

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Loussac Library
April 16, 2025

Attendance

_____ Debra Bronson
_____ Megan Cacciola
_____ Olivia Garrett
_____ Jen Griffis
_____ Marc Johnson
_____ Rachel Odom
_____ Meneka Thiru
_____ Cristy Willer

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call & book recommendations	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:45	
Mission Moment: Explora	Emily Paige Collection Management Services Coordinator	5:50	
Mission Moment: IMLS funding cuts; potential impacts on library services	Marjorie Harrison Director	6:00	
April Board Report	Marjorie Harrison Director	6:30	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:45	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Following is a link to join the meeting virtually:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzI3YzZkMmEtMzBmOS00Y2RmLWEyYjgtZjNiMGJjMmZmZmQ1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22127a78cb-19c5-46ca-b11f-87c33c49a907%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2232153d56-30ab-46e0-9dc1-9816df7e2721%22%7d#/registration

Call in: +1 907-519-0237, 632109625#

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Loussac Library
March 19, 2025

Attendance

E	Debra Bronson
X	Megan Cacciola
X	Olivia Garrett
X	Jen Griffis
Remote	Marc Johnson
E	Rachel Odom
X	Meneka Thiru
X	Cristy Willer

X = Present, E = Excused, U = Unexcused, PH = Phone, remote = Teams

Staff

Marjorie Harrison (Director); Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director); Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian); Rebecca Lampert (Time Administrator)

Guest

Laurel, Jen Griffis's daughter.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:30 pm.

Land Acknowledgment

Cristy Willer acknowledged that the Board meets on the traditional lands of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina Athabascan people.

Approvals

- Action: The agenda was approved as presented. (Member Griffis motioned, Member Cacciola seconded.)
- Action: Minutes from the February 19th LAB meeting approved. (Member Cacciola motioned, Member Griffis seconded.)

Staff Presentations:

- Marjorie Harrison, the newly-hired Library Director, introduced herself to the LAB. She was warmly welcomed.
- Kristie Nelsen, Virtual Services Librarian, presented Comics Plus, which provides unlimited access to thousands of comics, graphic novels and manga. Patrons can access titles using a smartphone, tablet, or web browser with no waiting. It can be found on the APL website on the downloadable page which also contains the Alaska Digital Library, Libby, and Hoopla. It is also under databases A-Z and C for comics.

Guest Presentations: None**Director's Report:**

The March Director's Report was distributed and is on file.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted March's Explore program about rollercoasters to 38 engrossed attendees during spring break. The students were so focused that the program was extended nearly a half hour past the intended ending time so that all the children could create successful coasters. (see photo)
- Anchorage Public Library locations hosted Lee Post for a special series of comic workshops during spring break.
 - Loussac Library used every table in the Learning Commons and the 61 attendees had a blast!
 - Chugiak-Eagle River Library had 38 engaged attendees.
 - Mountain View Library had a small but attentive turnout of 15 attendees.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) hosted a Pi Day program with several hands-on math and art projects to celebrate the number pi and circles, plus some tasty treats for 48 attendees.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) hosted a Wings of Fire crafting and scavenger hunt event, which engaged 25 participants.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) and Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) designed a campaign to promote APL's Welcome Baby bags during a spring sweeps week. For that time period patrons could pick up a bag from any APL location. 84 bags were distributed to families with babies under 12 months of age. Learn more about Welcome Baby at <https://bit.ly/APLWelcomeBaby> (see photo)
- Mountain View Library is partnering with Anchor Gardens to launch a youth gardening club. The club kicked off on March 27 with 15 participants attending the Seed Library kickoff and upcycled craft event.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Loussac Library will host Mayor LaFrance for a special storytime on Monday, April 28. This is part of a series of storytimes featuring Municipal departments and the men and women serving the families of the Municipality of Anchorage.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Red Coffey (Muldoon Youth Services Librarian) gave a presentation on authoritative resources to 57 8th graders from STREAM Academy.
- Sue Sommers (Chugiak-Eagle River Youth Services Librarian) hosted 25 Alaska Club Day Campers for a storytime and opportunity to play games and check out books.
- Loussac Library staff visited several elementary schools for STEM and Family Nights to speak with families about library resources and upcoming programs such as the Max Brallier author visit in April and Reading Rendezvous in May.

- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) visited Orion Elementary with 54 attendees.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) visited Campbell STEM Elementary with 38 attendees.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian) visited Trailside Elementary with 39 attendees.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted two fourth grade classes from Polaris K-12 for a tour and research presentation (74 attendees including students plus their adults).
- Several library staff jointly manned a booth at Anchorage School District's Springing into Summer family resource fair, sharing about Reading Rendezvous, Summer Discovery, library cards, and other library resources to over 380 attendees.
- Mountain View Library staff participated in Wonder Park Elementary's Family Literacy Night to share information about library resources and sign students up for library cards. Staff engaged with 35 students and parents.
- Amanda Andros (Adult Services Reference Librarian / ILL Supervisor, Loussac) helped fellow board members of the Alaska Center for the Book select books representative of the state of Alaska at the annual 2025 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) assisted by Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) is partnering with Help Me Grow Alaska to coordinate Books, Blocks, and Balls on April 19. The program will support caregivers in understanding developmental progression while providing educational and engaging activities for young children.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- The 2025 Winter Reading Challenge for Grown Ups wrapped up on March 16 with 217 unique participants across all branches and 75 individuals completing at least one blackout on their bingo card. See the attached report for more details.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library hosted a Create Something Special craft program for special needs adults. With the new addition of FOCUS clients, our attendance grew to 22 adult participants.
- Muldoon Library's Artist Trading Card (ATC) Club had a record 32 participants in March. This patron-inspired program will launch at other locations as part of Summer Discovery this year.
- Muldoon Library now has 5 adult volunteers coming regularly to help manage our physical collection. In addition, we host a weekly drop-in volunteer program for teens to also give back to their community.
- The Gerrish Library has successfully re-opened its Seed Exchange for the season. The seeds were carefully selected by Master Gardener Martina Steinmetz in collaboration with the Girdwood Library and Community Room Boosters.
- The Gerrish Library has excellent attendance for its March programs. 10 People attended the Pi Day Fun program and 52 people attended the Magical Tea Party program.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) partnered with Catholic Social Services and Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) to bring RAIS clients to the library for a mini-golf event. 27 children and parents attended specifically for mini golf, with additional RAIS clients visiting to explore library services.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Loussac Library will host a screening of *Free For All: The Public Library* on Saturday, April 12 in partnership with Alaska Public Media and IndieLens. Attendees will have an opportunity to share what they love about their library and to meet Marjorie Harrison (Library Director).

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers [March]

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	3,280
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	46
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2,274

- The Downtown Library project moved forward with a meeting with architectural firm GHD to determine priority uses of the space currently identified as Old City Hall. The first conceptual drawings for library review, are coming in April with a public meeting in early June.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) has been activated to the MOA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) serving in the role of Public Information Officer. The EOC shifted to level 2 alert status due to continued unrest of Mount Spurr and the increased need for communication and resource coordination.
- Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator) submitted the 2025 First Quarter budget revisions to the administration. The library advocated for increased budget in the following areas: One (1) full time security guard at Chugiak-Eagle River Library. One (1) full time associate librarian assigned to the youth services department, and funding for new public printing software. The Assembly will vote on the Q1 budget on April 22nd.
- The entire teen collection and furniture moved to the 2nd floor of Loussac with the support of several staff from across departments. The teen space will be added to and made ready during the summer months for a “grand opening” in the fall.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- On Thursday, April 17, all library locations will be closed to host a staff in-service and training day. The focus will be a first look at our new strategic plan and internal training opportunities.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Security Incidents:

Security Incidents	Loussac	Chugiak-Eagle River	Gerrish	Mountain View	Muldoon	Total
Incidents resulting in trespasses	11	0	0	3	1	15
Other Incidents	4					4
Total	15	0	0	3	1	19

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

-
-
-

Next Steps/Coming Soon

-
-
-

Limiting Factors/Concerns

-
-

Social Media/Photos



Rollarcoaster STEM at Loussac



Welcome Baby bag recipient

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides vital funding through grants that strengthen communities across the United States. Through state grants under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), IMLS distributes funds nationwide, ensuring resources are tailored to local needs and priorities.

In FY 2024, Alaska received \$1.27 million, which flowed to consortia and individual libraries.

Projects included:

- 800# Reference and Interlibrary Loan services
- Alaska Library Extension books by mail service to Alaskans living in communities that have no library
- Public programs including Alaska Reads, Battle of the Books and the statewide summer reading program.
- The Talking Book Center for those who cannot hold a book or read standard print
- The Alaska Digital Library (aka Libby or OverDrive)
- The SLED databases

From the Alaska State Library regarding IMLS:

- An Executive Order on March 14, 2025 for "[Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#)" called on seven agencies, including the Institute of Museum and Library Services, to develop and submit plans within seven days to the Office of Management and Budget on reducing their function and personnel to the "minimum presence and function required by law".
- On March 31, 2025, all staff at IMLS were placed on administrative leave. While IMLS staff are on administrative leave, they are not able to work, respond to emails, or process grant payouts.
- The majority of funding related to Alaska's 2024 IMLS Grants-to-States Program (LSTA) has been paid out to grantees.
- There are additional 2024 IMLS programs, including the Native American Library Basic and Enhancement Grants, the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant, and museum grant programs that Alaska organizations depend upon to provide critical services to our communities that may be currently impacted.

