



# Guelph Public Library

Community Impact Report for 2024



# Looking back at 2024

**848,531 in-person visits**, which would fill the Sleeman Centre to capacity 3.2 times every week for a year.

**1,111,312 million online visitors** to the website and catalogue which is 7.6 times the entire population of Guelph.

**2,217,944 million item checkouts** from our collection.

According to the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, the national average for public library checkouts is usually between 7 to 10 items per capita. Guelph exceeds the national average at 15.3, suggesting a highly-engaged community with strong library use.

**Connections to Future Guelph**





# Key areas of growth in 2024

5% increase in  
daily inquiries



28% increase in  
program attendance



11% increase in  
makerspace users





# Programming

In 2024, the Library saw **35,264 program participants**, a 28 percent increase from 2023.

125 programs each month across all six library locations.

## Guiding principles

- Free
- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Community-driven

## Offerings have included

- Eras Tour Party (235)
- Technology Help
- English Conversation Circle
- Comic Con
- Solar Eclipse Party
- Snake Storytime
- Care planning with community partners





# Community partnerships

The Library worked with 54 community partners to help mutually strengthen services that have value in our community. These partnerships allow us to build programs and services that respond to existing and emerging community needs, while increasing the reach of organizations across the city.

Some of our partners in 2024 included:

- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)
- Starling Employment Services
- Art Not Shame
- Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC)
- Community Living
- Sikh Society
- University of Guelph
- Guelph Legal Clinic





# Makerspace

In 2024, the Library saw **3,491 creators use our makerspace** including the Glowforge engraving machine, 3D printers, embroidery machine, cricut, digitization station, gaming room, and studio space.



## Connor's story

Connor used the Makerspace to 3D print a replacement part for his sewing machine, which could no longer be purchased. The makerspace restored a beloved hobby while saving a sewing machine from going to landfill.

## Linda's story

Linda, a retired professor of Landscape Architecture, is using the makerspace to digitize and archive photo slides from her 50-year teaching career, so that future generations of students and outdoor space planners can learn from and research her work.





