

Municipality of Anchorage  
 Library Advisory Board Agenda  
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
 Loussac Library (Moose Room)  
 May 20, 2026

**Board Members**

Megan Cacciola, Olivia Garrett, Jen Griffis, Marc Johnson, Wade Hampton Miller,  
 Cristy Willer

Topic	Leader	Time
1. Call to Order	LAB Chair	5:30
2. Roll Call	LAB Chair	5:30
3. Approval of Agenda	LAB Chair	5:40
4. Approval of Minutes	LAB Chair	5:45
5. Public Participation	TBA	5:50
6. Library Spotlight	Staff	---
a. Resource: <i>None</i>		---
b. Service: <i>Outreach</i>	Sandy Lukes Community Engagement/ Outreach Librarian	6:00
7. Disclosures	TBA	6:15
8. Unfinished Business – None	LAB Chair	---
9. New Business – Budget Update	Mollie Roache Budget Coordinator	6:20
10. Monthly Board Report	Elizabeth Nicolai, APL Assistant Director	6:40
11. Board Comments	LAB Chair	6:50
12. Adjournment	LAB Chair	7:00

Following is a link to join the meeting virtually:

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 292 276 050 799

Passcode: jEfGNp

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 907-519-0237](tel:+19075190237), [632109625#](tel:+1632109625) United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: 632 109 625#



**Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board  
Minutes of the Meeting of April 15, 2026**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Willer convened the meeting at 5:34 p.m. in Anchorage Public Library, 3600 Denali Street, Salmon Room, Anchorage, Alaska.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Megan Cacciola, Jen Griffis, Marc Johnson, Wade Hampton Miller, Cristy Willer.

Absent: Olivia Garrett

Also in attendance were Marjorie Harrison, Library Director; Rebecca Lampert, Junior Admin Officer; Lisa Bricker, Youth Services Librarian; and Andi Haley, Adult Services Supervisor.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Wade Hampton Miller moved, Megan Cacciola seconded,  
To approve of the agenda of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of April 15, 2026,  
**and the motion passed without objection.**

**4. Minutes of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of March 18, 2026.**

Marc Johnson moved, Jen Griffis seconded,  
To approve the minutes of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of March 18, 2026,  
**and the motion passed without objection.**

**5. Public Participation-- *None*.**

**6. Library Spotlight**

Resource: STEM Kits – Lisa Bricker, Youth Services Librarian.

Service: Winter Reading Challenge – Andi Haley, Adult Services Supervisor.

**7. Disclosures – *None***

**8. Old Business – *None*.**

**9. New Business – *None***

**10. Reports: Monthly Board Report – Marjorie Harrison, Library Director**

## **11. Member Comments –**

- The Board discussed holding their monthly meeting in other selected branches, to be planned with at least three months' notice.
- The Board discussed delays in the appointment of three LAB applicants.

## **12. Adjournment**

Chair Willer adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The next Library Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 20, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Lampert, Junior Admin Officer for  
Marjorie Harrison, Library Director  
MH/rl

*For detailed Board discussion, please refer to the recording of this meeting located on the Anchorage Public Library Website at <https://bit.ly/APLLABYouTube>*

# Anchorage Public Library Budget

---

2026 ANNUAL UPDATE

A decorative horizontal bar at the bottom of the page, consisting of a blue section on the left and an orange section on the right.


# Mission and Vision

---

Connecting people to education, information, and community.

---

Our vision is for the Municipality of Anchorage to be an educated and connected community where our Library is an essential center for learning, inspiration, and community pride for people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures.



# Values

---

ACCESS | COMMUNITY | **INTEGRITY** | LEARNING

We endeavor to be trusted stewards of public resources by providing reliable and sustainable services.

We are supportive of each other, **transparent in decision making**, and mission focused.

# 2025 Budget

---

ACCOUNTABILITY



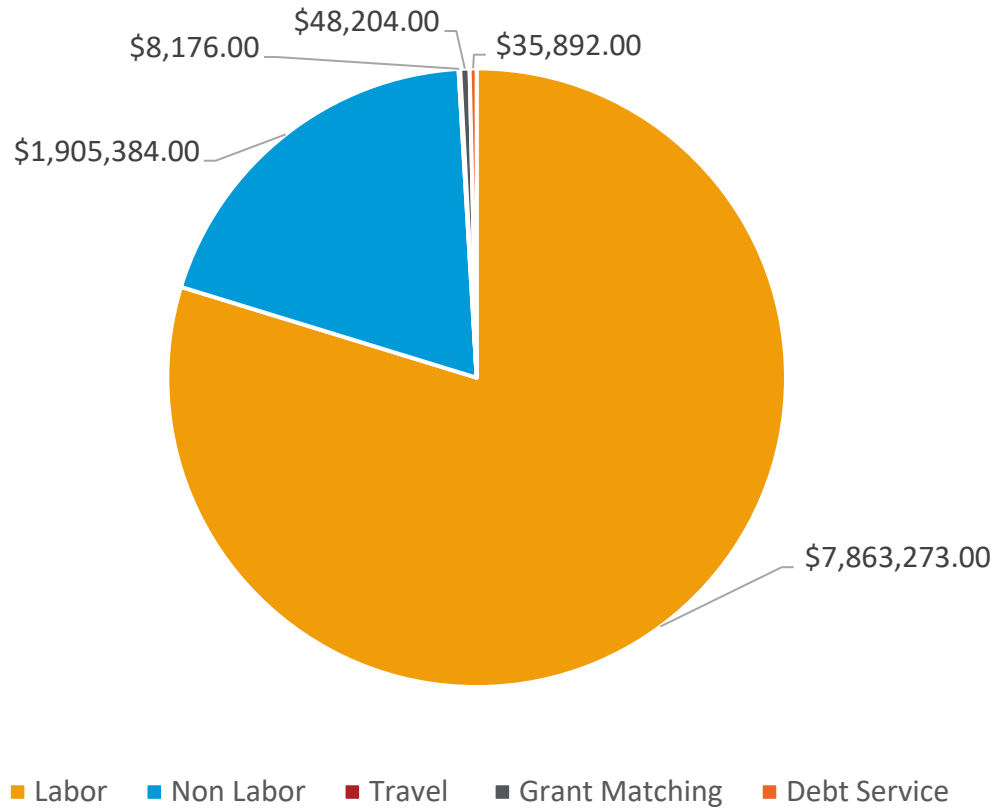
# Operating Budget Recap

---

97% spent out on labor | 99% spent out on non-labor

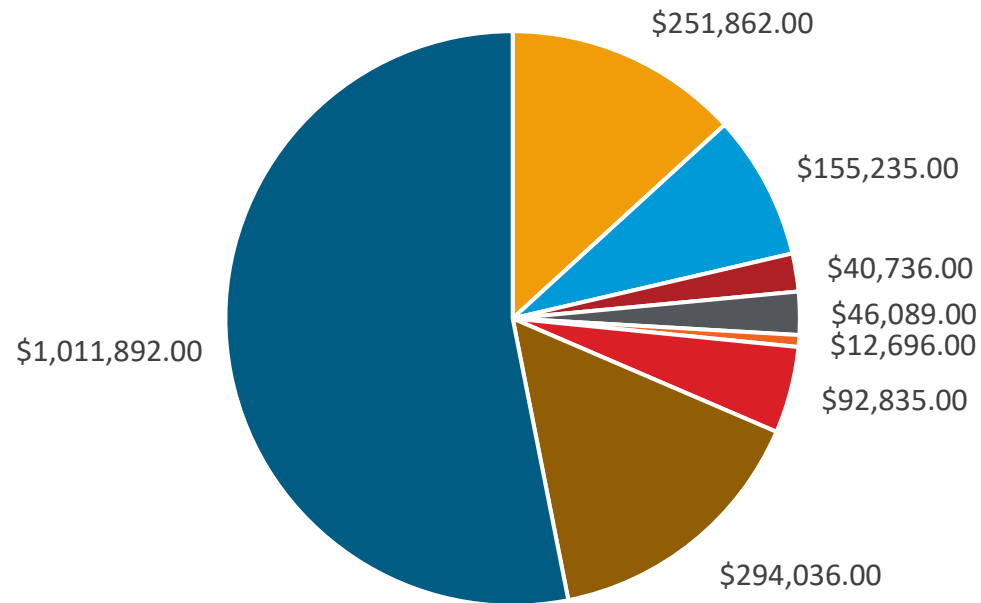
# 2025 Actuals

---



# 2025 Actuals

---



- Administration
- Branches
- Adult Services
- Circulation
- Youth Services
- Technical Services
- Automation
- Collections

