

# 2022 Annual Report



Cobb County  
Public Library





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **02 Message from the Director**

## **03 About Us**

## **04 Building Communities Together**

- 06 Collaboration is Key in Overcoming Food Security Challenges in Cobb
- 07 Creating Community Connections and Improving Health and Nutrition Literacy through Gardens
- 07 Free Eye Exams and Glasses For Children in Cobb
- 08 Creating Learning Opportunities for the Community: Traveling Exhibits
- 09 Cobb Library: A Growing Hub for Learning, Living, and Working
- 10 Cobb Library Bookmobile & Outreach: Bringing Communities Together
- 11 Building a Reading Culture: The Importance of Community Reading Programs
- 12 Summer Reading: Oceans of Possibilities

## **13 Cobb Library in Numbers**

- 16 Value of Cobb Library: A Closer Look at Usage
- 17 Unleashing Possibilities through Grants
- 18 Social Media Presence and Expansion of Digital Services

## **19 Cobb Library's Leadership**

- 20 Cobb Library Administration
- 21 Cobb Library Board of Trustees
- 22 Cobb Library Foundation
- 23 Cobb County Board of Commissioners

## **24 Cobb County Public Library Locations**

## **25 Acknowledgment**

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Cobb County Public Library in Marietta, Georgia emphasizes serving its diverse community of over 750,000 people.

In 2022, the library increased collaborative efforts with community organizations and volunteers to provide resources and assistance to those in need. Key collaborations included monthly drive-thru food pantries, a summer meal service, and an annual partnership with Vision to Learn to provide free eye exams and glasses to students.

Furthermore, Cobb Library offered new services and materials including Passport Services in addition to hosted traveling exhibits and community reading programs in order to continue promoting reading and community involvement.

Helen Poyer, Library Director

*Helen Poyer  
Director*



“The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”

—Albert Einstein



# ABOUT US

The Cobb County Public Library, based in Marietta, Georgia, is a comprehensive system with 15 branches and a mobile library. The library's staff is committed to serving its community with a diverse population of more than 750,000 people. As one of Georgia's largest counties, the library is committed to serving as an invaluable and essential resource to its residents.

## Our Mission

The Cobb County Public Library is a place where we are committed to being a vital resource center by providing equal access to information, materials, and services to enrich people's lives.

## Our Vision

To move beyond traditional library services by strategically integrating new technology services, creating engaging community centers, and providing life-enriching library and cultural experiences for all who enter our doors.

## Cobb County Core Values

At Cobb County, everything we do focuses on our core values—commitment, diversity, integrity, and teamwork—to bring value to our community and to leave a legacy for generations to come. These values come straight from our employees and are the moral compass that guides us in all that we do here at Cobb.





# BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



"What is more important in a library than anything else - than everything else - is the fact that it exists."

-Archibald MacLeish





## COLLABORATION IS KEY IN OVERCOMING FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES IN COBB

To address food insecurity in Cobb, teamwork has been the driving force behind successful initiatives. Community organizations and volunteers from various county departments came together to assist hundreds of families during events held at Cobb libraries.

Between January and June, over 1,800 families were served at monthly drive-thru food pantries hosted by The Atlanta Community Food Bank at South Cobb Regional Library. These events were made possible with the help of library staff and county departments. Although funding constraints hindered the continuation of these popular events, other programs stepped in to help.

During the summer, Cobb County Public Library partnered with Georgia Educational Resources Inc. (GER) to provide a summer meal service, Happy Helpings. This program was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. There were 26,950 meals distributed throughout June and July to 1,925 children through drive-thru events at North Cobb Regional Library, South Cobb Regional Library, and Switzer Library. The meals were provided to children k-12 and adults aged 19 and over who are enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, CCPL joined forces with MUST Ministries to collect non-perishable goods from the public for its food pantry. MUST collection barrels were available at West Cobb Regional Library and Kemp Memorial Library.

# CREATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND NUTRITION LITERACY THROUGH GARDENS

Gardens can improve social connections, and mental well-being, and promote nutritional literacy. North Cobb Regional Library (NCRL) and Switzer Library launched garden programs to foster these benefits.

The Community Garden at NCRL was made possible by a grant from the Food Well Alliance and Garden 269 at Switzer was funded through a grant from the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail and Georgia Public Library Service in collaboration with the Georgia Farm Bureau, UGA Extension, and Georgia Public Broadcasting.

The gardens promote participation in various hands-on programs and support pollinator conservation. The community had opportunities to learn more about gardening and how plants help the environment.



## FREE EYE EXAMS AND GLASSES FOR CHILDREN IN COBB

The Vision To Learn and Cobb County Public Library partnership provided a record-breaking number of free eye exams and glasses to students, with 396 exams and 254 pairs of glasses distributed during the summer of 2022. The partnership has grown to include three mobile clinic professional staff and has served over 1,400 students at Cobb Libraries since mid-2018.

# CREATING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY: TRAVELING EXHIBITS

Cobb County Library is dedicated to providing enriching experiences to its community. To achieve this, it collaborated with various institutions and organizations to present 8 exhibits in different locations throughout the year.



## **She Gathers Me: Networks Among Black Women Writers**

Georgia Public Library Service partnered with Emory University's Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library to tour an exhibit statewide, including at the Switzer Library, which explores contemporary Black writers through photographs, letters, journals, and calendars.

*Showcased at Switzer Library.*



## **Take the Quilt Tour**

The East Cobb Quilters' Guild partnered with local organizations to create a quilt tour across multiple locations. The exhibition aimed to showcase the art of quilting and promote community goodwill.

*Showcased at East Cobb, North Cobb Regional, Mountain View Regional, Sewell Mill, Switzer, South Cobb Regional & West Cobb Regional Libraries.*



## **Georgia Commission on the Holocaust**

Georgia Public Library Service and Georgia Commission on the Holocaust partnered to bring banner exhibits to public libraries statewide. The tour included three exhibits exploring individual stories of survivors and liberators who suffered during or sought to end World War II and the Holocaust.

