



Time to Grow!

The Library's Youth Department

DOES A LOT WITH A LITTLE

With a staff of just 4.2 FTE (full-time equivalents), the Youth Department:

- Serves **9,100** West Vancouver kids and teens (plus their families, caregivers, and educators), in addition to many more visitors from all over the Lower Mainland
- Maintains a collection of **23,000+** physical items
- Answers more than **10,297** questions
- Generates more than **290,000** physical loans
- Welcomes **11,600** program attendees
- Registers **1,756** kids and teens in Summer Reading Club

**All 2022 numbers*

DID YOU KNOW?

**WVML is one of BC's
busiest libraries**

In the last decade, the YOUTH DEPARTMENT HAS KEPT ADDING

Responsive, Popular Collections

- Wonderbooks
- Launchpads
- Wee Musician Kits
- Family Explorer Backpacks
- Build + Play Kits
- Lucky Day Books
- Literature Circle Kits
- Kids Traditional Indigenous Stories

In the last five years, these collections have grown

- Board Books (baby and toddler books): **+6%**
- Kids Graphic Novels: **+71%**
- Kids Audiobooks **+76%**
(now in Wonderbook format)
- Teen Graphic Novels: **+89%**



**In the last decade, the
YOUTH DEPARTMENT HAS KEPT ADDING**



- **New Teen Space**
- **Kids technology classes in The Lab**
- **Teen Technology Mentor volunteer program**
- **Circulating Technology**
- **Expanded West Van Schools partnership**
 - District PAC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member
 - Successful Early Years Transitions to Kindergarten Committee Member
 - Virtualized Booktopia: The Literary Arts Festival for Young People for increased access
 - French Immersion Reading Challenge

And 2023 IS SET TO BE EVEN BUSIER

In just the first half of 2023, the Youth Department...

- Answered **17,510** questions (this is projected to double from 2022)
- Was responsible for **more than 1/3 of all circulation** in the Library
- Welcomed **10,300** program attendees
- Registered **1,923** kids and teens for Summer Reading Clubs

Youth program attendance has jumped 40% in the last year alone!



WE'RE HEARING FROM PATRONS



- Where can I find a place to **study**? Everything seems full.
- Is there somewhere **quiet**?
- Where can we be **noisy**?
- Where can I park my **stroller**?
- **I can't find...**
- Is there a place for people **my** age (6-8, middle years, etc.)
- Is there way to have **more natural light** and less fluorescents?

STAFF ARE NOTICING...



- **Lack of flexibility** to repurpose the space throughout the day
- Storyhouse is **maxed out for capacity** for certain programs and in the busy after school hours of 3-6 p.m.
- **Lack of space** to theme collections to make them easy to find
- Lack of space to make **age-specific** study, lounge, and collection areas
- Lack of research-based, experiential learning, and **play opportunities** in the space
- **Need for better sightlines** to monitor the space more easily

And past consultations have told us **THERE ARE BIG NEEDS**



2023/09/18

2019 **General Survey and Youth Services Consultation**

Patrons told us about the:

- Importance of feeling connected to our natural setting
- Importance of community, safety, diversity, and connections
- Desire for more, more, more!
- More spaces, programs, technology, and collections

2022 **Service Providers Forum and Patron Space Survey**

- Prioritize a seamless learning environment between school and library
- Space pressures: balance quiet/noisy, reading/technology

2022/3 **Space planning**

- Need to focus on Youth-time for a refresh and rethink

**But things aren't as
clear-cut as adding *more*.**



NEEDS CHANGE OVER THE DAY

Ever wondered why the Youth Department is sometimes *very* quiet and, at other times, *very* loud? Our space changes so much just in one day!

MORNINGS + EARLY AFTERNOONS

- Caregivers with young children
- Teens with free schedule blocks
- Visiting school groups



AFTER SCHOOL

- All areas are busy
- High volume of questions at the Information Desk
- Need for quiet study, group study, and space to enjoy the collection



EVENINGS

- Teens and middle graders need room to study
- Families with young children want a place to be before bedtime
- In-depth research and reference questions at the Information Desk



NEEDS CHANGE OVER THE YEAR

On top of the daily variability, certain seasons bring lots of extra activity:

- School's Out Days / Pro-D Days
- Spring, Winter, and Summer Breaks
- Final exam time for secondary school students

of Wonderbooks on the shelf today: 17
of Wonderbooks in collection: 270



of Launchpads on the shelf today: 1
of Launchpads in collection: 60

Even the size of our collection changes all the time, depending on what is checked out!

Photo taken August 7, 2023

Needs change with new research ON HOW YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN

Play-Based Learning

- Research tells us that playing *is* learning for all ages (not just the early years)
- Play “provides opportunities for learning in a context in which children are at their most receptive”¹
- Aligns with directions of the BC Ministry of Education and our local school district

1: Ontario Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program, 2010
Photo from the Cayton Children’s Museum in Santa Monica, California



But it is hard to adapt to these daily, seasonal, and broader changes in education with such a static space.



Youth Departments need flexible spaces to meet a variety of needs



Photos clockwise from top:
Salt Lake City Public Library
Chicago Public Library
The Conversation
The Blue School, Manhattan

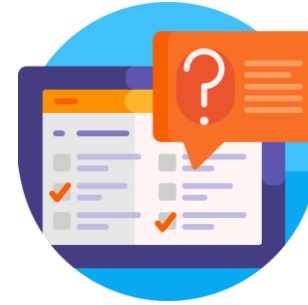
The District of West Vancouver currently has \$300 million in infrastructure needs. We know a new library is not on the horizon.

**BUT WE DON'T WANT TO REMAIN
FROZEN IN TIME.**

We want to make vital improvements and enhancements using what we have.



HOW TO GIVE YOUR INPUT



FILL OUT A SURVEY at wvml.ca/youthspace

September 15 – October 25

- Kids and Teens
- Adults

Vote on a weekly Your Dot Counts! question in the Youth Department

September 18 – October 15

REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM

to learn more and give your feedback

- [Wednesday, October 11: Grades 4-7](#)
- [Friday, October 14: Grades 4-7](#)
- [Tuesday, October 24: All Ages, including adults](#)

EMAIL US

by Wednesday, October 25 youth@westvanlibrary.ca



WE NEED YOUR INPUT TO DETERMINE:

How much extra space do we need?

How should we prioritize what we put in the space?

What improvements to the existing space are vital?



NEXT STEPS

December 2023

Information we gather will go into a report to our Board of Trustees. The Board will provide a recommendation on whether or not a renovation should be pursued to improve the Youth Space.

2024

With Board approval, we will use the feedback to create a renovation plan for the Youth Department (funding dependent). We will look for a variety of funding sources, including local municipal support, fundraising, sponsorship, and grants.

Fall 2025 or later

Renovations start.

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