



Friends of the Fletcher Free Library
Annual Report FY'22
July 2021 — June 2022

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<https://charity.ebay.com/charity/Friends-of-the-Fletcher-Free-Library/1789486>



Friends of the Fletcher Free Library

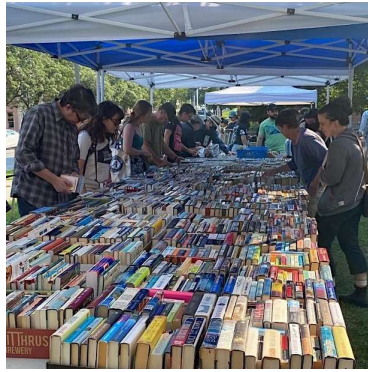
Annual Report FY'22

July 2021 — June 2022



Joan Conroy and Ann Warrington

Truly Great Friends



The purpose of The Friends of the Fletcher Free Library is to support the Fletcher Free Library (FFL) through advocacy, financial support, and fundraising with the goal of promoting the Library as a literacy and multicultural center for the community.

The Friends raise money through the generosity of community donors and donations to the Annual Appeal, and through sales of donated books and branded merchandise at occasional sales, sales from the Stall (shelves of books across from the Circulation Desk), and from online sales. Prior to the pandemic years, the Friends also raised money through annual fundraisers. The Friends are recipients of most restricted and unrestricted grant monies received, some of which are passed through the City of Burlington. We can't stop singing the praises of Gale Batsimm, Development Manager for the Library, who is instrumental in making these sources and much more, possible and successful! We are all very grateful for Gale's hard work in support of the FFL and of the Friends.

FY'22

Two bulwarks of the Friends of the Fletcher Free Library, Ann Warrington and Joan Conroy, are stepping down from the Board of Directors. Both will continue to stay involved with the Friends, but we will miss their participation at the Board level. For many years, Joan and Ann dedicated a good portion of their waking lives to the Friends' mission and to building community through the Fletcher Free Library. They served as officers, leaders, and critical support when help was needed, always willing to do the work needed to make the Friends successful. With gratitude (and some sorrow at their departure), we dedicate this Annual Report to Ann and Joan.

Also leaving the Friends Board is John Moore. We are extremely grateful to John for maintaining and building our eBay presence which, through the pandemic allowed the Friends a path to generate funds to support the work of the FFL staff.

The Burlington community continues to amaze us with its largesse, donating financially and giving books to the Friends to sell. This spirit of generosity is the fuel that lets the staff of the Fletcher Free Library provide the extraordinary programs and services that enliven and enrich the community. It is a big piece of what makes Burlington such a vibrant place to be.

The Friends prepared for FY'22 by creating 'COVID aware' systems for raising money in FY'21. Mark and Robin Twery developed a process that made running outdoor sales efficient and practical. John Moore learned how to make eBay 'work for us' in the sense of creating ways Friends books got highlighted and prioritized on the website's pages. Grace Ortelere took advantage of Friends communications pathways to spread the word and cajole the reading world into using our new Friends Local Online Sales service. Carol Livingston and Martie Majoros kept the Stall varied and interesting as browsers started returning to the library. We were still unable to host a fundraising event, but the sale of books and the community's generous support through the Annual Appeal brought the Friends and the Library sufficient revenue to properly serve the needs of the community.

Board of Directors

Position	FY'22
President	Jonathan Chapple-Sokol
Vice President	Amanda Hannaford
Treasurer	Mary Clare Novak
Secretary	Robin Twery
Director	Joan Conroy
Director	Tina Lesem
Director	Martie Majoros
Director	John Moore
Director	Grace Ortelere
Director	Phil Morin
Director	Hilary Silver
Director	Mark Twery
Director	Ann Warrington

67 Friends volunteers devoted nearly 2500 person-hours to supporting the Fletcher Free Library. We were fortunate to have the help of Burlington High School students and City Market member workers who helped make our outdoor booksales so successful. We are thankful for those who worked hundreds of hours and those who contributed just a few.

Financial Support for the Library

The Friends' Board annually allocates resources to the FFL for investment at the discretion of the Library Director. This procedure facilitates the FFL's ability to plan and prioritize programming, professional development, and special project investment more effectively. The Library Director proposes an amount to the Friends' Board based on anticipated programming and departmental needs for the coming fiscal year. The level of funding allocated each year is based on the availability of funds as stated in the Friends' end of year financial statements and Treasurer's report. For FY'22, the Board allocated \$48,000 to support programs and services for: youth, teen, adult, professional development, and innovation, a new program available to staff with a new idea of how to make the library better for users or staff. Included in the Allocation was \$10,000 as a set-aside to ensure continuity of the Early Literacy Outreach Program (ELOP). The Friends also issued \$20,000 to the City of Burlington as agreed by our Memorandum of Understanding.

