

John G. McCullough Free Library
2024 Report to the Town of Bennington
December 11th, 2024

General Information:

Address: 2 Main Street/ PO Box 339 North Bennington, VT 05257

Hours of Operation: Tuesdays 10-8; Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10-6;
Saturdays 10-2

Telephone: 802.447.7121

Website: www.mcculloughlibrary.org

Library Director: Jennie Rozycki (director@mcculloughlibrary.org)

Library Trustees Chair: Judy Crane (trusteeschair@mcculloughlibrary.org)

Library Treasurer: Shelley Wheeler (treasurer@mcculloughlibrary.org)

Mission: *The John G. McCullough Library is an essential community center: a comfortable and welcoming place where people of all ages can satisfy their curiosity, stimulate their imaginations, become better informed, and connect to the online world. Our library cultivates a stable, vital and dynamic community by facilitating lifelong learning and literacy at all levels.*

Membership: All Bennington residents are encouraged to activate their free McCullough Library accounts, and may do so at the library whenever it is open, by emailing help@mcculloughlibrary.org, or by completing the membership form on the library's website. Members enjoy access to books and DVDs, passes to museums and other area attractions, tools, thousands of ebooks, digital magazines, and digital audiobooks through Libby, and free video streaming through Kanopy. The library also offers online courses, standardized test prep, and career development resources.

E-newsletters: Subscribing to the library's monthly e-newsletters is a great way to stay up-to-date on the latest news, opportunities and events.

2024 Successes:

- Yet again, use of the library's collections and number of visitors reached all-time highs this year.

- The library purchased Zinio, a collection of more than 5,000 different digital magazines this year. Members have unlimited access to this stunning, full-color collection through Libby.
- The library secured a \$20,000 Libraries Transforming Communities grant from the American Library Association to purchase new, accessible, and uniform shelving on the library's first floor, a new service desk, and improved lobby lighting. This project will be completed in Spring 2025.
- Kanopy, the library's free video streaming service, now includes films and television series from major production studios.
- Through a grant from the Vermont Department of Libraries, the library was able to replace aging WiFi equipment and improve bandwidth for public use.
- Young people participating in the library's Summer Reading program tracked 174,996 minutes of reading and kept their reading skills sharp while school wasn't in session.
- The McCullough Library partnered with the Bennington chapter of the AAUW, Brookdale Fillmore Pond, and Bennington Queer Connect for a series of well-attended events exploring themes in the Vermont Humanities Council's 2023-2024 Vermont Reads selection, *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*.
- Books on Wheels, the library's book delivery service for seniors, has grown increasingly popular, especially with Bennington residents.
- The Table of Contents, the library's fundraiser gala, returned this year, and was well attended. Building on this successful event, another gala is planned for Spring 2025.
- A fundraiser performance of the play *Murder by the Book* at Bennington Theater entertained a sold-out audience in November. This fundraiser benefitted both the McCullough Library and the Bennington Free Library.

2024 Setbacks and Challenges:

Securing funding for critical building accessibility upgrades has proven an enduring challenge. Undaunted, library staff and Trustees will continue to pursue funding for an addition to the building to include an elevator to the second floor, an enclosed, fire safe staircase, and an improved walkway, ramp and rear entry.

Progress toward some building improvements projects, such as the installation of new carpets and renovation of the Youth Room on the library's second floor has been slower than expected.

Expectations and plans for 2025:

- Use of the collection and visits to the library are expected to increase in the year ahead. The library will maintain its current level of programming.
- Costs for services and materials will increase in the year ahead, which accounts for both the increased request for funding from the Town of Bennington and the increased fundraising goals set by the library's Trustees for the year ahead.
- The library will pursue funds for building repairs, accessibility, and energy efficiency improvements.
- The library's Youth Room renovations will be completed.
- The library will continue to make progress toward its Sustainable Libraries Certification through the American Library Association.
- The library will launch the public phase of its Equity and Sustainability Fund effort. The income generated by this fund is earmarked for library staff salaries and benefits, ensuring reasonable compensation for professional work.

How will these funds be used to support the Bennington community:

The John G. McCullough Library entered its 103rd year of service to Bennington residents in 2024. All Bennington residents are welcome to take advantage of the library's collections, services, and events. The library provides free access to a wide variety of materials through its physical and digital collections and interlibrary loan services. The library also provides speedy public WiFi, public computers, printing services, a small meeting space, reference services, and a robust schedule of events for all ages. Combined, these services inform and enhance civic engagement and private life, support literacy and lifelong learning, and foster community connection and resilience.

Revenues received from supporting municipalities in the current year:

Town of Bennington: \$48,000.00
 Village of North Bennington: \$30,500.00
 Town of Shaftsbury: \$25,200.00

Revenues requested from supporting municipalities in the year ahead:

Town of Bennington: \$50,000.00
 Village of North Bennington: \$31,500.00
 Town of Shaftsbury: \$26,000.00

Attachments:

