



Annual Report
2021

Community Engagement Plan | 2019–2021

VISION

An engaged community that learns, works, creates, and thrives together.

MISSION

Providing resources, experiences, and places that empower people to learn, explore, and succeed.

ENGAGEMENT, STABILITY, AND CONNECTEDNESS remained the strategic directions of Spokane County Library District’s Community Engagement Plan.

After following state-issued requirements and offering curbside service, library staff welcomed the community back as buildings reopened to the public in April 2021. However, year two of the pandemic persisted with challenges and programs remained virtual. Navigating the hybrid of in-person and virtual, the Library maintained its mission by continuing to provide resources and services to the citizens of Spokane County.

The following are a few of the ways the District’s mission helped guide the library and the community to learn, work, create, and thrive together in 2021.

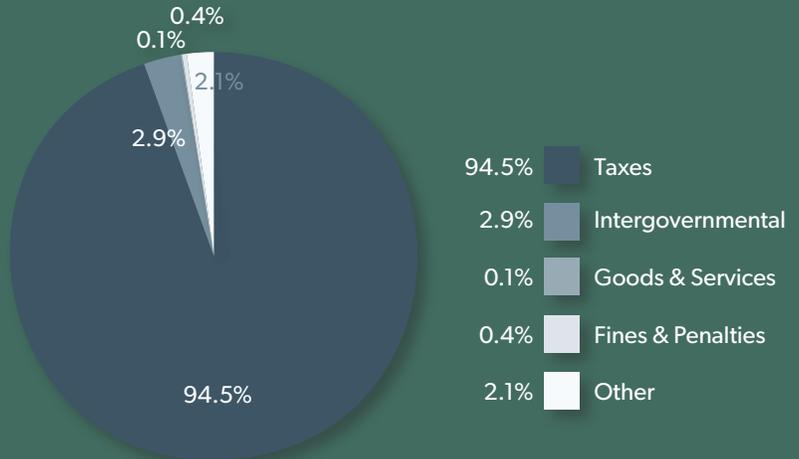
2021 Financial Information

A property tax levy of \$0.4762 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in the District service area accounts for more than 95% of annual funding. Remaining revenue is derived from interest earnings, other fees and charges, and miscellaneous revenues, such as gifts and donations.

Revenues

Year 2021 (from C4 for revenues)

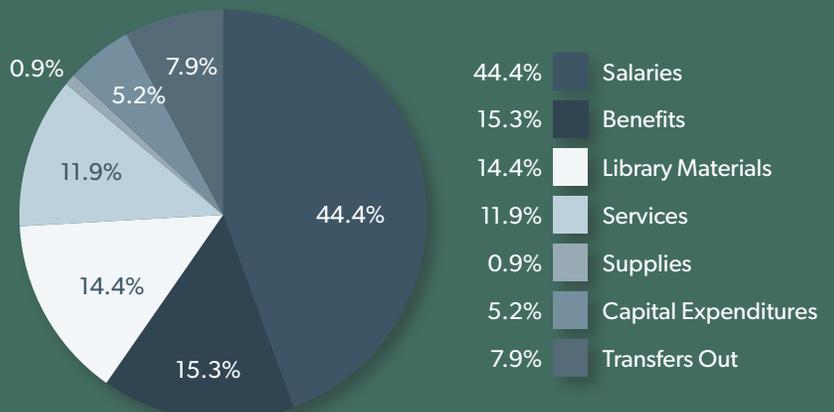
Taxes.....	16,191,071
Intergovernmental	496,017
Goods & Services.....	20,310
Fines & Fees	64,189
Other	359,504
Total Revenues.....	17,131,091



Expenditures

From internal statements for expenses

Salaries.....	6,771,271
Benefits	2,338,364
Library Materials	2,195,898
Services	1,815,255
Supplies	136,066
Capital Expenditures	796,514
Transfers Out	1,201,800
Total Expenditures	15,255,168



2021 Highlights

SCLD ONLINE BOOK CLUB – The book club reads fiction, nonfiction, and other genres. Adults who are interested in lifelong learning and personal growth or who want to read for relaxation can find additional content related to the selected book on the online forum. Readers have the option to participate in discussions or just gather new information and perspectives without interacting. The SCLD Online Book Club forum is moderated by Professional Book Club (PBC) Guru, who manages book clubs for libraries, alumni associations, and other organizations.

ART SHOW – The first annual Virtual Art Show debuted early in the year with a call for entries answered by 120 individuals. Local artists and the community at large of all ages and abilities submitted photographs of art they had created reflecting the theme and a 6-word story encapsulating their hopes for 2021. The response was greater than expected and ranged from scribbles of young children to professional quality art and everything in between, including pottery, paintings, sketches, digital illustrations, and more. Artwork was displayed digitally in a gallery-style format on the Library District's website and received a positive response from the artists and public alike.

GALE PRESENTS: UDEMY – Udemy, an online learning resource, was added to the District's collection of learning platforms. Udemy features over 6,000 on-demand, video-based courses taught by industry experts. With courses that include tennis, business management, cloud computing, and yoga, the platform offers an extensive number of learning topics in multiple languages.