FY2022 Allocation Request

	Amount Requested
Donation to City Revenue Line	\$ 20,000.00
Programming - Adult	\$ 12,000.00
Programming - Youth	\$ 9,000.00
Programming - Teen	\$ 7,500.00
Professional Development	\$ 3,500.00
Innovation Grants	\$ 5,000.00
Museum Pass Program	\$ 500.00
Shredding Contract/\$42.50 month	\$ 500.00
ELOP Coordinator	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 68,000.00

Funding was also committed to start a Capital Fund, to be used to provide money for necessary expenses, many of which are needed to help start the Capital Campaign. Some of the expenses include, but are not limited to: printing (mailings, brochures, signs, renderings, etc.), mailing/postage, consulting (includes trainings for Capital Campaign Committee), advertising/social media, video production, and events/receptions.

Capital Fund	\$ 25,000.00	Fund to support work on Capital Campaign for library renovation
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Financial Support for the Library

FY'22 Highlights

THE DIGITAL PROVIDE PROJECT (DPP) piloted in Spring of 2021 to help bridge the gap in internet access for the community. Thanks to grant funding to the Friends of FFL (FFFL) from a Vermont Community Foundation Spark! Connecting Community grant and a Vermont Libraries FCC grant. In August of 2021, FFL added an additional 10 hotspots thanks to the generosity of T-Mobile.

YOUTH SERVICES *The Summer Challenge Program* (SCP) visited parks and nutrition sites throughout the City during the 2021 summer with an amazing group of six summer interns provided by grants through the Burlington School Department and a Vermont Afterschool grant through Burlington Parks Rec and Waterfront. In addition to hands-on activities, SCP distributed free books provided by donations to the Friends of FFL. FFFL also provided funding for hands-on activity kits. Other special summer programming included performances by Very Merry Theater, Lyric Theater, and Modern Times Theater. The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) gave books to youth to build their home libraries and offered a virtual program. Live youth library programs returned to the library including Stories with Megan and Sing A-Long with Linda Bassick.

THE BURLINGTON STORYWALK(R) continued for a second year with sponsorship from: Mascoma Bank, NBT Bank, Phoenix Books, Stark Law, BayState Financial, Appletree Bay Physical Therapy, Burlington Telecom and Burlington Electric Department. The storybooks at this popular family destination have changed quarterly with the help of volunteer BTV StoryWalk(R) stewards.

TEEN DEPARTMENT offered outreach during the Summer Challenge Program (SCP) with two summer interns dedicated to teen outreach, including to Burlington High School at its downtown location. Programs included virtual tours, in collaboration with the Courage to Remember exhibit, of the Anne Frank House available in seven languages with the library's VR equipment, Young Writers Group, Crafternoons, Spooky Stories in October, Harry Potter Escape Room, Bookmaking Workshop, Voices Matter Screen Printing, and Teen Anime Club.

MUSEUM PASSES provided for the community through the Friends included local museums as well as further afield Vermont museums such as Fairbanks Museum and the Billings Museum.

PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMMING brought two major exhibits to the library during FY22. In October 2021, in conjunction with the University of Vermont's Department of Anthropology, Professor Teresa Mares and the Undocumented Migration Project, the Fletcher Free Library hosted *Hostile Terrain 94 (HT94)*, a participatory exhibition created by the Undocumented Migration Project, a non-profit organization that focuses on the social process of immigration and raises awareness through research, education, and outreach.

From March to May 2022, sponsored by Northfield Savings Bank, FFL hosted *Courage to Remember: The Holocaust 1933-1945*, an exhibit from the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. The exhibit included 40-panels on the Nazi Holocaust and had been exhibited on six continents and seen by millions of people. Programs included an opening reception with Governor Madeleine May Kunin.

The popular *Food for Talk: a Cookbook Book Club* began meeting in person while Book Discussion Group and ELL classes continued online, flexing to the needs and comfort level of the participants during this year of the pandemic. During April's National Poetry Month, the Library provided free, stamped poetry postcards and the Library dedicated a phone line to Phone-a-Poem. The Ruth Stone Foundation led a series of poetry writing workshops at the library.