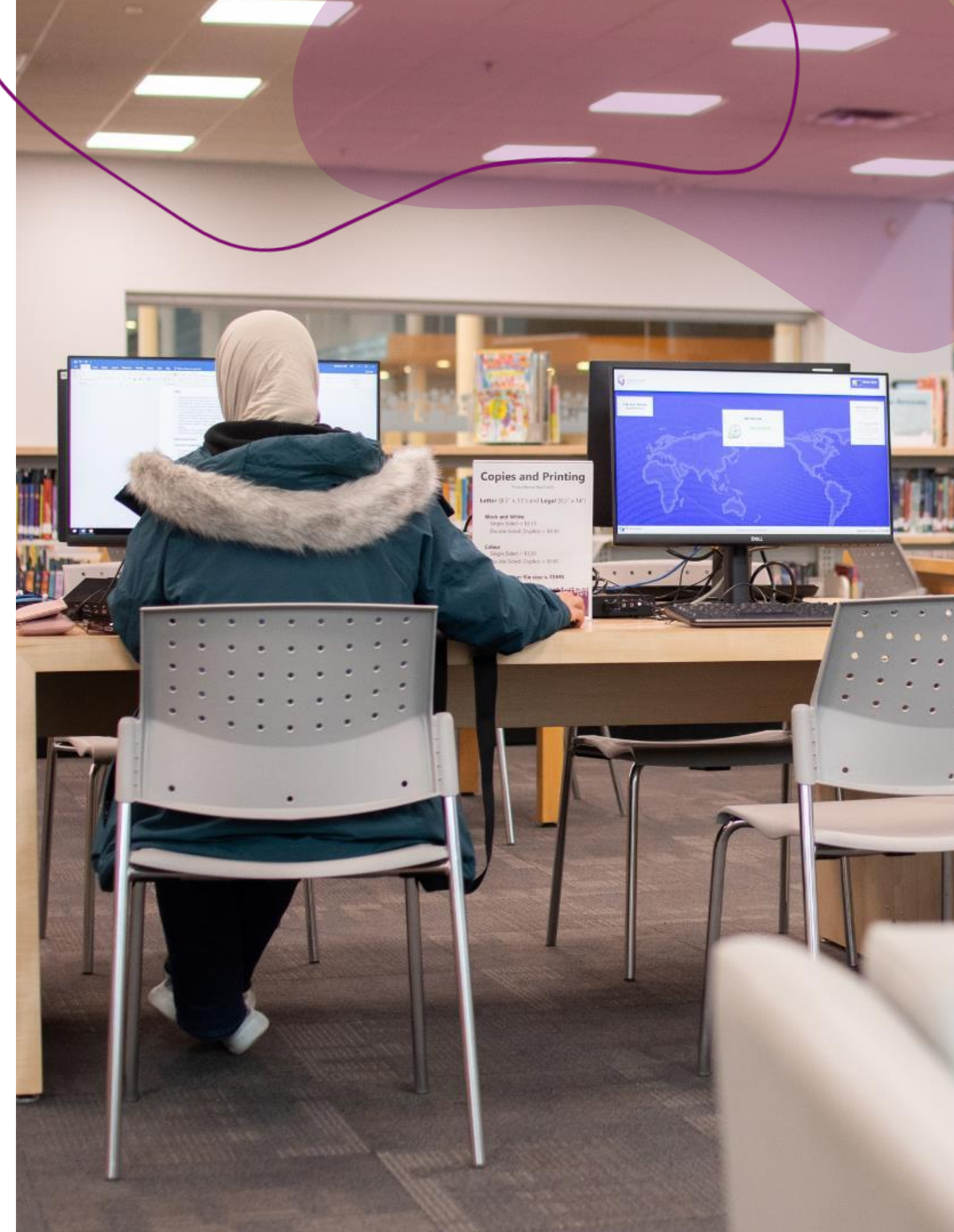
# Digital Equity

In 2024, the Library announced a partnership with the Guelph Wellington Digital Equity Coalition, receiving \$105,085 in funding from the Government of Canada to reduce digital inequity in our community.

We facilitated **93 individual tech help appointments** to teach basic skills for computers, e-Books and eAudiobooks, tablets, and smart phones and **20 programs** related to technology, social media and computer literacy were delivered to **568 participants**.

## Digital accessibility tools added to our collection:

- C-Pen Readers for people with print disabilities and language learning needs
- DAISY players and Envoy Connect audiobook players for listening to books
- Playstation access controllers that accommodate gamers with physical disabilities
- Echo II Smart Pens which turns handwriting to digital text





# Crisis intervention and harm reduction supports

A number of crisis intervention and harm reduction initiatives were completed or started in 2024, including:

- Free contraceptives in adult washrooms (in partnership with WDGPH)
- Installation of BRAVE sensors in our washrooms
- Outdoor community sharps drop box (in partnership with WDGPH)
- Naloxone distribution for people at risk of opioid poisonings and their friends and family (in partnership with WDGPH)

We continue to work with partners at Welcoming Streets to train our staff in crisis intervention and de-escalation and offer training to the broader community on Naloxone use.





# Construction of the new Central Library

In 2024, the City broke ground on the new Central Library. Fast forward to today, and we're excited to see that the shell of the building is taking place and we're looking forward to moving in late 2026.

Fundraising to help activate our spaces inside the new Central Library also kicked off in late 2024. Funds raised will help us with key projects like expanding our archives, purchasing equipment for a second Makerspace, and funding future technology replacements and programs.





# From Barriers to Bridges: Our goals for 2025-2028

In 2024, the Guelph Public Library Board approved our new strategic plan with goals set to carry us to 2028.



**Become a pillar of public value**



**Invest in our team**



**Amplify our stories**



**Build future-focused libraries**







# Questions?

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