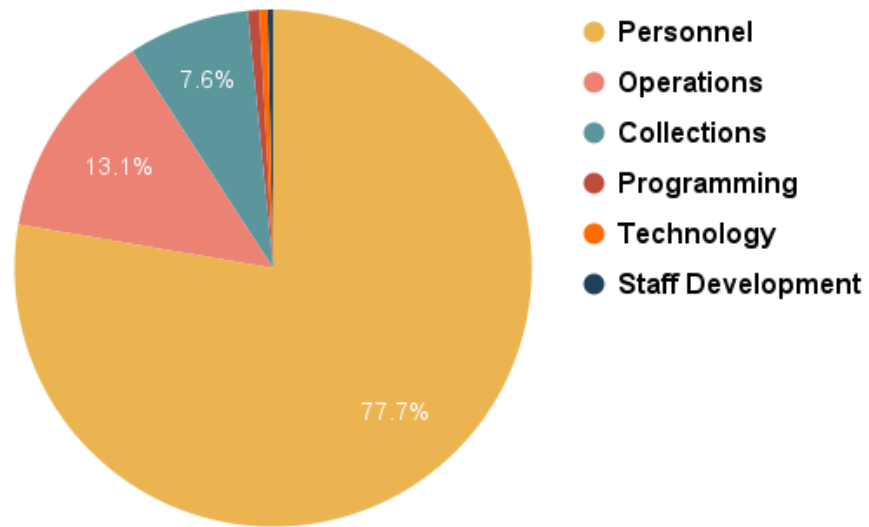
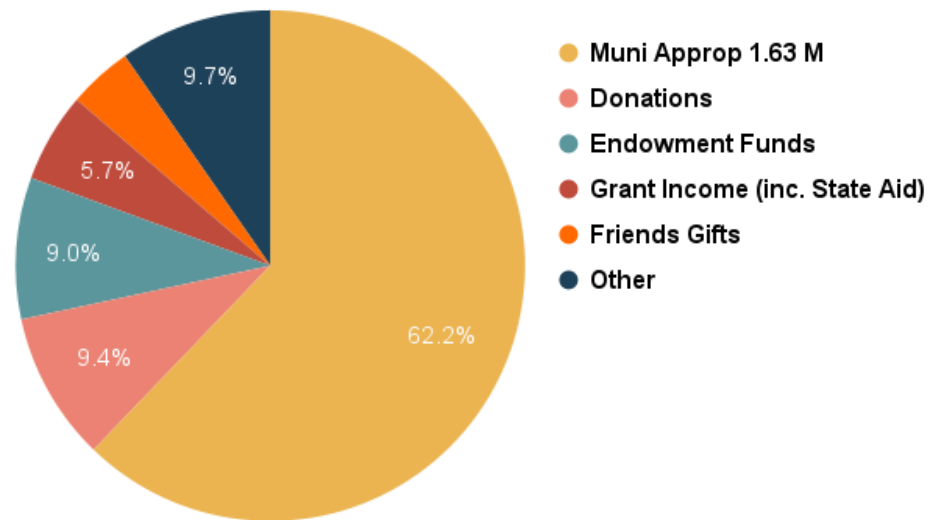


FY26 Expenditures \$2,612,660



FY26 Income



FY25 Donations:

Gift Count: 1011
 Money Raised: \$239,583
 Donor Count: 627



NEW YOUTH PROGRAMMING ROOM, COMING IN 2026!

Offering a bright, welcoming, and colorful space designed with kids and teens in mind.

WITH YOUR HELP

Thanks to the generosity of the City of Northampton, grants, the Friends of Forbes Library, and library donors, we:

- Built the Hess Performance Stage
- Engaged a record breaking number of children in our Summer Reading Program
- Reimagined the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library & Museum for the next generation of visitors
- Expanded our Drop-In Tech Help program to include more weekly sessions, including one led by a digital navigator
- Held a Zine Fest featuring local creators and started a circulating collection of zines
- Circulated 618 museum passes, providing free or reduced admission to some of our area's finest cultural institutions



Paco's Year in Review

- Social media influencer
- Featured in national publication for children's librarians
- Induced 31,000 smiles from visitors



20 West St, Northampton, MA 01060
 forbeslibrary.org • 413-587-1011

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

“Are you ready for some good news? In the past two decades, reading for pleasure in the U.S. has plummeted over 40%, according to a recent study. OK, that is bad news. The good news is that our region is bucking this trend. Forbes Library saw a 9% increase in visits last year and a whopping 22% increase in the number of items circulated (over 500,000!).”

Suzy Campos, Friends of Forbes Library



As we come to the close of a turbulent year in many regards, I want to thank you, our loyal patrons, supporters, and volunteers for your ongoing trust and engagement with Forbes Library. You sustain us with your belief in the underlying principles free public libraries represent to a democratic society - reliable information, intellectual freedom, creative inspiration, barrier-free access to resources, and common ground to come together as a community.

This year we were thrilled to build an outdoor stage, providing the setting for amazing events. Look for lots more outdoor events in the new year! We also saw huge increases in the number of items circulated, program attendance, and library visits. Forbes is a place people want to be and nothing makes us happier.

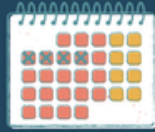
None of this would be possible without the efforts of the incredibly talented Forbes Library staff. From building our superb collections to answering each question with professionalism and care and so much more - they are the heart and soul of Forbes Library. I would also like to thank our hardworking Board of Trustees and the Friends of Forbes Library. These volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that we are well run, well funded, and able to do our best work.

Special thanks to departing trustee, Russ Carrier, who is ending his 44th year of service. He has been a leading force behind making Forbes the library it is today.

Warm regards,
Lisa Downing
Director, Forbes Library



FISCAL YEAR 2025 IN REVIEW



Nearly 200,000 visits by library patrons!

Over 460,000 items circulated (including digital collections)



7,048 adults attended programs

4,247 children's program attendees and 456 teen program attendees



We ♥ our Volunteers

168 volunteers provided 7,148 hours of service

Over 20,000 computer sessions!



1,699 meeting room reservations



OUR VALUES

Welcoming: We offer an inclusive space that builds community and belonging. This year we invited school students and community groups in for tours, opened our archives for student research projects, and continued our kindergarten registration efforts. We also held library card sign up events in the community to reach new audiences.

Inspiring: We foster curiosity, creativity, fun, and lifelong learning. This year we've held hundreds of free programs including special series like learn to juggle, the history of Jazz, digital skills workshops, Studio Ghibli animated film series, author readings, and hands-on art workshops. We've also grown our Library of Things collection with more games, tools, and craft supplies.

Equitable access: We ensure that the library is accessible and free for all. This year we improved usability of library bathrooms for people with limited mobility and increased the number of Spanish speakers on our staff.

"My library provides a sense of community, a cozy place to go to on a cold or rainy day, a resource to learn more about the world around me, fuel for my imagination, and countless adventures within the pages of a book!"
Julia B., library patron