

# Brampton Library

## Pre-Budget Progress Update

*Committee of Council*  
*September 22, 2021*

**Jaipaul Massey-Singh, Chair**  
**Todd Kyle, CEO**



# Agenda

- Library Contribution to Pandemic Recovery
- Facilities Master Plan Update
- 2021-22 Achievements and Plans

# Brampton Library Mission

Brampton Library is a world-class destination that creates opportunities for everyone to discover their full potential through literacy, learning and building community.





# Brampton Library Contribution to Pandemic Recovery

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# Library Contribution to Pandemic Recovery

- The Library provides crucial social infrastructure to support pandemic recovery efforts:
  - Supports economic opportunity
  - Facilitates academic success
  - Deepens equity, reduces the “digital divide”
  - Provides safe and accessible public space
  - Serves as an access point to marginalized groups
  - Connects newcomers to their community
  - Helps alleviate social isolation



# Brampton Library During the Pandemic

- The Library was uniquely positioned to pivot to a remote environment:
  - Digital Library
  - Curbside borrowing
  - Library app / virtual library card
  - Online Chat assistance
  - Virtual programs
  - Makerspace on demand
  - Care Call check-ins with seniors

To Brampton library staff -

Thank you, thank you,  
Thank you for having  
books available during this  
pandemic.

Reading has helped the  
time pass by more  
pleasureably.

A very satisfied patron

# Brampton Library Piloted Fines Free

- During pandemic, BL temporarily removed all fines to reduce barriers
- Part of a North American-wide trend to remove fines permanently; more than 40 in Ontario alone
- Fines are increasingly at odds with the Library's mission, impacting those least able to pay, most vulnerable, and often racialized



<https://www.urbanlibraries.org/resources/fine-free-mapa.org>



# Facilities Master Plan Update

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# Facilities Master Plan Milestones

- Procured Services of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants to support update of Library Facilities Master Plan
- Insights Report Completed
  - Surveyed ~1000 residents, held public and stakeholder workshops
  - Draft vision: “World class libraries at your doorstep”
- Facility Tours completed assessing opportunities and challenges
- Currently Gaps and Needs assessment underway
- Draft report to Library Board in the fall

# According to the Facilities Master Plan survey...

- 87% of Residents surveyed said that Brampton Library is important to their household



# According to the Facilities Master Plan survey...

## Top 5 Activities & Services Currently Used at Brampton Library

1. Browse & Borrow Books (90%)
2. Use Library Website (51%)
3. Read & Relax (43%)
4. Browse & Borrow CDs/DVDs (38%)
5. Access Library programs/events (37%)

## Top 5 Activities & Services that could be Provided to Encourage Greater Use

1. Outdoor Reading Areas / Gardens (37%)
2. Expanding the Digital Library (32%)
3. Expanding the Print Collection (29%)
4. More Library Programs & Events (29%)
5. Improved Child / Teen Areas (25%)

# Square Footage Gap

- Ontario public library standard is to provide 0.6 sq. ft. of library space per resident
- At current population, Brampton Library should be operating with ~400,000 sq. ft., a gap of ~200,000 square feet and growing
- The Facilities Master Plan will help support the Boards growth plan over the next ten years

