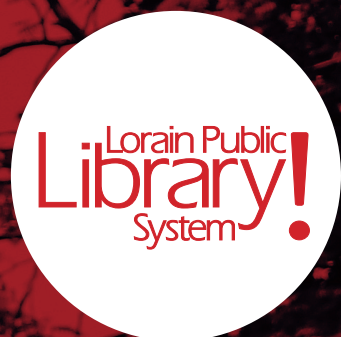


Lorain Public Library System

Annual Report 2019





Our Vision:

We are the catalyst for personal and community growth, discovery and success.

Our Mission:

Connecting our communities to experiences that enrich, empower and inspire every day.



Letter from the Director



Welcome to the 2019 Annual Report for Lorain Public Library System. In the pages that follow, you will see just some of the vary array of programs and services your library offers. From the new StoryWalk for children in North Ridgeville to the programs highlighting local author Dr. Raquel Ortiz and her bilingual book Sofi and the Magic, Musical Mural to our contributions to and sponsorship of The Pieces I Am, the award-winning documentary based on the life of Toni Morrison, community is at the heart of all we do.

Beyond the collections and services, the Library continues to build strong partnerships that help us to support the communities we serve. As Lorain County faced a growing opioid epidemic, the Library worked with community partners on an Opioid Awareness Week to provide opportunities for connection and sharing credible information. Due to these relationships, the Library now offers bags for the public to safely dispose of medication. Other community partnerships sprouted with City Fresh for weekly produce pickup at the Library and with Lorain County Metro Parks, Lorain County Public Health and Lorain County Community Action Agency for the Go Lorain bike share.

Thanks to the tremendous support from the communities of Columbia Township and North Ridgeville, operating levies in both communities passed these levies will provide operating dollars to maintain the high level of service at their specific community library.

But maybe what the Library stopped doing is even more important than anything else we did in 2019. In May, the Library Board of Trustees voted to eliminate overdue fines for borrowed materials starting June 1. By making this change, the Library was able to remove significant barriers that were keeping many community members from using the library, mainly children. Being able to connect children with books and instill the love of reading is critical to their success.

Thank you for your continued support of Lorain Public Library System.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz

LPLS Branches



MAIN LIBRARY
351 W. Sixth Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052
440-244-1192



AVON BRANCH
37485 Harvest Drive, Avon, OH 44011
440-934-4743



COLUMBIA BRANCH
13824 W. River Road North, Columbia Station, OH 44028
440-236-8751



DOMONKAS BRANCH
4125 E. Lake Road, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054
440-949-7410

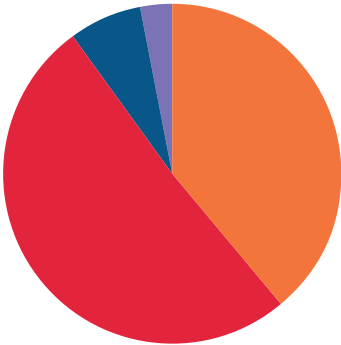


NORTH RIDGEVILLE BRANCH
35700 Bainbridge Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-327-8326

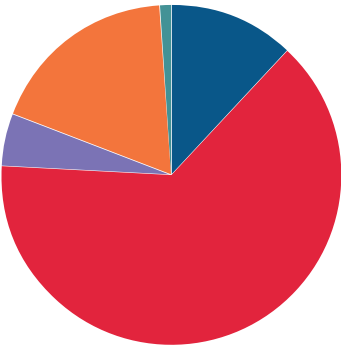


SOUTH LORAIN BRANCH
2121 Homewood Drive, Lorain, OH 44055
440-277-5672

2019 Financials



REVENUE SOURCE DOLLARS	DOLLAR AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Public Library Fund	\$4,302,311	39.8%
Local Tax Levies	\$5,419,287	50.1%
State Rollbacks &Transfers	\$687,698	6.4%
Other	\$413,317	3.8%
Total Revenues	\$10,822,613	100%



EXPENDITURES	DOLLAR AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Library Materials	\$1,031,531	11.7%
Personnel	\$5,575,398	63.3%
Capital	\$506,265	5.7%
Contracts	\$1,536,739	17.5%
Supplies	\$155,874	1.8%
Total Expenditures	\$8,805,807	100%

