

# *Coralville Public Library Annual Report, April 22, 2025*

## Fostering Connections: Coralville Public Library and our Diverse Community



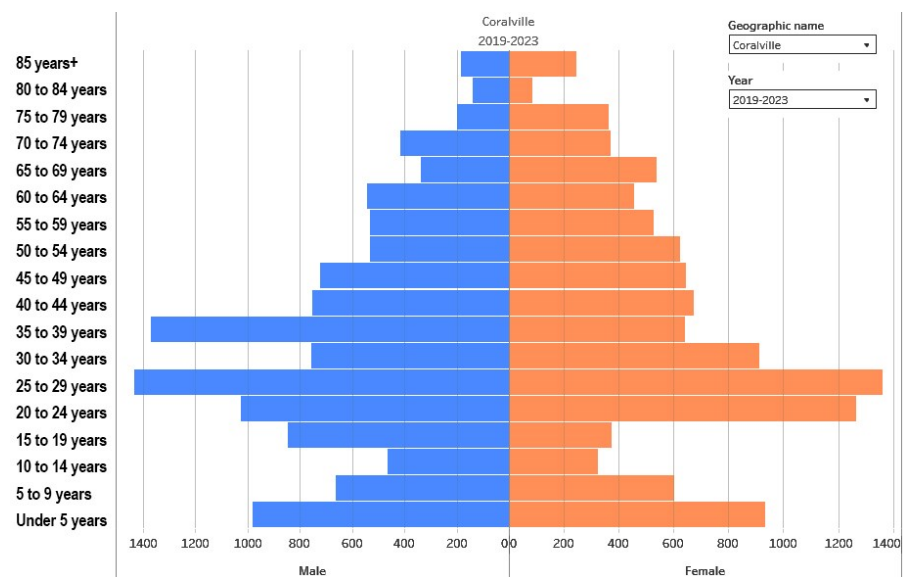
## 2 Our Diverse Community



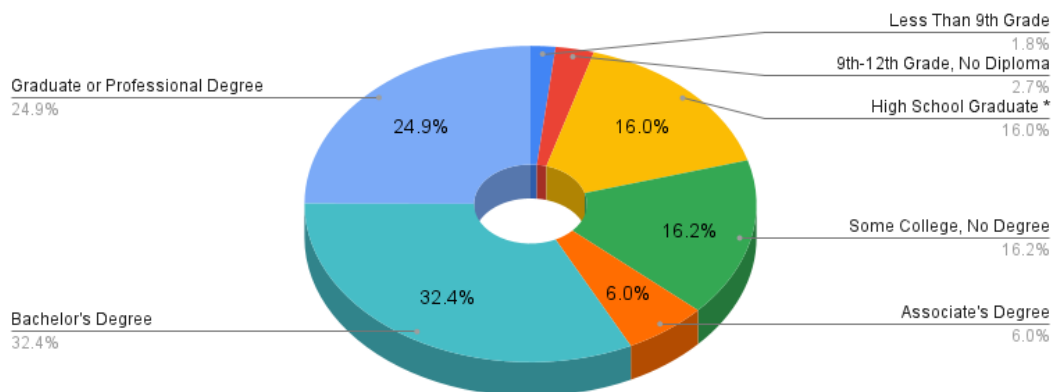
Coralville is home to approximately 23,600 residents, reflecting a vibrant and diverse community. Notably, 15.7% of the population—nearly 4,000 individuals—were born outside the United States. The word cloud on the left highlights the most common countries of origin among these residents.

Coralville residents also have a range of educational backgrounds, ages, and life experiences, as seen in these varied graphs. Additionally, for Coralville residents, the median age is 33.1, the median household income is \$66,500, 12.3% live in poverty, 36% self identify as non-white, 6.5% have a disability, and 579 are veterans.

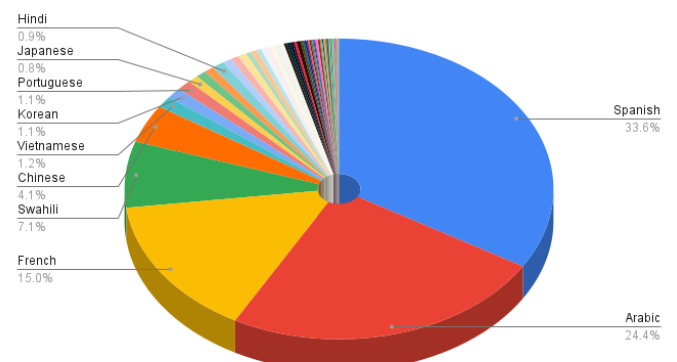
Age by Sex (5-year period estimates)



Percent Educational Attainment in Population Aged 25+



Foreign Language % Represented in Our Local School Districts



There are many in our community for whom English is not their native language. To the right is a graph of the nearly 75 languages spoken by children in the ICCSD and CCA school districts.

\*All data sources from [iowadatatcenter.org](http://iowadatatcenter.org) through the U.S. Census Bureau and School District Reports



# ELL Classes & CRN Program 3

The Coralville Public Library offers many services aimed at community-building, equity, and inclusivity.

