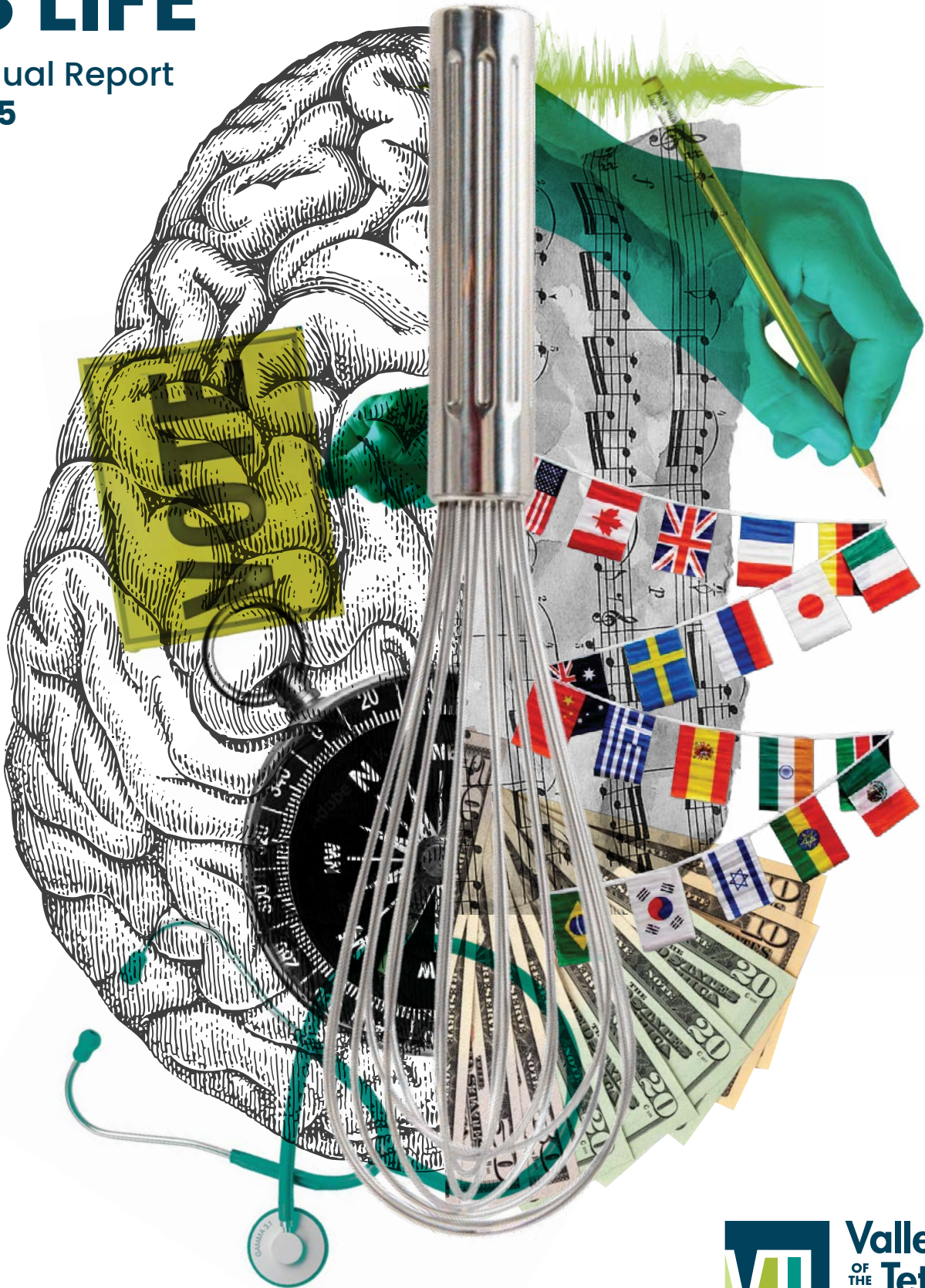


LITERACY IS LIFE

Annual Report
2025



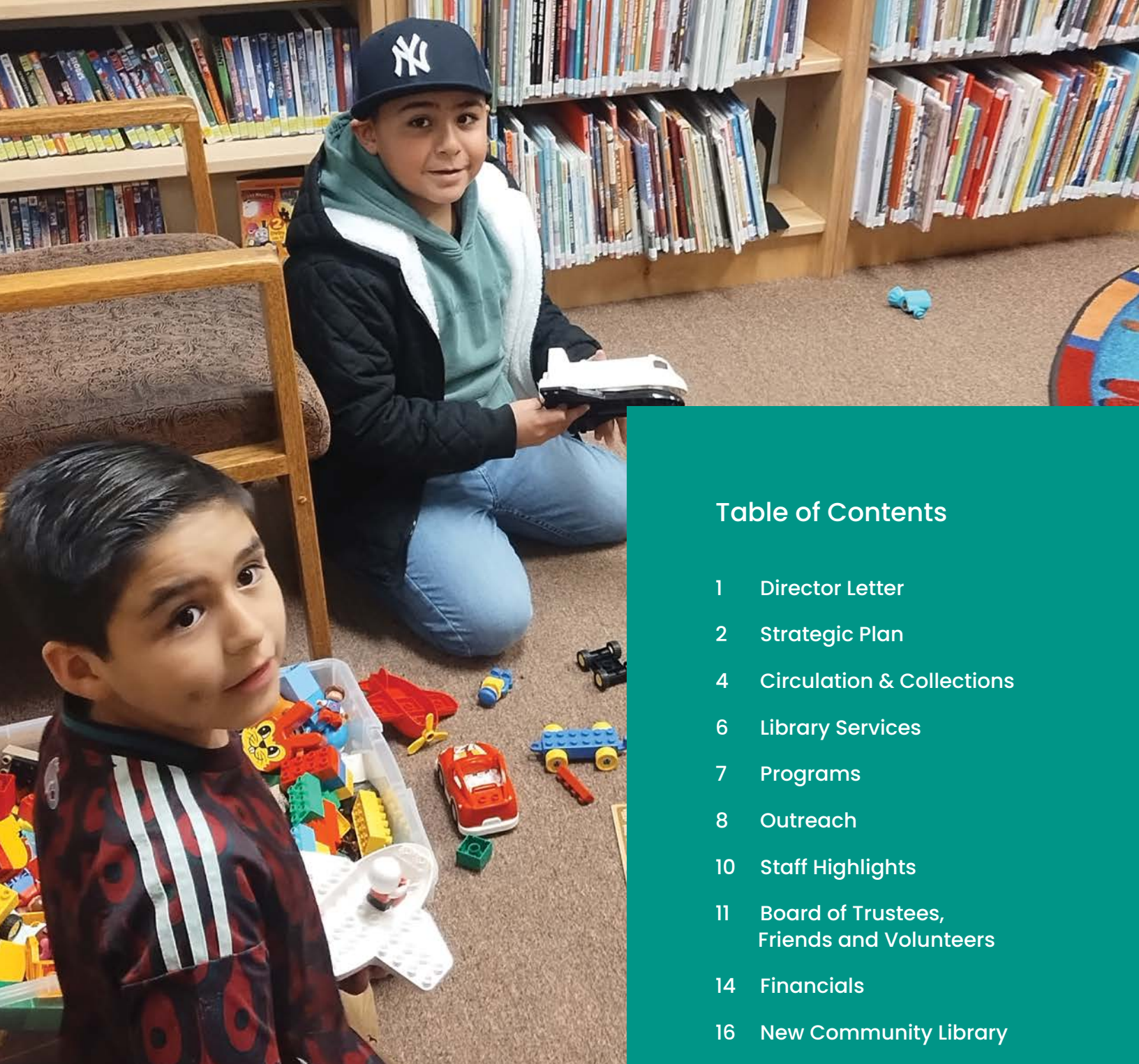


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Mission

Inspire lifelong learning, encourage exploration and creativity and enrich our community.

Vision

A space for individual discovery and expression where the community comes together through conversation, interaction, and collaboration.



At Valley of the Tetons Library (VTL), Literacy is Life—and making that belief meaningful for our community depends on the strength of what happens behind the scenes. Over the past several years, we have intentionally focused on building a strong foundation: improving systems, investing in staff, and nurturing a workplace culture rooted in care, accountability, and pride in service. This work is not always visible, but it is essential. Thoughtful operations allow us to be responsive, reliable, and ready to serve a growing and changing community with excellence.

Because of this commitment to organizational strength, our library continues to reach more people in more meaningful ways. Increased circulation and program attendance, expanded hours, new interactive collections, and deeper partnerships reflect both careful planning and the trust our community places in us.

