



# Final Report:

## 2022 Community Needs Assessment

**In 2022 La Veta Regional Library District conducted a survey to better understand its community, who they are, how they use the Library, and to find out more about their needs.**

Tracey McCormick first proposed the idea of a community needs assessment (CNA) in 2021, while she was completing her Master's Degree in Library Science. The Library was subsequently awarded a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) - to whom we are tremendously grateful - to conduct the survey, analyze the results, and make recommendations for meeting the needs identified.

The survey was made available to the public in April of 2022 and ran throughout the summer and into the Fall. In total, 268 responses were received - a little more than 20% of the Library District's total population. A long version and a short version of the survey were available. The long version

was available online, while the short one was distributed at the numerous in-person events Tracey (and other Library staff) participated in across the region.

We met hundreds of people, gave away bags of candy, and had countless face-to-face conversations about our valley, about the Library, and about the needs of those who call this place home - even if they are just visiting.

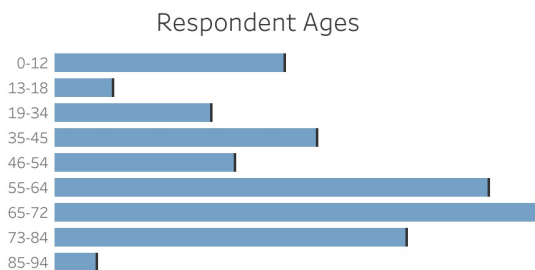
In the end, the survey became more than a way for the Library to learn about its patrons. It became a bridge connecting the Library to the vibrant and fascinating community which it serves.

# La Veta Public Library

## Who is our community?

**Our community is drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, ages, and locations.** At the time the survey was conducted there were officially 1,300 residents of the Library District.

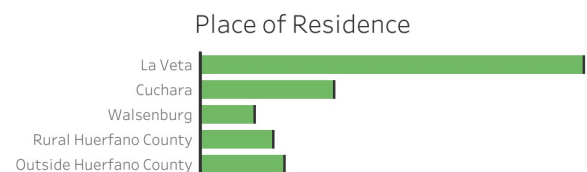
The most significant single statistic that describes our community is the range of ages represented.



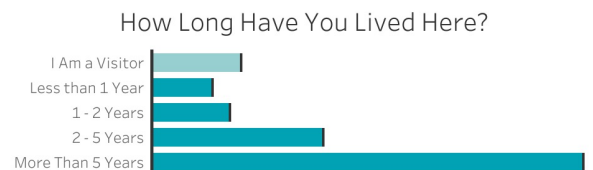
We are majority over-55, with the largest age group being 65 to 72. Our smallest represented group is aged 85 to 94, with ages 13-18 also little represented.

The accuracy of this range of ages is supported by 2020 census data for Huerfano County as a whole, which reported 50% over 55 and 20% 18 and under.

**Where respondents live and how long they have lived there is also important.**



Most reported that they live within the District, with people from in La Veta being the largest group, by far. But, a significant minority are from outside the District, the county, and even the state.



Most have lived in the District for more than five years years. Relative newcomers (less than five years) and visitors are also a major part of the community.



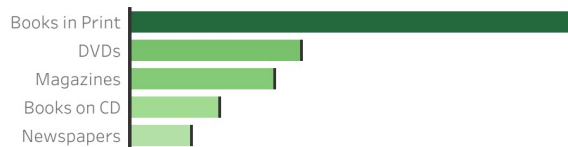
Finally, most reported being full-time residents, part-timers and visitors are also significant.

# La Veta Public Library

## How do they use the Library?

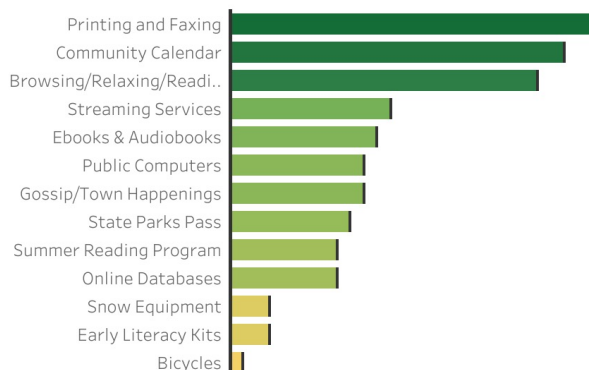
**Overwhelmingly, our community uses the Library to find their next great read.** Respondents said they check out books and other print material more than twice as much as they use any other library resource or service.

