



**2022  
Annual  
Report**

Quatrefoil Library continued to emerge from its COVID shutdown in a momentous year that saw expanded hours, a major grant, the return of in-person events and readings, a new scholarship winner, and the long-awaited launch of free e-books and audiobooks under the Q Digital banner.

Quatrefoil remained steadfast in its opposition to record levels of anti-LGBTQ+ pressure, often aimed at censoring LGBTQ+ books in schools and libraries. In both its print and digital collections, Quatrefoil renewed its commitment to these “most challenged” books for adults and young readers.

Support from hundreds of dedicated donors, paired with budgetary discipline, made it a good year financially despite being a terrible year for investments. The library also welcomed around 2,500 visitors throughout the year, a strong number

considering we are still not operating at full capacity.

Here are some of the year's highlights, followed by a summary of Quatrefoil's 2022 finances. Thank you to all our volunteers, artists, board members, and patrons for supporting the Quatrefoil mission.

## **Highlights of 2022**

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**April**— The **spring issue of the Quatrefoil newsletter** is posted online and printed for library distribution. The cover story is an interview with local writer **Ty Bo Yule**.

**May 10**— **Spring Fund Drive** letters mailed to 360 recipients. Email version sent out May 14 to 763 recipients.

**May 13**— **Queer Voices** spring reading held on Zoom with three readers: **Jelani Johnson**, **Katie Robinson**, and **Mair Allen**. Hosted and co-curated by Queer Voices' own **LM Brimmer** and **Sherrie Fernandez-Williams**.

**May 18**— Received word from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) that Q's grant proposal **won a \$10,000 grant** for "Books without Borders," our initiative to launch **e-books and audiobooks** in partnership with OverDrive.

**May**— Signed a contract with OverDrive.

**May**— **Expanded hours** to include 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday nights for **Game Night**. Also added Thursday nights to host **One Voice Mixed Chorus** meetings weekly in the community room.

**May**— **Girl Scouts of Minnesota and western Wisconsin** toured the library.

**May**— Hosted **Scripps News** national correspondent Vanessa Mascagni at the library to tape a tour and to interview 2022 board president Claude Peck about LGBTQ+ books under attack by book-banners around the country.

**The video report** aired on Scripps TV stations around the country as well as on its Newsy site.

**May**— Began partnership with **Libro.fm** so those who buy their audiobooks can choose to support Quatrefoil.

**June 8**— **"Jerker"** semi-staged reading of the 1980s Robert Chesley phone-sex play at the library with **Emmett Ramstad** and **Maxe Crandall** as a part of their national tour.



28 people attended the play, participated in the talk back, and enjoyed a reception in the library afterward.

**June 11**— We had a booth at one of the nation’s smallest small-town Pride events, **Pepin Pride**, which was attended by about 125 people. The event contained a keynote speech by trans memoirist **Ty Bo Yule** and drag performances.

**June 16**— **Elder Pride** party at St. Paul’s Lake Phalen.

**June 17**— Poet **Derick Schultz** gave a reading from his new book “Redacted.” Quatrefoil hosted a reception after.

**June 25-26**— Attended **Twin Cities Pride** for our annual **pride book sale**. Thousands of people visited our tent and we sold more than \$2,700 in books and other materials.

**July 12**— Quatrefoil marked the publication of *The Complicated Calculus (and Cows) of Carl Paulsen* with a free reading and talk via Zoom. **Gary Eldon Peter** read from the new book, took questions and talked about it with novelist Brian Malloy.



**September 2**— **Gen Deyo**, an MCAD sophomore majoring in comic arts, was announced as the winner of the **4th annual Quatrefoil Scholarship**. The Champlin Park High School graduate was awarded \$1,000 to help with their tuition. *Press release is below.*



**September 14**— *Aging Out* reading and chapbook launch with students in **Brian Malloy's** summer writing workshop. About 24 people attended a reading of poetry, fiction, and memoir produced by 10 older LGBTQ+ writing students. The new chapbooks were sold at \$5 to benefit Quatrefoil, and there was a reception after in the library.