When people walk through our doors, bring their families, attend programs, and return again and again, it affirms that the library is meeting a real need—and that how we work on the inside truly matters.

This annual report highlights the many ways Literacy is Life in Teton Valley, from early learning and teen engagement to creativity, connection, and lifelong learning. I am deeply grateful to the staff, trustees, volunteers, partners, and community members who make this work possible. Your engagement and support strengthen our library every day, ensuring that Valley of the Tetons Library remains a welcoming, dependable institution—one that our community trusts and helps shape, now and into the future.

Savannah Wake
Director of Internal Operations

Core Values

TRADITION & INNOVATION

Upholding unbiased access to past stories, wisdom and knowledge to help inform and create our future, while striving to be ahead of the technological curve and to provide space for the creation of new knowledge.

INTEGRITY

Holding true to our professional standards of providing equal and confidential access to a diverse community while providing a safe space for exploration.

RELATIONSHIPS

Building bridges with sincere interactions throughout our community and serving as a hub for what is happening in our valley and our world beyond.

FREEDOM

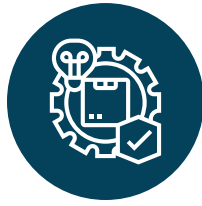
Serving the community with sincerity and openness; maintaining a safe space to explore and discover, with equal access to all.

STRATEGIC

PLAN

In 2025, the Valley of the Tetons Library launched a new [18-month strategic plan](#) to guide our work from January 2025 through June 2026. This plan has served as a roadmap for meaningful action, and in its first year we have made substantial strides toward many of our goals. Below are a few highlights that reflect the momentum and impact of this work.

Operational Efficiency



**UPGRADED
OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS**

←
new phone
system

**EMPLOYEE
ENGAGEMENT**

Targeted Community Engagement & Support



**EDUCATOR
RESOURCE GUIDE**
OUR MISSION: inspire lifelong learning, encourage exploration
and creativity and service our community.

VICTOR | ORIGOS | TETONA | MAKERSPACE | HOURS

**PARTNER WITH LOCAL
EDUCATORS**

**VIBE & THRIVE
NETWORK**
RED CONECTA Y CRECE

**EMPOWER TEENS
AND TWEENS**

**LAS BIBLIOTECAS SON PARA
TODOS**
Una guía de recursos bibliotecarios y digitales en español.

¡VISITE SU BIBLIOTECA!
Valley of the Tetons Library
valleyofthetonslibrary.org

El acceso a la biblioteca Valley of the Tetons (VTL), los servicios, los programas y todos los recursos de esta guía son **GRATUITOS**.

**ENGAGE SPANISH-SPEAKING
COMMUNITY**

LITERACY IS LIFE!
Digital - Health - Financial
Media - Information

**COMMUNITY LITERACY
& SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

Marketing & Communications



IMPLEMENTED
COMMUNICATIONS AUDITS



ANNUAL REPORT

New Library



SCHEMATIC DESIGN



LAND PREPARATION

Maintain & Grow Operational Revenue



SUPPLEMENTAL LEVY



79.46% approval!



GREW A FOUNDATION

COLLECTIONS + CIRCULATION

TOTAL PHYSICAL BOOK CIRCULATION

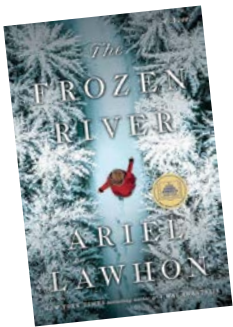
159,500

TOTAL CIRCULATION
physical and digital items

224,263

The wide variety and number of items borrowed from VTL in 2025 proves that Literacy is Life in Teton Valley. From audiobooks and storytime kits to hand tools and tech devices, patrons borrowed digital and physical items 224,263 times.

That's a 20% increase this year and 97% increase over the past three years!



