

WVML FOUNDATION

Two generous community champions of the Library independently organized fundraisers for the Library Foundation in the first half of this year.

Thank you to **Junmei Zhao**, who for her birthday party this year, asked friends to make a donation to the WVML Foundation, and raised **\$5,500!**

And thank you to the **Shuang Music School** for raising nearly **\$3,000** for the Library Foundation at their May 10 student solo recital at the Kay Meek Arts Centre.

Generous donations and supporters like these enable us to provide the enhanced programs and collections which everyone in our community can enjoy.



DIRECTOR'S MID-YEAR Report

January 1 – June 30, 2024



Library Director: STEPHANIE HALL

Library Board: Tracy Wachmann (Chair), Andrew Krawczyk (Vice Chair), Bahar Hafizi, Alastair Nimmons, Sahar Sanajou, Sharon Thompson (Council Representative), Lorena Yu.



FRIENDS

The Friends ran two fundraisers in the first half of 2024: **Shred-It Day** and the Kids Book Sale. In total, they raised **\$3,800** to support Library programs.

One such program, the annual **North Shore Writers Festival**, supported by the Friends of the Library groups from the three North Shore library systems, returned **April 12 – 13**. Nearly **500** attendees enjoyed the free gatherings of the literary ecosystem on the North Shore.

"I really enjoyed the sense of community created through bringing all these wordsmiths together on North Shore."



INSPIRING STORIES

From **January 26 through March 10**, we hosted the touring replica of **Carey Newman's Witness Blanket**. Inspired by a universal symbol of protection—a woven blanket—the **Witness Blanket** comprises items collected from residential schools, Survivors, churches, governments, and other cultural sites across Canada. Each object tells a personal and harrowing story of loss, strength, resilience, and pride from Survivors.

Our hosting of this powerful exhibition, which has been called "a national monument," was made possible due to equal funding from the **WVML Foundation** and the **Province of British Columbia** through the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs**.

The Library had **52,367 visits** during the six-week exhibition. This includes more than **500 attendees** at our in-person events. Additionally, at least **200 students** and young people tuned into a **YouTube Live talk** with **Carey Newman**. We also hosted **50 Squamish Elders** for a private viewing of the Blanket.

"This was a heart-rendering, professional presentation about the years of hard work to bring this project to fruition. What a privilege for the WV Library to be a part of this and for patrons to be able to see the Witness Blanket... Making a difference one step at a time!"

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

Learning

- Our popular **mason bee lending program** returned this spring. In its third successful year, this program has grown into a vibrant community of **86** mason bee enthusiasts across West Vancouver and beyond. These patrons can borrow a mason bee “bungalow” along with 10 to 15 mason bee cocoons from the Library’s bee hotel, kickstarting their journey into beekeeping.
- We hosted a sold-out **Tech Talk on Social Robots and Elder Care** with the **UBC IDEA Lab**.



- Our librarians curated a resource topic page called **Coping with World Events** to help people have conversations about difficult topics and distressing news.
- The **TED Talks** livestream returned to the Welsh Hall April 16 – 19. This year’s topics focused on the unique challenges and opportunities driven by the technological revolution.

“I hope we have more of these educational events that benefit everyone (and bring together multiple generations) in West Vancouver.”

Inclusion

- With help from our community, we decorated the Library for **Lunar New Year** and **Norooz**. One volunteer decorator said:

“Being able to celebrate the Lunar New Year here, especially as a newcomer, is immensely exciting for me. It’s a wonderful experience to immerse myself in the cultural inclusion that this occasion offers.”

- Guided by the **District of West Vancouver’s Accessibility Plan**, all Library staff teams are working on improving accessibility in the Library.
- We introduced **free period products** in our washrooms to reduce menstrual stigma.
- The Library partnered with the **District** to promote **National AccessAbility Week, May 25-June 1**. More than **60** preschoolers and caregivers attended a **Words Matter Storytime** we presented at the Community Centre.
- We started a new **Farsi Conversation Group** for newcomers in partnership with the Third Bridge Society.



- Our Technology and Accessible Services staff launched a new **Accessibility-Focused Device Clinic** and offered **10** one-on-one clinics in Q2.

Community

- We conducted our **General Library User Survey** from **April 8 through 22**. We heard from more than **3,000 patrons—30% more** than the last survey in 2019.
- The Library joined the **West Vancouver District, West Vancouver Place for Sport, Harry Jerome Oval Fundraising Committee** and **West Vancouver Schools’ District Parent Advisory Committee** in presenting **An Evening with Valerie Jerome** at the Kay Meek Theatre. The free event was completely **sold out**.



- Library staff attended outreach events including **North Shore Seniors Health Expo, West Vancouver Pride Picnic, and Indigenous People’s Day**.
- Students at **Cedardale** and **Pauline Johnson** schools participated in a **French reading challenge** presented by the Library and **Canadian Parents for French**.
- The Library’s Business Manager participated in the **Cultural Safety and Humility Training** with the **Squamish Ocean Canoe Family, the International Sustainability Education Foundation, and North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM)**. This training is part of NSEM’s work towards developing a North Shore Resilience Strategy.

OPERATIONS



93,696
ENQUIRIES

TOTAL VISITS 603,280
Virtual visits **404,702**
In-person visits **198,578**

CHECKOUTS 477,677
Physical **359,799**
E-content downloads **70,034**



MID YEAR
January 1 –
June 30

2,065
New library cards



16,821
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE
6,878 Adult
9,943 Youth (Early Years, Kids, Teens)



47,844
Online
database
views

- **Shuang Music School** partnered with the Library to use our Recording Studio space for students to record with their teachers.

Integrity

- We evaluated our monthly digitization drop-in session and adapted it into a bookable station in the Community Computing Centre. This new **Digitization on Demand Station** can accommodate around **200** hours a month of digitization, compared to the monthly two hours of the previous drop-in model.
- We analyzed the results from our fall 2023 **Time to Grow!** youth space planning consultation campaign. Our

report found that patrons want a safer and more accessible youth space that meets **West Vancouver’s gold standard** with more seating, more delineated space for different ages and noise levels, and more play and wonder.

- Our library received news of a new one-time grant of \$23,800 from the **Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs** to enhance library services and respond to changing needs. Funding has been used for staff safety training, five individual study pods, hosting the *Witness Blanket*, coming into compliance with new accessibility legislation, and more.

- Both the Mezzanine level (non-fiction area) and the roof require **seismic upgrades** this year. In June, work began on the roof and collections moves in preparation for the Mezzanine’s closure and renovation.

