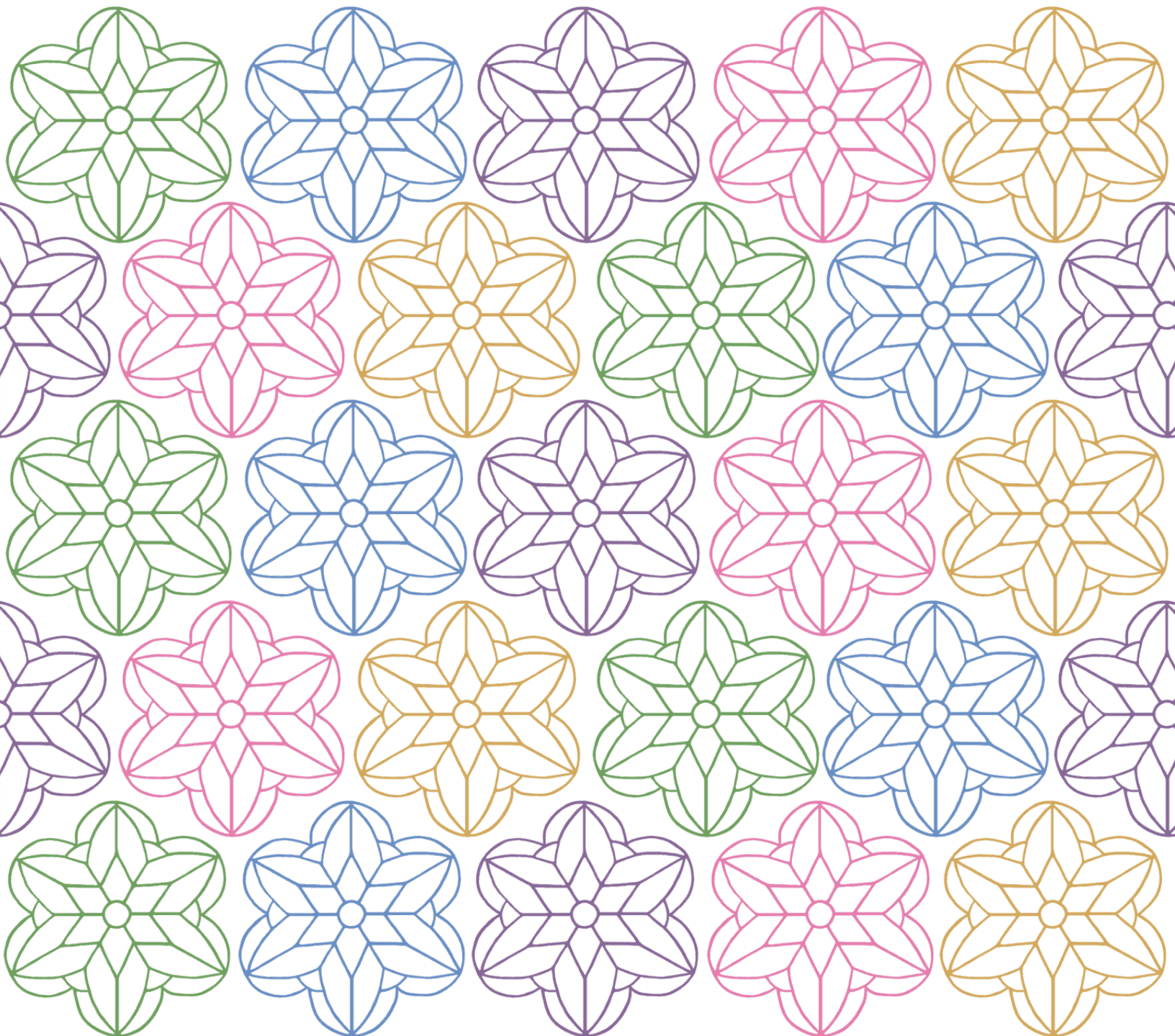


RUSSELL LIBRARY

JANUARY 2026 ANNUAL REPORT



**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS
SERVING THE MIDDLETOWN PUBLIC**

Russell Library empowers people to **grow**, **connect**, **strive**, and **thrive**.

