



**2021
Annual
Report**

After a challenging but reinvigorating year, the board of Quatrefoil Library pauses to take a look back and to express its gratitude for the unfailing support of so many people.

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers for showing how much you value the library, its place in the LGBTQ+ community and its unique mission to serve as a crossroads for the free exchange of ideas.

As a nonprofit board, we take seriously the need to provide for the organization financially, and we do so by seeking the support of individuals, foundations and corporate donors. We also manage Quatrefoil's endowment with prudence and care to ensure that the library will be here for another 35 years. Please see our year-end financial report below.

The first half of the year, when the library was closed due to the pandemic, saw Quatrefoil active on multiple fronts: behind-the-scenes computer and software upgrades, fundraising, online Queer Voices writing circles, and collaborations that engaged new communities. We heated up our Zoom channels with a variety of events.

Programs: Zooming with Q

In our first partnership with Wild Rumpus bookstore, we had a terrific reading in early February with children’s book author and illustrator **Anastasia Higgenbotham**. Her book “What You Don’t Know” is a touching and delightful look at a queer Black boy relating to his family, school and church.

Local YA star **Rachel Gold** launched her sixth novel, “Synclair,” in an event cosponsored by Quatrefoil, Macalester College (where Gold teaches) and Next Chapter books.

The spring brought virtual events with partners Augsburg University and Moon Palace Books that included a sneak peek at an absorbing new memoir by local author **John Medeiros** and the launch of Minneapolis novelist **Brian Malloy**’s “After Francesco,” a 10-years-later sequel to his “The Year of Ice.” (Stay tuned for details about Malloy’s 10-week writing workshop for LGBTQ seniors this summer.)

Mid-June saw an unforgettable **Queer Voices Pride Reading** in partnership with Hennepin County Library that featured stellar local writers Donte Collins, Carla-Elaine Johnson, Simi Kang, Kara Olson and Mimi Imuro Van Ausdall. Queer Voices co-curators Lisa Marie Brimmer and Sherrie Fernandez-Williams have exciting plans for 2022, as well.

Venerable historian **Jonathan Ned Katz** joined Q for a June event to showcase his book about the remarkable and little-known life of early 20th-century lesbian writer Eve Adams.

Native lesbian writer **Chris Stark** read from and talked about her new novel “Carnival Lights.” Said Stark: “For me, this is a book about love” and about “seeing difference as a gift.”



Welcome back!

As COVID-19 restrictions eased, Quatrefoil reopened its doors, launching weekend hours in June and welcoming back patrons, book clubs, game nights and writing workshops. It felt great to be open again.

Quatrefoil is pleased to be partnering with J-Pride at Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis to host the new Queer History Book Club. It meets at the community room on the second Sunday of each month.

Free Membership Cards

Also in June, the library launched free memberships to eliminate a financial barrier to patronage. After 35 years on a paid-membership system, Quatrefoil now issues Q Cards at no charge to anyone who wants one. The cards entitle holders to full borrowing privileges at the library.

Yes, the library will lose revenue that formerly came from membership dues, but the board is committed to the concept and to finding alternative sources to make up for the loss. A grant from the Minneapolis Foundation helped to partially underwrite that effort in 2021.



New Members Leigh Finke and Kim Hoyer

When told about this change to Q Cards, historian and activist Jonathan Katz said:

“I’m delighted to hear that the queer Quatrefoil Library is going to be free to all. As a public historian and activist and the founder of OutHistory.org I’ve worked for 50 years to make quality LGBTQ+ history free to the public. So here’s to free libraries and archives for the people!”

Quatrefoil’s shift to free membership garnered media attention, with stories about it in the Star Tribune and on WCCO-TV and KFAI radio.



After missing Pride due to COVID-19 in 2020, it was great to return to Loring Park for a mid-July Festival of Pride. We met thousands of new and old friends at our **book sale**, and sold enough books to make it the second-biggest sale in our history. Lugging 1,000 books to our tent in the park is a lot of work, but many people tell us half their home library came from our sales, and it all seems worth it.



In just three years, and thanks to generous targeted donations, **Quatrefoil's Scholarship** program achieved its initial fundraising goal and will be able to finance annual scholarships going forward.