*Showcased at North Cobb Regional & Switzer Libraries.*



## **UGA Athletics In Your Town**

This exhibit which consists of 40 artifacts representing various sports and eras was brought to Cobb Libraries by the University of Georgia's Hargrett Library from the UGA Athletic Association archive.

*Showcased at North Cobb & South Cobb Regional Libraries.*



## **Words, Music, Memory: (Re)presenting Voices of the Holocaust**

Kennesaw State University's Museum of History and Holocaust Education presented an exhibit featuring authors who lived through the Holocaust. The exhibit included writings, biographies, interpretative pieces, and videos about the authors.

*Showcased at North Cobb Regional Library.*



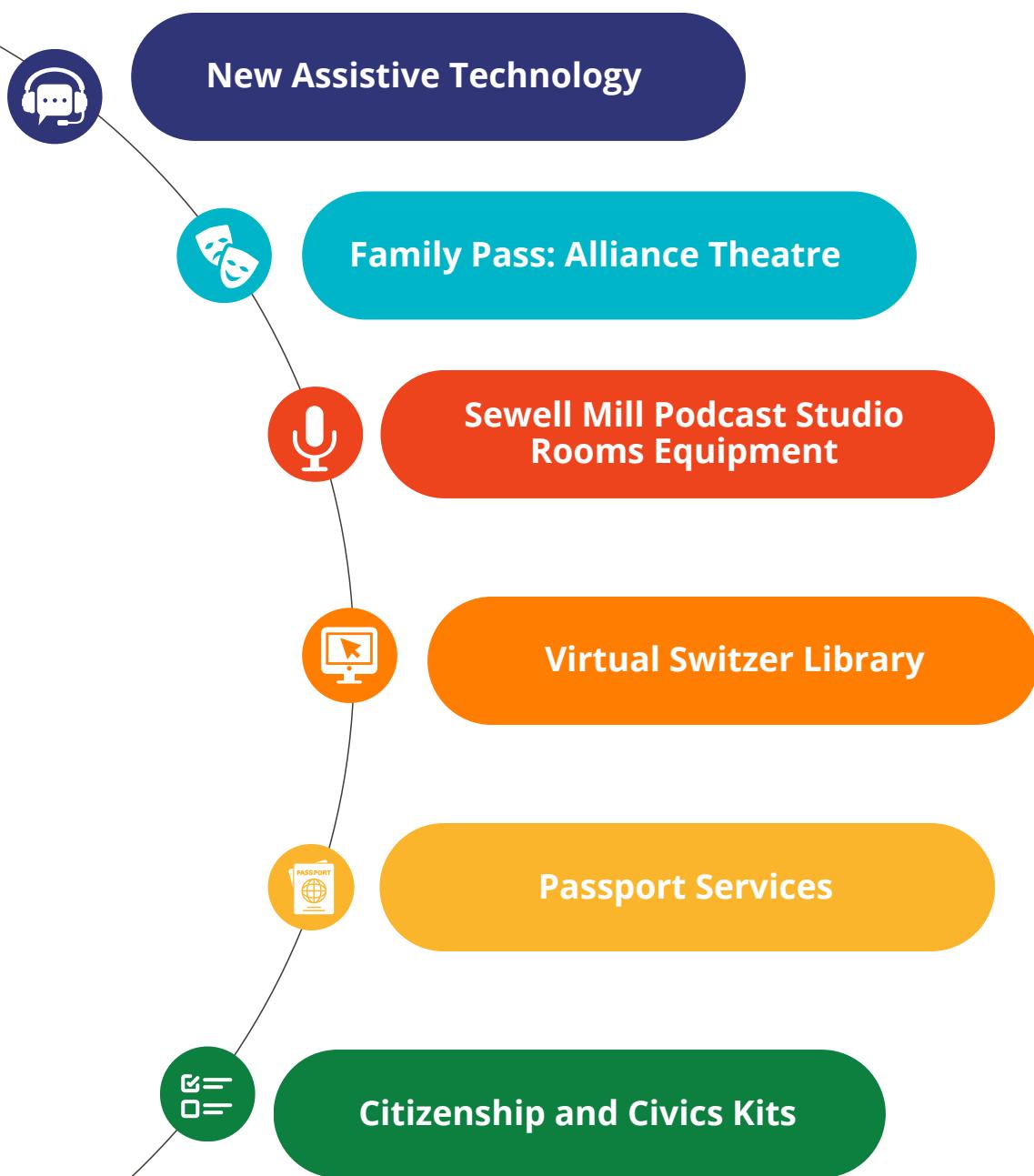
## **Fox in a Box**

The Fox in a Box exhibit, a collaboration between the Fox Theatre Institute and the Georgia Public Library Service, is an interactive exhibit that highlights the Fox Theatre's historical significance and its role in American history, the Civil Rights Movement, economics, and communities.

*Showcased at Switzer Library.*

# COBB LIBRARY: A GROWING HUB FOR LEARNING, LIVING, AND WORKING

Yearly, Cobb Library strives to provide its community with access to resources that support growth in education, daily life, and employment. The library continued to expand in 2022, offering new services and technologies, such as Chromebooks available for checkout and Passport Services.



## COBB LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE & OUTREACH: BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

The Cobb Library Bookmobile is on a mission to encourage literacy and build strong communities by offering specialized resources and services to people across Cobb, making it easier than ever to access books and participate in library programs.

The Books2Keep program, run in partnership with Cobb Marietta Project Lit, gave out over 2,000 books in 2022 at events such as Kennesaw's Touch-a-Truck, National Night Out, and PARKS International Festival.

In addition to its outreach events, the Bookmobile also made regular visits to locations such as Walton Village, South Cobb Recreation Center, Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center, Swift-Cantrell Park in Kennesaw, and East Cobb Park. This provides opportunities for communities to participate in library programs and borrow books outside of the traditional library setting.