## 2025 Projects Completed

---

Displays

---

Teen Area on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

---

Administration Printer

---

Mountain View sidewalks

---

HVAC panel installed at Loussac

---

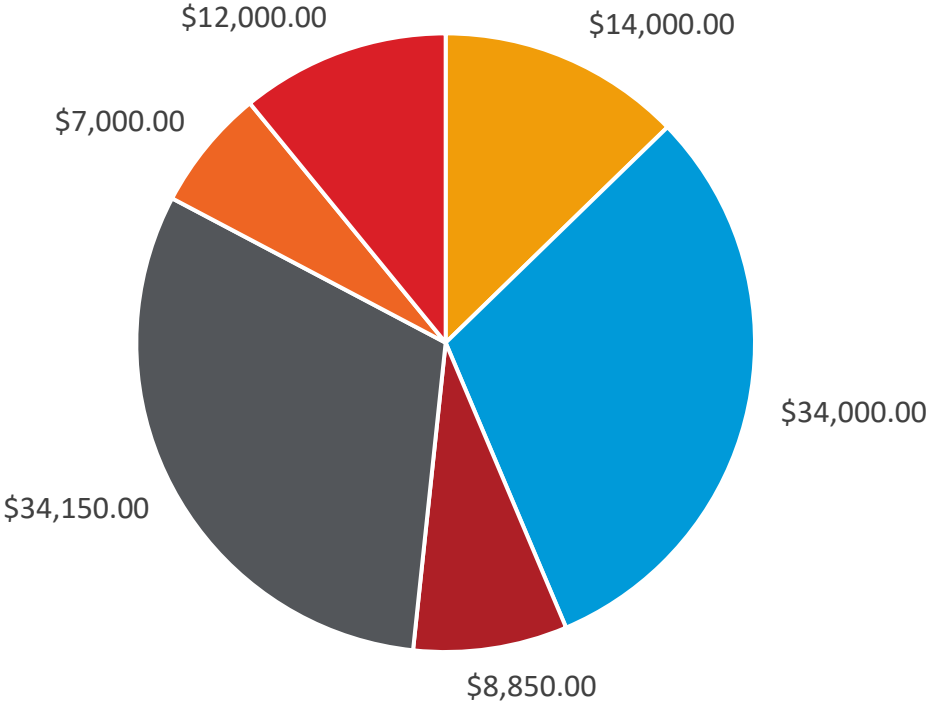
Chugiak-Eagle River awning over bookdrop

---

Mountain View Community Room tables

# 2025 FOL Donations

---



■ Adult Services ■ Youth Services ■ Branches ■ Collections ■ Community Relations ■ Public Services

# Anchorage Library Foundation

---

## 2025 Giving

- Mountain View Bike Rack
- Mini Grants
- Mobile Library Wrap
- Marketing

# 2026 Library Budget

---

TRANSPARENCY

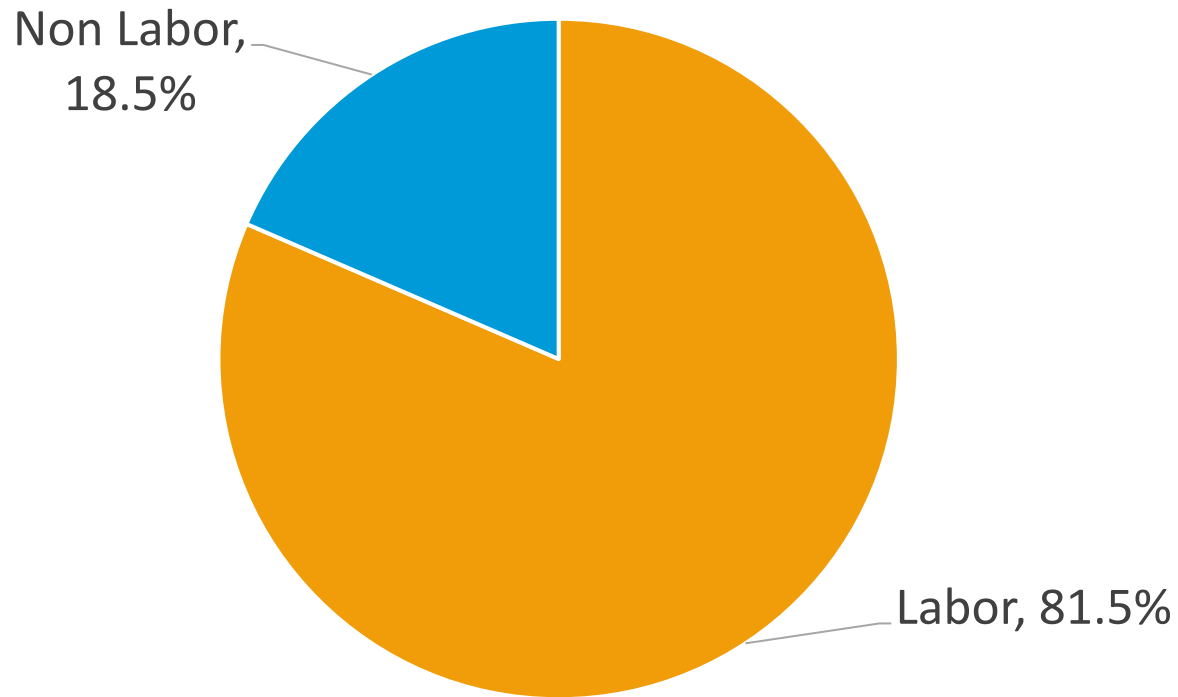


# A little perspective

THE LIBRARY  
OPERATING  
BUDGET IS  
1.6% OF THE  
TOTAL  
MUNICIPAL  
BUDGET.

