

RUBY M. SISSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY FOUNDATION & FRIENDS

2023 *Annual Report*

The **Mission** of the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation & Friends is to support and enhance the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library by raising funds for information resources, programs, services, and facilities. The Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization led by a volunteer board of directors and supported by individual donors and community partners.

Board of Directors

Back row, L to R: Cindi Galabota, Executive Director; Al Northrop, Member; Debra Hepler, President; Kim Moore, Member

Front row, L to R: Katie Dobbins, member; Carol Sheets, Secretary; Randi Everett, member; Staci Prutsman, member
Not pictured: Alan Saltzstein, Vice President



Chief Administrative Personnel



Cindi Galabota, the Library Foundation's first Executive Director, has been with the Library Foundation since 2018. She considers herself a humanitarian and environmentalist and is passionate about improving life on earth for all living things, one opportunity at a time. Ms. Galabota also embraces the belief that anything is possible with a little creativity, passion and elbow grease. She has spent most of her career in nonprofits, working with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Prior to her employment with the Ruby Sisson Library Foundation & Friends, Ms. Galabota was the first executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County. Before settling in the southwest, she worked at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in the education department and the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, Illinois. Through her professional experiences, Ms.

Galabota has gained insight into the best practices of fundraising, community relations, volunteer coordination, and general administrative management in nonprofits.

When Ms. Galabota is not working she is usually with her husband, Scott; her children, Donovan and Corinna; and her dogs, Hadley and Peggy. She enjoys hiking, playing Frisbee, and macrame.

Benefits to the Community

The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library is truly a community hub and provides services, resources, and programs to all people without regard to socioeconomic background, age, race/ethnicity, sex, etc. We are one of downtown’s most visited destinations with an average of 6500 visitors each month.

In addition to books and computers, your Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library is a place where people of all ages gather to explore, share, discover, and dream. We are a warm sanctuary for some and a refuge from loneliness for others. We provide online access to education and employment opportunities, literacy support for children and adults, access to information and life-long learning opportunities that are free of charge for everyone in the community.



Students of all ages participate in the intergenerational chess club at the Ruby Sisson Library.

Facts and Figures

Total visitors to the Library in 2023 was 72,450, a 20% increase over 2022.

Library staff answered 8200 computer and reference questions in 2023, a 23% increase over 2022.

Community groups reserved the Library’s meeting space 458 times in 2023. This number does not include all of the times library staff had to turn groups away due to lack of availability.

Number of Programs offered at the Ruby Sisson Library

	2023	2022	% increase
Children	233	154	51%
Young adult and Teen	108	82	32%
Adult	207	147	41%
TOTAL PROGRAMS	548	383	43%

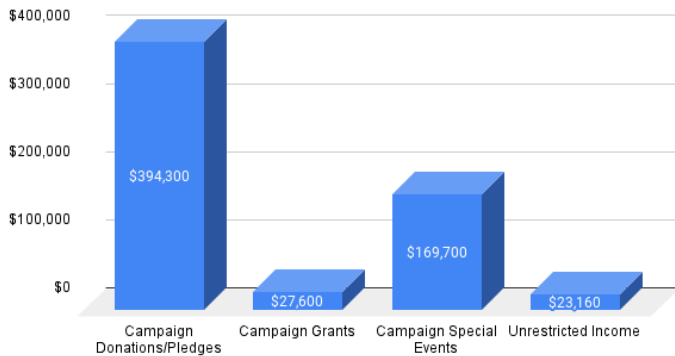
Program Attendance offered at the Ruby Sisson Library

	2023	2022	% increase
Children	3218	1736	85%
Young adult and Teen	585	213	175%
Adult	1029	640	61%
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	4832	2589	87%

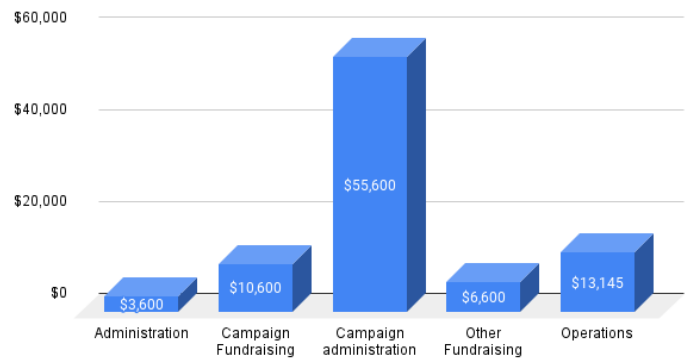
Financial Summary

In 2023, the staff and volunteers of the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation spent a majority of their fundraising efforts towards the Capital Campaign. Year-end fundraising for general operating support was successfully completed in December.

Library Foundation Income 2023



Library Foundation Expenses 2023



Accomplishments in 2023

Approximately 85% of the work completed by the staff and volunteers of the Ruby Sisson Library Foundation & Friends was directed towards the *Mountains of Opportunity* capital campaign to expand and renovate the Ruby Sisson Library.



Participants enjoy making a variety of crafts at our first Late Night at the Library craft night.

- 📖 Partnered with more than 225 supporters to raise \$2,100,000 towards our *Mountains of Opportunity* building campaign to expand and renovate your Ruby Sisson Library.
- 📖 In April, we hosted our second annual *The Library Affair* and raised nearly \$200,000 from the amazing event.
- 📖 In May we hosted true crime author Ron Franscell, and learned about him through an interview with Archuleta County sheriff Mike LeRoux.
- 📖 In June, we hosted professional storyteller Kathy Santopietro for *Men for All Seasons in Story*, with musical accompaniment by Sally Neel and her son, Robert.

📖 In December we hosted our first *Late Night at the Library* Craft night, sponsored by Riff Raff Brewing Company.

📖 We hosted three Friends of the Library book sales, two at the Ruby Sisson Library, and our large three-day sale at the Community United Methodist Church.

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people.”
~Andrew Carnegie, American industrialist and philanthropist

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Ruby Sisson Library Foundation & Friends in 2023. We are moved by the community's support of your local, public library.

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Archuleta County
Archuleta School District
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Anonymous
Anonymous
Aspen House, Aspen Services
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Jerry and Jeannette Baker
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Victoria MacBain
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Pagosa Country Center	Marty and Joni Rose	Mike and Renee Vanover
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Pagosa Springs Arts Council	Darrin Roush	Joan Ward
Pagosa Springs Medical Center	Steve and Joyce Ryan	Drs. Bill and Rhonda Webb
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