Use of Traditional Materials



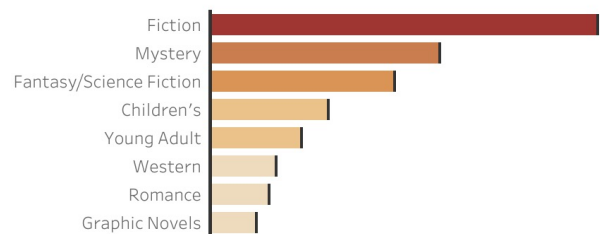
Patrons use the Library for much more than checking out traditional materials, too. They rely on the Library's many services, programs, and items from our "Library of Things".

Use of Services, Digital Materials, and Library of Things



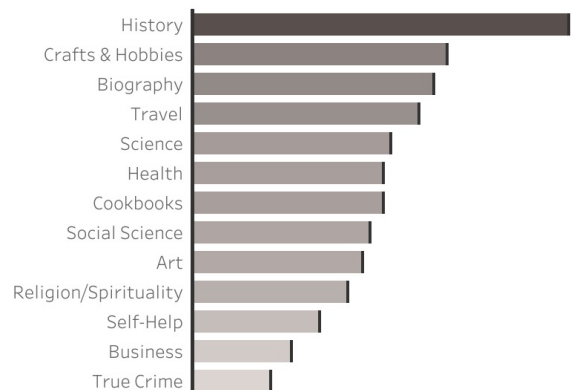
**We are a community of readers.**

Fiction Genres by Popularity



In fiction, General Fiction is tops, but Mystery also very popular, followed by Fantasy/Science Fiction, and Children's Fiction.

Nonfiction Genres by Popularity



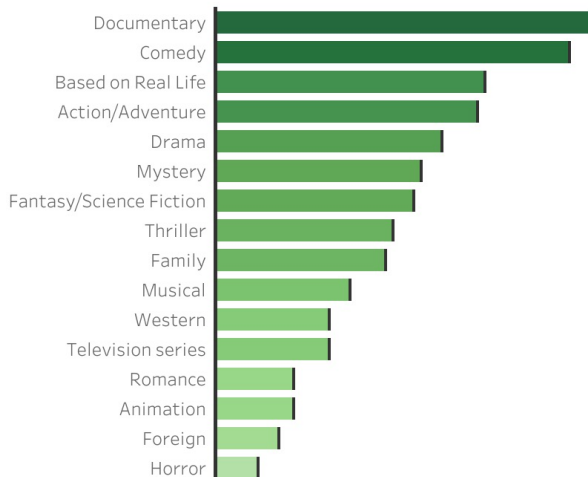
In nonfiction, History is hugely popular. Our readers also enjoy Crafts and Hobbies, Biography, and Travel. The spread of preferences is much more even in nonfiction, meaning our patrons have well-rounded interests.

# La Veta Public Library

## How else is the Library used?

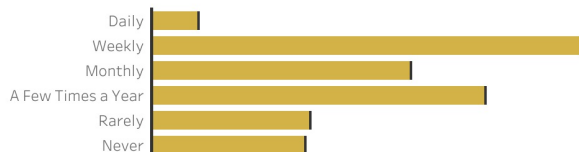
**We also really like movies.** The most popular genre is documentaries with comedy a close second and real-life stories ranking high as well.

Movie Genres by Popularity



### We visit the Library a lot!

"I Visit the Library..."

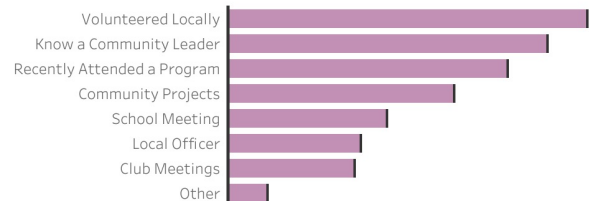


The overwhelming majority of respondents said they visit the Library weekly or monthly. A small but dedicated group reported visiting daily. In 2022 there were over 30,000 visits to the Library!

**We are very busy.** We volunteer, a lot, our community leaders are highly visible, and we take part in community projects.

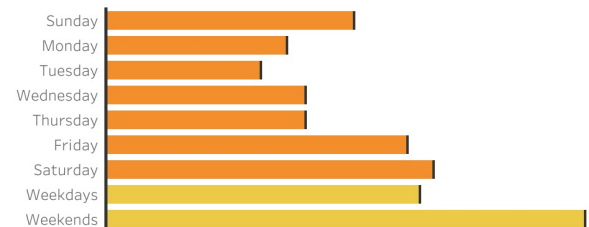
The Library hosts many programs for adults and children, and a majority of respondents reported having attended a program recently.