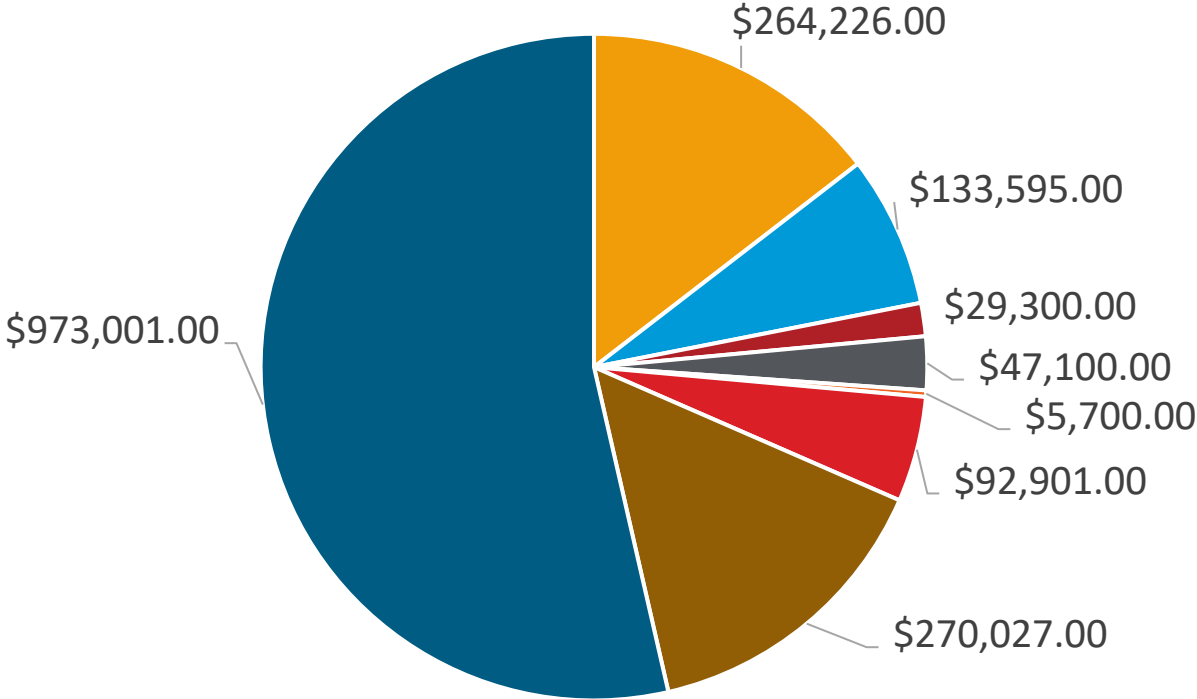
# 2026 Library Operating Budget

---



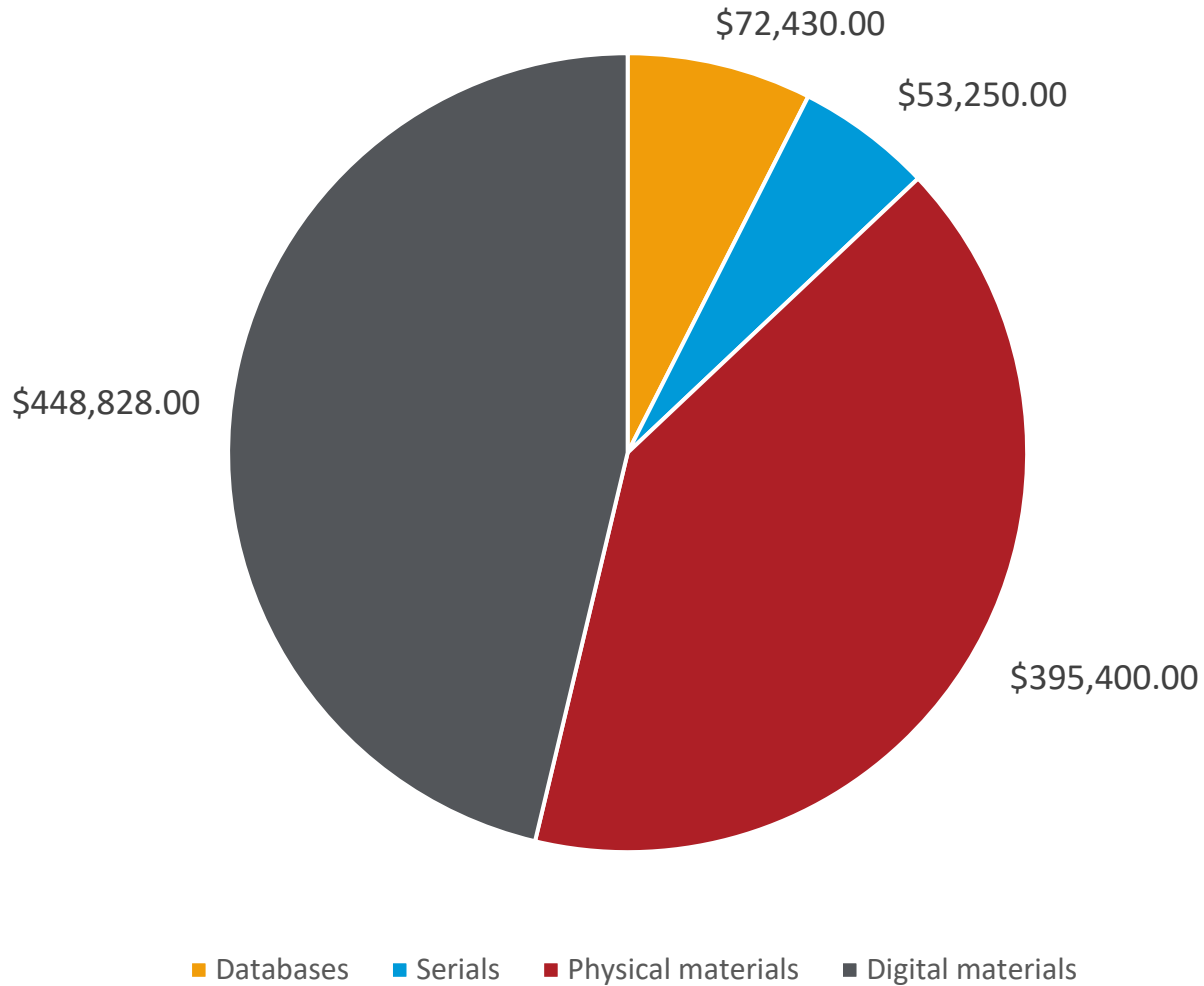
# 2026 Non-Labor Budget

---



- Admin
- Branches
- Adult Services
- Circulation
- Youth Services
- Tech Services
- Automation
- Collections

# Collections Budget



# 2026 Projects

---

Strategic Plan Workgroups and Initiatives – All Year

Additional Security guard for Loussac - January

Lucky Day collection - March

New printing software - April

Book vendor onboarding – June

New desk for Chugiak-Eagle River\* – June

Mobile Library – June

New incident reporting software – November

# 2027 Budget Planning

---

ADVOCACY



# Priorities


---

A graphic element for the 'Staffing' priority, consisting of a solid orange rounded rectangle behind a white rounded rectangle with an orange border.

Staffing

A graphic element for the 'Safety and Security' priority, consisting of a solid orange rounded rectangle behind a white rounded rectangle with an orange border.

Safety and  
Security

A graphic element for the 'Core Services' priority, consisting of a solid orange rounded rectangle behind a white rounded rectangle with an orange border.

Core  
Services

# Challenges

Municipal budget forecast

Demand for digital materials

Building maintenance

Aging technology

Staffing levels and capacity

Safety and security

# Capital Improvement Projects

---

Loussac 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Construction

Loussac 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Design and Construction

Loussac 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Design and Construction

Loussac HVAC

Loussac Grounds

Mountain View Library Remodel

Muldoon Library and Transit Center

South Anchorage Branch

# Previous Bonds

---

## **Loussac Library – 3rd Floor**

Design funded up to 30%. Project start delayed, so the original plan to bond for construction in 2027 has been pushed back.

## **Loussac Elevators**

Project commenced Spring 2026 to replace staff elevator and public elevator 2 and 3 located in the central core of the building.

## **Loussac Skylight / Windows**

In 2025, voters approved a \$2.5 mil bond to fund new windows at the Loussac Library. Capital projects staff has begun initial review of the current skylight.

## **Chugiak-Eagle River Carpet**

Voters approved the project in 2025. No movement yet on getting new carpet.

# 2026 Project Updates

---

## **Loussac Library – 2nd Floor**

Bond for design passed in April 2026. Timeline for project start TBD.

## **Mountain View Library**

Although identified as a 2026 priority, the administration did not move the remodel/expansion forward due to competing municipal maintenance needs.

## **Downtown Library**

Construction scheduled for summer 2026. This is the top priority for library staff and municipal teams. Funded by an Alaska State Grant and the Anchorage Library Foundation.

# Proposed 2027 Bond Package

---

## **Loussac 3rd Floor – Complete Design**

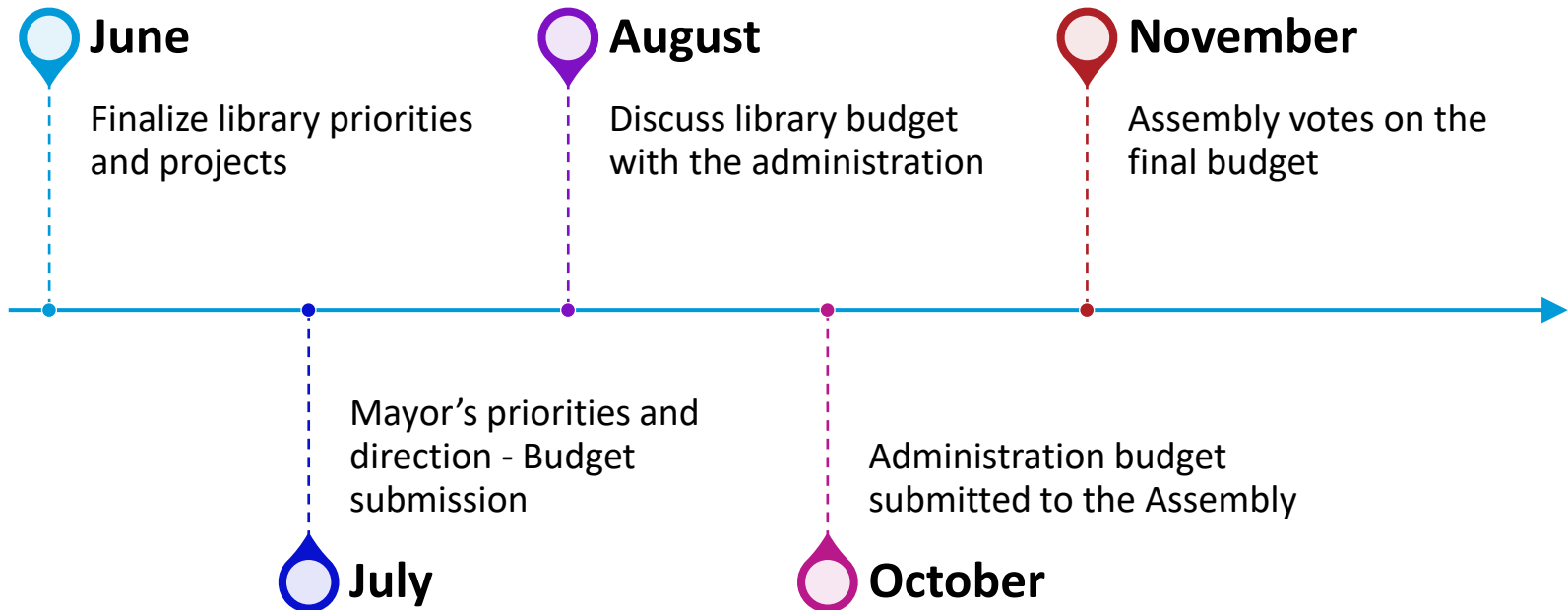
Request additional funding to increase budget from 30% to 100% engineering and design.

## **Loussac HVAC Replacement**

Phase 2 requested for 2027 bond. Phase 1 (control panel replacement) was completed in 2025 using operating funds made available through staffing vacancies. Need to coordinate with MOA Facilities if identified as the priority project.