TOP BOOK CHECKOUTS

Adult Fiction:

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

Young Adult Fiction:

The Titan's Curse by Rick Riordan

Childrens:

Dogman and the Scarlet Shedder by Dav Pilkey

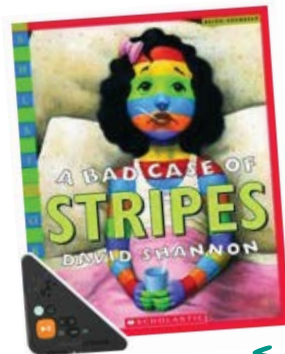


TOP ITEM CHECKOUTS

Internet Hotspot: 195 borrows

American Girl Doll: 103 borrows

Laptops: 89 borrows



WE ALSO INCREASED OUR COLLECTION OF NON-PRINT ITEMS TO INCLUDE:

- Read-along Wonderbooks
- Launchpad learn-to-read tablets
- Additional ebooks, audiobooks and digital magazines available through the Libby app



“When I moved to this community, I sought out the local library. Later, I’d ride my kids in the bike trailer to the library. Now, twenty years later, it’s a place I still enjoy where everyone knows your name. I take advantage of their many programs like writing and book clubs! I love VTL!”

—Carla Corum



In 2025, VTL completed a revamp of our popular Tools and Things Library, adding everyday items like a carpet cleaner, pasta maker and disc golf kit to the collection alongside chainsaws, a log splitter and a pressure washer.



VTL offers ebooks, audiobooks and digital magazines through the Idaho Digital Consortium on the Libby app. Thanks to our regional partners, you can use your VTL card to borrow digital titles from 13 partnering libraries through the Libby app for FREE:

- Blackfoot Public Library
- Boise Public Library
- Community Library Network
- East Bonner County Library District
- ID8 Digital Library
- Idaho Digital Consortium
- Idaho Falls Public Library
- IDEA by ICfL
- Inland Share
- Kuna Library District
- LIBRI System, Inc.
- Meridian Library District
- Valnet

LIBRARY

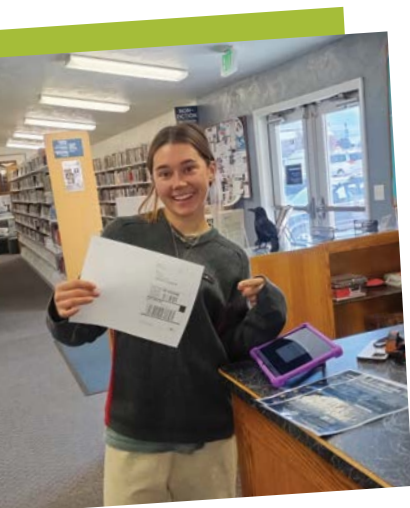
SERVICES

Your patronage and support keeps VTL thriving.

Extended hours

Beginning in April 2025, the Driggs Branch and Makerspace opened on Fridays, responding to the community's evolving needs following Teton School District 401's transition to a four-day school week. Community input revealed a strong need for targeted programming for students in grades 4-6, as well as flexible, drop-in options for learners of all ages. VTL is committed to being responsible stewards of tax funding, and while extending hours increases operational costs, providing additional hours is in the best interest of our community and we are happy to offer them. Thanks to this change,

library services are available in Teton Valley six days a week.



We're enhancing library services with Princh, a new printing, copying, and scanning system designed with both patrons and staff in mind. Faster service, shorter wait times, and flexible payment options - Princh makes printing at the library easy.

In 2025, VTL spaces were visited

67,632
times!



How to get a library card

VTL library cards allow you complete access to all physical and digital materials from our library branches in Victor, Driggs, and Teton, ID. Library cards need to be renewed in person every three years.

To get a library card, visit any branch and show a current picture ID and proof of residence.

How to get a reciprocal card

Show your VTL card at Teton County Library, Wyoming, to get a FREE reciprocal card. Get access to library collections and services at Teton County Library.

PROGRAMS



At VTL, we provide programs for patrons no matter their age. From Storytime and STREAM for Little Learners to Seniors West of the Tetons Makerspace field trips, literacy is lifelong at the library.



LITERACY IS LIFE!

Digital · Health · Financial
Media · Information

Literacy is Life program highlights

Culture Club featured making yogurt, paneer, cottage cheese and ricotta.



Seniors West of the Tetons made mosaics on a VTL Makerspace field trip.

STREAM in the Park focused on Science, Engineering, Reading, Art and Math.



VIBE & THRIVE NETWORK
RED CONECTA Y CRECE



Vibe and Thrive for 12-18 year olds taught job interview skills, freedom to read, budgeting, goal-setting and more.



IN 2025

251

program sessions for all ages

2,435

patrons attended



Makerspace

Our most popular program, VTL Makerspace, allows adults and kids to create with an audio studio, kitchen, sewing stations, crafting stations, STEM supplies and more.