3554 patrons used  
the bookmobile

1394 were  
Preschoolers

596 were k-12  
graders



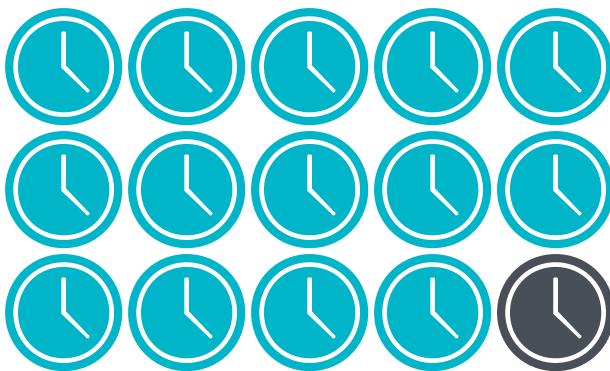
Thanks to collaborations with local organizations like Uplift Georgia and Cobb Collaborative, the Bookmobile has been able to extend the reach of the Library's summer reading program and encourage participation in under-resourced communities. Families in the two Dwell Apartment communities logged over 24,000 minutes of reading, highlighting the effectiveness of accessible and engaging programming. Furthermore, providing meals from the YMCA at one location underscores the importance of addressing food insecurity in tandem with educational initiatives.

Overall, this collaboration serves as a model for effective community engagement and accentuates the impact that can be achieved through collaborative efforts.

# BUILDING A READING CULTURE: THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY READING PROGRAMS

In-person and online community reading programs offered by Cobb Library provide opportunities to connect with others and promote meaningful conversations about various topics, including social issues.

Participants in online monthly reading challenges read over 4.3 million minutes and completed over 4000 activities.



**4.3+ Mil**  
MINUTES LOGGED

**4000+**  
ACTIVITIES LOGGED



One Book One City (OBOC) is a biannual literary initiative promoting reading and community involvement in Powder Springs. It is a collaborative effort between the City of Powder Springs, the Book Worm Bookstore, and Powder Springs Library. OBOC encourages the community to read the same adult and tween fiction books and participate in special book clubs hosted by the library and other partners.

In 2022, the event featured authors Wanda M. Morris and Reem Faruqi, and attendees were able to meet the authors at Powder Springs Hardy Family Automotive Amphitheater book signings.

# SUMMER READING: OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES

The program primarily attracts children, with a majority falling between the ages of 8 and 10. However, the number of participating teenagers has been on the rise as CCPL works to design programs and rewards that appeal to this age group. The increase in adult participation can be attributed to the program's inclusivity of all ages. Caregivers of young children are delighted to find out that they too are eligible for completion prizes when helping their children earn activity and reading badges.

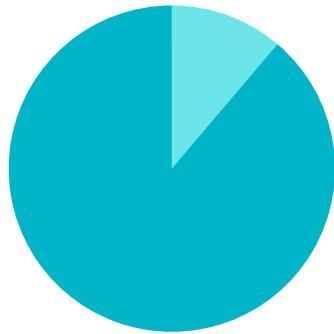
10%  
of earned badges  
were learning  
activities

111%  
increase in  
minutes being  
logged by  
readers from  
2021

41%  
of registered  
patrons  
completed the  
program

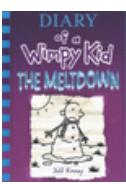
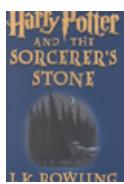
## Social Media SRP Activity Interactions