Community Involvement



Respondents preferred events on the weekends, and also preferred afternoons (although evenings are a close second).

Preferred Day of the Week for Events



Preferred Times of Day for Events



# La Veta Public Library

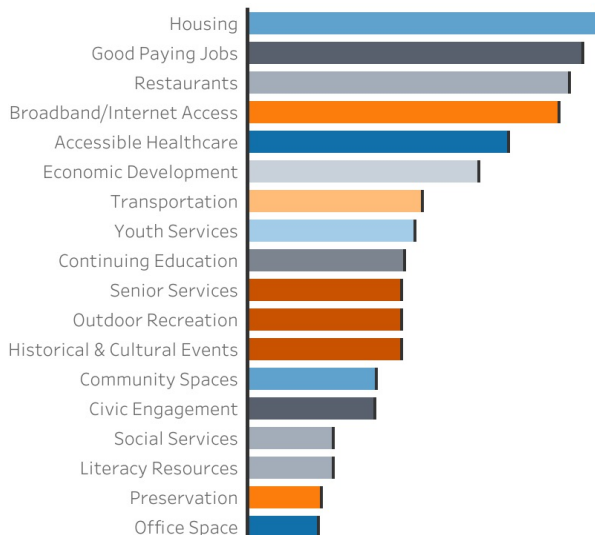
## What are the community's needs?

### Like much of Colorado, housing and jobs are at the top of the list of our community's needs.

Respondents felt the region also needed restaurants (a need that is, perhaps, region-specific), internet service, and accessible healthcare.

Services for youth and seniors, as well as the importance of outdoor recreation, community spaces, and transportation are also evident in the survey. General economic develop is also important.

Unmet Needs

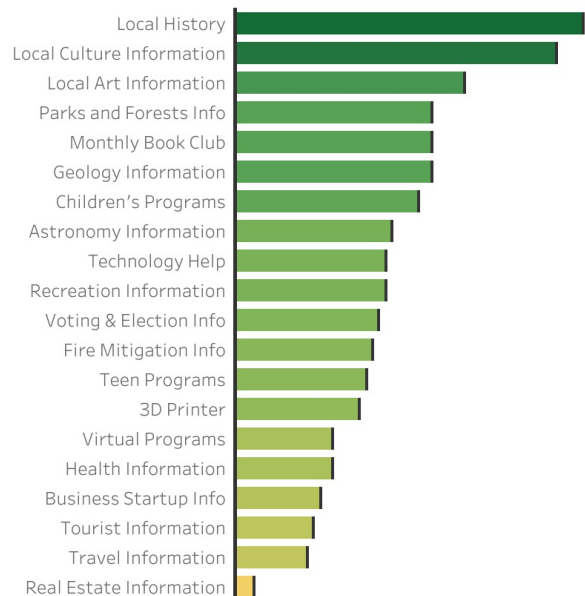


Library-specific needs were varied.

Local History, as a general subject, was at the top of the list. The Library is an important hub for information, and this was reflected strongly in what people would like to see here. Programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as tech help are also well-represented.

Of a more local nature, there was strong support for information about geology and astronomy. Also, it looks like there is support for a 3D printer at the Library.

"I Would Like to See at the Library"