From the Alaska State Library regarding NEH:

- The Division of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums received notice on Friday, April 4th, that the current National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) Grant to Alaska was cancelled. The Division and the Department of Education and Early Development are working together to determine next steps.
- The National Digital Newspaper Program is a partnership between NEH, the Library of Congress, and state libraries to provide enhanced access to United States newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. NEH awards support state projects to select and digitize historically significant titles that are aggregated and permanently maintained by the Library of Congress and made available online through Chronicling America.

APL Database Use

APL Database Use	2025 Q1	2024	2023
Access World News (NewsBank)	11,532	39,064	40,516
Ancestry	4,463	12,666	19,316
Chilton	144		
Law Depot	64		
Learning Express	26	105	41
LinkedIn Learning Hours	379	1,276	1,315
Scholastic Teachables	753	2,955	3,227
Transparent Languages	419		
US Major Dailies Searches	4,952	14,009	9,047
ValueLine	0	0	8,890
World Book Encyclopedia	19,900	71,720	34,280
APL Purchased Databases	42,632	141,795	116,632

Chilton was new in 2025 replacing a SLED database that was unfunded

Law Depot new in 2025

Learning Express was purchased by SLED in 2023, we picked it up in 2024

Teachables new May 2022

Transparent Languages new in 2025

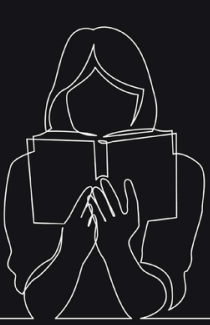
SLED Database use by APL Patrons	2025 Q1	2024	2023
EbscoHost	48,665	212,045	157,147
Heritage Quest	154	1,688	2,162
Live Homework Help	120	2,425	1,610
Tumblebooks	47	444	182
SLED Purchased Databases	48,986	216,602	161,101

Ebscohost data is only half of 2023

Total Database Use	91,618	358,397	277,733
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Winter Reading Challenge 2025_

AT A GLANCE



This marks the fourth year of APL's Winter Reading Challenge for Grownups, and book bingo is as popular as ever. This year over half of the participants challenged themselves to complete at least 3 bingos. Finishers commented on the joy of finding books to match prompts, discovering new authors, getting outside their reading comfort zones, and of course, pizza!

Readers said_



Blackout winner, Nikki N.

"Thank you to APL for making such a fun event for adults!! I've noticed this really helps me get a good head start on my reading goal... and it definitely helps the winter months... not feel quite as bleak."

"I still get just as big of a kick out of it as I did as a kid with the summer reading program. The sense of accomplishment and talking with the librarian while I turn it in are half the reason I do it, it's a human interaction I cherish deeply..."

"I stopped watching tv/movies and mindless social media scrolling. All I did was read for January, February, and half of March. Having the option to unplug a bit was refreshing."

**My favorite part
about the Winter
Reading
Challenge>**

"Pizza! Honestly, such a great nostalgic reading challenge treat!"

"I challenged myself to get 3 BINGOs and I accomplished my goal!"

"Accomplishing a blackout. It was close and I wasn't sure I was going to get it."



Prizes for the Winter Reading Challenge were purchased with generous funding from the Friends of the Library.



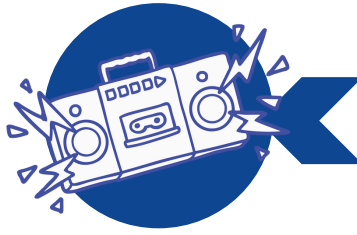
WRC by the numbers_

658
BINGOS

From 218
participants



Participants surveyed rated the Winter Reading Challenge 4.57 out of 5 for enjoyment.



10%

Increase in cards distributed*



35%

Increase in bingos completed*



16%

Increase in blackouts completed*

Participants said this year's Winter Reading Challenge_

Helped me to read something that I might not have picked up otherwise

39%

Helped me to read something more difficult than I usually do

4%

Helped me to read something outside of my comfort zone

25%

Helped me to read more books than I normally do

27%

Didn't change much about how I read

3%

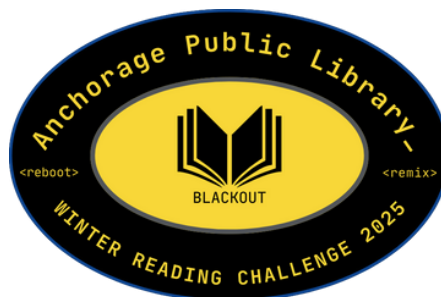
Other (shared feedback via notes)

2%

WRC Prizes_



Bingo Drawing Winners



Blackout Finishers



Bingo Finishers (and also pizza)

*Over 2024 participation

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