**October 1**— Launch of **Q Digital**. Perhaps the most expensive initiative Quatrefoil has undertaken, we went public with Q Digital via announcements to our mailing list, local media, and on all our social media platforms. We offered approximately 300 titles in both e-book and audiobook formats, **all free to those with a Q Card**. One-quarter of titles were by queer authors of color.

**October**— The long-running Queer Book Club, a partnership between Quatrefoil and **Moon Palace Books**, begins meeting at the library.

**November 17— Give to the Max Day** raises a record high amount to benefit Quatrefoil operations: more than \$4,000.

**November 20—** 73 people attended the **Transgender Day of Remembrance** event, co-sponsored by **OutFront**, at the library. The event included songs, prayers, and more.

**November—** Quatrefoil returns to hosting **in-house queer book sales**, with an all-day sale of hundreds of bargain used books and DVDs.

**December 1—** Our annual campaign letters were mailed to over 400 of our supporters.

**December 8—** At the final board meeting of 2022, treasurer John Brentnall reported that **Quatrefoil will end the year with a budget surplus**. While revenues were slightly below budget, expenses were also below budget, creating a \$9,000 surplus, not counting revenues expected from the December annual campaign.

**December 9—** First **Queer Voices** reading held in-person at the library since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The reading featured **aegor ray, Molly Beth Griffin, Taiwana Shambley, Trisha Collopy**, and **Josina Manu Maltzman**. Hosted and co-curated by LM Brimmer and Sherrie Fernandez-Williams. There were about 35 attendees.

**December 13**— Brian Malloy writing workshop students presented memoir and fiction in a Zoom reading that also marked the launch of *Older & Out*, a chapbook of their work. There were 37 attendees.

**December 20**—The **winter 2022/23 edition of the Quatrefolio newsletter** was published in print and online, featuring more than 100 book and movie recommendations by more than 20 contributors.

**December 22**— We added our 500th book to our Q Digital collection.

**December 31**— After two years as board president, four years as board vice president, and seven years total on the board, **Claude Peck** steps down. New officers were elected at the January 2023 board meeting.



Attendees at the September 14 *Ageing Out* reading at the library.



# Twin Cities comic artist wins Quatrefoil Scholarship

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Gen Deyo, a sophomore majoring in comic arts at Minneapolis College of Art and Design, has won the 2022 Quatrefoil Scholarship.

Quatrefoil, a nonprofit, all-volunteer LGBTQ+ library and community center, annually awards \$1,000 to help young Minnesotans with tuition.

Deyo, 19, grew up in Champlin, Minn., and attended Champlin High School, where they were president of the art club and co-president of the school's gender and sexuality acceptance group.

While still in high school, Deyo attracted a large following on TikTok for their fan art inspired by such animated series as *Avatar: The Last Air Bender* and *She-Ra: Princess of Power*.

“That gave me confidence to pursue art as a career,” Deyo said.

Deyo began coming-out at age 11, identifying now as a non-binary lesbian.