2019 eLibrary Statistics

189,684	eBook, Digital Audiobooks and Video Storybooks (Ovedrive, Hoopla, Bookflix)
12,575	Digital Magazines (RB Digital, Overdrive)
6,730	Digital Movies and Television (Hoopla, Kanopy and Access Video on Demand)
10,776	Streaming music (Hoopla and Freegal)
405	Online education course enrollments (Gale Courses)
151	Online Education Courses Completed (Gale Courses)
12,789	Educational content (Lynda.com, Artistworks)
14,407	African American Heritage & Ancestry
1,691	New York Times
180	Creativebug (available as of May, 2019)

2019 System Statistics

530,258	Library visits
16,321	Open Hours
65,787	Library cardholders
9,361	New library cards issued
3,863	Programs offered
68,587	Programs Attendance
337,419	Materials Owned
1,480,937	Materials loaned (not including eMedia)
251,087	Total digital circulation
55,624	New Materials
109,671	Computer bookings
107,608	Website users
3,338	Facebook likes
1,747	Twitter followers
723	Instagram followers
75,000	Largest post of 2019 : When we partnered with Second Harvest to offer free lunch to kids on snow days.



Donna Kelly-Sprinkle
Manager

"We added a Children's Librarian to our staff this year to help us keep up with the ever-increasing demand for high quality programs and services for children and families."



Avon

We strive to be out and about in the community as much as possible, to go where our patrons go. We were involved in Story Time in the Woods, The Story Trail (and Story Trail Contest), Easter Breakfast, Swim Break Story Times at the Avon Pool, Duct Tape Parade, Movie Nights, Halloween event, Superhero Weekend, Tree Lighting event and Gingerbread House Contest. We work with the schools any way we can; participating in Heritage Science Night, coordinating Football Reading Buddies, attending the high school book group, recruiting teen volunteers for library and community events, conducting, recording and sharing Avon Oral Histories on Loraincountymemory.org and digitizing Avon High School yearbooks.

Local churches, organizations and businesses worked hard to offer daily lunches to families at Timberlake Town Homes through the summer; and the library set up a weekly Wednesday presence there during that time. We had the "Library Tent" where kids could stop to read books, be read to or read to each other. We arranged to have a portable planetarium visit twice to share our summer "outer space" theme and schedule the Discovery on the Go vehicle for two Wednesday visits to do STEM activities with the kids. We involved as many as possible in the Summer Reading Program by registering them and bring their prizes, including free books, when we visited on Wednesdays.



Columbia

We're not just a library; we're a gateway to improved health. In an effort to encourage healthy lifestyles and activity, we started circulating volleyballs and water bowls for dogs for residents wanting to use the park next door. In April we hosted a food drive for the Harvest for Hunger program and our generous patrons provided the community 93 meals for individuals and families.

We host a regular program series with Southwest General Health Center in which their Community Outreach Nurse comes to the library to present on various topics. One was on mental health screening. A group of local women were concerned for their friend who was hesitant to go to the doctor for screening.....so five of her friends signed up and brought her and they were all screened together. The woman in question showed definite indicators for further dementia testing. Her friends were extremely thankful for this non-threatening way of having her evaluated and she did seek further medical attention. It seems that each month the community outreach RN finds someone in our community who was at risk of not getting the attention that a medical symptom needed and was given an appropriate referral for further action.

Dr. Michele Suhie, a Columbia resident, is studying and surveying our weekly knitting group to determine the positive effects on mental health that social knitting provides as part of an upcoming article in a medical journal.