# TIMELINE

---



# FEEDBACK

---

The proposed  
capital  
improvement plan

Additional  
priorities for our  
non-labor budget

# Thank you

---

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT,  
ADVOCACY, AND ENGAGEMENT.



ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
2027-2031

Roache, Mollie K

# Table of Contents

2026 Updates .....	1
Project Summary and Estimates .....	1
Mountain View Remodel and Expansion .....	2
Loussac Library Third Floor Renovation – Phase Two Completion with Alaska Room.....	5
Muldoon Library and Transit Center Co-Location Facility .....	9
Loussac Library Second Floor Youth Area Renovation .....	12
Loussac Library Grounds Safety and Accessibility Improvements.....	14
South Anchorage Library – New Branch .....	16
Loussac Library 4th Floor Event Space (Learning Commons) .....	19
Loussac HVAC .....	21

## 2026 Updates

### Loussac 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Bond for design passed in April 2026. Timeline for project start not yet established.

### Loussac 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Design funded up to 30%. Project start delayed, so the original plan to bond for construction in 2027 has been pushed back.

### Mountain View Library:

Although identified as a 2026 priority, the administration did not move the remodel/expansion forward. Given the deferred maintenance on many municipal buildings including Loussac this may continue to be pushed back by the administration.

### Downtown Library:

Construction scheduled for summer 2026. This is the top priority for library staff and municipal teams. Funded by an Alaska State Grant and the Anchorage Library Foundation.

## Proposed Bond package for 2027

- **Loussac 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Complete Design**

Additional design funds requested to bring project design from 30% to 100%.

- **Loussac HVAC Replacement**

Phase 2 requested for 2027 bond. Phase 1 (control panel replacement) was completed in 2025 using operating funds made available through staffing vacancies.

## Project Summary and Estimates

Proposed Bond Year	Project Description	Budget
2029 / 2031	Mountain View remodel design / construction	\$ 500,000 / \$ 4,500,000
2027 / 2028	Loussac 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor with Alaska Room (Adult services) design / construction	\$ 350,000/ \$ 2,500,000
2028	Muldoon relocation with new transit center	\$ 4,000,000
2026 / 2029	Loussac 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor (Youth Services) design / construction	\$ 300,000 / \$ 2,000,000
2028 / 2030	Loussac grounds design / construction	\$200,000 / \$ 2,000,000
2031 / 2033	South Anchorage branch design / construction	\$ 500,000 / \$ 10,000,000
2029 / 2031	Loussac 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor (Event Space) design / construction	\$ 2,000,000
2027	Loussac HVAC full replacement	\$ 10,000,000

## Mountain View Remodel and Expansion

### Project Scope and Description

The Mountain View library celebrated its 15-year anniversary in 2025 and has become a central feature and vital resource for the community. Over the years, demand for safe, collaborative, and technology-rich spaces has increased dramatically, and the current facility is no longer able to adequately serve its users. With 112,460 visits in 2024, the Mountain View library is the most visited branch in the Anchorage Public Library system and the first location to return to pre-pandemic visits.

The library has prioritized this remodel and expansion due to significant and ongoing safety concerns as well as a high level of community need. In 2024, Mountain View Library recorded 41 trespass incidents and 52 in 2025 compared to the 11 incidents at Muldoon Library in 2025 and 8 at Chugiak-Eagle River Library.

A 2024 space audit and internal review identified serious deficiencies:

- An outdated layout lacking general seating, study rooms, and safe staff areas,
- numerous blind spots that compromise safety both inside and outside the building,
- cracked sidewalks, faded signage, and worn landscaping that make the exterior unsafe and uninviting,
- oversized, single-exit circulation desk poses safety risks and hinders staff efficiency, and
- minimal children's and teen areas unable to accommodate high after school traffic and families.

This project will directly respond to those issues by expanding the building footprint, improving interior layout, and redesigning the exterior to reduce blind spots and make the library safer, more accessible, and better suited for its growing user base.

## Design Phase

### Planning and Design

- Engage professional space planners, architects, and engineers.
- Develop conceptual, schematic, and final designs that align with long-term library service goals including:
  - Dedicated teen area
  - Study rooms and collaborative workspaces
  - Improved sightlines and staff areas
  - Redesigned circulation desk
  - Safer, more visible landscaping layout
  - Updated signage and façade plans
  - Integration of 2025 security camera system and related infrastructure
- Incorporate community and stakeholder input.
- Conduct site and safety assessments (including traffic flow, blind spots, and ADA compliance).
- Finalize construction documents, cost estimates and secure permits.

## Construction Phase

### Building Expansion

- Increase the building footprint to:
  - Add general seating,
  - create teen space, and
  - install collaborative and individual study areas.

### Interior Redesign

- Reconfigure layout to:

- Eliminate interior blind spots.
- Improve staff visibility and supervision
- Install redesigned, safer circulation desk.
- Add or renovate staff spaces with multiple exits.

### Exterior Improvements

- Replace cracked sidewalks and repair hardscaping.
- Update and install new signage and building façade elements.
- Redesign landscaping to eliminate concealed areas and increase visibility.

### Current Use and Justification

Despite its small footprint, the Mountain View Library is one of APL’s busiest branch libraries:

- Highest branch visits (88,281 in 2025)
- Most WiFi usage (17,221 unique users)
- Most public computer use (8,641 sessions)
- 171 youth programs with 2,188 attendees
- 64 adult programs with 792 attendees

### Branch Comparison Snapshot (2024)

Branch	Footfall	Circulation	Unique WiFi Users	Computer Usage
Chugiak-Eagle River	78,771	184,842	6,910	2,928
Gerrish	26,282	22,323	3,321	2,928
Mountain View	<b>88,281</b>	<b>24,441</b>	<b>17,221</b>	<b>8,641</b>
Muldoon	34,671	58,815	7,080	4,274

Mountain View Library has low circulation by comparison, however; the computer usage and WiFi are significantly higher. A sign that it is used primarily as a community gathering space rather than a traditional lending library. With a child poverty rate over 70% in the neighborhood, Mountain View Library serves a vital role by providing free internet, technology access, and safe, enriching programs for youth and families.

### Community Support and Strategic Priority

- The Anchorage Library Advisory Board has identified this as the highest-priority capital project for the library system.
- The project is strongly supported by both the Anchorage Library Foundation and Friends of the Library.

- In a 2025 public survey, 30.9% of respondents identified “making the library a safer and more welcoming place” as the primary factor that would increase their library use.
- An additional 8.3% specifically requested improved library buildings.

## Benefits of the Project

### *a. Improved Safety*

- Reduce trespass incidents by eliminating blind spots and controlling traffic flow.
- Provide safe staff areas with additional egress.
- Integrate site security improvements from the 2025 bond project.

### *b. Responsive to Community Needs*

- Expand space for teens, families, and students.
- Provide safe, functional seating and study options.
- Better serve a neighborhood with high rates of poverty and youth visitors.

### *c. Support for Library Mission*

- Create a facility that is safe, welcoming, and inspiring.
- Expand programming capacity to support lifelong learning and digital equity.

## Funding

The library will work closely with the Anchorage Library Foundation to pursue alternative funding including private donations and grant opportunities.

## Conclusion

The Mountain View Library is more than a building—it is a community cornerstone that provides free access to technology, programming, and safe public space. A full remodel and expansion will ensure that the library continues to serve the people of Mountain View with the dignity and safety they deserve. This project aligns with APL’s mission to create safe, accessible, and welcoming spaces and reflects the top priorities of both the community and library leadership.

**Increased operating expenses:** One additional FT staff member and one PT staff member.

# Loussac Library Third Floor Renovation

## Project Scope and Description

This project will complete the full renovation of the third floor of the Z.J. Loussac Library, building on improvements made during Phase One in 2015. The updated scope integrates safety,

accessibility, cultural engagement, and functional enhancements to better serve Anchorage residents and visitors.

The third floor is a vital community space used for research, studying, digital access, and public programming. Recent strategic changes have moved the adult media and print collections to this floor, which also houses the Alaska Collection, genealogy materials, newspapers, and world languages.

This renovation aims to create a safer, more inclusive, and functional environment that meets modern library standards. Key elements include the creation of a flexible Alaska Room to showcase local materials, the addition of the Lowell and Mary P. Thomas Room, and revitalized event and programming areas.

### **Lowell and Mary P. Thomas Room**

Anchorage Public Library will establish a dedicated space on the third floor—either a room or alcove—to be named the *Lowell and Mary P. Thomas Room*, in accordance with the wishes of Lowell Thomas Jr., who passed away on October 1, 2016, in Anchorage, AK. Through his will, Mr. Thomas designated a \$236,000 bequest for the creation of a space honoring himself and his wife, *Mary P. Thomas*.

This space will house books and papers authored by members of the Thomas family and offer a quiet area for reading and reflection. It will be distinct from, but complementary to, the Alaska Room and other third-floor spaces. The library will consult with Mr. Thomas's children to guide the design and setup, ensuring it reflects the family's legacy and intent. The bequest will support both design and construction of this meaningful addition.