In August the library awarded its third annual scholarship to Jay Thompson, a University of Minnesota sophomore and a psychology major who hopes to pursue a career in counseling with a focus on LGBTQ+ youth. Thompson, a trans man, received \$1,000 to assist with tuition. A goal is to increase the number and amounts of these awards.

Community engagement and outreach was expanded in 2021 via active partnerships with LGBTQ+ employee groups at **Target** and **Ameriprise**. We enlisted the help of the Board Repair organization and its virtual Board Recruitment Fair to connect Quatrefoil with diverse volunteer and board prospects.

Coming in 2022

Looking ahead, Quatrefoil will be opening for more hours each week. The library is committed to adding a diverse list of **ebooks and audiobooks** to its collection of more than 15,000 books and 5,000 DVDs.

Writing workshops, readings, a Queer Voices chapbook, in-person events and other surprises are all part of the plan for 2022 and beyond.

The focus of our library acquisitions in 2022 will be to help elevate voices currently underrepresented in Quatrefoil's collection — works by and for the trans, BIPOC and queer women communities.

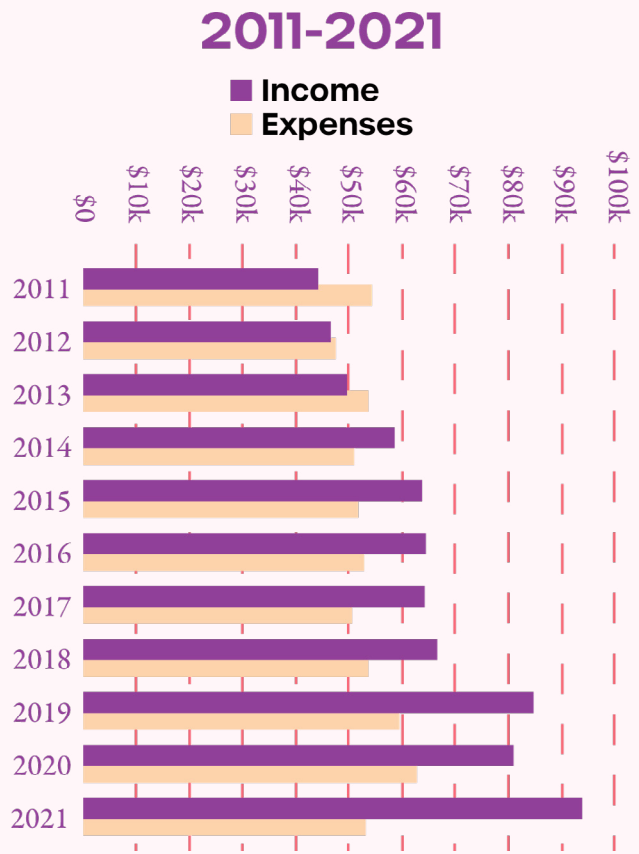
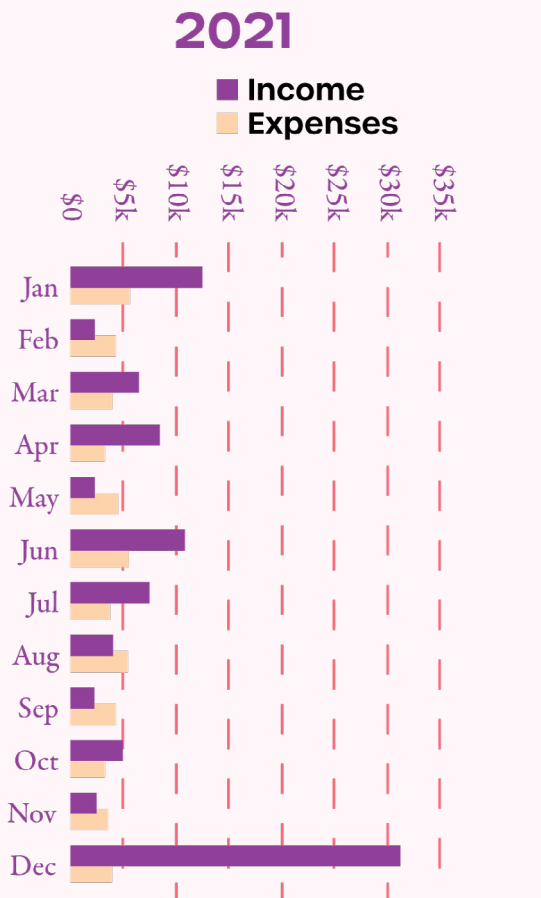
Stay connected by visiting us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and at our [website](#). Stop by the library to register for a Q Card and to say hello in person!