BRAND REFRESH – The Library District updated its visual representation with a new logo, colors, and fonts. Today's library resources are offered in a variety of formats and the previous one-dimensional, book-centered logo no longer served as an accurate representation of the Library District. The design work was done internally with a process that incorporated input from the public and employees. The updated look reflects a modern library system, blending the colors of nature in the Inland Northwest with the versatile building blocks of resources that empowers the Library District's mission.

LIBRARIES BUILD BUSINESS – Spokane County Library District was one of 13 libraries nationwide to receive funding of \$61,000 from the American Library Association to build capacity and expand programming to small businesses and entrepreneurs from low-income and underrepresented groups. The initiative was funded by Google.org. As a result, a Small Business Boot Camp for business owners, entrepreneurs, and start-ups was planned for the Deer Park area.

Due to the pandemic, the Small Business Boot Camp program shifted to a virtual format and the Library District supported participants with mobile hotspots, collaborative online workspaces, and recorded meetings. Connectivity was a challenge; however, a dedicated group of six participants completed the year-long program, gaining valuable skills and business confidence.

"Participating in the Small Business Boot Camp was very validating to me as an artist because it meant my business was being taken seriously by someone other than me and, not only that, but it also felt like the staff at the Spokane County Library District fully believed in my ability to be a successful business owner and wanted to help me succeed, so that was marvelous experience."

– Megan Perkins,
Small Business Boot Camp participant

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY – 2021 was the sixth year that Spokane County Library District has taken on the role of Neighborhood Champion for the American Express Shop Small event on Small Business Saturday. The library takes on the role of ambassador for the Shop Small cause—supporting, rallying, and bringing together local businesses and community members throughout the holidays and beyond.

District libraries supported four communities in 2021 including Cheney, Deer Park, Medical Lake, and Millwood (Argonne Library). Over 180 people shopped during the event at 50 small businesses: 18 in Cheney, 9 in Deer Park, 14 in Medical Lake, and 9 in Millwood. Two winners selected in each community received a \$50 gift certificate to the participating small business of their choosing.

STA SUMMER YOUTH PASSES – Spokane Transit Authority (STA) expanded their Summer Youth Bus Pass program to the entire region for 2021 and partnered with the District to be distribution points for the bus passes. Summer Youth Bus Passes were available from June through September. Over 300 passes were distributed at District libraries in the first week of the program.

COVID-19 TEST KITS – The Library District partnered with Spokane Regional Health District to distribute free COVID-19 testing kits through the District's curbside pickup service. The Library District distributed 6,000 testing kits from mid-October 2021 through mid-January 2022.

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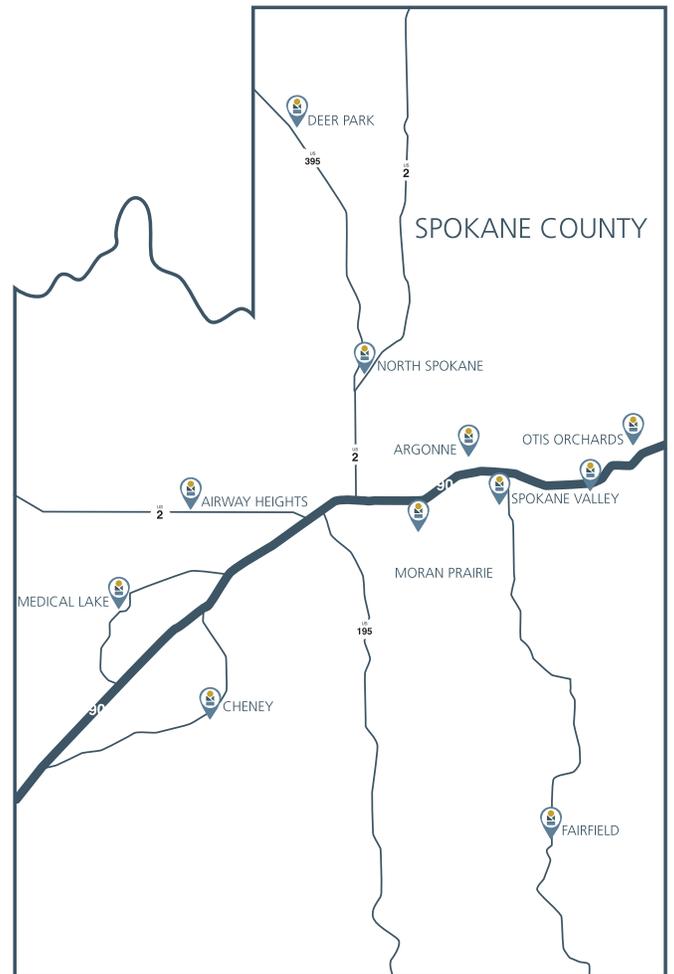
2021 at a glance

Programs and events were mostly virtual, presented via video conferencing and social media. Through online platforms, the District offered:

78 Storytimes with
658 in attendance

185 Education & Enrichment
events with 3,992 in attendance

64 Business & Career Development
programs with 816 in attendance



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