THE EARLY LITERACY OUTREACH PROGRAM (ELOP) returned to in-person outdoor story times with home-based child cares from April through October and supplied books and learning materials to the providers. During the winter months, Art kits were distributed to the child cares through the support of Spruce Mortgage, including art projects for children to complete at child care and literacy extension opportunities. Thanks to Northfield Savings Bank, the Vermont Federal Credit Union, and the Friends of FFL for ELOP support.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT strengthens staff's knowledge and ability to serve community needs. Workshops and online classes included a cataloging course through Library Juice and VLA Conference registration. The Friends proudly fund opportunities to enhance the skills of Library Employees.

Summary table of Library programs:

Program Type	Number of Programs	Number of Participants
Adult	79	565
Teen	14	30
Youth	106	1359

Financials

Summary Statement

Revenue	FY'22	FY'21		Expense	FY'22	FY'21
Annual Appeal	68,038.16	62,161.00		Program Stipends/Consultants	25,682.50	27,027.00
Contributions Income	32,421.73	50,873.00		Program Supplies	24,584.63	38,220.00
Grants	26,071.35	29,400.00		Allocation to City of Burlington	20,000.00	25,000.00
BookSales	17,332.65	10,018.00		Speaker/Performer fees	14,539.12	12,930.00
OnLine Sales/eBay	9,002.53	12,298.00		Marketing	8,416.30	6,500.00
Bookstall	5,701.49	120.00		Equipment	7,187.65	12,183.00
Website Local Sales	2,194.48	33.00		Books	4,938.31	4,941.00
3 rd Party Book Sales	1,781.00	-		License Fees	2,641.79	4,573.00
Fundraising Events	1,450.00	1,151.00		Office Supplies	1,854.91	1,168.00
3 rd Party Sales-Other	180.00	-		Accounting Fees	1,648.20	2,173.00
Merchandise Sales	96.00	22.00		Insurance	1,427.00	1,213.00
Interest Earned	64.53	181.00		Staff Development/Training	1,091.15	2,254.00
Supply Store	25.00	-		Catering/Staff Recognition	849.37	575.00
				Postage	745.22	370.00
				Merchandise	471.28	219.00
				Travel	59.72	-
Total	\$164,358.92	\$166,257.00			\$116,217.40	\$139,346.00

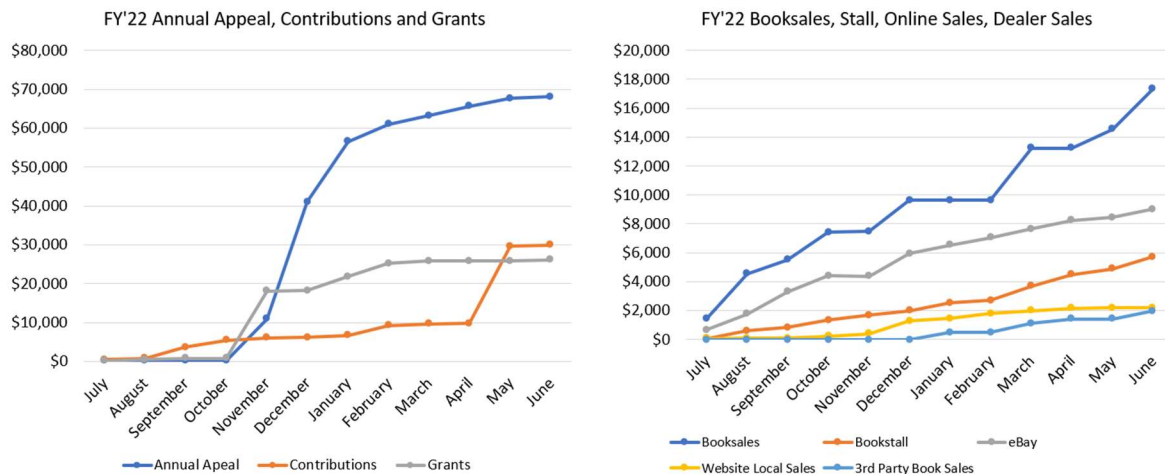
*see FY'21 for explanation of discrepancy between FY'21 net presented in this report

Bank Account Balance (does not include <\$2000 held in eBay, PayPal, Venmo accounts)

