

# Community Program Impact: The Endowment in Action



This year's incredible programming success highlights the powerful partnership between library staff and GPL Endowment funding. Together, we delivered more than 1,200 programs that engaged and enriched tens of thousands of people of all ages in our community.

## GPL ENDOWMENT TRUST

*Ensuring our Enduring Treasure*

# 2025

### REPORT AND APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

#### Groton Connection: A Year of Record Engagement



In-person attendance across all programs topped 20,400 this year, and that's just the beginning! Online engagement skyrocketed, with an astonishing 252% increase in recorded program views after an event for an additional 11,200 views for the year! Plus 5,400 Take & Make kits, and our total all ages program participation surpassed 37,000! These numbers reflect a growing demand for accessible, high-quality programs that strengthen community ties and foster lifelong learning.



#### Igniting Imagination: The Endowment-Funded 3D Printer by Nicole Irvin, Head of Circulation Services

We were excited to upgrade our 3D printer to a new Prusa this year! Its user-friendliness and multiple colors have turned a quiet online request process into a hub of innovation, sparking creativity and

new interest among young people. It is in near constant use, creating projects ranging from articulated dragons to custom figurines. It's experiential learning, collaboration, and fun—everything a public library should be!

**Key Successes:**

**Adults:**  
Attendance is strong and steady! Nearly 8,000 adults participated in 681 programs and lifelong learning series on an impressively wide range of topics and interests.

**Teens:**  
Engagement is soaring! We saw a 19% jump in attendance, with over 4,000 teens actively participating in this year's full roster of clubs, events, and activities.

**School-Aged Children (Ages 6-11):**  
Programs for older kids are booming, with attendance up 20% to nearly 1,800!

**Preschoolers (Ages 0-5):**  
Programs for our youngest patrons remain successful, with over 6,700 little ones enjoying storytimes, music, movement, and other imaginative learning activities at the library.

*Dear Neighbor,*

Since 1998, the GPL Endowment Trust has helped keep the library a vibrant center of learning, discovery, and connection—thanks to your support.

**Strong Financials:**

In FY2025, net assets grew 10.9% to \$4.65 million, ensuring the continued investment in our library's future.

**Supporting the Library's Mission:**

Our \$134,205 grant in FY2025 directly funded essential library programs and services. These resources are vital for fostering lifelong learning, enriching lives, and connecting our community.

**Your Gift Makes a Difference:**

Thanks to your generosity, the library can offer significantly more services—and for free—than public funding alone would allow.

**Let's Keep It Thriving—Ways to Give:**

Explore options at [gplendowment.org](http://gplendowment.org):

- Donor-Advised Funds
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (70½+)
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Gifts of Securities
- Planned Giving (bequests, etc.)

**Donate online:**

[gplendowment.org](http://gplendowment.org)

**By check:**

Payable to GPL Endowment Trust, mail to PO Box 401, Groton, MA 01450, or give to the Groton Public Library.

*Thank you for your continued support.*

**GPL Endowment Board of Trustees:**

John Konetzny, Samuel Morrow, Michael Woods, David Zeiler, Vanessa Abraham

**Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the Trust is to assist in maintaining the quality and excellence of the Groton Public Library by providing a means above and beyond the library's normal resources, assuring the continuation of the high standards achieved during the library's long history.

Income from the Trust will enhance, enrich, and supplement the funds available for the library's materials collection, programs, and other special needs.

This income shall not replace funds appropriated annually by the Town or other funds managed by the Town to support the library.

# Children's Summer Reading

## Read, Play, and Give Back

This year's redesigned Summer Reading Program combined fun with purpose—and earned wonderful feedback! A total of 509 children joined in, including 406 elementary students and 103 preschoolers.

Community weeks featured craft hours supporting local organizations:

- Decorated grocery bags for Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

- Fleece blankets for Sterling Animal Shelter

We also hosted exciting programs like Kosmic Kelly and LEGO® glasses, and wrapped up the season with a joyful picnic in Katie's Garden.

# Adult Summer Reading

One hundred sixty-four participants signed up for our Summer Reading Program and read 1,700 books! Readers earned prizes, gift cards to local businesses, and even small donations to Loaves & Fishes.

"As a young adult who loves to read but is also in college, it is hard to find time to read for pleasure.

The Groton Public Library's summer reading program allows me to intentionally spend time reading for pleasure... I love participating every year!"

- Natalie

## Building Bright Futures: The Endowment's Impact on Our Youngest Patrons

by Lauren Sanchez, Children's Librarian

We strive to bring learning, discovery, and joy to local children every day—and we're so grateful for the Endowment's support of our mission! A favorite tradition is the Florence Roche first-grade field trip; for some, it's their first library visit and the first time they get a library card! As one excited student put it, "The library is a lot more funner than I thought it was!" We couldn't agree more.