OUTREACH



Outreach efforts supported our targeted community engagement strategic plan goals.

We brought the Literacy is Life message to the community with

29 outreach events, a

38% increase from the previous year!



Educational Community

We strengthened partnerships with local educators by distributing a tailored [Educator Resource Guide](#) to an estimated 113 local educators in 2025.

Community Relations & External Partnerships

In addition to bringing the library out into our community, VTL had several state officials come to us including:

- Regional Aides from Senator Crapo, Senator Risch, and Congressman Simpson's offices
- Idaho State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White with more than 20 Idaho Commission for Libraries staff and regional board members



VTL Director Savannah Wake, Idaho State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White, VTL Director Emily Bahr and VTL Trustee Pauline McIntosh



Spanish-Speaking Community

Census and Teton School District data indicate that 17 to 32% of Teton County residents are Hispanic/Latino with 20% speaking Spanish as their primary language. We're enhancing engagement with our local Spanish-speaking community through:

- Spanish and English on all library signs, flyers and social media
- Expanded Spanish-language collections
- Development and distribution of a tailored [Spanish-language engagement guide](#) to the community
- Bilingual programs including a [book talk with author Adrianna Cuevas](#) at Teton Middle School (TMS) and Personal Finance 101
- Library attendance at community events hosted by the Hispanic Resource Center and Latinos in Action
- Spanish language and cultural sensitivity training for VTL staff



32% Teton County residents are Hispanic/Latino

20% Speak Spanish as their primary language

STAFF

HIGHLIGHTS



Library collections, programs, services and outreach wouldn't be possible without dedicated librarians showing up every day. VTL continues to invest in amazing personnel, offering engagement and skills building, recognition, and a supportive, positive work culture.

Q12[®] Employee Engagement

In 2025, VTL implemented the Gallup Q12, a widely used, scientifically validated survey designed to measure employee engagement. Highly engaged employees achieve higher customer engagement, productivity, wellbeing, and organizational participation while absenteeism and turnover decrease. VTL scored well, indicating a high percentage of engaged employees.



Congratulations Anna Taylor for receiving the Idaho Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award!

Librarian Anna Taylor received the first ever Idaho Library Association (ILA) Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing her 21+ years of dedicated service to the people of Teton Valley. Taylor's library career has encompassed everything from cataloging and book repair to grant writing, storytimes, parade floats, and local history projects.

“Anna is the best advertisement not only for our library, but for everything libraries strive to be. She would never seek acknowledgment or praise, but in my opinion, Anna is deserving of both. Many times over.”

—Scott Dobbs, VTL Collections and Circulation Manager

New hires in 2025



JACK DOBBS

Youth Programs Assistant



MARY KITTO

Programs Coordinator



DARCY OPPERMAN

Library Assistant



SARA CYR

Adult Programs Assistant

TRUSTEES, FOUNDATION AND VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer support is vital to library success.
We thrive thanks to you!

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees provides governance and oversight for the library, ensures legal compliance and ethical integrity, secures adequate financial resources, and monitors program performance for meaningful community impact.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Lauren Vu, *Chair, Chair of the Architectural Selection Task Force*

Cortney Rodriguez, *Vice Chair*

Pauline McIntosh, *Treasurer, Chair of the Land Management and Preparation*

Connie Tyler, *Chair of the Campaign Council Selection Task Force, Campaign Steering Committee Member*

Melissa Thomasma, *Chair of the Schematic Design Task Force*

DEPARTING MEMBER

Jan Borstelmann, *Prior Chair, Campaign Steering Committee Member, 2025 ILA Trustee of the Year*

“*[Jan] leaves behind a library transformed by her wisdom, grace, and dedication. Her impact will be felt for years to come.*”

—Savannah Wake, VTL Director



Congratulations Jan Borstelmann for receiving the Idaho Library Association 2025 Trustee of the Year award!

Jan's extraordinary service to the Board of Trustees from 2017 to 2025 included several years as Board Chair. She led the library through some of its most challenging periods: the COVID-19 pandemic, leadership transitions, supplemental levy campaigns, state library legislation, the Teton Branch opening, community changes and the beginning of a multi-year effort to build a new library building in Driggs.



Foundation and Friends

In March 2025, Valley of the Tetons Library Friends transitioned to the Valley of the Tetons Library Foundation and Friends (VTLF) to better support the library's growth and long-term sustainability.