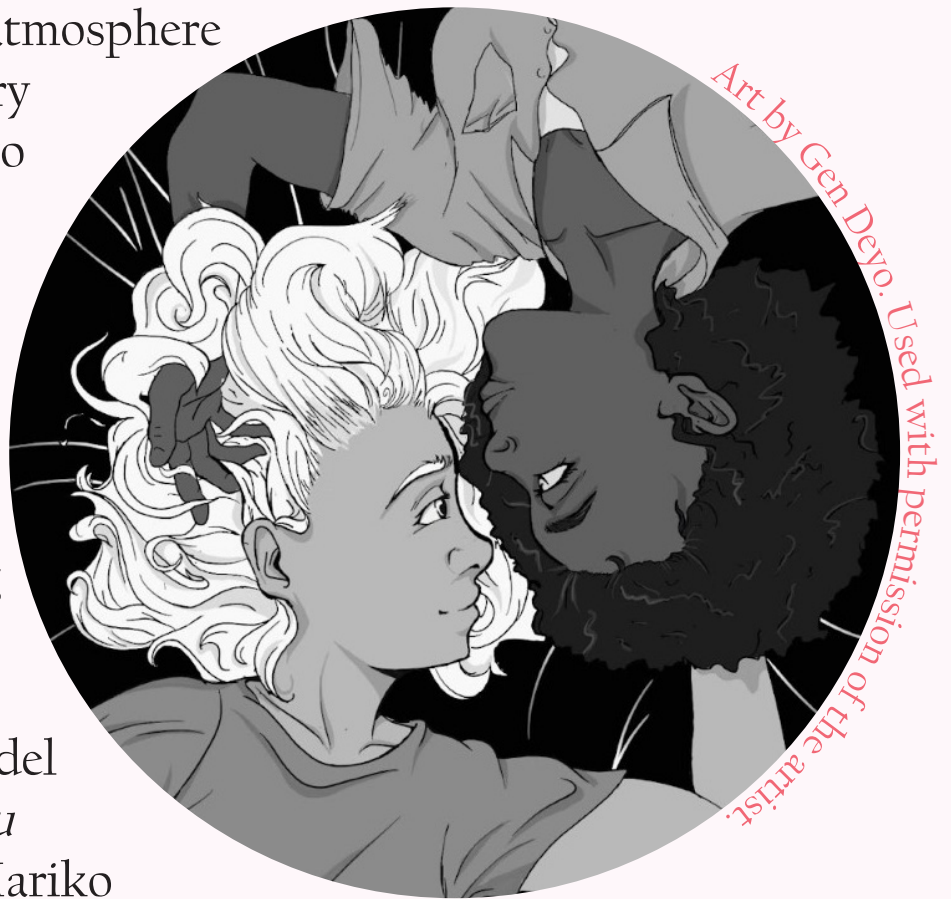
“It’s important to acknowledge what a label means to others, but labels are fluid,” Deyo said. “Each individual has expectations as to what their identity means and how willing they are to share that. Just being respectful of everyone’s queer journey is important.”

At MCAD, in an atmosphere they describe as “very queer-friendly,” Deyo is pursuing a full schedule of classes and working on longer sequential literature, including a gothic graphic novel they are doing with collaborators.

Inspirations include Alison Bechdel (*Fun Home, Are You My Mother?*) and Mariko Tamaki and Rosemary Valero-O’Connell (*Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me*).

Deyo believes that a queer library like Quatrefoil plays a crucial role by offering “free media to make sure that our stories are accessible and not buried under heteronormative work.”

In their own life, Deyo is determined to be part of that process, saying, “I hope to create more work that empowers everyone to be seen, to be known, and to be loved for who they are.”



# Meet the new board president

My name is Paul Kaefer (he/him/his), and I am proud to have been elected as Quatrefoil's new board president. I have served on the board since 2017, including in the roles of secretary (2018) and vice president (2021 & 2022). In my tenure with the library, I have worked numerous shifts as desk volunteer, attended many fabulous events, spearheaded our scholarship committee (2023 marks its fifth year!), and supported our strategic planning. I have been very pleased to see us become more accessible to a larger number of people through free membership, abolishing fines for overdue materials, and Q Digital, our free e-book and audiobook platform.

My goals as president include promoting diversity and strategic partnerships, capacity building within our board and committees, and collaborating on future visions for the library. I have great optimism that Quatrefoil can continue to expand our reach and resources as both a library and community center for the LGBTQ+ community in Minnesota.



When I'm not at Quatrefoil, I work in data engineering/science for a healthcare analytics company. I also have experience teaching and serve on the Guthrie Theater's Corporate Council. Outside of work and volunteering, I enjoy reading, board games, cooking, camping, and going on adventures in the Twin Cities and beyond with my partner Ryan.

Those interested in serving on the board or one of our committees are very welcome to reach out to chat. Let's brainstorm what more we can do in the community!

In pride,  
Paul Kaefer

## Circulation update

In 2022, we launched Q Digital, our free e-book and audiobook borrowing platform on the Libby app and website. The beta phase in June-July had 25 users, and we went live on October 1, 2022.

Of 620 Q cardholders, **59** total unique users have logged in since, checking out **252** items (**90** e-books and **162** audiobooks). We are excited to see this userbase grow in 2023!