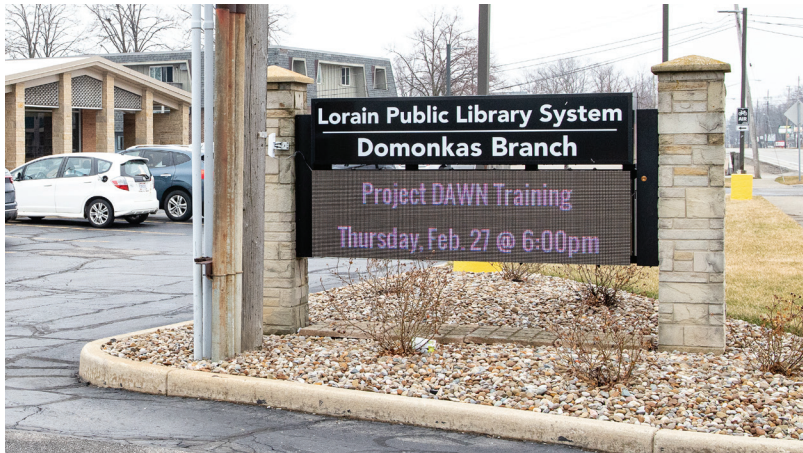
John Guscott
Manager

The biggest news of the year was the branch's levy. On November 5th, the residents of Columbia Township passed the five-year renewal, which received over 68% support!"



Anne Godec
Manager

“We expanded our Summer Lunch program to five days a week (Monday through Friday). Before we had only been serving lunch one day a week. This was wonderful; it allowed us to meet a need within our community.”



Domonkas Branch

The branch added a lot of new technology in 2019 to better serve our patrons. A new printer and print release station were installed, and the copy machine was updated to provide self-serve faxing capabilities. The library system overall upgraded to a virtual server. A new LED sign was installed outside the branch, which allows us to update quickly so we can advertise more of our upcoming programs at the same time.

This year we also began circulating Hot Spots and Wonderbooks. The Hot Spots connect to the internet from anywhere. These are especially wonderful for our patrons who may not be able to afford internet access in their homes. Wonderbooks are like Voxbooks; they are print books with a pre-loaded audiobook player permanently installed within the cover. The Wonderbooks offer a wider variety of titles that include Picture Books, Early Readers, Chapter Books and Nonfiction.

We are also now circulating Discovery Backpacks with binoculars for learning about the stars and star gazing, and BingeBoxes which are DVD sets with four to six movies in them that all share a theme, such as “Never Travel with Tom Hanks” (Cast Away, Apollo 13, Captain Phillips and Sully).

The first part of our renovation began this year with the branch getting four new windows and landscape refresh that provide a more open, unobstructed view of the lake. We also had new LED lights installed which made the library much brighter and more cost-efficient.



Main Library

We continued and expanded our community partnerships to best serve our patrons and the residents of Lorain. Our existing Go Lorain partnership with the Lorain County Public Health, LCCAA and Lorain Metro Parks officially launched the bike share at Lorain Better Block in May; we now circulate bicycles, bike locks and helmets. This program is so innovative we had requests from libraries as far as Australia asking us for information on how they too can implement such a program.

In June we became a City Fresh pickup location. This partnership allowed us to assist in the organization’s efforts to provide fresh, locally grown nutritious food to those in our community who might not otherwise have access to it.

After a very successful partnership with Operation Warm and the Stocker Foundation last year, where coats were donated to those in need in the area, we expanded it this year. All six LPLS branches collected new or gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves as part of our Winterwear Share program.

I’m always most pleased when we are able to get at the core of helping our community and provide services that help make our patrons lives better. I’d say that these moments collectively—all of the programs that provide nutritious food and instruction, lending bikes to provide transportation to those who need it most and hotspots to those who can’t afford Internet access, distributing winter coats and other outer wear—are what make our branch special and a vital part of our community.



Susan Spivey
Manager

“The Main Branch was my childhood library and had a great influence on who and what I’ve become. I am so thrilled the have the opportunity to play a part in making this library even more effective in doing the same thing for the youth of Lorain today.”



Jennifer Winkler
Manager

"We started offering Adapted Story Times. These feature smaller class-sizes, and the lighting, music and voices are kept at lower levels. With one in 59 children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, we are committed to integrating inclusivity within our programs and services."