**Community Resources Navigator (CRN):** The CRN program connects library patrons who face challenges related to socioeconomic barriers, helping



them gain access to existing community resources. The CRN serves as one-stop information and referral resource, linking Coralville residents with social services around the county. Additionally, the CRN organizes a weekly Chat 'N Chai social event for the purpose of community-building over a delicious cup of homemade Chai. The CRN also coordinates the Library's Community Ambassador program, a network of community members who serve as a conduit to portions of the population we are not otherwise reaching.



World Hijab Day, 2024



ELL Volunteer Tutoring



## Our New Community Outreach Educator:

This year, with support from the Community Foundation of Johnson County and the Coralville Public Library Foundation, we were able to fund a new position with a focus on boosting educational programs at

the Coralville Public Library. Emily Kriegl, our new Community Outreach Educator, coordinates the English Language Learning (ELL) Program, and has increased the number of traditional classes as well as starting popular conversation classes and streamlining one-on-one language tutoring.

ELL Class with Emily kneeling in the center, above. English Conversation Hour run by a volunteer, below.



Emily leads the ELL classes and recruits, trains, and coordinates volunteers to support new immigrants. Additionally, she runs a weekly homework help program for grades 5-12. She also collaborates with local organizations to provide free educational programs to the public, such as a Cybersecurity Program and a Financial Literacy event.



Emergency Winter Closet for Community Members in need. This winter, we were able to get 49 articles of winter gear into the hands of people who needed them most. This included coats, hats, gloves, and scarves donated by City Staff.





# 4 Partnerships

We serve the community best when we work together with other local organizations. Combining ideas, efforts, and connections often results in significantly more impactful programs.

One way we stay connected is through the Coralville Village Project. These bimonthly meetings bring together nonprofits and organizations serving those with the greatest needs in our area. It is a wonderful



opportunity for library staff to learn about available resources and valuable partners. We discuss emerging needs, share resources, and build partnerships—one of which led to the creation of our English Language Learning program.

We continue to work closely with the Coralville Community Food Pantry (CCFP) on the Community Fridge located in the library café (left), which they stock regularly. This year, we expanded the effort with a “grab and go” program, providing simple sandwiches weekly through a partnership between library and pantry staff.



Our partnership with Kirkwood Community College brings a weekly Writing Center to the library (left). We also work closely with their ELL department to help non-native English speakers find the classes that best fit their needs.

We have also been working with Johnson County, Iowa City, North Liberty, and Greater Iowa City to earn a Welcoming Community designation from Welcoming America. In gathering data in support of our designation, connections with groups such as Greater Iowa City and IC Compassion have been deepened.



Additional partnerships include hosting the University of Iowa Mobile Clinic monthly, a Chat n Chai event with the National Federation of the Blind, the Paul Engle Prize ceremony with Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature, and World Hijab Day with the Mariam Girls Club (left).

These partnerships allow us to extend our reach, share resources, deepen our understanding of community needs, and continue to be a welcoming space for all.



Photos, clockwise starting above: visiting daycampers reading; enjoying the summer Community Meal on the lawn; TAB members shopping for books to give to children at the December Community Meal; the Craft Guild demonstrating weaving at the Craft Table; Officer Detwiler at storytime; Ellen presenting Camille Dungy with the Paul Engle Prize.





# Community Engagement 5

The Coralville Public Library cultivates community engagement through a variety of events within the Library as well outside our 5<sup>th</sup> Street building. We maintain a small collection of about 1,000 volumes in the Iowa Writers' Library at the Hyatt Regency Coralville. The collection represents writers who have been associated with the Iowa Writers Workshop and is accessible to anyone in the community.

Our outreach efforts include traditional library services, such as storytimes at local preschools and extending services to homebound individuals. But we also engage in more nontraditional outreach, like our Book Bike programming, our presence at the Johnson County Fair, and our annual participation in Coralville's 4thFest 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade (right).

We start out each year with a special gathering at the Library on MLK Day with a community reading of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech. People from across the community gather to share this special experience (readers pictured right).

On February 1, World Hijab Day offers a chance to drop in, learn more about wearing the hijab, explore different cultures, and reflect on the diverse experiences within our community.

At the end of May we celebrate the kickoff of Summer Reading (right). Programs for all ages throughout the summer bring hundreds of people through the Library doors every day. These are our busiest, most lively months, filled with new faces from across the community.

The City of Coralville sponsors the annual Paul Engle Prize, given by the UNESCO City of Literature to an accomplished writer who also has actively participated in the larger issues of the day, contributing to the betterment of the world through the literary arts. Each year Coralville Public Library hosts the Paul Engle Prize event (right), free and open to the public, including a reading by the author and a meet and greet reception and book signing.



Photos, l-r above: the Volunteer Fair we hosted on MLK Day, to connect the volunteers with non-profits; teens performing at Tuesday Aftertunes; the Around the World Teen and Adult Program; Book Bike outreach to Brown Deer Place Senior Living.



# 6 Adult & Teen Programs

In February of 2024, the Library revealed a new programming space: the **Discovery Corner**. Imagined as a multi-use, hands-on learning space, the Adult Services



Seed Starting

Department has utilized it for garden, craft, and MockTale programs. In planting seeds, binding books, mixing drinks, and telling stories, community members have had the opportunity to gather to share their passions and connect with each other.