### Early Literacy for Ages 0–5: Skills for Success

We nurture your child's reading readiness and social development with time-tested, engaging programs:

- Storytimes
- Tales & Tunes with local musicians
- Yoga & Literacy
- Drop-in crafts

- Books for Babies
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge

### Dynamic Programs for Grades K–5: Engage, Create, and Discover

We offer hands-on learning across several key areas:

- Literacy & Writing: Book groups, Read to a Dog, Cursive Club, Comics Club
- STEM: Snapology, LEGO® SPIKE, StoryLab, STEM kits, 3D printing, Scratch coding
- Arts & Crafts: Knifty Knitters, felting, Crafty Girls
- Special Events: Big Ryan's Mystery Rooms, annual bookmark contest

All programs are free and designed to foster literacy, creativity, and curiosity.



## Teen Programs: High Attendance & Participation

by Deborah Dowson, Teen Services Librarian

*Last year, nearly 3,000 teens attended 200 free programs at the library!*

The library remains a top destination for teens—especially on middle school half-days, when scores of young teens flock to our "Llama Lounges" for games, crafts, and socializing. Teens themselves led some of our most popular programs, including Baking Club, 3D Design & Print Club, and Dungeons & Dragons.

Teen volunteers assembled nearly 1,000 kits with instructions and materials for at-home crafts and baking projects. Additionally, more than 200 teens participated in our highly successful reading programs. GPL proudly welcomes and supports all teens—and we deeply appreciate the Endowment's support of these efforts.



## Adult Programs: Art, History, and Flexibility

by Beth Dalal, Adult Programs Coordinator

Patrons loved the flexibility of both online and in-person programs this year, with most virtual sessions recorded for later viewing. Hands-on art classes remain a huge hit—we can't offer enough of them! Thanks to Endowment funding, all of our programs are free.

We also expanded our reach by partnering with other libraries to offer four virtual evening programs most weeks, along with frequent online events during the day.



### Lifelong Learning: Creativity and Connection

Our lifelong learning series delivered rich experiences in art and history. We explored the fascinating hidden history of Black Boston with Joel Mackall and welcomed local experts Jill Pottle and Kimberly Stony to lead creative arts workshops. We also brought back two long-running favorites: *Great Decisions* and GPL's memoir writing workshop.



### A Groton Treasure: *Diedre* by Mary Minifie



The library recently acquired the exquisite *Diedre* from Mary Minifie, an award-winning painter in the Boston School of Light tradition founded by Groton-born master painter Edmund Tarbell.

This arresting portrait first captivated us while on temporary loan last fall. Patrons and staff alike were struck by how beautifully Mary captured her friend's life and spirit. Deciding we simply could not part with it, we were thrilled to purchase *Diedre* thanks to the Endowment. It now graces our Historical Room as a permanent library treasure.

### Explore More, Spend Less!

Borrow 20+ free or discounted museum passes with your library card. From the Museum of Science to the Butterfly Place, last year's 857 passes saved users an estimated \$39,781. Start planning your next adventure today!

### Art Gallery Season



**Matt Ashe**, intricate collages

**Teacher Feature**, Rachel Benson, Jill Pottle, Kimberly Stony

**Joelle Feldman and her students**, group show of pastel works

**Jeff Kubick**, photographs

**The Colors of Black & White**, photographs by Ed Birch, Jeff Caplan, Eric Cortez, and Jeff Kubick

## Groton Reads: 2025

### *Finding Margaret Fuller*



This year's Groton Reads spotlighted Margaret Fuller—the least-known member of Concord's Transcendentalist “genius cluster,” who also spent

part of her life in Groton. Readers of Allison Pataki's novel explored Fuller's remarkable mind, exceptional experiences, and her ties to Groton history. Our month-long celebration wrapped up with virtual visits from authors Allison Pataki and Megan Marshall.

**Coming March 2026:**  
Groton Reads *North Woods*  
by Daniel Mason



### Remembering Geri Perry: A Guiding Light



For 43 years, Geri Perry was a beloved presence in our community—first as Head of Children's Services for 27

years, then as a treasured part-time assistant for 16 more.

Her greatest gifts were kindness, love, and acceptance of every child who walked through our doors. Geri created a joyful space where reading, curiosity, and creativity could flourish. Her tradition of giving each six-year-old their first library card became a rite of passage for generations—a custom we proudly continue today.

Though she is no longer with us, Geri's spirit lives on in the library and in the hearts of all she touched.

We thank everyone who donated to the GPL Endowment Trust in Geri's name.

# GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT TRUST

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