North Ridgeville

North Ridgeville is the fastest-growing community in Northeast Ohio and, therefore, the library has the task of keeping pace with this rapid growth while remaining a cornerstone of the community. North Ridgeville staff have risen to the occasion and provide engaging and innovative programs for all ages—without increasing levy revenue or significantly altering staffing. Each quarter, North Ridgeville offers 10 eight-week story time sessions for our youngest patrons—this is one of the highest offerings in Lorain County. Not only are these story time age-appropriate, but they incorporate early literacy and social-emotional skills and practices that are critical for ensuring kindergarten readiness. As attendance at Baby Story Times continued to grow, staff recognized the need and implemented Baby Art Programs. Similarly, the library expanded its STEM offering with Coding Club, Family Engineering Night and introduced STEM programs for preschoolers. In alignment with kindergarten readiness standards, the North Ridgeville Branch Library offers Little Learners and Preschool Playtime where children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers explore and learn about letters, numbers, shapes, colors, patterns and more.

Last September, in partnership with North Ridgeville Heart and Sole and North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department, the North Ridgeville Branch Library installed a StoryWalk® at South Central Park along the .7-mile trail. This is an exciting way to combine physical activity with literacy and it gets people of all ages outdoors walking and reading. It's a fun and easy physical activity that helps foster an inclusive family-friendly environment. The library will select and change the books monthly April through November—weather permitting.



South Lorain

We had new programming at the South Lorain Branch in 2019. We further developed our Sunday program series and brought in more family fun presenters. We had Outback Ray's Amazing Animal Show, The Siberian Husky Club of Greater Cleveland, and Princesses Anna and Elsa from Ohio Princess Parties. Overall, the Sunday program series brought over 160 people to the library.

Local authors also played a big role in 2019. We had several events with local author Raquel Ortiz including a family literacy night and a puppet show based on her picture book Sofi and the Magic, Musical Mural. We also invited local author Suzie Dills to come share about her book series Stella's Starry Adventures. She brought the Star Lab, which is an interactive portable planetarium to teach the kids about astronomy. El Centro partnered with us to host an event celebrating local Latino authors: Maritza Molis, Gina Perez, Awilda Ramirez, and Raquel Ortiz. The authors shared about their careers and then participated in a question and answer session with the audience.

We're thrilled to offer these family friendly programs because it allows for the community to have positive and engaging experiences at the library. These programs get families excited about visiting and help to create life-long library users.



Ally Morgan
Manager

"One of our most rewarding partnerships this past year was with United Way's 231 Go! summer camp. They visited us several times a week for lunch and activities like crafts and science experiments."



“We offer book drop services to daycares and senior nursing facilities monthly. One-on-one technology assistance to all age levels. We have become a bi-weekly event for some seniors that have no other visitors, and we are one-on-one with them.”



Outreach: eLibrary Training

Outreach means interacting with seniors, schools, daycares and other members of the community outside of the library setting.

Outreach eLibrary training is available for patrons wherever they may be; as travel to the library is sometimes not an option for them. Patrons are totally in awe that we will come to them as a service and often ask “How much is this service?” Our response is always the same; “This is a free service from YOUR Library supported by tax dollars.”

We offer one-on-one technology assistance to help patrons learn new technology and use of their tablets, laptops and smart phones to all age levels, book drop services to daycares and senior nursing facilities monthly, and we have become a bi-weekly event for some seniors that have no other visitors.

We have a WWII veteran at the age of 99 that is learning to use technology to organize the photographs of his life. Mark Twain said it best, “Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” We love the work we do and the patrons that we get to know and assist along the way.



Outreach: Discovery on the Go!