### **Alaska Room Integration**

As part of the renovation, the library will create a recognizable and accessible Alaska Room area that showcases the Alaska Collection and promotes deeper community engagement. The Alaska Room will be defined using flexible design elements such as:

- Partial glass walls or open partitions
- Lower-profile or custom shelving
- Unique flooring or ceiling treatments
- Branded signage and lighting
- Furniture layout for research and browsing

Adjacent spaces, including the Ann Stevens Room and Galleria, will be revitalized to support author events, community forums, public lectures, and cultural programming tied to the Alaska Room's purpose.

## Emphasis on Safety and Security

This project directly addresses longstanding safety concerns expressed by patrons and staff. Renovation elements are designed to improve:

- **Sightlines:** Lowered shelving, repositioned service points, and open layout zones will eliminate blind spots, enhance staff visibility, and allow for better monitoring of activity.
- **Security:** Reconfigured spaces reduce isolated corners, improve traffic flow, and allow staff to respond more effectively.
- **ADA Accessibility:** By modernizing restrooms, widening access points, and creating equitable circulation pathways, the library becomes safer and more navigable for all users.
- **Lighting and Wayfinding:** Enhanced lighting and updated signage will improve safety at entrances and exits and clearly guide users to collections and services.

These changes are a direct response to 2025 public survey results and staff feedback indicating a strong need for a safer, more welcoming library environment.

## Design Phase

- Create flexible design with open-concept delineation for unique spaces such as the Alaska Room, programming space, and special collections.
- Build on previous Alaska Room concept drawings to meet current needs and flow into full 3<sup>rd</sup> floor remodel.
- Design space modifications to improve security, visibility, and ADA compliance.
- Define layouts for Alaska Room, Thomas Room, and broader third-floor amenities
- Engage staff, accessibility experts, and community stakeholders.
- Complete construction documents, cost estimates, and phasing plans

## Construction Phase

- **Flooring:** Replace original 1986 carpet with ADA-friendly flooring to eliminate tripping hazards and improve mobility
- **Electrical:** Upgrade infrastructure, eliminate floor outlet hazards, and expand access to power for devices and equipment
- **ADA Upgrades:**
  - Retrofit restrooms with wider doors, accessible sinks, and automated entries
  - Improve circulation paths for patrons using wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers
- **Alaska Room Construction:**
  - Install design features that clearly define the Alaska Room.
  - Add specialized shelving, exhibit elements, research tables, and identity signage.
  - Restore adjacent Ann Stevens Room and Galleria while maintaining the current aesthetic.
- **Layout Enhancements:**

- Lower shelves to open sightlines
- Add clearly visible and well-staffed service points.
- Reconfigure high-traffic areas to reduce congestion and increase user comfort.
- Signage and Wayfinding
  - Install clear, visually consistent signage to delineate key service zones.
  - Improve directional signage to enhance navigation.
  - Incorporate universal design principles and multiple languages where appropriate to serve diverse community needs.
- Additional Improvements:
  - Remove or reposition interior walls as needed.
  - Increase ambient lighting and improve directional signage throughout the floor.

## Community Justification and Impact

### Usage (2025 Data)

- 74,834 In-person patron questions
- 42,303 WiFi sessions
- 37,287 Public computer uses
- 4,000 Adult print checkouts weekly

### Survey Highlights (2025)

- 22% of respondents cite safety concerns as a reason for non-use
- 30.9% say improved comfort, visibility, and safety would increase usage
- Strong support for a modern, accessible space that highlights Alaska's history

## Anticipated Benefits

### Enhanced Safety and Security

- Improved sightlines and service visibility deter misconduct and increase patron confidence.
- Open layouts and ADA-compliant access reduce physical hazards and increase independence for all users.
- Lighting and signage improvements support intuitive navigation and reduce stress in high-traffic areas.

### Improved Functionality

- Modern electrical and flooring infrastructure
- Layout designed for flexible use and efficient space management

## Cultural and Educational Impact

- Alaska Room strengthens cultural identity and public access to local history.
- Revitalized event spaces foster inclusive community learning and storytelling.

## Funding

The library will use bond funding from 2021 and private donations raised through the Anchorage Library Foundations to fund the design phase of the project. The library plan to use a private bequest in the amount of \$230,000 toward construction costs.

## Conclusion

The renovation of the Loussac Library’s third floor is more than a facility update—it is a commitment to safety, accessibility, and cultural relevance. By integrating the Alaska Room and addressing long-standing design challenges, the library will provide a welcoming, secure, and inspiring environment for learning, exploration, and community engagement.

## Muldoon Library and Transit Center Co-Location Facility Project Scope and Description

Anchorage Public Library (APL) and the Municipality of Anchorage’s Public Transportation Department (PTD) are collaborating on a project to co-locate a new public library and a modern transit center in Northeast Anchorage, serving the fastest-growing and most diverse areas of the city. This project would create Anchorage’s first transit-oriented development (TOD) that brings together critical public services to improve access, safety, and community vitality.

In 2024, PTD issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to begin the site selection process. The goal is to relocate the existing Muldoon Transit Hub to a centralized off-street location and construct a new Muldoon Library to better meet the needs of the area’s 42,375 residents.

The project will provide:

- A new, purpose-built Muldoon Library
- A transit center that enhances pedestrian safety and rider convenience
- Opportunities for shared infrastructure, reduced capital costs, and more accessible public services

The current Muldoon Library is housed in a leased storefront space in Muldoon Town Center. The facility lacks natural light, has no study rooms or dedicated community space, and cannot accommodate the growing number of users—especially youth and seniors. Similarly, the current transit hub consists of a collection of bus stops spread along a busy road with limited safety features and no indoor waiting space.

Together, this joint facility would create a true civic hub for the Muldoon neighborhood—anchoring nearby commercial, residential, and park developments and serving as a catalyst for future investment.

## Key Project Components

### *a. Site Selection, Planning and Design*

- Collaborative site identification between APL and PTD
- Development of architectural, engineering, and space planning documents
- Planning funded in part by a \$450,000 FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Grant

### *b. Library Construction*

- A new municipal-owned facility designed to include:
  - A vibrant children’s area to serve families from 9 nearby elementary schools (6 of which are Title I),
  - study rooms, collaborative spaces, and a large community meeting room with external access for public use and rentals,
  - expanded technology services, marketplace displays, and a more functional layout,
  - accessible after-hours material return,
  - windows for natural lighting,
  - optional automated holds locker in the transit center for 24/7 material pickup

### *c. Transit Center Development*

- A consolidated, off-street facility for rider transfers and improved operator conveniences
- Designed for safe, efficient operations and visibility.
- Establish Anchorage’s first true Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in a low-income, minority-majority area.

### *d. Municipal Efficiency*

- Transitions both departments out of leased space and into MOA-owned infrastructure.
- Reduces long-term costs and allows for future improvements and upgrades.

## Current Use and Justification

The Muldoon Library is outperforming the capacity of its current facility, which has a meeting room limit of only 49 people and no dedicated study rooms. In 2024, the branch recorded:

- 44,660 visits (up 3,000 from 2023)
- 268 youth programs with 3,288 attendees
- 89 adult programs with 275 attendees

- 66,963 physical checkouts, despite increasing digital usage

Staff routinely turn away families from programs due to overcrowding, and the lack of private or rental space means no after-hours programming or community events.

The current transit hub in the area consists of scattered bus stops that fail to support safe, accessible, and efficient transfers. Northeast Anchorage, and particularly the 99504 zip code, is a transit-dependent community with high proportions of seniors, youth, and residents without private vehicles. Current bus stops in the area and the library both abut a busy 4-lane artery which lack sufficient protected crosswalks, pedestrian bridge(s), or adequate bike trails. This makes accessing bus service and the library difficult, if not dangerous for cyclists, youth, seniors, and those with mobility issues. Improved transit and library access will benefit:

- Seniors (14.1% of the Northeast population)
- Students from nine local elementary schools
- New residents from upcoming HUD-funded housing (via Cook Inlet Housing Authority)

## Community and Equity Impact

This area includes Census Tracts 7.02 and 7.03, both eligible for AoPP funding due to their designation as persistent poverty areas. This project directly aligns with equity goals by:

- Improving access for low-income, transit-dependent residents.
- Creating a safe and welcoming space for all ages and abilities.
- Supporting early literacy, digital access, and community engagement.

The new facility would provide similar community space benefits seen at Mountain View and Loussac Libraries, where meeting rooms are frequently used and generate rental revenue.

## Benefits of Co-Location

### *a. Improved Accessibility*

- Centralized access to library services and transit in a walkable hub.
- Supports patrons with mobility issues, seniors, and youth—especially during Alaska’s harsh winters.