Our strategic goals are to:

Strengthen community

Create a safe and welcoming destination

Foster a thriving economic ecosystem

Promote a lifelong love of learning

We endeavor to:

Be future-ready for Middletown

Strengthen Community

+5.3%

TOTAL CIRCULATION INCREASE

in Fiscal Year 2025 compared with FY2024

+15.1%

DIGITAL CIRCULATION INCREASE

in the same time period for downloadable content

15,642

ACTIVE CARDHOLDERS

who reside in Middletown as of December 2025,
which represents a +27% increase over June 2024

279,661

CHECKOUTS

of physical and downloadable materials between
July 2024 - June 2025

28

DOORSTEP DELIVERIES

made to homebound readers since the service
soft-launched in May 2025

100+

FREE NOTARIZATIONS

Notaries public are available by appointment every
weekday, evening, and most weekends



Create a Safe and Welcoming Destination



3

Eduroam

FRIENDLY SITE

Students can now access authenticated internet connectivity at Russell Library the same as at their learning institution

300+

MEMORIES DIGITIZED

by appointment with librarians using equipment in the Memory Box digital conversion studio

“It feels like the Memory Box is part of our living room.”

472

YOUTH PROGRAMS

offered in-person at Russell Library (421) or offsite (51) between July 2024 and June 2025

13,761

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

at youth programs geared toward ages 0-18



4

Foster a Thriving Economic Ecosystem

60,000

VISITORS ATTRACTED

according to Goman + York's Economic Impact Study, which identified Russell Library is an "anchor" destination that draws non-residents to Middletown.

20K-33K

FREQUENT DOWNTOWN

Of the 60,000 visitors Russell Library attracts, Goman + York found that 20,300-33,400 linger beyond their library visit to frequent downtown businesses.

\$7,200,000

MEASURABLE VALUE DELIVERED

last year, a return on investment (ROI) of 2:1, and that doesn't even include immeasurable qualitative benefits!

473

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

attended the inaugural run of *A Christmas Carol* at Russell Library. The fundraising production ran every weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas, ushering in an affordable new holiday tradition we hope to continue for years to come.



Promote a Lifelong Love of Learning



7

“Emmy, can I tell you something? This was the best science class ever!”

- A Young Explorer attending Science Saturday

9,096

BOOKS DELIVERED

to Middletown children ages 0-5 as part of Russell Library's partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)

908

MIDDLETOWN KIDS AGES 0-5

have participated in DPIL through Russell Library. There are over 750 currently active, representing nearly 40% of eligible children living in Middletown

3,181

SUMMER READERS

participated in our youth, teen, and adult summer reading programs in 2025, an 87% increase over summer 2024

200+

BOOK BUNDLES

checked out in 2025



8

Future-ready for Middletown

“This is the best library everrrrr! Can I check out three?!”

- A Tonie fan who had just learned we lend them

780

TONIE AND YOTO CHECKOUTS

between July 1 - December 1, 2025

“I’m so glad you have Yoto cards here now.”

63,000

GROSS SQUARE FEET

included in a proposed new Russell Library building, which will remain at 123 Broad Street and include our flagship original church wing - our **current building** has 45,000 GSF

+40%

SQUARE FOOTAGE INCREASE

in the new building compared to the current one

\$58,000,000

COST ESTIMATE

to construct the proposed new building



New Building Conceptual Designs



Photo captions:

1. On Kids Health and Safety Day, Russell Library distributed hundreds of free books to families, funded by an ARPA grant.
2. A strong young patron carries home a lawn sign for her mom.
3. Russell Library story times have come to be known for their generosity with bubbles. Here, a bubble enthusiastic endeavors to catch them with a yellow scarf.
4. Yoga for Littles offers an opportunity for kiddos to get their wiggles out.
5. Farmer's Market story times always draw a crowd.
6. A Christmas Carol brought in hundreds of attendees for this first-ever fundraising production, which was adapted for Russell Library's Reading Room to provide a theater-in-the-round experience.
7. Science Saturdays spark curiosity within "young explorers" monthly.
8. Holding a newly-hatched chick brings a big smile to this young patron's face.
9. Over the past year Tonies and Yotos have become wildly popular. They as well as their players are available for checkout at Russell Library.
10. Two staff members spread library love at Middletown Public Schools' Back to School Fair.



RUSSELL
LIBRARY

grow connect strive thrive

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