

Street Books

2023 Annual Report

Building Authentic Relationships and a Community of Care

Beyond the books and survival gear we provide at Street Books, **it's our deep relationships that allow us to build the community of care so essential for our city**, and for our world. Knowing each other and each person's unique story means helping to connect patrons to a motel voucher, referring them to an opening at a safe rest village, or offering an opportunity to recover a lost ID. We meet people where they are, literally, offering genuine connection and a community built on trust.

In 2023 Street Books:

- Lent more than **7,500 (mostly donated) books**
- Provided **786 pairs of reading glasses**
- Handed out **962 coloring books**
- Supplied **1,736 doses of Narcan**
- Gave out survival supplies, including **60 tents, 60 sleeping bags, more than 250 tarps, 400 flashlights, 480 hygiene kits, countless wound care supplies, clothes, hats and gloves**
- Hired **4 new dynamic librarians**, 3 of whom have lived experience on the street
- Expanded our team with **5 new board members**, each of whom brings enormous skills and energy
- Increased our library shifts to **5 days per week**, a total 13 shifts, **adding new shifts** at Ground Score Association, Maybelle Center for Community and the Multnomah Safe Rest Village
- Partnered with **30 different non-profit partners** to provide libraries and librarian services at their locations, enhancing their services & our patrons' access to books and conversations about books!

AT A GLANCE

7,500+ books

700+ reading glasses

4 new librarians

3 new shifts

30 partners

1,700+ Narcan doses

Half of our librarians speak Spanish & one librarian speaks Mandarin Chinese!

We take requests for books in any language.



In 2023, we also:

- Held an **equity training** for all board and staff, hosted a quarterly racial justice book club and finalized our values and equity statement, which we use to help guide decisions
- Provided fully paid health insurance for staff working an average of 25 hours or more per week and gave all staff a **\$5/hour wage increase** at the beginning of the year
- Held a winter **board and staff retreat**, creating a strategic vision, solid objectives and work plans for 2024
- **Hosted events:** a summer celebration (June), a Pedalpalooza bike ride & book swap (July), a cross-class fall event vigil and community celebration (September), and a reading and fundraiser at Up Up Books (December)
- Visited the University of Portland with our book Loaners: The Making of a Street Library for the visiting author series. Also visited the Portland Book Festival, the First United Methodist Church, Broadway Books, Lincoln High School, as well as several virtual book groups, doing readings and **leading community dialogues about houselessness** and human rights in Portland and our country
- Hosted the first virtual **International Street Library summit** with a panel that featured 4 projects (from Poland, WI, TX, and CA) each inspired by Street Books! We plan to host again in 2025
- Signed a new **5-year lease at our headquarters/office**, providing library services and an in-house curated and stocked library in exchange for our location in the St. Francis Park Apartments, affordable housing provided by Catholic Charities
- Gave testimony and participated in a successful lawsuit to **stop enforcement of the new camping ban** by helping to show how it was unreasonable and harmful to our community



Bike-based library shifts are 1-3 hours each and Street Librarians post reports after every shift.

When frigid, weather hit Portland in January 2024, librarian Yimei summed up our collective sentiments in a library shift report, after librarians were able to get back on the streets to check on patrons: "Every familiar face we saw was a not-so-small triumph and a deep sigh of relief that they had made it through the ice."

Our librarian Kerry lived outside in southeast Portland for 5 years before coming to work for Street Books more than a year ago. She recently posted her report after the week of the ice storm: "We took 4 large bags of supplies out today and set up a table the People's Depot loaned us. Almost everyone was super happy to see us after being gone for two weeks! Most of the crew at the People's Depot said that lots of folks had been asking about us...Street Books is so loved!!"



Financials

Street Books **nearly doubled our budget** in 2023 (from \$173K in expenses in 2022 to \$313K in 2023), working hard to meet the greatly increasing needs and **requests for support** in our community and **providing livable wage jobs** to our staff (see above for all the good things we did!).

We grew intentionally and strategically, budgeting to spend \$32K of our \$200K savings/cash on hand.

We ended the year with a slightly greater deficit than expected as two of our largest foundation funders changed their cycles and were not in the mix of our funding for 2023.

2022 Actuals:

Total Revenues = \$260,882.72

Expenses = \$173,226.57

Net Gain/Loss: \$87,656.15

2023 Actuals:

Total Revenues = \$263,452

Expenses = \$313,676.92

Net Gain/Loss: - \$50,224

Balance Sheet/Cash in the Bank:

December 31, 2023 = \$177,790



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www.streetbooks.org