant Program.
Demographics of Baltimore County

The library system serves a diverse county of more than 830,000 people over an area of 598 square miles. Classified as a suburban library system, portions of the county are rural and urban. The county’s geography is as diverse as its demographics, from the rolling hills of the horse country in the northwest to 200 miles of waterfront on the Chesapeake Bay in the southeast. Baltimore County surrounds, but does not encompass Baltimore City, which is Maryland’s largest city. The county is 62% white, 28% African American, 6% Asian and 4% other. Household income levels vary — the highest percentage of households (19%) earn between $50,000 and $75,000 annually; the second-highest percentage of households (16%) earn $150,000 or more; the third-highest percentage of households (14%) earn $25,000 or less. Thirty-seven percent of Baltimore County residents have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher; 28% have a high school degree only.

Cultural Attractions

Baltimore County is home to four major colleges and universities (Goucher College; Stevenson University; Towson University and University of Maryland, Baltimore County) and the Community College of Baltimore County system.

Baltimore County surrounds Baltimore City, which has such cultural attractions as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Hippodrome Theatre, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, the Maryland Zoo, the Maryland Science Center, the Baltimore Museum of Art, The Walters Art Museum and the Peabody Conservatory. It is also home to two professional sports teams, the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens. Historic attractions include Fort McHenry, home of the Star Spangled Banner; the Basilica of the Assumption, America’s first cathedral; and the Edgar Allan Poe House.

Largest Businesses

Social Security Administration and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

T. Rowe Price

Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC)

Greater Baltimore Medical Center

MedStar Franklin Square Hospital

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Towson University

McCormick & Company, Inc.

University of Maryland St.
Joseph Medical Center

BD Life Sciences, Diagnostic Systems

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library

Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library is an independent 501(c)(3) founded in 1998 to support Baltimore County’s commitment to a superior public library system. The Foundation is operated through a separate board of community leaders and supporters of the library system with the library director as an ex-officio member and oversight by library staff (2.5 FTEs). Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library funding is made possible by contributions from individuals, businesses and other foundations for a total collection of $420,000 and disbursements to the system of $225,000 in FY20.

Funded highlights include:

- Fully funding Storyville@Rosedale and partially funding Storyville@Woodlawn
- Partnering with The Clinton Foundation to bring Talking is Teaching panels to the Sollers Point Branch
- Youth and family engagement programming: Battle of the Books and Summer Reading Challenge
- Adult and family engagement programming: BC Reads, Tax Prep Service and Book Bash
- Microgrants to annually fund pilot programs throughout the system

Current projects include:

- $145K from ALA for Libraries Build Business – Entrepreneur Academy, joint project with Enoch Pratt Free Library
- Mobile Library Law Center – have raised $115K of $160K goal
- Social Worker in the Library – Anonymous funder has offered $300,000 for three-year beta project

Friends of the Library

There are seven branches that have Friends groups created by members of a branch community to provide advocacy, community outreach and financial support to select branches. The branches include Arbutus, Catonsville, Hereford, Loch Raven, Perry Hall, Pikesville and Towson.

Sources of Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private and Public Sector</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Donors</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsors &amp; Business Relations</td>
<td>18%</td>
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The annual Taste of the Town fundraiser was ‘80s themed in 2019.
Branch Locations

Centers of Excellence

These areas of the branches provide unique spaces with specialized resources and staff to help customers learn and collaborate.

**Storyville** – interactive early literacy and learning center for children ages birth to 5 and their caregivers located at the Rosedale and Woodlawn branches.

**The Hive** – an art-maker studio focused on arts programming, including an artist-in-residence located at the Hereford Branch.

**The COLAB** – a technology maker hub featuring virtual reality equipment, 3D printer, coding equipment and computers for experimenting and learning the latest in programs and software.

**Coming soon** – Memory lab at the Reisterstown Branch and a recording studio at the Catonsville Branch.

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A Typical Day at Baltimore County Public Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branch Visitors</td>
<td>11,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Branch Visitors</td>
<td>14,274</td>
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<tr>
<td>Items Borrowed</td>
<td>27,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Downloads</td>
<td>3,354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Computer Users</td>
<td>1,492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours on Public Computers</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Branch WiFi Users</td>
<td>2,594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Attendees</td>
<td>715</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storyville Visitors</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
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*FY2019 Stats and Information*