As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, VTLF supports quality library services in the community through fundraising, volunteerism, and advocacy to support the library's mission, vision and goals.

2025 FOUNDATION AND FRIENDS BOARD MEMBERS

Jill Callahan, *President*

Becca Hoover, *Vice President*

Debbie Nussbaum, *Treasurer*

Debbie Susong, *Secretary*

Lanée Jensen, *Member*

DEPARTING MEMBERS

Cindy Weber, *Volunteer Coordinator*

John Leggett, *Events Coordinator*

Want to Get Involved?

Valley of the Tetons Library Board of Trustees

Have a hands-on role in lifelong learning and creating lasting community impact. Join the VTL Board of Trustees. Contact Board Chair Lauren Vu at l.vu@valleyofthetetonlibrary.org



Join our team of
volunteers today!



IN 2025

61
volunteers

1,699
volunteer hours



Volunteers

We're grateful for the many library volunteers engaged in ongoing and one-time projects at the library including assisting with book circulation, at makerspace, with programs or with deep cleaning and facilities improvements. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Gail Baron | Cheryl Letchworth |
| Gavin Behrens | Nicolas Lovegoode |
| Lois Cannon | Logan Meek |
| Linda Caufield | Marjie Peter |
| Boyd Colt | Tom Peter |
| Andrew Ford | Sydney Radtke |
| Barbara Frank | Kjel Redfern |
| Marlene Griffin | Carl Ripplinger |
| Will Hayes | Anne Romero |
| Mary Heller | Karen Schroeder |
| Norjalda Hobbs | Church In The Tetons |
| Tel Johnson | |

CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Jan Borstelmann | Lanée Jensen |
| Marjie Peter | Jill Callahan |
| Connie Tyler | Emily Bahr |

ARCHITECTURAL SELECTION TASK FORCE

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Lauren Vu | Bonnie Chambers |
| John McIntosh | Emily Bahr |

Valley of the Tetons Library Foundation and Friends

Are you passionate about VTL? Join the Valley of the Tetons Library Foundation and Friends and be part of something transformative. Contact foundation@valleyofthetonslibrary.org.

FINANCIALS



How Our Library Is Funded

VTL is supported through a thoughtful combination of public funding and private contributions. This balanced approach allows us to deliver vital services today while investing wisely in the future of our library and our community.

- Most of our annual operating budget comes from public tax revenue, collected through a taxing district based on assessed property values in Teton County, ID. These funds can only be used for maintenance and operations, covering essential costs like staffing and facilities.
- Private donations and grants bridge the gap, making expansion, innovation, and new programs possible.

79.46%

voters approved a supplemental levy extension

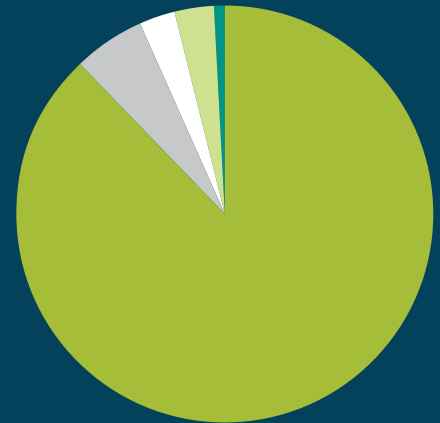
May 2025 Supplemental Levy

Thank you voters! In May, 79.46% of voters approved a supplemental levy extension to support annual operating expenses. Though this levy was not an increase in funds, **VTL continues to do more every year** - expanded hours and locations, additional programs, higher circulation, and more community engagement. We are proud to be highly efficient stewards of your tax dollars, expanding while many government organizations are reducing services.



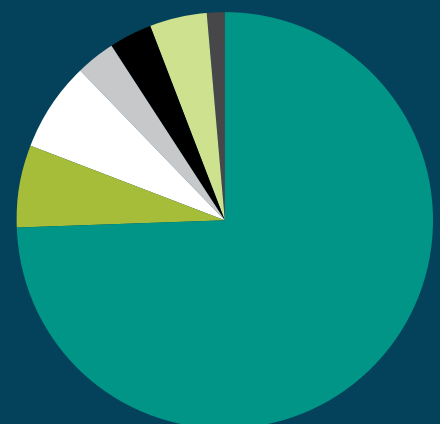
SPENDING RESPONSIBLY

Every dollar invested in VTL directly benefits the community, from keeping our doors open to expanding access to books, technology, and educational programs.