Date	Bank Account Holdings
6/30/2022	\$228,498.12
7/1/2021	\$182,587.46

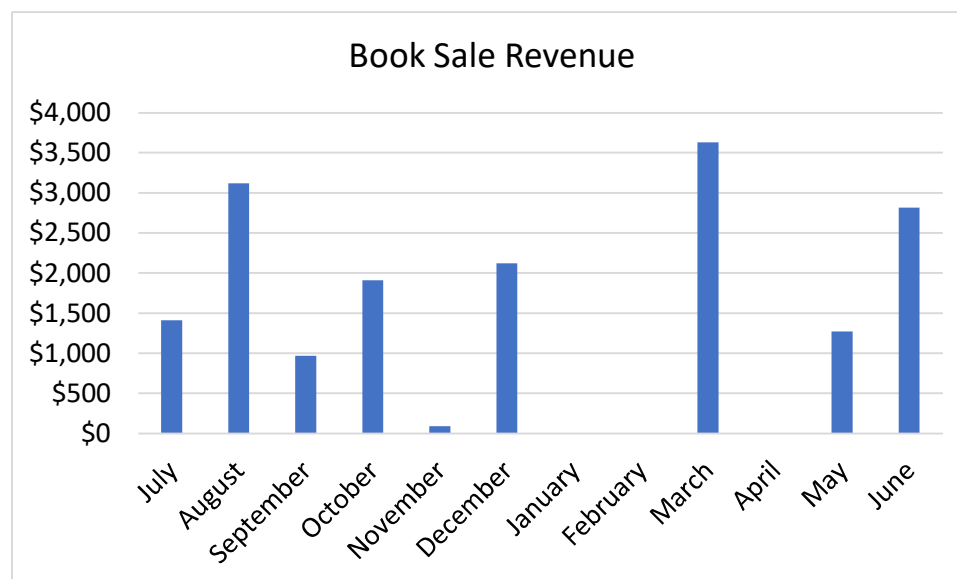
Revenue

Cumulative revenue by source



FY'22 again brought an outpouring of kindness from the community in general donations and Annual Appeal contributions. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of donors who wish to remain anonymous, who contributed \$21,000 in FY'22. We also received about \$500 in *In Memoriam* donations, precious to us because they honor a personal relationship between an individual and the Library. Beyond donations, Development Manager Gale Batsimm's grant writing yielded over \$26,000 for use in a variety of Library and outreach programs. We were also beneficiaries of several promotions at local Hannaford Supermarkets.

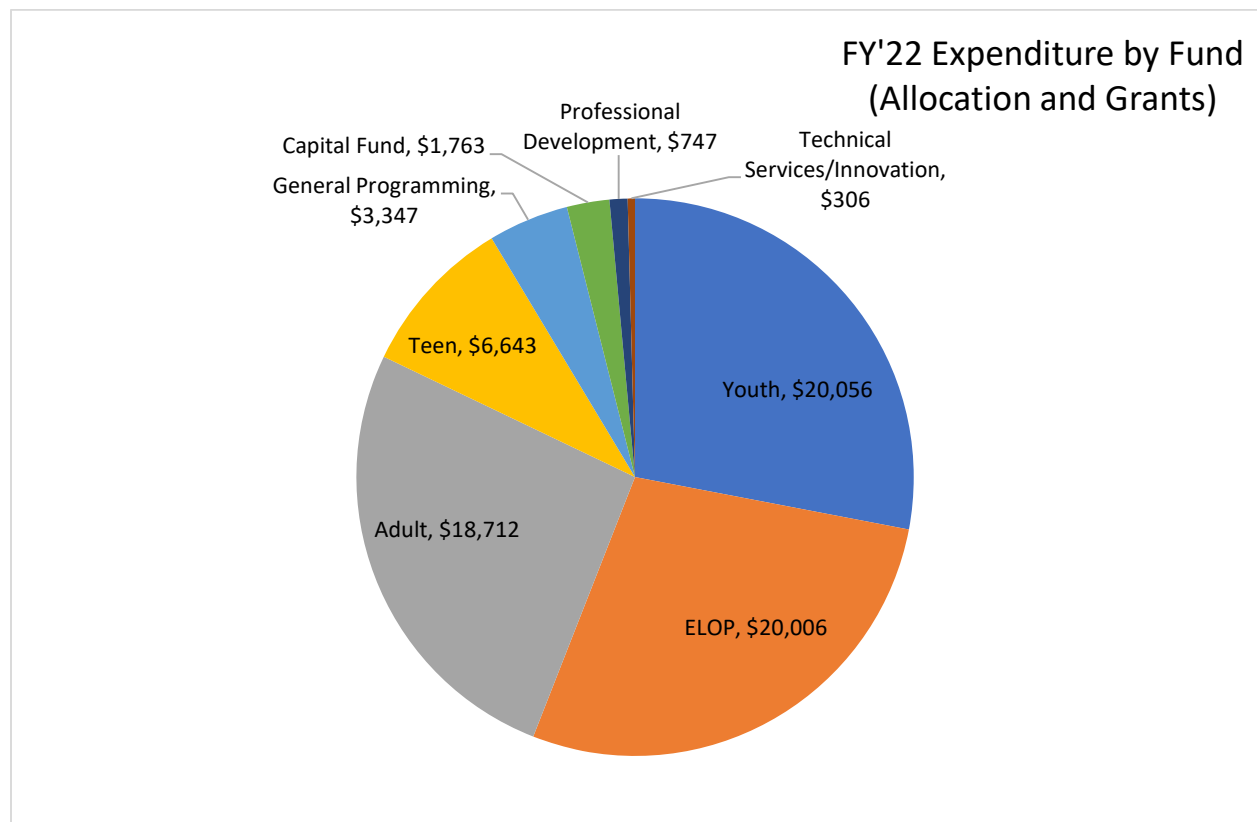
With the relaxation of COVID restrictions, the community turned out for in-person booksales with enthusiasm. Except when weather prohibited it, sales were held COVID-aware on the FFL front lawn, and the outdoor sales were, as can be seen from the charts, extremely popular.