2021 Quatrefoil Financial Summary

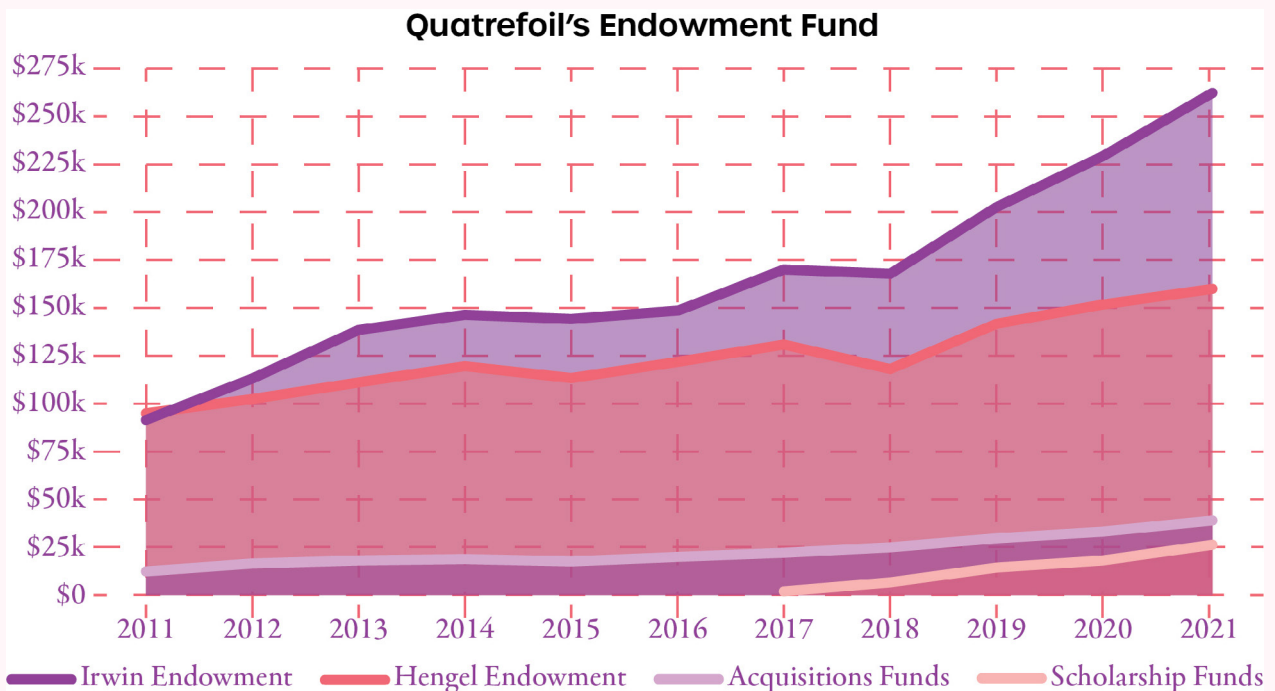
Quatrefoil ended 2021 with an increase of \$99,237 in total assets. Roughly \$60,000 resulted from investment gains and \$40,000 from income of \$93,855 minus expenses of \$53,000. Total assets increased to \$703,417.

Income came from individual contributions, grants and book sales. The nonprofit's biggest regular **expenses** are rent, insurance, equipment and acquisitions.



Quatrefoil's mission is supported and made more secure by gifts and bequests made over the years. These include **four endowment funds** whose principal is restricted. In years when there are earnings from the invested funds, the library may draw a designated percentage annually as deemed necessary by the board:

- 1) The Hengel Fund was established in 2000 at the discretion of the estate of Peter Hengel to fund Quatrefoil's video collection.
- 2) The Irwin Fund, named after library cofounder David Irwin, was set up in 2010 to fund facilities and activities of the library.
- 3) The Acquisitions Fund was created at the discretion of a donor in 2008 to help buy materials for the library's circulating collection.
- 4) The Scholarship Fund was created in 2018 to fund an annual scholarship to LGBTQ+ students pursuing college degrees in liberal arts.



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Quatrefoil Library
1220 E Lake St,
Minneapolis, MN 55407

www.qlibrary.org