2025 Budget is attached.
 IRS Form 990 for FY 2023 is attached.

McCullough Free Library, Inc.
ANNUAL REVIEW
AND 2025 BUDGET

	2023	2024 Forecast	2024 Budget	2024 Variance	2025 Budget	2025 vs 2024 Budget
Income						
4100 Bank Interest	42	694	60	634	700	640
4102 Investment Interest	27,840	31,622	14,000	17,622	33,000	19,000
4200 Donation - Electric	2,316	2,513	3,000	(487)	2,513	(487)
4300 Village NB Grant	35,000	30,500	30,500	0	31,500	1,000
4301 Shaftsbury Grant	25,200	25,200	25,200	0	26,000	800
4302 Bennington Grant	42,500	48,000	48,000	0	50,000	2,000
4400 Annual Fund	32,794	49,000	46,000	3,000	50,000	4,000
4410 Other Donations	2,043	35,000	3,500	31,500	10,000	6,500
4450 Grants	24,508	73,466	22,800	50,666	22,800	0
1030 Village School NB	29,400	20,950	32,280	(11,330)	15,000	(17,280)
4800 Copier Income	393	401	300	101	400	100
4810 Fines and Late Fees Income	378	744	200	544	200	0
Total Income	222,415	318,091	225,840	92,251	242,113	16,273
Expenses						
6000 Library Content/Material						
6001 Audio-Video Exp	3,376	4,689	4,000	689	4,000	0
6005 Books - Adult	8,992	9,495	7,500	1,995	8,625	1,125
6010 Books - Juvenile	6,255	7,500	5,000	2,500	5,600	500
6020 Periodicals	452	3,243	2,000	1,243	2,000	0
6022 Tool Collection		0	0	0	0	0
6025 Subscription & Dues	1,195	2,701	4,000	(1,299)	4,000	0
Total 6000 Library Content/Material	20,271	27,629	22,500	5,129	24,125	1,625
6100 Operations						
6105 Program Costs	12,107	14,360	10,000	4,360	12,000	2,000
6110 Salaries & Wages	187,437	205,615	200,000	5,615	207,000	7,000
6112 Payroll Tax Expense	16,781	18,882	18,000	882	19,000	1,000
6115 Employee Benefits	22,492	27,675	27,500	175	30,000	2,500
6120 Conference, Travel & Membership	4,050	2,577	1,500	1,077	1,500	0
6130 Office Supplies & Postage	7,333	6,500	6,500	0	6,500	0
6140 Marketing & Promotion	6,284	8,000	12,000	(4,000)	8,000	(4,000)
Total 6100 Operations	256,483	283,609	275,500	8,109	284,000	8,500
6200 Facilities and Equipment						
6210 Equip & Computer Maintenance	545	695	1,000	(105)	1,595	595
6220 Telephone & Internet	3,530	2,400	2,200	200	2,400	200
6230 Janitorial Services	2,010	2,500	3,000	(500)	3,500	500
6240 Building Maintenance	5,819	5,724	9,000	(3,276)	9,000	0
6250 Insurance	5,592	5,600	6,000	(400)	9,500	3,500
Total 6200 Facilities and Equipment	17,496	17,119	21,200	(4,081)	25,995	4,795
6300 Utilities						
6310 Utilities - Electric	8,072	7,000	7,000	0	10,000	3,000
6320 Utilities-Fuel Oil	0	0	1,000	(1,000)	0	(1,000)
6330 Utilities- Trash Removal	698	1,158	1,200	(42)	1,400	200
6340 Utilities Water & Sewer	450	800	800	0	800	0
Total 6300 Utilities	9,220	8,958	10,000	(1,042)	12,200	2,200
6400 Professional Services						
6410 Bank Service Charge	215	225	75	150	75	0
6420 Payroll Fees	2,121	1,968	1,650	318	1,300	(350)
6430 Legal & Accounting	6,943	7,165	6,500	665	6,500	0
6440 Investment Fees	10,829	4,217			9,356	9,356
Total 6400 Professional Services	20,108	13,575	8,225	5,350	17,231	9,006
Total Expenses	323,578	350,890	337,425	13,465	363,551	26,126
Net Operating Income	(101,163)	(32,799)	(111,585)	78,786	(121,438)	(9,853)
Other Income						
4103 Realized Gains	5,439	14,046			0	0
4104 Unrealized Gains	98,371	74,521			0	0
4850 Friends Events Income	18,267	1,938	9,000	(7,062)	3,000	(6,000)
6800 Donation-Restricted (Sustainability)	1,478,904	58,119	64,600	(6,481)	118,675	54,075
Total Other Income	1,600,981	148,624	73,600	75,024	121,675	48,075
Net Income (Loss)	1,499,818	115,824	(37,985)	153,809	236	38,221

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
 Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)
 Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
 Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2023

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning , 2023, and ending , 20

B Check if applicable:	C	D Employer identification number
<input type="checkbox"/> Address change	John G McCullough Free Library, Inc PO Box 339 North Bennington, VT 05257	03-0184077
<input type="checkbox"/> Name change		E Telephone number
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial return		(802) 447-7121
<input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated		G Gross receipts \$ 2,140,639.
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended return		H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	F Name and address of principal officer: Judy Crane	H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If "No," attach a list. See Instructions.
I Tax-exempt status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) () (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527	
J Website:	www.mcculloughlibrary.org	
K Form of organization:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other	L Year of formation: 1921 M State of legal domicile: VT
H(c) Group exemption number		

Part I Summary

	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>See Schedule O</u>			
Activities & Governance	2 Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.			
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3		9
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4		9
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2023 (Part V, line 2a)	5		6
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6		30
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a		0.
	b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11	7b		0.
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	462,435.	Current Year
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)			1,692,604.
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)		-21,741.	131,693.
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)			
	12 Total revenue -- add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)		440,694.	1,824,297.
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)			
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)			
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)		143,085.	226,710.
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)			
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)			
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)		83,136.	99,793.
	18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)		226,221.	326,503.
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12		214,473.	1,497,794.	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Current Year	1,005,078.	End of Year
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)		0.	0.
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20		1,005,078.	2,523,981.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	Signature of officer	Date	
	Mary Rogers		Treasurer
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date
	Norman E Favor III	<i>Norman E Favor III</i>	7/16/24
	Firm's name	Favor & Co.	
	Firm's address	PO Box 1586 Manchester Center, VT 05255	
	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN	P01237317
	Firm's EIN	20-0484110	
	Phone no.	(802) 362-2691	