### *b. Shared Infrastructure and Reduced Costs*

- Consolidated parking, mechanical systems, security, and maintenance.
- Greater efficiency in operations and future upgrades.

### *c. Community Development*

- Acts as a civic anchor for a new Muldoon “town center.”

- Encourages smart growth and mixed-use development

## Conclusion

The Muldoon Library and Transit Center project is a forward-thinking investment in equity, safety, and access. It reflects a strong partnership between APL and PTD, meets multiple municipal goals, and addresses long-standing service gaps in one of Anchorage’s fastest-growing neighborhoods.

By co-locating these services, the Municipality will provide a more efficient, accessible, and welcoming space—one that serves the residents of today and supports the growth of tomorrow.

## Loussac Library Second Floor Youth Area Renovation Project Scope and Description

This project will renovate key portions of the second floor of the Z.J. Loussac Library to complete the transformation into a dedicated, interactive, and welcoming Youth Services Area for children, teens, and families. The primary focus is on the children’s area, including the original story theatre, which has not been renovated since the library’s original 1986 construction and has only received limited patchwork improvements over the years.

In contrast, the front half of the second floor—currently used as an adult seating and browsing area—was remodeled in 2015 with updated carpet, lighting, and fixtures as part of a broader library renovation. That area will not undergo major structural renovation in this project. Instead, it will be reprogrammed with Youth Services in mind, including changes to furniture layout, signage, and service orientation to better serve children, teens, and families.

The teen area, recently relocated to the second floor, is in good condition and requires only minor layout adjustments and furnishings to be fully integrated into the overall youth zone. This approach ensures the project focuses taxpayer resources responsibly—preserving recent investments while updating areas still in original condition to meet current safety, accessibility, and service standards.

### Phase 1: Design

**UPDATE: Bond passed in April, 2026 to fund the design process.**

This phase will guide planning, stakeholder input, and technical documentation:

- Architectural and engineering design for targeted renovations
- Community and youth services staff engagement for input
- Detailed planning for:
  - A large multi-purpose program room,
  - a new, spacious storytime area replacing the outdated story theatre,

- redesigned children’s area with family seating, stroller parking, and activity zones,
- functional teen hangout and homework space, and
- strategic layout updates for the 2015-remodeled areas to support youth needs.
- Integration of accessibility, safety, and sightline improvements.
- Material selection for youth durability, appeal, and ADA compliance.

## Phase 2: Construction

### Focus Areas for Renovation

#### 1. Children’s Area (Original to 1986)

Full renovation of this zone will include:

- replacement of worn carpet and flooring,
- new child-friendly shelving and low-profile furniture,
- creation of dedicated zones for reading, play, and interaction,
- construction of a new, well-ventilated, windowed storytime area to replace the outdated, windowless story theatre,
- integration of stroller parking, ADA features, and intuitive wayfinding.

#### 2. Large Program Room

Addition of a flexible, high-capacity room to support:

- storytimes, youth performances, and workshops,
- after-school programs and family events, and
- designed with AV, flexible seating, storage, and natural light

#### 3. Teen and Front Areas (Remodeled in 2015)

Rather than “remodeling the remodel,” these areas will be strategically adapted to align with Youth Services programming. Updates will include:

- new furniture layout tailored to youth and family use,
- signage, finishes, and design elements that shift the tone toward youth engagement,
- minor adjustments for improved accessibility, sightlines, and staff visibility, and
- preserved flooring, lighting, and infrastructure installed in 2015.

## Project Justification and Conditions

- The children’s area and story theatre remain original to 1986 and show extensive wear.
- Ventilation, sightlines, and usability in these areas are inadequate for current service demands.

- High demand from families:
  - Over 36,000 attendees participated in youth programs in 2025.
  - An average of 6,500 children’s books circulate each week.

## Goals and Impact

- Complete the vision of a fully youth-centered second floor.
- Improve comfort, safety, accessibility, and engagement for children and families.
- Respect prior investments by retaining infrastructure where possible.
- Provide a compelling, flexible, and age-appropriate public space.
- Ensure public trust through targeted, transparent upgrades.

## Conclusion

This renovation project will modernize the areas of the second floor that have not yet been updated, especially the original children’s zone, while preserving and adapting the 2015-remodeled spaces to meet today’s Youth Services needs. The result will be a fully integrated, inviting, and functional youth floor that balances strategic investment with responsible stewardship of public funds.

## Loussac Library Grounds Safety and Accessibility Improvements

### Project Scope and Description

Anchorage Public Library proposes a two-phase project to improve the safety, accessibility, and usability of the Loussac Library’s exterior grounds and access points. The goal is to create a more connected, pedestrian-friendly, and ADA-compliant civic space that better serves library patrons, families, and community members year-round.

This project directly supports the current municipal administration’s Safe Streets and Trails initiative by prioritizing safe, accessible pathways between public amenities, improving pedestrian infrastructure, and encouraging active transportation in Midtown.

The project will be closely coordinated with other Midtown Anchorage efforts, including the Midtown Master Plan, Cuddy Park revitalization, and any upcoming housing developments. The library will also work with local businesses and community stakeholders to strengthen its role as a hub for Midtown—improving public safety, enhancing walkability, and increasing civic engagement.

Despite its central location and proximity to major public spaces, the existing layout and aging infrastructure create barriers to access of valuable outdoor areas. These improvements will position Loussac Library as a vibrant, safe, and accessible civic anchor in alignment with community and municipal priorities.

## Phase 1: Design and Planning

This phase includes technical design, community engagement, and interdepartmental coordination:

- Site assessments and civil engineering studies (drainage, grades, pedestrian flow).
- ADA-compliance review
- Conceptual design of:
  - pedestrian connectors to Cuddy Park,
  - new outdoor event space and renovated stage, and
  - parking lot reconfiguration and book drop zone.
- Signage and lighting plans that enhance nighttime visibility and wayfinding.
- Feasibility study for direct Rotunda access from parking areas.
- Stakeholder engagement with:
  - Municipal departments (Parks and Recreation, Transportation Planning)
  - Midtown Master Plan and Cuddy Park planners
  - Local businesses and community groups to promote equity, visibility, and access

## Phase 2: Construction and Implementation

Construction will be staged to ensure ongoing public access. Planned improvements include:

### a. Pedestrian Access and Pathways

- Construct a safe, well-lit, and ADA-accessible pathway between Cuddy Park and the library.
- Replace or upgrade sidewalks and trails around the building.
- Improve safe walking routes to transit stops and parking, in line with Safe Streets and Trails goals.

### b. Parking and Traffic Flow Enhancements

- Reconfigure the book return driveway for safer drop-off/pick-up.
- Update parking lot layout, signage, surfaces, and pedestrian crossings
- Improve traffic flow and vehicle safety.

### c. Outdoor Space and Event Infrastructure

- Renovate the outdoor event lawn and stage to support large-scale programming like Reading Rendezvous
- Add durable surfaces, lighting, and support infrastructure (e.g., electricity, seating)

#### d. Building Access and Wayfinding

- Explore and construct, if feasible, a direct entrance to the Rotunda from the parking area
- Install improved wayfinding signage and exterior lighting.
- Clearly mark paths and entrances to reduce confusion and increase public safety.

### Justification and Community Impact

The Z.J. Loussac Library saw over 600,000 combined visits in 2023 and 2024, but visitors routinely cite outdoor accessibility, confusing parking, and safety hazards as deterrents. Key concerns addressed by this project include:

- No direct or safe pedestrian route from Cuddy Park to the library
- Cracked and hazardous sidewalks, especially in winter
- A confusing parking layout with poor signage and visibility
- Outdated, underutilized outdoor spaces lacking infrastructure for events

By aligning with the Municipality's Safe Streets and Trails priority, this project will:

- Improve pedestrian safety and ADA accessibility
- Better connect Loussac Library to Cuddy Park and surrounding civic areas
- Reinforce Midtown as a walkable, community-focused district

### Conclusion

This project is a strategic investment in public infrastructure that reinforces citywide goals around safety, accessibility, and vibrant civic spaces. Through coordinated design and construction phases, and in alignment with safe streets and trails initiatives, the Midtown Master Plan, and Cuddy Park improvements, Loussac Library will become a model of community connectivity and inclusive design in Anchorage.

## South Anchorage Library – New Branch

### Project Scope and Description

Anchorage Public Library proposes opening a new South Anchorage Library Branch to restore full-service library access to this growing and underserved region of the city. The project is envisioned in two key phases: Design and Construction.

The initiative supports the Municipality's goals of equity in access, smart facility use, and reduced leasing costs by repurposing an existing municipal building whenever feasible.