FINAL REVENUE

- Property Tax 88%
Maintenance and operations only
- Donations, Operating 5.4%
- Donations, New Library 2.9%
- Grants 2.9%
- Library Services .8%



FINAL EXPENSES

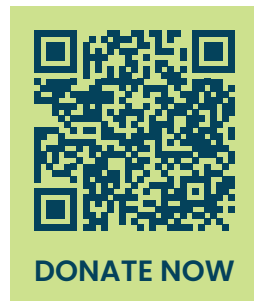
- Personnel 75%
- Facilities 6.5%
- General and Administrative 6.8%
- New Library 3.2%
Property tax is not used for new library expenses
- Collections 3.3%
- Outreach and Development 4.4%
- Programs 1.3%



Why Your Support Matters

At VTL, every checkout, every program, and every meaningful interaction is made possible by community support.

Stable funding is essential to maintaining a thriving library. While public funding covers core operations, private donations and grants allow VTL to provide expanded services, try new ideas, and respond to changing community needs.



Thanks to the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations, 2025 private funding supported:

- **Interactive additions** to children’s collections
- **Expanding** our community’s knowledge and understanding of the diversity of literacy
- **New titles** in our physical and digital collections
- **Increased capacity** to provide essential library services to New Americans and address language barriers surrounding access to community resources
- **Purchasing** high demand tools
- **Architectural planning** for the New Community Library
- **Programming** spanning literacy, STEM, culinary arts, sustainability, digital literacy, and community building

NEW COMMUNITY

LIBRARY



HACKER

Architectural Firm Selection

We're thrilled to be partnering with HACKER and Wildline Architects for the Schematic Design Phase of the New Community Library building project.

- Over a 10 month process, the Architectural Selection Task Force developed a comprehensive Request For Qualifications that garnered regional and national attention.
- Forty high-caliber architecture firms submitted letters of intent with 19 formally submitting statements of qualification.
- Following Idaho statute, the task force reviewed and interviewed top firms, finally selecting Hacker Architects and their Driggs-based partner, Wildline Architecture.

This is an exciting next step in the multi-year New Community Library project.

Help with this

once in a

lifetime project



STILLWATER
STRATEGY PARTNERS

Fundraising & Campaign Progress

Money VTL receives from tax levies are exclusively used for operations, not capital expenses. We're depending on generous private donors and grants to help fund the New Community Library building project. Progress so far includes:

- Closed Chapter 1 of the Capital Campaign and produced the Chapter 1 Donor Report
- Secured first grant funding directed toward the new building project
- Raised funds for the Schematic Design Phase through private solicitations and grant funding
- Hired Stillwater Strategy Partners to assist with completing Capital Campaign internal readiness
- Developed Campaign Steering Committee
- Exceeded Tin Cup Campaign results by 30% compared to the previous year with **\$25,000 earmarked for the new building project**

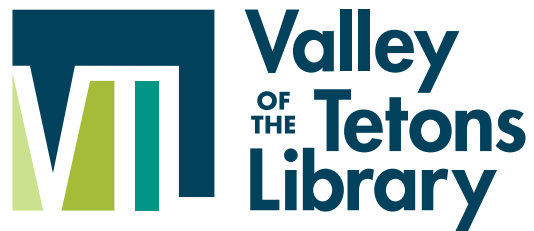
Contact Emily Bahr, Director of External Affairs and Advancement at e.bahr@valleyofthetetonlibrary.org or Kevin Dunnigan, Development Director at k.dunnigan@valleyofthetetonlibrary.org



Artist rendering of New Community Library site located at Harper Ave and Main St in Driggs.

Conclusion

Valley of the Tetons Library is grateful for you and your ongoing support! Every program, service or item in our collection is provided with Teton Valley residents in mind. We support Literacy is Life in our community in all its forms. Through organizational excellence and targeted community engagement we provide resources to inspire lifelong learning, encourage exploration and creativity and enrich our community.



VICTOR

56 N. Main Street
Victor, Idaho 83455

victor@valleyofthetetonslibrary.org

DRIGGS & MAKERSPACE

79 N. Main Street
Driggs, Idaho 83422

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ALL BRANCHES

208-354-5522