Guess the Ocean Creatures  
39

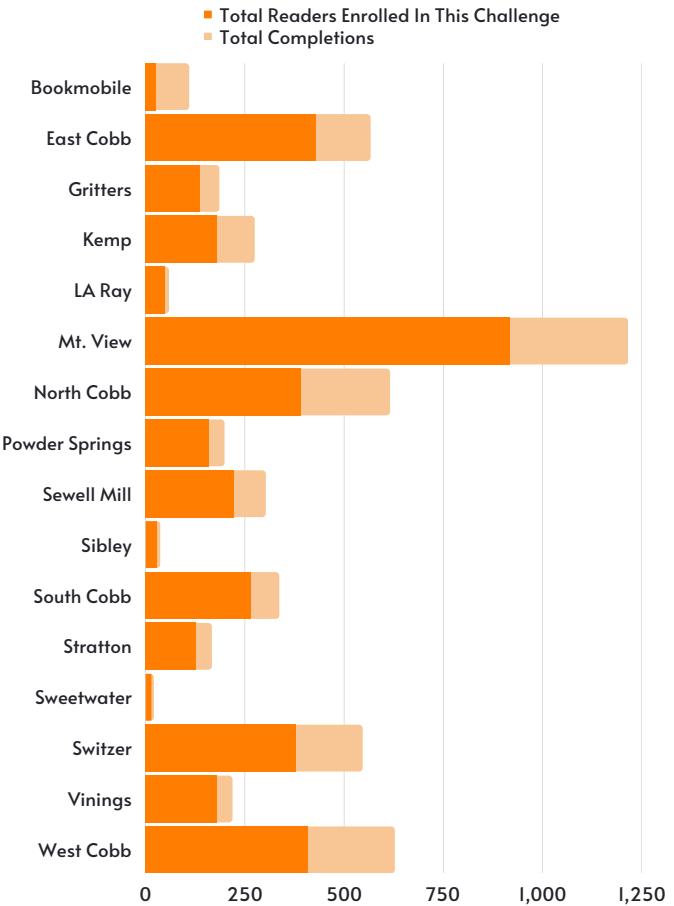


Trivia  
309

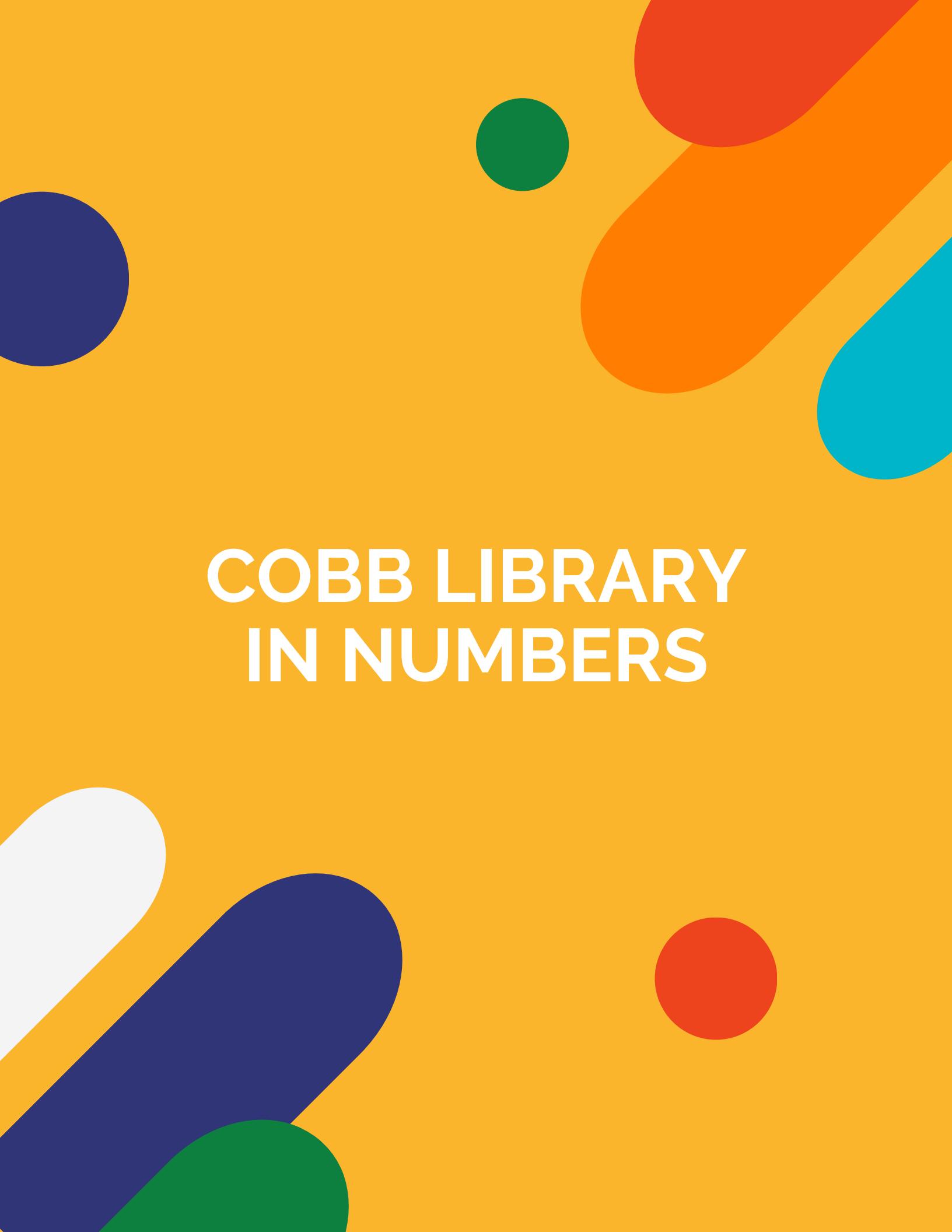
## Top Books Read Summer 2022



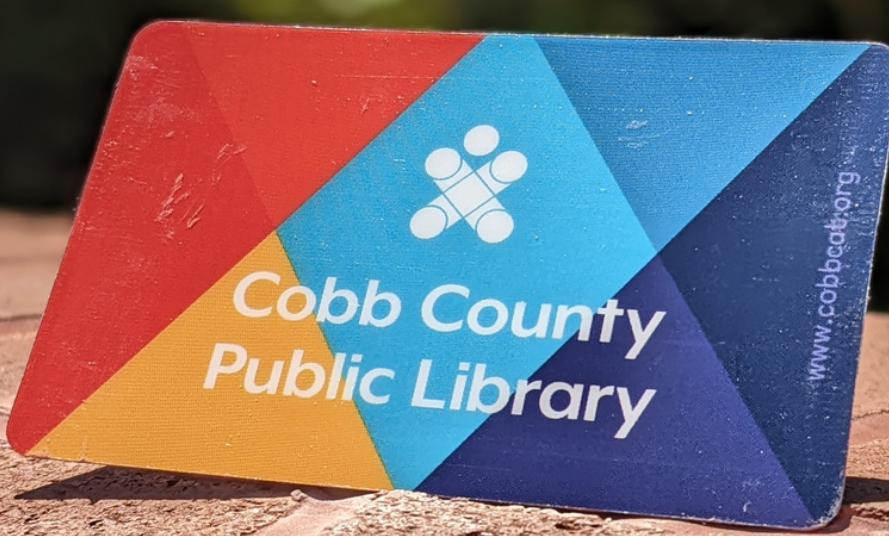
**3.1 Million  
Minutes Read  
During SRP**