This spirit of connecting through shared experiences is not new. For example, *It's a Mystery* book discussion group has met at the Library for over 30 years, and Novel Conversations book group continues to bring lively discussion to our patrons after nearly 10 years.

But the Library continually strives to create new opportunities for the community to learn about each other. One way we have done this is through storytelling. Adult Services partners with the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA) to hold Live Storytelling events that invite the community to share their own experiences and culture. This past March, the Library partnered with CultureALL, an Iowa non-profit, to hold an Open Book program inviting two Iowa guests from diverse backgrounds to share their personal stories followed by a facilitated discussion. Through storytelling, the community's diverse experiences are celebrated.



Below and above: two different MockTale events



Book Binding



Teen summer event, above.  
Teen Hang Out, below.

Our teen programs bring together a diverse group of 7th–12th graders, creating connections and fostering a sense of community within the library. We are proud to have an 18-member Teen Advisory Board (TAB) that plays an active role in planning programs and community outreach. TAB's mission is to empower teens to take ownership of their library, develop leadership skills, and help bring more young people into the space. In addition, our weekly Teen Hangout welcomes teens of all ages, offering a relaxed environment to make new friends and gain fresh perspectives.



The Library does not end at our doors! Through our outreach efforts, we strive to take the Library to the community. We bring library services to various locations in Coralville for community members who are unable to physically visit

the Library. For example, staff visited Brown Deer Place, Inside Out Reentry, and the Coralville Community Food Pantry. The TAB also does community service projects partnering with local nonprofits (pictured above right, delivering toiletries to the CCFP).





# Children's Programming 7

The library continues to be a gathering place for children and their caregivers. It's an intentional space for friends to connect while kids play, and a hub where caregivers of similarly aged children meet at programs.



This year's Winterfest included a new partnership with the Iowa Heartlanders—Dash joined storytime and brought fans along (pictured left). Many were new to the library and hopefully discovered reasons to return. Winterfest also marked our first storytime collaboration with the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts at their IRL educational space.



Toddlers enjoy "Wee Read!" above. Afterward, parents chat while the tots play, below.



The library has previewed several family-friendly theater productions and this year partnered on activities to accompany *Charlotte's Web*, including crafts (left) and co-hosting Barnyard Discoveries, which drew over 100 attendees.



The Iowa Children's Museum and the Coralville Public Library are longtime partners, teaming up for events like the Week of the Young Child and Move It, Dig It, Do It. Last summer, the Library Book Bike joined the museum for Central Park



programming, and hosted the ICM's Space Stations (left) during spring break. Staff from both institutions also visit Head Start monthly for joint storytimes.



A young patron thrilled by Barnyard Discoveries, above. An Outreach Storytime, below.

A formal partnership with the ICM began in 2020 with a grant from the Boston Children's Museum and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, resulting in the Book Walk in North Ridge Park (pictured lower right and left). Thanks to Coralville Parks and Recreation staff for its installation, further



strengthening community ties.

The goal of the Book Walk is to reach beyond library walls and offer a literacy experience in the community for walkers, joggers, and strollers. A celebration will be held May 3 at the park from 12:00-3:00 where everyone will be Playing in the Park!





# 8 2024 By the Numbers

330,078 people  
came into  
the Library



1361 hotspot checkouts



41,618 retrievals of  
electronic information  
from our databases  
97,017 eMaterials  
downloaded



224,336 physical items  
checked out



2049 Summer  
Reading participants  
with 14,304  
books read



215 Blind Dates  
with a Cookbook,  
18 video submissions



111,321 website  
visits



8061 followers  
on social media



363 children's  
and teen's programs with  
11,936  
attendees,  
including 309 at Barnyard  
Discoveries



5894 new patron cards



166 patrons  
signed up for  
our Banned Books  
Reading Challenge,  
logging 283 books



18,484 total reference  
questions  
answered at  
reference, children's,  
& circulation desks



1707 checkouts  
of Playaways



6718 views of the  
Facebook reel unveiling  
our Herky on Parade, while  
the photo of our Book Walk  
reached 50,172 FB accounts



449 teens  
hung out at the  
Teen  
Hang Out



14,855 uses of  
public internet  
computers,  
55,481 wireless sessions



554 children enrolled  
in the Imagination  
Library with  
5,237 books  
mailed



205 people  
visited the Book Bike  
last summer



8306 hours  
of study  
room use



545 items borrowed from  
other libraries via ILL  
941 items lent to other  
libraries



## Fostering Connections

621 fed at  
the Fall Harvest  
Community Meal



5759 community  
members served  
through 157  
outreach events

142 assisted at  
the 8 Mobile  
Clinics



250 celebrated  
World Hijab Day  
at the library



3032 chats  
at the  
Chat 'n Chai



1947 attendees at  
168 ELL classes  
thanks in part to  
959 volunteer hours



65 visitors to  
the Volunteer  
Fair



104 people of all  
ages at the TAB-  
sponsored Around  
the World cultural  
event