## Phase 1: Design

The design phase will focus on identifying the best-suited location, engaging the community, and developing architectural and engineering plans. Key elements include:

- Site selection and feasibility analysis, with a focus on municipal buildings that can be repurposed.
- Community engagement to gather input on desired services and space priorities.
- Architectural and engineering design for renovations, including ADA compliance, sustainability, and energy efficiency.
- Cost estimation and phasing strategy for construction
- Design of spaces to include:
  - A large community room for public events, classes, and library programs
  - Study rooms and flexible co-working spaces
  - A vibrant children's area that supports early literacy and family engagement
  - A welcoming and safe teen area for middle and high school students
  - A computer lab and technology center for internet access, printing, and digital learning

This planning phase will include coordination with other municipal departments and align with Anchorage's broader goals for equitable service distribution, digital access, and educational enrichment.

## Phase 2: Construction

Once design and planning are complete, the construction phase will implement the build-out or renovation. This phase will include:

- Renovation or adaptive reuse of the selected facility
- Installation of all required infrastructure, IT systems, and public-facing technology
- Construction or fit-out of:
  - Meeting and community rooms
  - Study and collaboration spaces
  - Youth areas and service desks
- Procurement and installation of:
  - Furniture, fixtures, shelving, and computers
  - Updated signage, lighting, and security systems
- Staff workspaces and back-of-house functionality to support full-service operations
- Final inspections, furnishing, and public opening preparations

## Project Background and Community Demand

The South Side of Anchorage has lacked a public library branch since the closure of the Samson-Diamond Library in 2010, which had served the community for over 30 years. In its final year, that branch saw:

- 73,000 in-person visits
- 68,000 physical checkouts

Since the closure, South Anchorage residents have continually advocated for the restoration of local library services. A remote holds locker installed at Dimond Mall in 2023 has been heavily used, prompting an expansion in 2024. However, the locker only provides limited access—a full-service branch is needed to meet demand for:

- Public programming
- Digital literacy and computer access
- In-person support for learning and life services

In a 2025 public survey, 15% of Anchorage residents identified “library locations being too far away” as their primary barrier to use—making it the most cited challenge after time constraints.

## Justification and Community Impact

Libraries are critical anchors of civic life, offering:

- Access to books, digital resources, and media
- Internet and computers for work, school, and access to government services
- Educational programs across age groups
- Safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces for gathering and collaboration
- Support for literacy, job seekers, students, and older adults

In 2024, Anchorage Public Library served 558,643 visitors system-wide, but South Anchorage continues to experience an equity gap in access due to the absence of a branch.

A new South Anchorage Library Branch will:

- Restore full-service access to an underserved region.
- Strengthen educational outcomes through early literacy and teen services.
- Close the digital divide by offering free public access to devices and high-speed internet.
- Reconnect South Anchorage residents with their public library system and community.

# Loussac Library 4th Floor Event Space (Learning Commons)

## Project Overview

Anchorage Public Library proposes the renovation of the 4th floor Learning Commons, media studio, and adjacent staff areas at the Z.J. Loussac Library to activate an underutilized space and expand community access. The project will modernize infrastructure, improve accessibility (including the hidden stairwell), and create a flexible venue for events, learning, and partnership opportunities.

The current space has not been renovated since the library opened in 1986 and suffers from poor acoustics, lighting, and layout. This renovation will allow the library to better support public programming, generate more rental revenue, and strengthen civic engagement.

## Phase 1: Design

This phase will focus on developing a comprehensive renovation plan that improves function, flexibility, and public access.

Design Deliverables:

- Architectural and space planning services to create an efficient, inclusive, and modern layout.
- Public engagement to inform priorities for event use, technology, and accessibility.
- Design concepts for:
  - Learning Commons event space
  - Media studio redevelopment
  - Adjacent staff area improvements
  - Special collections display and flexible furniture zones
- Circulation and access enhancements, including the remodel or expansion of the stairwell between the 3rd and 4th floors to increase visibility and accessibility.

## Phase 2: Construction

Based on the design plan, construction will modernize the 4th floor and transform it into a vibrant civic venue.

Construction Scope:

- Flooring replacement throughout the Learning Commons and studio.
- Lighting and acoustic upgrades for comfort and functionality.
- Electrical and AV infrastructure improvements to support events, rentals, and hybrid programming.

- Cabinet and fixture removal to open up space and improve layout flexibility.
- Media studio renovation for programming, content creation, or partner use.
- Staff area adjustments to improve workflow and space efficiency.
- Stairwell remodel or expansion to improve wayfinding and encourage public use of the floor.

## Justification and Benefits

- Current Use: Rental revenue of ~\$15,000/year with limited use due to outdated conditions
- Need: Entire area has outdated infrastructure and poor public access
- Impact:
  - Significantly increases potential for rentals, programming, and events.
  - Improves visibility and usability of the 4th floor.
  - Supports civic partnerships, educational workshops, and community meetings.
  - Aligns with APL’s mission to connect people with information, education, and community.

The space has outdated infrastructure and poor public access. It currently brings in approximately \$15,000 a year in revenue. Improving this space will significantly increase room rental potential, improve visibility and usability of the fourth floor.

This project will transform the Loussac Library’s 4th floor into a modern, flexible, and accessible public resource, unlocking its potential as a vibrant hub for learning, collaboration, and civic engagement. Splitting the effort into design and construction phases ensures community input, thoughtful planning, and effective use of funds.

- Current Use: Rental revenue of ~\$15,000/year with limited use due to outdated conditions
- Need: Entire area has outdated infrastructure and poor public access
- Impact:
  - Significantly increases potential for rentals, programming, and events.
  - Improves visibility and usability of the 4th floor.
  - Supports civic partnerships, educational workshops, and community meetings.
  - Aligns with APL’s mission to connect people with information, education, and community.

## Conclusion

This project will transform the Loussac Library’s 4th floor into a modern, flexible, and accessible public resource, unlocking its potential as a vibrant hub for learning, collaboration, and civic engagement. Splitting the effort into design and construction phases ensures community input, thoughtful planning, and effective use of funds.

**Increased operating expenses:** One additional FT staff member to assist with monitoring and managing the space.

**Increased revenue:** \$20,000 annually

## Loussac HVAC

### Project Description:

Replace the aging HVAC system at the Z.J. Loussac Library, a 140,000 square foot facility serving as the flagship branch of the Anchorage Public Library system. Originally installed over 40 years ago, the existing system is beyond its expected lifespan, increasingly inefficient, and difficult to maintain.

### Scope of Work:

The project will involve a comprehensive overhaul of the building's mechanical systems, including:

- Change out the pneumatic controls for electronic
- Install a new chiller system
- Full replacement of HVAC equipment (air handling units, pumps, chillers, boilers, etc.).
- Upgrade of ventilation systems to meet modern air quality standards.
- Integration of high-efficiency components to improve energy performance and reduce operational costs.
- Zoning adjustments to improve climate control across different building areas.
- Modern building automation system (BAS) integration for real-time monitoring and control.
- Ductwork modifications where needed to improve airflow and meet current codes.
- Replacement or refurbishment of terminal units (e.g., VAV boxes, fan coils) throughout staff, public, and support spaces.
- Environmental remediation if needed during removal of old infrastructure (e.g., asbestos or other hazardous materials).

### Background and Comments:

In 2024, APL funded a temporary fix by replacing the HVAC system's control panel using operating budget resources. While this stopgap measure ensured basic operability, a full system replacement is now essential to meet building and health standards, provide thermal comfort for patrons, and protect staff working conditions.

The system's deterioration has led to inconsistent temperatures, poor humidity control, and strain on maintenance resources. This project will support Anchorage's goals for sustainable infrastructure and extend the lifespan of this important civic facility.

A modernized HVAC system will also support growing public use of the Loussac Library, which welcomed nearly 300,000 visitors in 2024, and enable future capital improvements to the building interior. It aligns with the Municipality's priorities for maintaining and upgrading existing assets and ensures that the Loussac Library continues to be a welcoming and healthy community resource.

*Specific benefits include:*

**Upgrade pneumatic controls:**

- Higher precision and repeatability — Electronic sensors and actuators deliver exact positions, pressures, and timings. Pneumatics drift as valves wear or temperatures change; electronics stay consistent.
- Better diagnostics and troubleshooting — Electronic systems can report faults, log data, and show real time values. Instead of hunting for a sticky valve, you get clear indicators of what's wrong.
- Reduced energy consumption — Compressors are expensive to run, and air leaks are constant. Electronics eliminate most of that overhead and waste.
- Faster response and tighter control — Electronic actuators and solenoids react faster than air circuits, improving cycle times and overall performance.
- Easier integration with modern systems — Once electronic, the machine can tie into PLCs, HMIs, SCADA, remote monitoring, or predictive maintenance tools.
- More flexible control logic — Changing pneumatic logic requires re plumbing valves. Changing electronic logic is as simple as updating a program.
- Improved reliability — Electronics don't suffer from moisture, air contamination, or pressure fluctuations the way pneumatics do.
- Enhanced safety — Electronic interlocks, sensors, and emergency logic can be layered in ways pneumatic systems simply can't support.