Sales at the Stall partially recovered from FY'21, a year when there was very low traffic in the library. While there were still reduced in-person library users and stall browsers in FY'22, \$5700 was raised through stall sales. eBay sales remained strong, though a transition in Friends eBay personnel slowed things down at the end of the fiscal year.

Two newer sources of revenue from the sale of donated books helped the revenue column. Our new local online sales point became fully functional in FY'22 and raised almost \$2,000. The Friends also started selling books directly to local book dealers. While the pandemic made FY'20 and FY'21 challenging from the standpoint of in-person book sales, the community's interest in donating books to the Friends flagged not a whit. The Friends thus accumulated more books than it ever had before (upwards of 20,000), and it made sense to offer some to local bookstores and dealers whose business allows them to purchase books in higher volumes than individual buyers. Sales to dealers (3rd Party Sales on the chart) will continue until the Friends can reach a more stable balance between books-in and books-out.

Expenditure



We met our City obligation by sending \$20,000 in June, and the Friends spent \$15,662 (13.5% of expenditures) in operations, including supplies, subscriptions, insurance, accounting fees and fundraising costs.

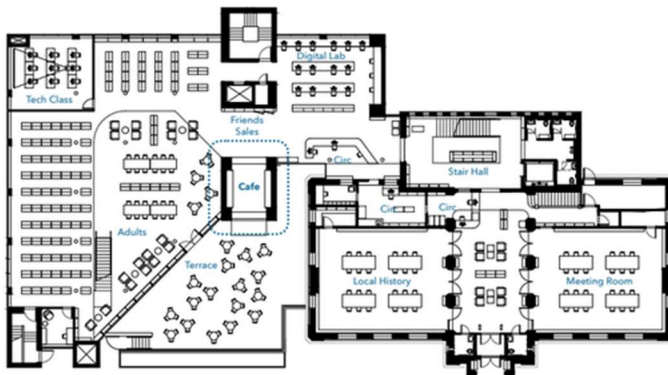
Allocation spending was healthy in FY'22, as things began to normalize with respect to library programming. Constructive innovations that were created in the depths of the pandemic have become routine and added to the library's repertoire of programming and services.

Capital Campaign

We began considering in earnest the future of the Fletcher Free Library and contracted with Architecture firms Dore+Whittier and Oudens Ello for a schematic design based on previous visionary work. The City financed Schematic Design largely through impact fees. We also formed a Campaign Committee, a committee of the Friends to begin the heavy work of developing the private component of the public/private partnership that will move the project forward.

Campaign Committee

Amy Mellencamp
Jessica Nordhaus
Cate MacLachlan
Kathleen Laramee
Phil Morin
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol
Gale Batsimm
Mary Danko



Schematic Design plan for main floor

Thank You

The Friends are thankful for all the folks who support the Friends and the Fletcher Free Library: Friends volunteers; Library staff; financial and in-kind contributors, individual, corporate and institutional; donors of books; and of course, all the booklovers who come to our sales. Thank you all!