The top titles checked out include:

- *The Memory Librarian: And Other Stories of Dirty Computer* by Janelle Monáe
- *A History of My Brief Body* by Billy-Ray Belcourt

- *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo
- *A Writer's Diary* by Virginia Woolf
- *Conflict Is Not Abuse: Overstating Harm, Community Responsibility, and the Duty of Repair* by Sarah Schulman
- *Gentleman Jack: The Real Anne Lister* by Anne Choma
- *The Joy of Gay Sex* by Charles Silverstein and Felice Picano
- *We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir* by Samra Habib.

We continue to circulate physical materials, too! The top patron checked out **134** items in 2023; our top 10 patrons checked out a total of **699** items over the course of the year, and **2,048** items were checked out overall. Our most popular print book was local writer Brian Malloy's *After Francesco*, which was checked out eight times. Our top borrowed graphic novel was Lee Lai's *Stone Fruit*, with *Fun Home* (Allison Bechdel) and *Heartstopper* (Alice Oseman) not far behind.

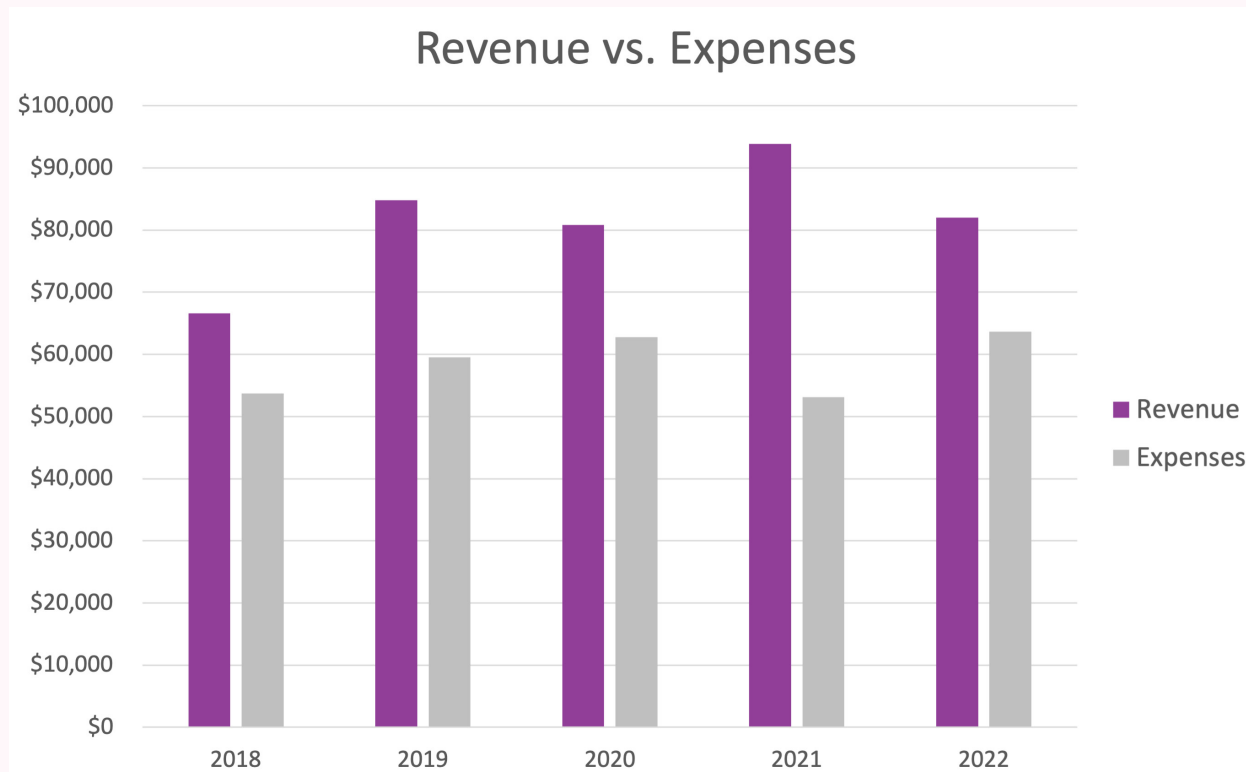
Our top feature films checked out include *Man in an Orange Shirt*, *Angels in America*, *Call Me By Your Name*, *How to Survive a Plague*, *North Sea Texas*, and *But I'm a Cheerleader*.