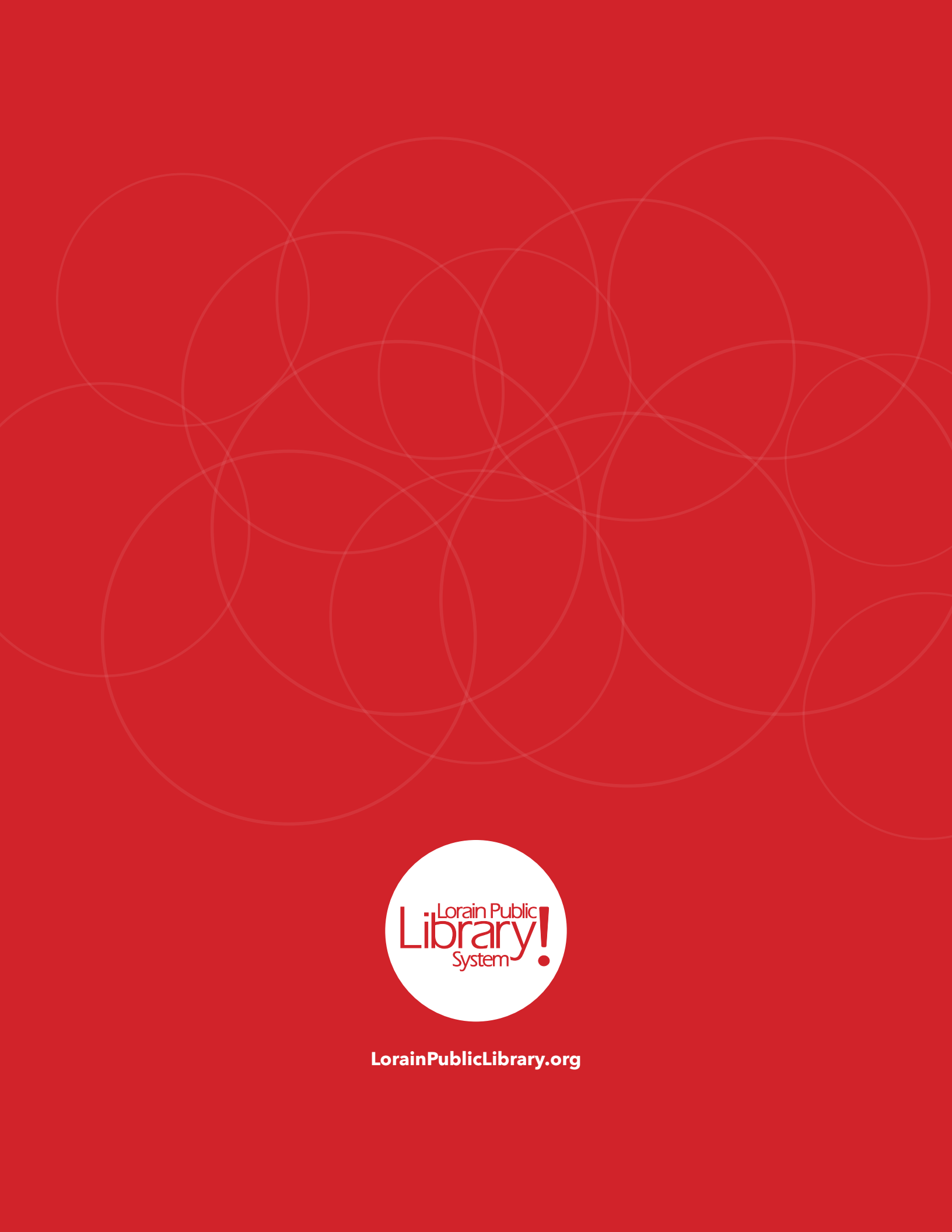
We are out in the community! Every branch has their own outreach, but outreach is the DOTG focus, so we are a unique and fun mobile branch that visits many people throughout our community every day.

Discovery on the Go visits schools, preschools, day cares and community events where we interact with youth and families. We sometimes see as many as 250 kids in one day! We attend community events such as Firefish, parades, food pantries, LMHA strong families fair, Head Start family fair and many more. We also visit Hawthorne, Admiral King, and Garfield Elementary schools each month where we have a chance to connect with every student. We are so proud that with our frequent and ongoing visits to Hawthorne Elementary since 2018, we often see Hawthorne students in public who recognize us and are excited to chat with us!

We developed several new game-style programs to use such as The Floor is Lava (watching kids run in paper bags is really funny) and Disaster Island. We have also developed new open-ended art programs using chalk paint and pastels.



Discovery on the Go won the John Philip Outreach Award in 2019. The award recognizes exceptional achievement in library outreach services. Criteria: 1) Displays exceptional achievement in library outreach; and 2) Demonstrates true dedication to the philosophy of bringing library programs and services to the under-served.*



LorainPublicLibrary.org