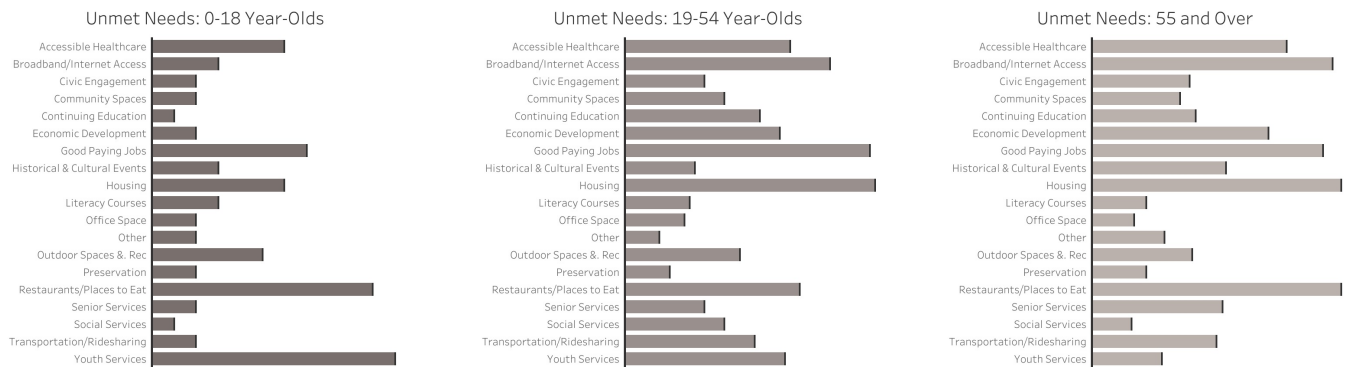




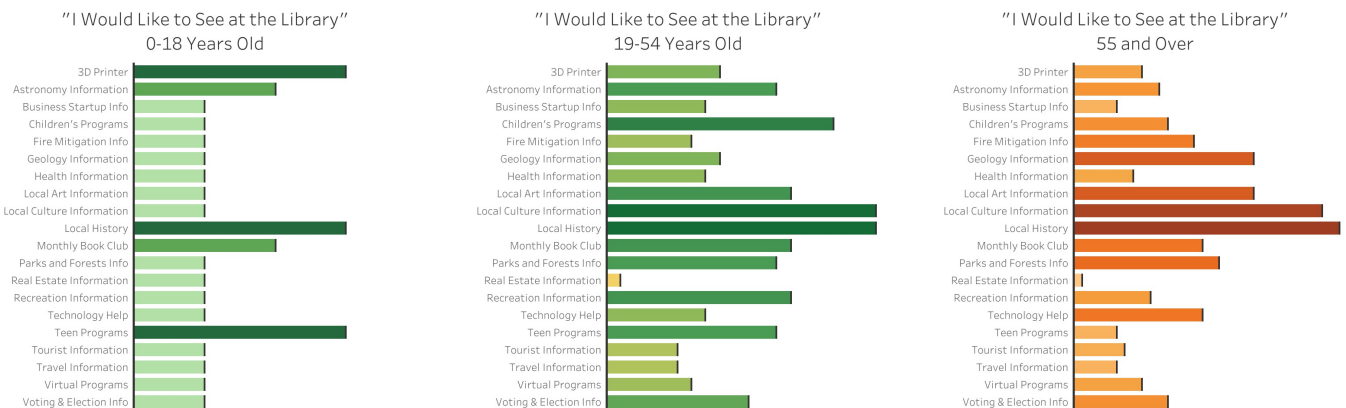
# La Veta Public Library

## What are the community's needs?

### Needs vary by age.



**In the community**, younger respondents showed strong preferences for youth services and places to eat. Working-age people were concerned about housing, good-paying jobs, and reliable internet – something shared with older respondents. Older respondents also prioritized accessible healthcare and transportation. The younger and older age groups also shared a particular concern for places to eat.



**In the Library**, it seems all ages were united in the interest in local history. Younger people were also interested in youth programs and 3D printing. Working and retired respondents shared strong interests in art and culture. Working age people indicated a stronger interest in children's and family activities, while older respondents showed a need for tech help, and a singular interest in geology.



# La Veta Public Library

## How is the Library responding?

### **The Library's mission is to serve the community with materials and services that meet its current and future needs.**

This survey underlines that the Library is doing a good job meeting the core needs the community expects: great materials – mainly in print – and excellent programs. We will continue to invest in those, more conventional services.

- We hear the community's need for space to work, explore, and relax and we are pursuing ways to make this possible. We will continue to make the Cuchara Library available Memorial Day through Labor Day and we are delighted to partner with Cuchara Lokal Hotel which has provided a larger and more central space. We will grow the Cuchara Branch to make it a welcoming, quiet place in the heart of Cuchara complete with programs, toys, and games alongside excellent books and movies.
- We are also pursuing funding to create a space dedicated to individual small group meeting/co-working/tele-working that can be reserved and used by anyone year round at the La Veta Library. It will also feature a wide format printer.

- In 2023 we started Trivia Nights in partnership with Mountain Merman Brewing. This outreach program has been a wild success, reaching hundreds, including many people within the often overlooked 19-54 age group. We are very interested in creating more partnerships with local businesses like this, and we welcome ideas from business owners.
- We continue our formal and informal strong relationship with La Veta RE-1 School District by sharing our children's librarian in a job-share arrangement, providing continuity of Library services for children and youth in our community.

We are always seeking partnerships with other community organizations, local businesses, and individuals. Our combined strength will ensure that we meet the needs of our dynamic community now, and into the future.

### **Do you have an idea for programs and services, or for things to add to our collection? Let us know!**

La Veta Regional Library District  
PO Box 28  
La Veta, CO 81055

719-742-3572

[info@lvpl.org](mailto:info@lvpl.org)