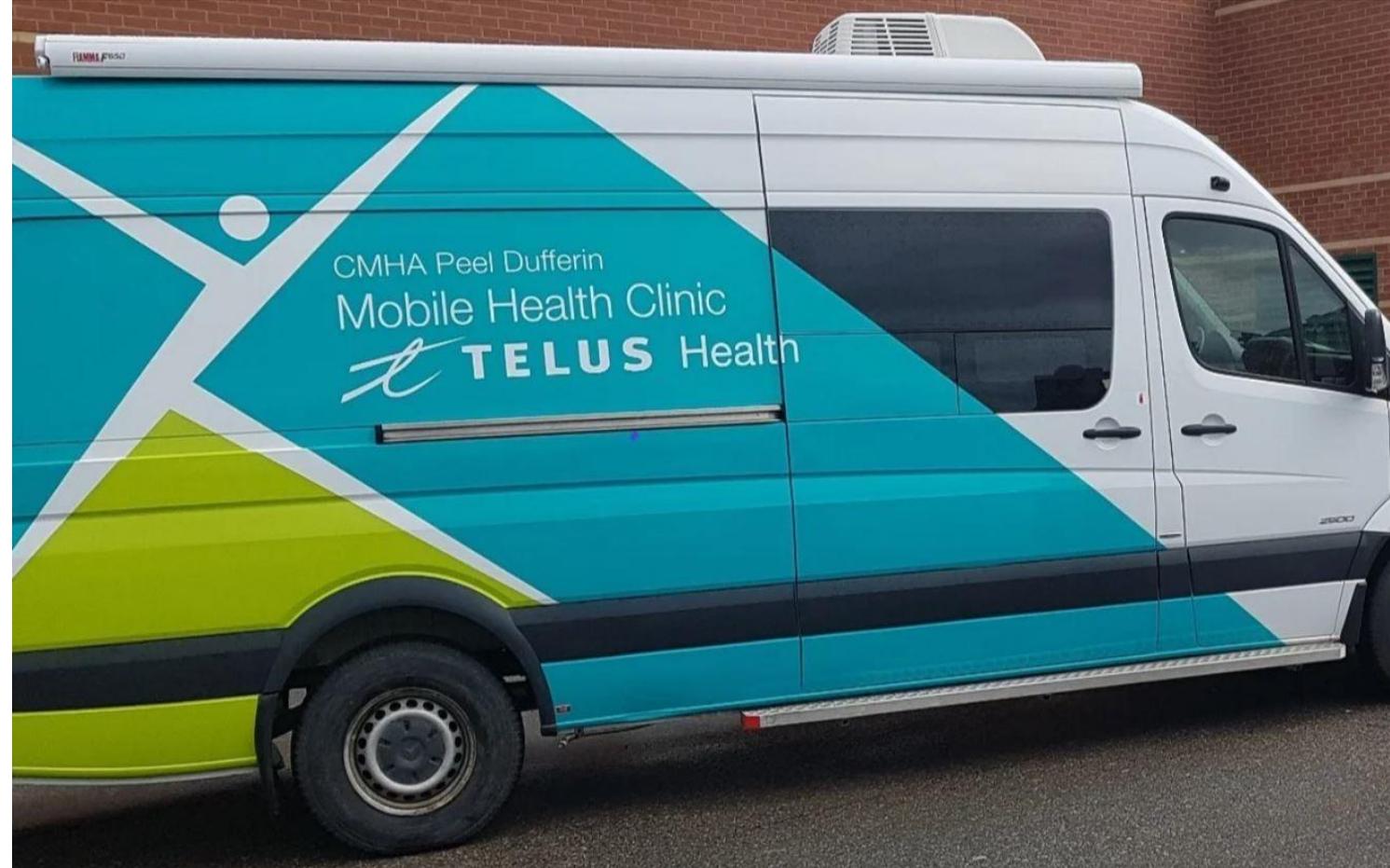


# Brampton Library 2021-22 Achievements and Plans

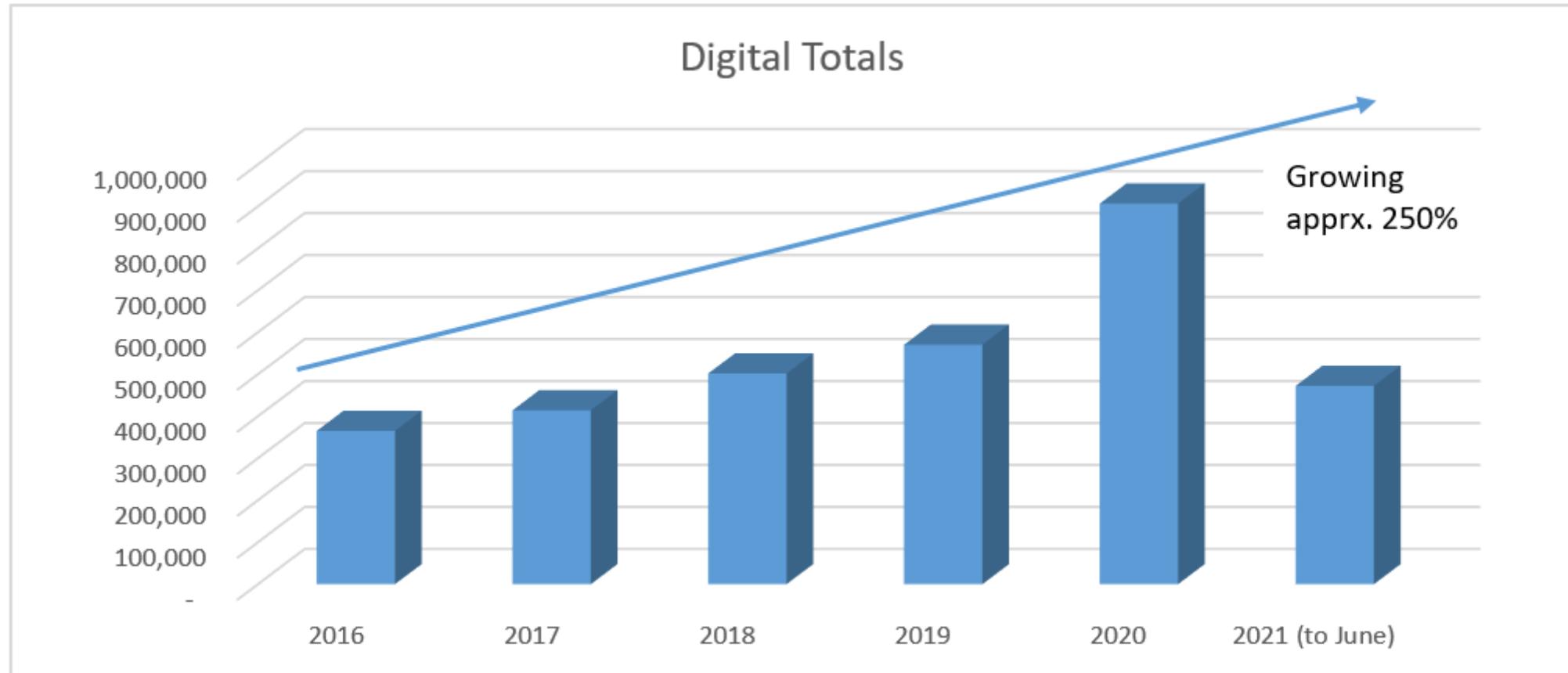
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# 2021 Achievement Highlights

- Continue growth of Digital Library demand
- Introduced Online Chat and integrated virtual program/registration platform
- Partnership with CMHA Peel Dufferin to provide a Mobile Health Clinic at Four Corners
- Social connections through Care Calls, Visiting Library Services (VLS), and Virtual programming
- IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility) strategy launch



# Digital Materials Growth Since 2016



# Library Growth Opportunities

## Centre for Innovation

- Work is underway on planning a City Library as a key anchor
- Internal Library team working with the chosen architect

## Urban Community Hubs

- Actively engaged and in the planning of
  - Uptown Brampton Hub
  - Queen Street East Hub



# Library Growth Opportunities



## South West

- Planning on an increase to staffing compliment to support additional branch hours at existing South West Branch
- Looking for opportunities for a greater presence in this rapidly growing development



# Fund Development

- Priority of the Library Board
- Objective is to seek resources, funds and grants that enhance library programs and support services outside Library core model.
- Common function in North American public libraries to connect with the community and explore innovative partnerships
- Seeking permanent resources to support this in 2022

# Post-Pandemic Library Plans

- **Support economic opportunity**
  - Expand Makerspaces to contribute to the creative economy
  - Introduce new Digital Library learning and creativity services
- **Facilitate academic success**
  - Expand After-Hours Study spaces to more locations
  - Introduce new Digital Library tutoring service
- **Deepen equity and reduce the digital divide**
  - Permanently remove overdue fines as endorsed by the Library Board
  - Pilot a program to loan WiFi hotspots and mobile devices

# Another positive resident comment

As regular library users and residents of Brampton, we wish to express our profound thanks for the excellent curbside pickup services as well as all the different Grab-and-Go packs that were offered throughout the summer.

With so much generous library services that were continually offered, it was much easier to keep kids engaged in productive activities during the summer. Our kids also enjoyed the BrainGames activities very much.

During the summer, due to her great interest in reading and the English language, our child... participated for the first time and won this year's Brampton Chapter of the regional Spelling Bee Junior Category (9 - 11 years) competition.

Due to the very significant role played by the Brampton Library's book collections and other services in our children's overall development and the recent success in the Spelling Bee competition, we wanted to share this news with the library and thank you for the role the library continually plays in our lives.

# Thank you!

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