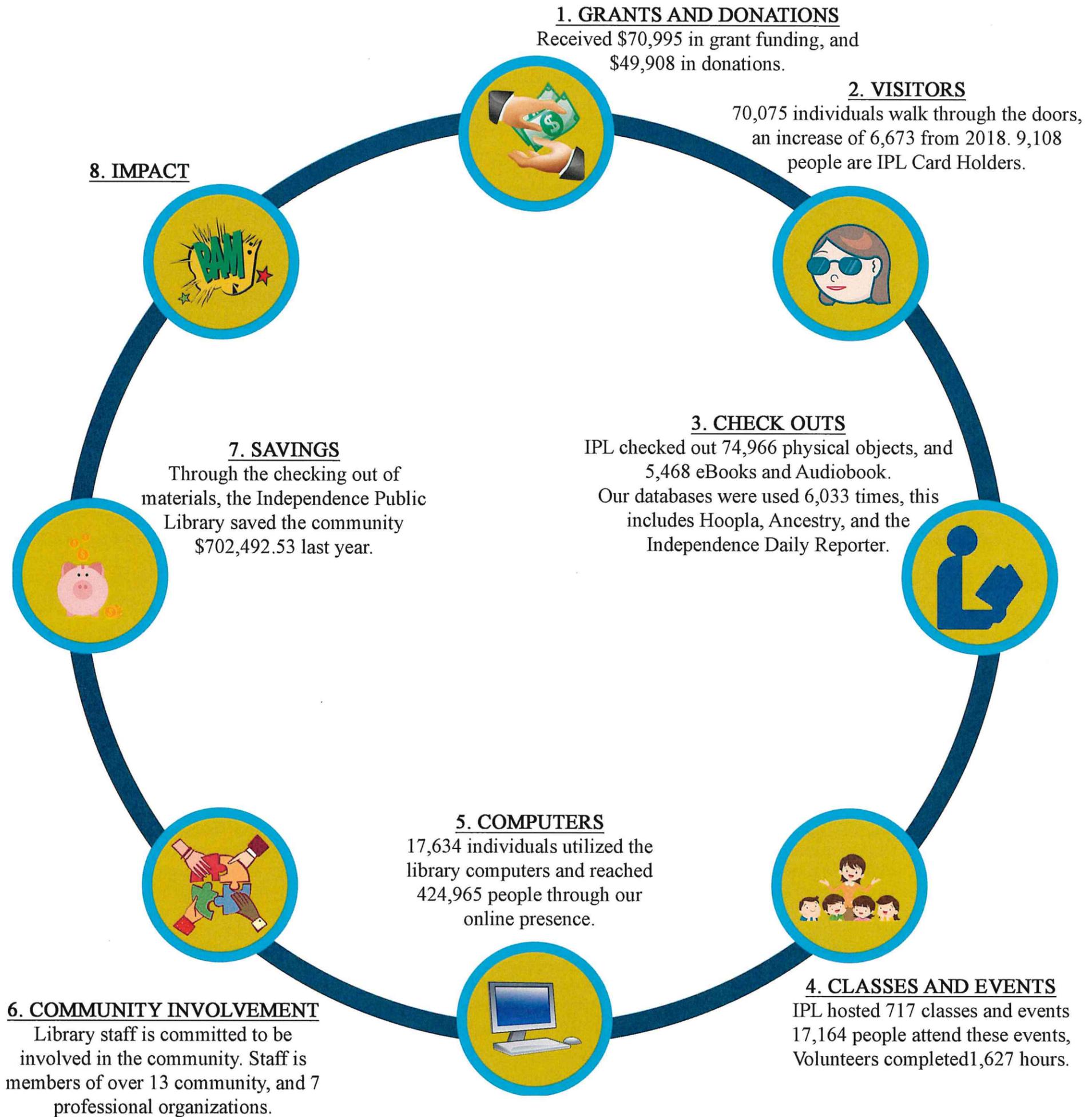


IPL'S 2019

COMMUNITY IMPACT



8. IMPACT

The library works hard to encourage children in our community to love books as much as we do. This love is never more evident than during the Summer Reading Program when children are challenged to read as much as possible to prevent "summer slide," or the loss of skills built during the school year. Last year's grand prize for the teen participants was a new laptop computer. There was much interest, and one teen, in particular, worked through the requirements quickly to ensure he got a chance at winning. His mother had prepared him for the possibility of disappointment, as often happens in drawings, but this was his lucky year. His hard work paid off in the form of winning a computer. All total, 262 children participated in the reading portion of our summer reading program, with 1,735 children attending 85 classes and events offered during the summer months.

Each summer, the library serves sack lunches provided by USD 446 through the Summer Food Service Program. That program is limited to June and July, and through generous donations of food and time, the library was able to expand its program to cover the entire summer vacation in 2019. We have many families who rely on the library during the summer for boredom busting and the sack lunch program. For a lot of our regular patrons, the meal was their first of the day. Seeing the need, staff worked to expand this program even further into providing an after school snack most afternoons. Once school is dismissed, the regular crowd rushes in, eager to know what the snack of the day will be.