# COBB LIBRARY IN NUMBERS



VALUE OF  
COBB LIBRARY

**\$56,351,196.35**

ANNUAL VALUE OF  
LIBRARY SERVICES PER  
CARD HOLDER

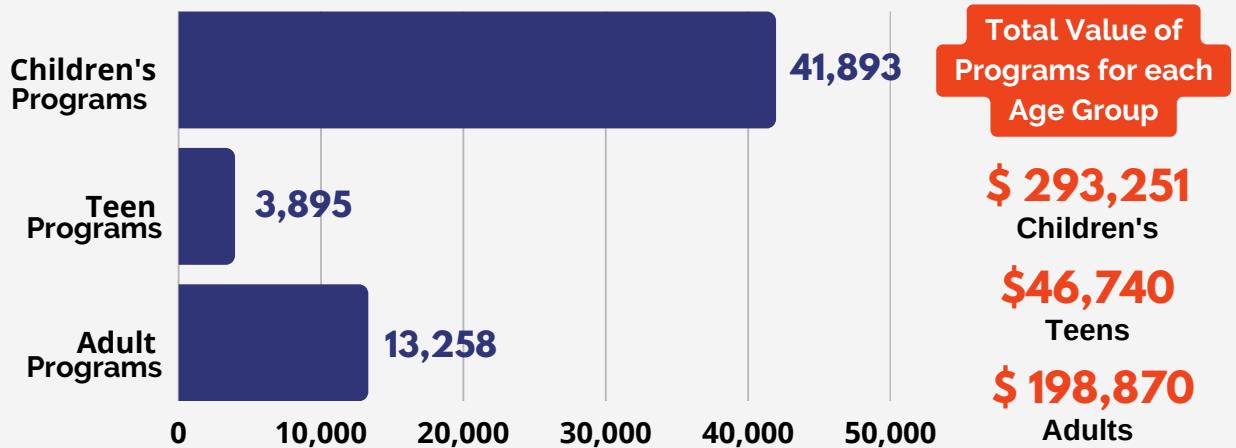
**\$130.65**

# VALUE OF COBB LIBRARY: A CLOSER LOOK AT USAGE



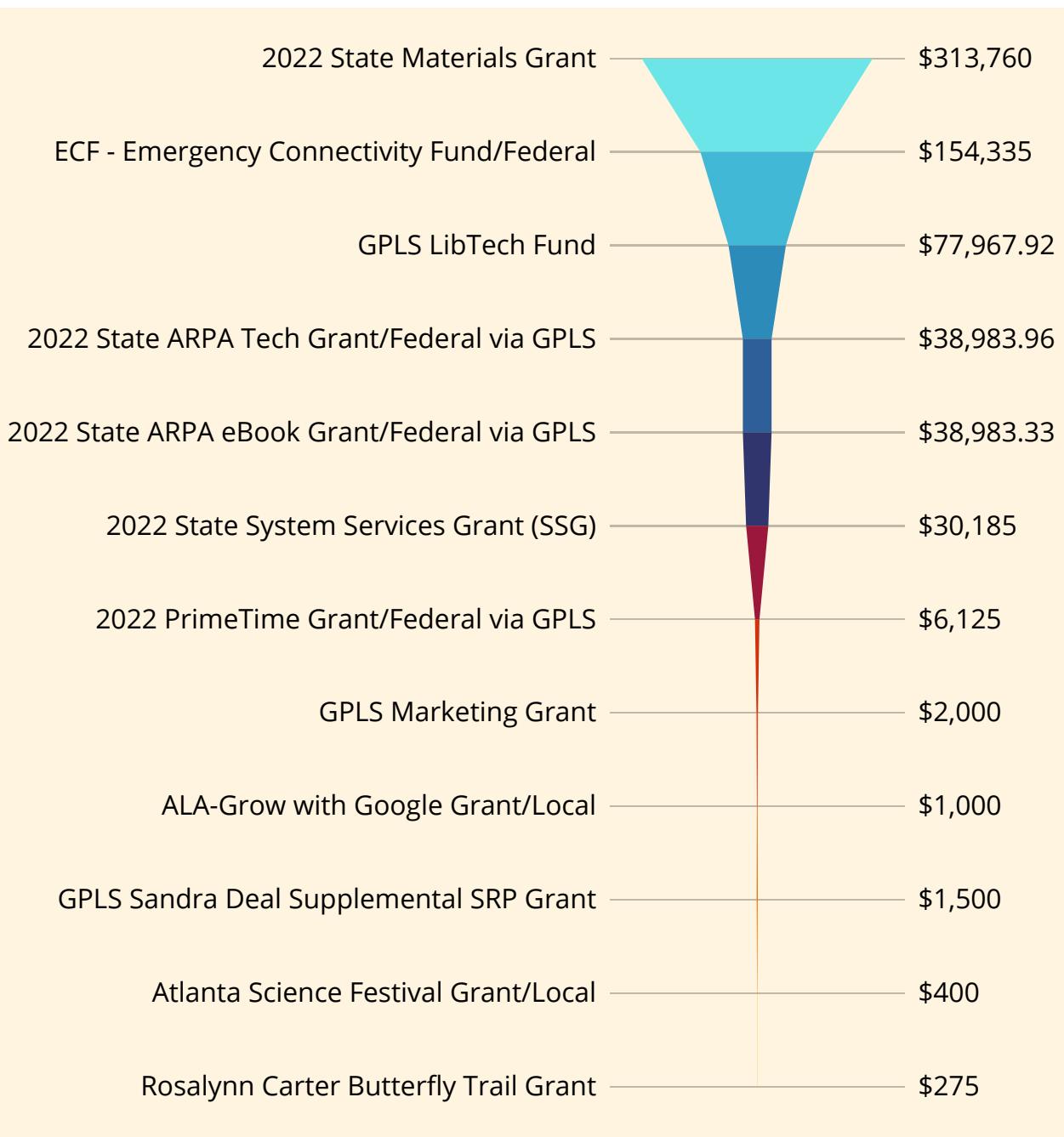
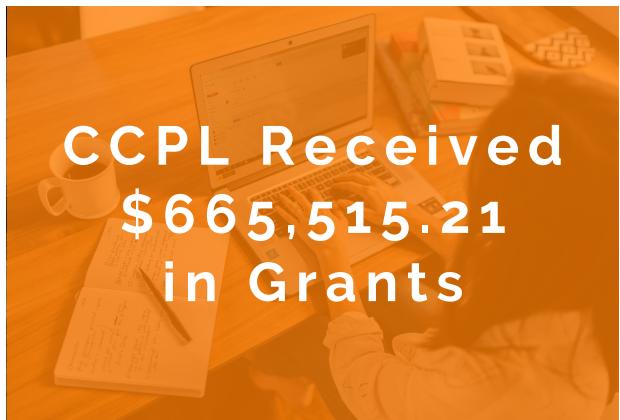
## Value of Programs

Each of the 15 libraries and the bookmobile offer programs suitable for all age groups. According to the graph below, most programs offered in 2022 were for young and school-aged children. The total value of all programs offered is **\$538,861**.



