

# Sarasota County, Library Friends, and the Library Foundation: Partnering for Excellent Public Libraries!

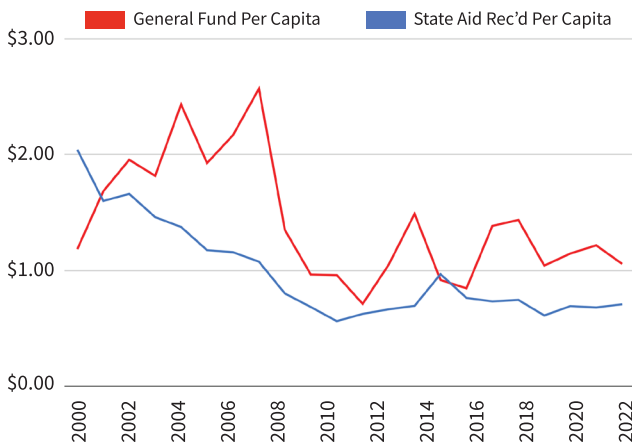
The Library Foundation has worked with Sarasota County Commissioners and Friends groups to strengthen our library system and provide even more services to our community, including:

- Working together to fund the first mobile pop-up library in Sarasota, scheduled to start serving our community this summer
- Designating future surtax funding for increased books and materials
- Funding enriched summer learning programs for children in 2023
- Increased spending on collections, especially digital resources
- Providing resources for the new library website and additional technology like Launchpads
- Investing in library staff training and development; increasing starting salaries
- Volunteering 13,627 hours of support to our libraries in 2022
- Granting \$504,977 in direct funding to libraries

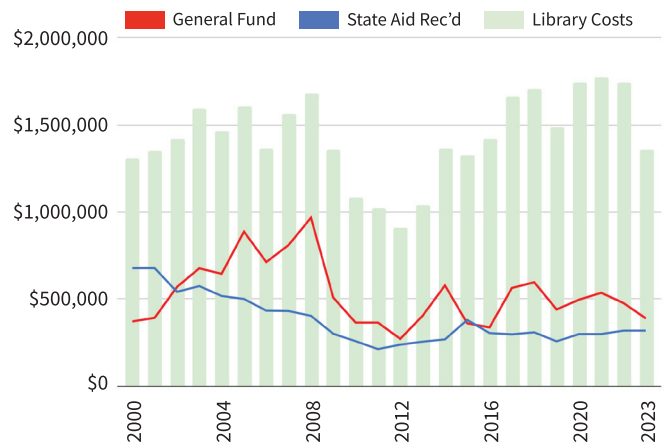


## The Need for Increased Support

Per Capita Spending (2000-2022)



Materials Budget (2000-2023)



**The Library Foundation requests that over the next two years Sarasota County provides an additional \$600,000 to the library system to provide more books and materials - \$300,000 per year.** This investment will help the library increase its collection and better meet the demand of our growing community.

# Why Sarasota County Residents Love Our Libraries:



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*“I love my library because...of the amazing individuals who work & volunteer here! A place of community to share in the joy of books and each other.”*

*“I love my library because...my son is Autistic and lacks fine-motor skills, but thanks to the 3DOODLER pens he was able to participate in the Creation Station activities independently.”*

*“I love my library because...at 75 years old, I did not think I would be enjoying learning about a 3D Printer, boy was I wrong! I am fascinated with this new form of technology and can't believe my local library has one! I finally have a new and exciting field of interest to be involved in.”*

*“I love my library because...I love to read and the library has the greatest selection of books that I can borrow for free. I like the craft programs and the special events as well. Entertainment, education, information!”*

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## People in Sarasota Use and Value Our Libraries

- **2,815,073** items borrowed (physical & digital)
- **1,241,922** in-person visits
- **77,514** hours spent on library computers
- **65,051** phone calls answered
- **8,520** chat sessions with library staff
- **101,182** in attendance at library programs/events (in-person, online, recorded)
- **179,774** people in Sarasota County have library cards

*2022 Library Statistics*

### MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY TEAM

Fletcher Rush, CHAIR - Catha Abrahams - Dan Bailey - Katrina Brown - Mary Byrd - Claudia Cardillo - Lee-En Chung, P.E. - Janis Cohen - Constance Hake Davis - Quinn Gulliver - Charles Huisking - Dr. William H. Jervy, Jr. - Sarabeth Kalajian - Michelle Kapreilian - Sarah Karon - Deborah Kostroun - Pattie Lanier - Kelley Lavin - Kory Lee - Judy Liersch - Anu Malik - Erin Michalopoulos - Ruth Mickelsen - Peter Pearson - Ann Olson - Victor Romano - Tammie Sandoval-Badger - Todd Sweet - Jessica Trimmer - Jean Wallace - Emily Walsh - Sarah Wertheimer - Crishauna Williams - Alisa Mitchell, Executive Director



**Library  
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The mission of the Library Foundation for Sarasota County is to champion strong public libraries, support innovation and help to extend the library system's reach for everyone in Sarasota County.

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