# 2022 Quatrefoil Financial Summary

Quatrefoil ended 2022 with an operating **surplus** of \$18,334, the ninth consecutive year the budget has been balanced. There was a decrease of \$70,314 in total assets due to the negative year in the financial markets. Total assets were at \$633,103 at the end of the year.

**Income** came primarily from individual contributions, grants and book sales. The largest **expenses** are the recurring items of rent, insurance, equipment and resource acquisitions.

Quatrefoil's mission is supported and made more secure by gifts of appreciated assets and bequests. These thoughtful



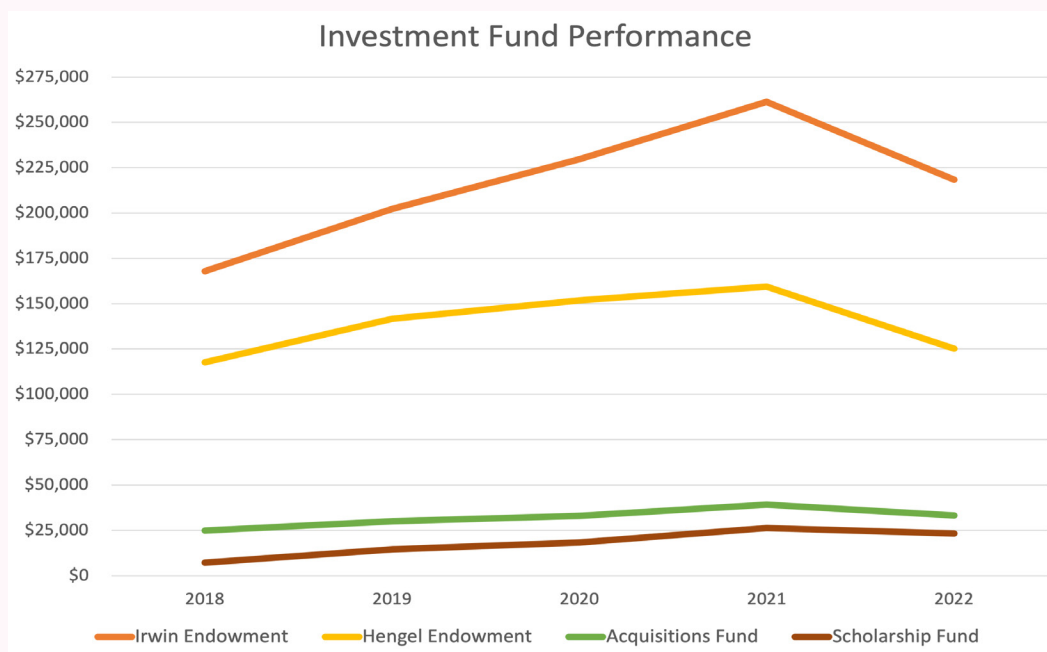
and generous actions helped establish **four endowment funds** whose principal is restricted and payouts are governed by the written agreements. Generally, the agreements are currently written so that income can only be taken in years when there are earnings from the invested funds. The market's negative performance in 2021 means that the income from the endowments in 2022 is minimal.

**1)** The Hengel Fund was established in 2000 at the discretion of the estate of Peter Hengel to fund Quatrefoil's video collection.

**3)** The Acquisitions Fund was created at the discretion of a donor in 2008 to help buy materials for the library's circulating collection.

**2)** The Irwin Fund, named after library cofounder David Irwin, was set up in 2010 to fund facilities and activities of the library.

**4)** The Scholarship Fund was created in 2018 to fund an annual scholarship to LGBTQ+ students pursuing college degrees in liberal arts.



The board's goal for 2023 is to maximize investments in our vulnerable community by increasing the digital resources available so that LGBTQ+ individuals and their loved ones can access supportive materials regardless of geographic location, expanding programming and events, and continuing to add to the collection so that materials more completely reflect the diversity of gender, racial, ethnic, religious and age of the Twin Cities community.





# 2022 Annual Report

Quatrefoil Library  
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