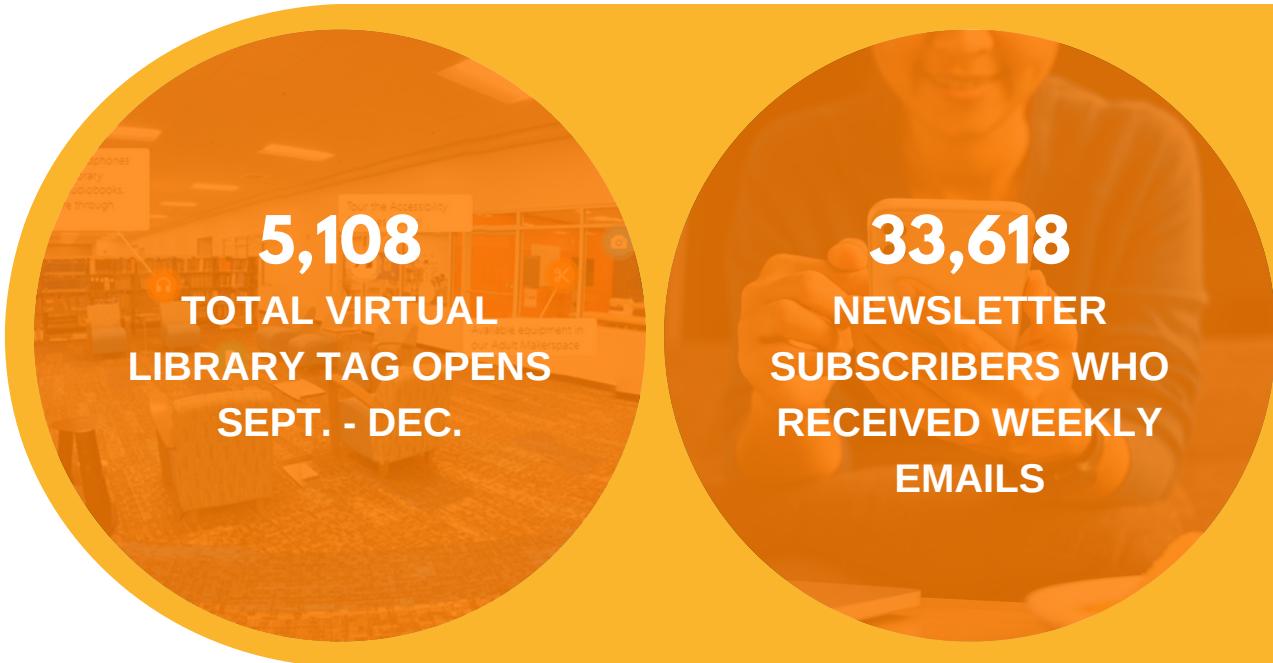
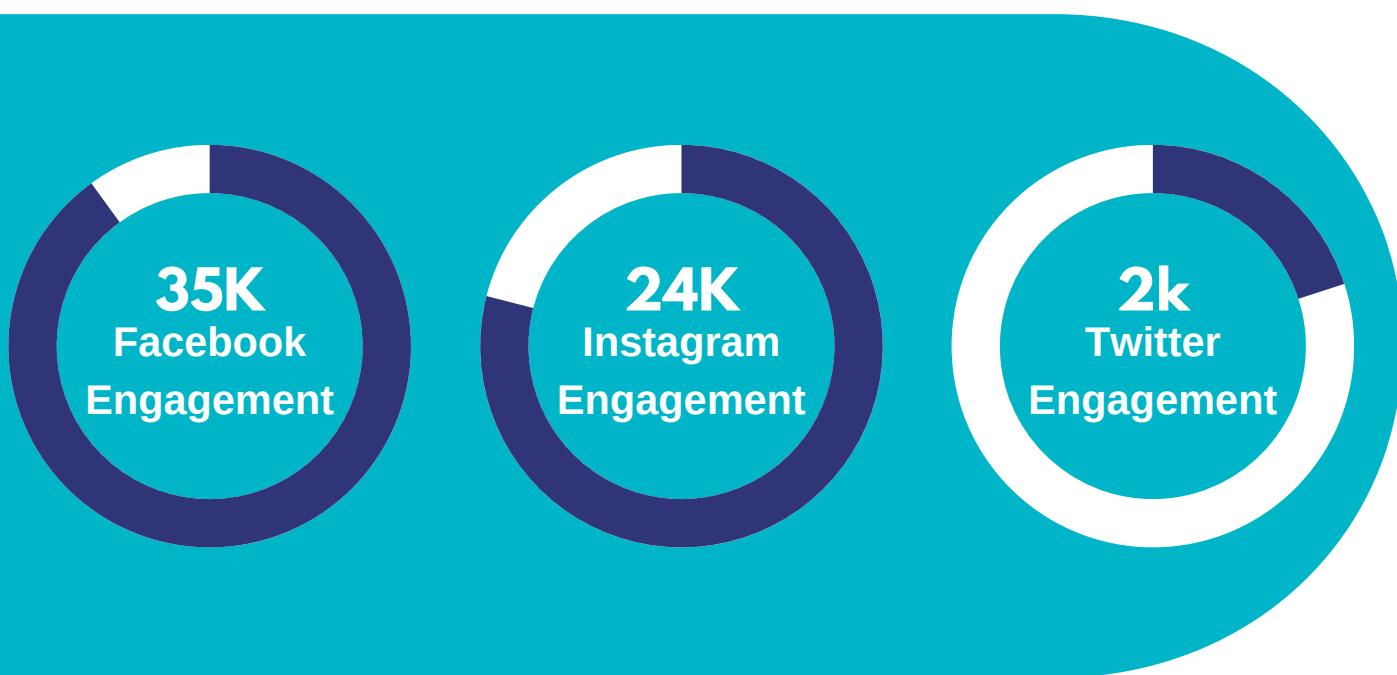
# UNLEASHING POSSIBILITIES THROUGH GRANTS

Grants play a crucial role in libraries to support educational initiatives, offer career development opportunities, and fill connectivity gaps in communities.



# SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE AND EXPANSION OF DIGITAL SERVICES

Cobb Library continues to maintain a significant presence on various social media networks, such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. In 2022, the monthly eNewsletter was changed to a weekly service, providing subscribers with timely updates on library-related news, programs, and resources. Additionally, Switzer Library went virtual by the end of the year with 360-degree interior views of the facility, creating an immersive experience that improves access and awareness of services and collections offered by the library.



# COBB LIBRARY'S LEADERSHIP

# COBB LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION



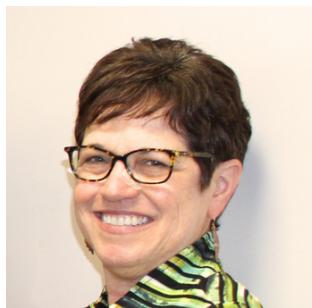
**Jatunn Gibson**  
Public Services  
Agency Director



**Helen Poyer**  
Library Director



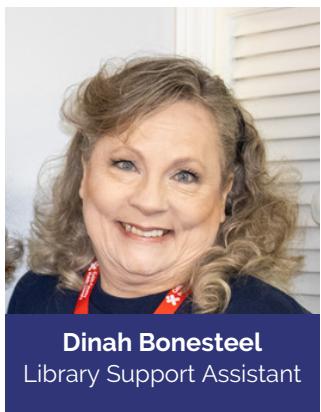
**Shelley Zhang**  
Division Director of  
Technical Operations



**Teresa Tresp**  
Division Director of  
Branch Services



**Sheila Jacobs**  
Business Manager



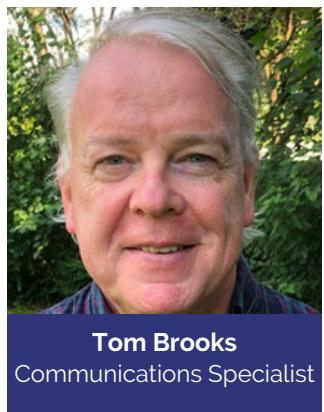
**Dinah Bonesteel**  
Library Support Assistant



**Janice GillPatrick**  
Human Resources



**Slope Williams**  
CUE/Communications  
Manager



**Tom Brooks**  
Communications Specialist

# COBB LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Cobb County Public Library Board of Trustees is a nine-member volunteer board made up of local citizens appointed by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. Each trustee serves a 3-year term and may serve successive terms. The trustees set library policy and advise on activities. The Library Board holds regular meetings at various library locations on a rotating schedule and are open to the public.



The graphic features a central map of Cobb County, Georgia, divided into four numbered districts (1, 2, 3, 4) and a "Chair Appointment" area. Each district is represented by a portrait of a trustee and a title. The map also shows major highways: 41, 120, 675, 75, 285, and 20. The "Chair Appointment" area is highlighted in purple.

- District 1:** Dr. Tony Le
- District 2:** Abby Shiffman, Trustee Board Chair
- District 3:** Peggy Pool
- District 4:** Peggy Holbrook
- District 4:** Rachel Gray
- District 4:** Shelia D. Gray
- District 2:** Jon Jordan
- Chair Appointment:** (Portrait shown)

# COBB LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Cobb County Public Library Foundation (Cobb Library Foundation for short) is an organization that provides support to the Cobb County Public Library System by raising funds and seeking other contributions from the community and business partnerships.

## **Foundation Officers**

- *Rebecca Duvall, President*
- *Nona Lacy, Vice President*
- *William Tanks, Treasurer*
- *Mark Justice, Secretary*
- *Joe Murphey, Attorney*

## **Executive Administrator**

- *Sandra Morris*

## **Board Members**

- *Jim Ney*
- *Carol Ney*
- *Dr. Gilles LaMarche*
- *Abby Shiffman*
- *Natalie Rutledge*
- *Ria Thakkar*



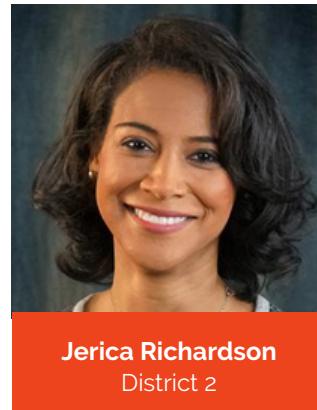
# COBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



