# Fundraising Priority List 2022-2023

The Fundraising Priority List is a categorized list crafted by Library management with input from Library staff and an emphasis on patron feedback. The Fundraising Priority List includes projects, enhancements, and supplies that support the Library's vision and mission. Each category features items ranked by order of need and preference. These items are not allocated for in the regular budget - their acquisition is only made possible through grants, sponsorships, and donations. Though the list is ranked, it has the flexibility to match current needs with donor wishes. The list is a living document and will be updated as items are received or as needs evolve.

## Collection & Service Enhancements

*Hoopla - $10,000***:** Hoopla is a popular ebook, downloadable audiobook, and streaming video service that was added when the Library was closed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The payment model is cost-per-checkout, meaning the Library is charged for every individual circulation. It is a popular service with over 500 users and provides access to specific items that the Library does not offer elsewhere (comics, streaming video, and digital magazines).

*Wonderbooks - $2000*: Reading aloud to children is the #1 activity to ensure reading success down the road. Wonderbooks are storybooks that have audio integrated to create an immersive read-aloud experience.  The collection was introduced in 2022. A small allocation has been created in the budget, but with the popularity and importance of the collection, additional funds will be necessary to expand it.

*Adult Nonfiction - $3500*: It is important to keep the nonfiction collection timely and relevant. Older materials need to be weeded out and updated continually. Additional funding outside of the budget will help support a solid nonfiction collection.

*ESL Translation Pens - $1000*: 5.5% of homes in Warren County speak a language other English. Offering translation pens would help support our foreign-language speaking community members.

*World Languages Collection - $2000*: There is an increased interest in the Library's World Languages Collection, particularly for Spanish-language items. Additional funding would help the Library meet demand.

*Tabletop Gaming Collection - $1,000*: The Tabletop Gaming Collection was added in 2022, additional funds would help strengthen the new service. Tabletop gaming collections are becoming more prevalent among libraries and offer an affordable way for families and groups to connect socially.

***STEM Bags - $1,000***: STEM ( Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) bags contain STEM-related items for families to do STEM activities at-home and also contain STEM books.

**Events & Programs**

***Reading Programs - $12,000***: Reading programs improve literacy among all ages, help combat summer slide, and provide social opportunities. Reading programs are the backbone of library programs and are our most popular events.
- o Summer Reading Club (June 3 – August 5) - $9,000 Total
  - ► All-Ages Kick Off Event (June 3)- $1000
  - ► Youth Summer Reading Prizes - $3000
  - ► Youth Summer Reading Performers - $3000
  - ► Adult Summer Reading Prizes - $2000
- o Winter Reading (January 3 – February 28) - $3000 Total
  - ► Youth Winter Reading - $2000
  - ► Adult Winter Reading - $1000

***Outreach Events - $4,000***: Outreach events allow the Library to get out into the community and meet the community where they are in order to better provide and promote services.
- National Night Out (August 2) - $1500
- Christmas Parade (December 3)- $4000

***National Library Celebrations - $4500***: Participation in National Library Celebrations not only highlights the importance of libraries, but also serves as a promotional opportunity for Samuels Library.
- o National Library Card Sign-Up Month (September) - $1500
- o National Library Lovers Month (February) - $1500
- o National Library Week (April 23 – April 29) - $1500

***Holiday Writing Contest (October – December) - $1000***: The Holiday Writing Contest encourages young writers to flex their abilities. Many Warren County classrooms and homeschoolers participate. In 2022, the contest will also feature a new Special Needs category.

**Facility Enhancements**

*Amphitheater - $100,000*: A small amphitheater on the property between the Library and Ressie Jefferies Elementary School would allow the Library to host more outdoor events and accommodate larger crowds. The COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the need for outdoor community spaces. The amphitheater would be a valuable asset to Warren County, as it would be an accessible space for community events and gatherings (within the realm of the Library's Meeting Room Use Policy).

***Automated Book Sorter Project - $200,000***: Circulation staff handle over 350,000 items per fiscal year. An automated book sorter would save staff time by checking in and sorting books as they are returned. The predicted staff time saved could potentially equal the amount of hours of a 20-hour part-time position.

***Branded Outdoor Digital Sign - $20,000***: The 2021 Community Survey highlighted the need for significant promotion of Library events and services. An outdoor digital sign, along Criser Rd, would allow the Library to advertise events and services to drivers and pedestrians on the busy street.

***Circulation Desk - $30,000***: The current circulation desk is now over a decade old. During that time, workflows and services have changed. A new circulation desk would help streamline patron interactions and provide vital space for the Circulation Department to store materials and work without being cramped.


## Staff Support

***Staff Development Day - $1500***:  Staff Development Day is an entire day set aside to train all Library staff. Continuing education and supporting staff is vital to keeping Samuels Library relevant as libraries evolve. Staff Development Day has a small line item in the FY23 Budget, increased funding would allow for specialized training and outside speakers.

***Staff Polo Shirts - $1500***: Branded polo shirts make staff easily identifiable at outreach events while maintaining a professional appearance.

## Supplies & Equipment

***10 Book Carts - $5000***: Book carts are used daily by all staff and volunteers to move materials around the building. Additional carts are needed and some carts require replacement.

***2 Large Craft Carts - $5000***: Craft programs have been growing in popularity with adult patrons. As more craft programs are held, it is necessary to keep supplies organized and easily accessible. Mobile carts would achieve this while also simplifying set-up for staff.

***Music & Movement Supplies - $485***: Music & Movement is a program tailored for young children. It incorporates sound and yoga to keep their minds and bodies active. Additional supplies would help grow this program.

***Story Time Supplies - $150***: Story Time is a staple Library program. This literacy program, hosted weekly, draws in an average 50 participants per program. Story Time is critical for early learners, as it introduces them to new words and modes of communication. Additional supplies will aid the continued success of Story Time.

## Technology

***Teen Gaming Computers - $10,000*** – The Library currently offers a teen gaming program, this would support that program while attracting new teens to the Library. A 2020 study from the UK National Literacy Trust linked video games to improved literacy, creativity, positive communication, empathy and mental wellbeing in young people.

***SMART Boards for Meeting Rooms - $15,000***: New SMART boards in each meeting room would make it easier for staff and outside groups to facilitate technology classes. There is also a growing demand for Zoom-compatible equipment in public meeting rooms.

***Large Format 3-D Printer - $8,000*** – The library currently has two small-scale 3-D printers. A large scale 3-D printer would create more program opportunities and potentially offer another printing service to the public. Not many people in the region have access to a large-format 3-D printer, so this would be a real draw for community members.

***Large Format Scanner - $25,000***: A large format scanner would allow the library to digitize local history records with indices. It is currently difficult for researchers to quickly find the information they need from these resources. A large format scanner would also present the opportunity to create a digital archive of local newspapers (with the paper's permission), rather than paying costly fees for microfilm.

***Oculus Virtual Reality Game Units - $1000***: Many Warren County residents do not have ready access to VR technology, this would allow the opportunity to experience VR and learn more about the emerging technology.

***Cricut - $500***: This paper-cutting machine would help improve Library displays and décor. It will also save staff time on preparing crafts. Add-ons may be purchased so that the machine can also be used for public craft programs or creating promotional Library materials.

(Revised 6/2022)