**Chiller System**

- Stable, controlled temperatures — A chiller gives you precise cooling (often within  $\pm 1^\circ\text{F}$ ). Well water fluctuates with seasons, usage, and groundwater conditions, which affects machine performance.
- No dependency on groundwater — Wells can run low, clog, freeze, or vary in pressure. A chiller is self contained and consistent year round.
- Reduced contamination risk — Well water carries minerals, sediment, and biological growth that can foul heat exchangers. Chillers use treated, closed loop coolant that stays clean.
- Lower maintenance on equipment — Stable cooling reduces thermal stress on pumps, motors, electronics, and hydraulics. That extends lifespan and cuts repair costs.

DRAFT

Our mission is connecting people to education, information, and community. Each month we share our wins, our challenges, and public information, in service of the Municipality of Anchorage.

## Education

### Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library hosted two Expanding Horizons events: Planning for the End of Life (April 11) and Difficult Dialogues (April 18) that were well received by 15 attendees.
- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library), work funded by the Municipal Alcohol Tax,
  - Hosted the April Countdown to Kindergarten (soon to be known as Play 2 Learn) at Loussac Library for 120 people.
  - Hosted 12 outreach storytimes serving 225 children and their families.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac Library), Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library), and Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) did six school outreach visits in April where they invited students to join Summer Discovery in May, showed off STEM kits and other library resources and signed up students, families, and faculty for library cards. They reached 711 people.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Information

### Recent Accomplishments

- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator, Loussac Library), Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library), and Red Coffey (Youth Services Librarian, Muldoon Library), hosted a table at the HOSA conference for teens to showcase library databases, particularly for health information and homework help, and other library resources, speaking with 123 people.
- Sam Dinges (Adult Services Reference Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted Dr. Ruby Fried from UAA for the last event in the Expanding Horizons speaker series for 2025-2026. The topic was Traditional Food Security in Alaska, and the lecture was attended by 12 people, with event survey respondents expressing gratitude both for this topic and for the launch of the program in general.

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- All APL locations hosted a “Welcome Baby” spring sweeps week. Community members were invited to bring their “new” (under 12 months) babies to the library to receive a free gift bag with an Alaska themed board book, “crinkle paper”, and library resources. 47 bags were distributed across all locations. The youngest baby was 10 days old and local celebrity baby Layne Dunbar (son of Senator Forrest Dunbar) visited with his parents who posted an entertaining social media video. (link below). Outside of sweeps week APL distributes postcards to local healthcare providers, hospitals and birth centers; partnered with Programs for Infants and Children (PIC).
- The Community Resource Group conducted its third set of resource fairs at the branch libraries. This round of fairs featured longer hours at Muldoon Library and Mountain View Library and was organized with a focus on employment. 40 people attended, with half of them gaining access to Department of Public Assistance staff to complete their intake process. The monthly fairs will continue, with the focuses of employment, public assistance, and housing as rotating themes.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library’s first year as an AARP Tax-Aide site was successful with 72 taxpayers served from February – April. Mountain View Library wrapped up another year as an AARP Tax-Aide site assisting 47 individuals in April. Loussac Library added an additional weekday in 2026, assisting 252 patrons in April for a total of 868 returns this year.
- Stephanie Schott (Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) worked with the Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center to offer a book club.
- The Seed Libraries at Chugiak-Eagle River Library, Mountain View Library, and Gerrish (Girdwood) Library continued throughout April. Chugiak-Eagle River Library had over 70 patrons “borrow” 211 seed packets. Mountain View Library has seen steady traffic and distributed 135 seed packets. The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library had 69 participants.
- Loussac Library youth staff hosted the bi-annual Dino Day with volunteers from the Alaska Children’s Museum and Alaska Dance Theatre. 781 dino-fans watched the dinosaur skeleton come to life and enjoyed dinosaur themed crafts, movement activities, and checked out as many dinosaur books as they could carry. **(photos below)**
- Red Coffey (Muldoon Library Youth Services Librarian) attended a literacy night event at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS), offering storytime and answering Library questions to families.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian) hosted a contest and “Peep Show” where participants created and displayed dioramas made using marshmallow Peeps. 45 people attended the building event on April 18, and 62 people came to view and vote on 18 dioramas on April 25. The

response was very positive in-person and via social media with several people asking to see completed entries and asking if we will host the event again next year. **(photos below)**

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Community Resource Group is excited to extend their outreach work to the Park Strip on May 13 for the first Community Care event organized by the Anchorage Multidisciplinary Outreach Team.
- Loussac Library Youth Services will host our annual Reading Rendezvous, May 16, noon- 4PM. This event welcomes over 1,000 people to the Loussac Lawn to kick off Summer Discovery and celebrate literacy and reading with free entertainment, activities, and more!

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time

## Internal Operations and Statistics

### Recent Accomplishments

- Core Services By The Numbers
  - Access to a diverse collection of materials in various formats –
    - 125,177 total circulation (49,342 digitally, 75,835 physically)
    - Collection maintenance:
      - New items added 2,611
      - Items repaired/records updated 1,204
  - Knowledgeable and approachable staff
    - 58 Staff training hours for April 2026
  - Access to internet connectivity
    - 6,542 Wifi sessions
    - 3,994 Computer sessions
  - Professional reference and research assistance
    - 8,603 Reference questions answered
  - Spaces for individual or group use
    - Total system visitors: 50,306
      - Loussac Library: 28,050
      - Chugiak-Eagle River Library: 6,621
      - Gerrish (Girdwood) Library: 2,143
      - Mountain View Library: 13,492
      - Muldoon Library: number unavailable
  - Programming and outreach to support the mission and vision of the library
    - 78 Adult Programs for 841 people
    - 131 Youth programs for 5,362 people
    - 16 All Ages programs 159 people
- Safety and Security standing update
  - 48 total incidents
    - Loussac Library: 37 incidents

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library: 1 incident
  - Mountain View Library: 7 incidents
  - Muldoon Library: 3 incidents
- Loussac Library hosted the annual Staff Day this month, giving all APL staff an opportunity to present to and learn from their colleagues, receive training on the new Code of Conduct, and hear from Anchorage Police Department about police processes and changes to municipal code. Closing the library for one day ensured staff received uninterrupted training that supports the library's ongoing efforts to strengthen service quality, enhance safety for staff and patrons, and maintain consistent implementation of updated policies
- Teresa Churchel (Associate Librarian and Branch Rover) recently retired from the Library after 21 years of service. She was presented with an official Resolution of Recognition at the April 28 Assembly meeting. Friends and colleagues gathered on her last day at Mountain View Library for a send-off celebration.
- Ariel Mortem (Technical Services Librarian, Loussac Library), with Sandy Lukes (Adult Services Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) who is the World Language materials Selector, led a special project to updated catalog records and spine labels on 3,592 books and 3,601 DVDs in order to transition the "Foreign" collection into "World Languages." This creates a more accurate and inclusive collection heading. Several other staff at all locations also assisted in the physical processing update.
- Ariel Mortem (Technical Services Librarian, Loussac Library), with Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator, Loussac Library) led a special project to update spine labels on 4,462 youth "E-HOL" holiday picture books to include the specific holiday to which the book pertains. This update makes the collection easier to sort and shelf for staff, and more easily identifiable to patrons looking for specific holiday books. Several other staff at all locations also assisted in the physical processing update.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian) completed the transition to displaying APL policies as web pages on the library website instead of scanned PDFs. This format is more accessible to people who use assistive technology such as screen readers. She is also working on remediation of all website PDFs so that they are accessible per the ADA title II requirements, which will go into effect in 2027.

### **Next Steps/Coming Soon**

- Marjorie Harrison (Library Director) will host a table at the Downtown Project Expo on May 6 to provide updates on the Downtown Library to the public. The event is in conjunction with the Visit Anchorage Spring Tourism Expo at the Den'ina Center.

### **Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- Due to the April departure of Ann Glenn (Marketing Assistant) the Communications Division will be short staffed through the busy summer season. Staff from other divisions are stepping up with coverage where possible.
- The Muldoon Library gate counter is broken. A temporary replacement counter has been ordered and should be available soon.

## Library Board Updates

### Recent Accomplishments

- Friends of the Library hosted a very successful fundraiser dinner, Beyond the Stacks, with featured speaker Don Rearden.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The semiannual Friends of the Library book sale takes place on the first weekend of May.

## Social Media/Photos

### Recent Accomplishments

Senator Forrest Dunbar and wife, Tasha Boyer Dunbar, celebrated their baby's first library visit by viewing our "Peep Show" and receiving a Welcome Baby Bag:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DXINcfsDYiP/>



Fans view the dinosaur skeleton on display, and a few brave kids give its nose a pat as it walks through the second floor of the Loussac Library.



Teresa Churchel and Sophie Gozmer—another APL retiree—at Loussac after Teresa received her Assembly Recognition.



Loussac Adult Services held the First Annual Peep Show on Saturday, April 25 featuring scenes from pop culture recreated with marshmallow Peeps.