**Lisa Cupid**  
Commission Chairwoman



**Keli Gambrill**  
District 1



**Jerica Richardson**  
District 2



**JoAnn K. Birrell**  
District 3



**Monique Sheffield**  
District 4



**Dr. Jackie R. McMorris**  
County Manager



**Jimmy Gisi**  
Deputy County Manager



# COBB COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## 15 LOCATIONS + BOOKMOBILE

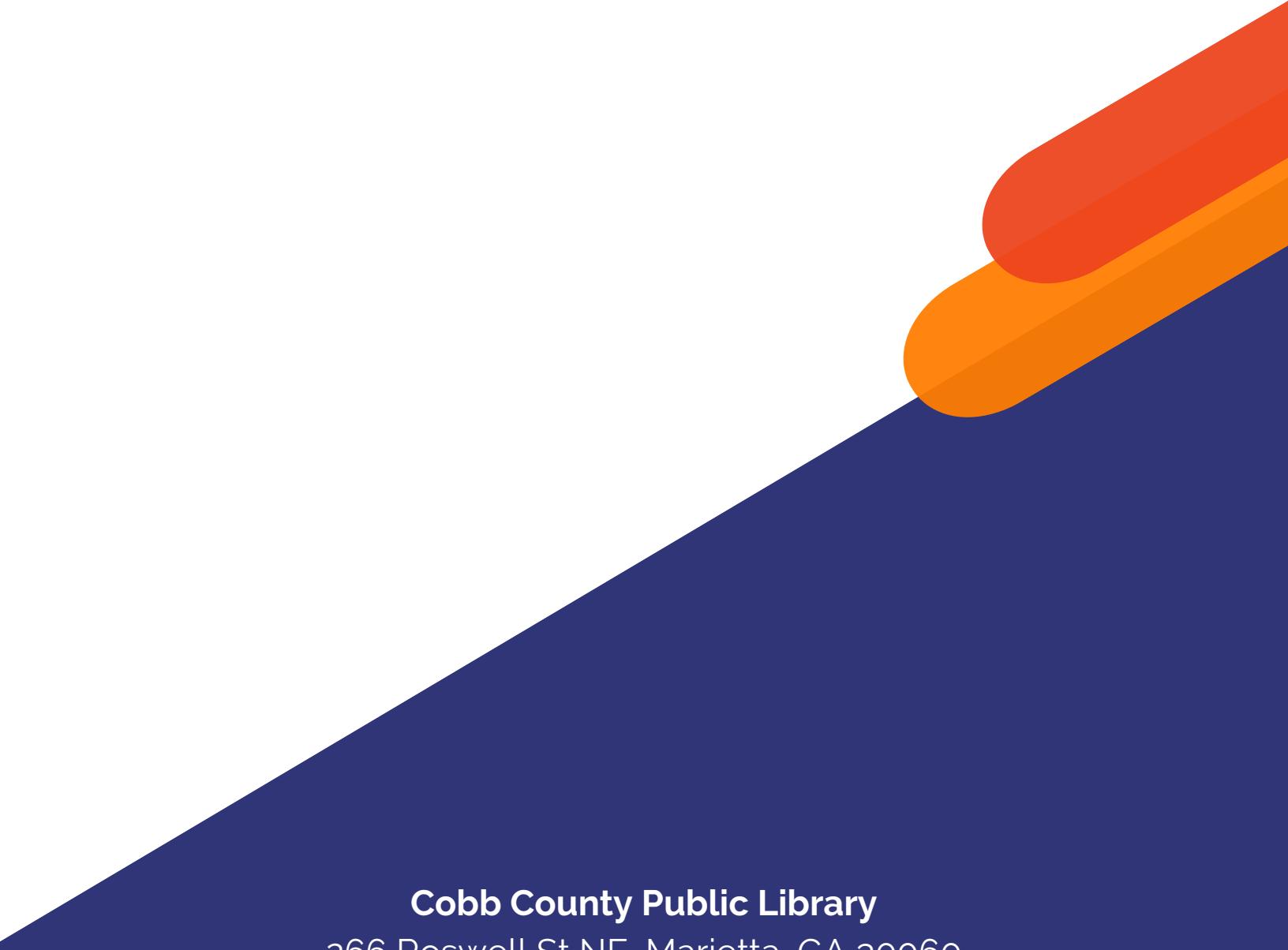
- **EAST COBB LIBRARY** | 4880 LOWER ROSWELL RD, MARIETTA 30068
- **GRITTERS LIBRARY** | 880 SHAW PARK RD, MARIETTA 30066
- **KEMP MEMORIAL LIBRARY** | 4029 DUE W RD NW, MARIETTA 30064
- **LEWIS A. RAY LIBRARY** | 4500 OAKDALE RD, SMYRNA 30080
- **MOUNTAIN VIEW REGIONAL LIBRARY** | 3320 SANDY PLAINS RD, MARIETTA 30066
- **NORTH COBB REGIONAL LIBRARY** | 3535 OLD 41 HWY NW, KENNESAW 30144
- **POWDER SPRINGS LIBRARY** | 4181 ATLANTA ST, POWDER SPRINGS 30127
- **SEWELL MILL LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTER** | 2051 LOWER ROSWELL RD, MARIETTA 30068
- **SIBLEY LIBRARY** | 1539 S COBB DR SE, MARIETTA 30060
- **SOUTH COBB REGIONAL LIBRARY** | 805 CLAY RD, MABLETON 30126
- **STRATTON LIBRARY** | 1100 POWDER SPRINGS RD SW, MARIETTA 30064
- **SWEETWATER VALLEY LIBRARY** | 5000 AUSTELL POWDER SPRINGS RD SW #100, AUSTELL 30106
- **SWITZER LIBRARY** | 266 ROSWELL ST NE, MARIETTA 30060
- **VININGS LIBRARY** | 4290 PACES FERRY RD SE, ATLANTA 30339
- **WEST COBB REGIONAL LIBRARY** | 1750 DENNIS KEMP LN NW, KENNESAW 30152



We thank you for your continued support and collaboration with Cobb County Public Library.

In memory of those who were great supporters of the Cobb County Public Library:

- Ansie Krige, Former East Cobb Library Manager (2021)
- Charles Switzer, Former Library Trustee (2022)
- Mike Boyce, Former Cobb County Commission Chairman (2022)



**Cobb County Public Library**  
266 Roswell St NE, Marietta, GA 30060  
(770) 528-2326  
[www.cobbcat.org](http://www.cobbcat.org)  
[contactus@cobbcat.org](mailto:contactus@cobbcat.org)  
Follow: [linktr.ee/cobblibrary](https://linktr.ee/cobblibrary)

This report was prepared and designed by CCPL's Communications team:  
Katherine Zavala | Slone Williams | Tom Brooks