

Anchorage Public Library Director's Report, November 2023

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Library's Solar Eclipse Science Fun brought in 20 people, though more requested and received eclipse glasses in preparation for the Oct. 14 partial eclipse.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) worked with the Anchorage Museum, Tent City Press, and local artists and creators to host a series of zine workshops this month. The series kicked off with a zine read-in in the Ann Stevens Room and Loussac where participants could browse the Tent City Press zine library. Throughout the rest of the month, there was a zine workshop at each of the branches featuring writers M.K. Thekkumkattil and g0th and artists Jaybird Oliver, Jimmy Riordan, Madelyn Troiano, and Lee Post. 55 patrons of all ages engaged with the programs over the course of the series.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) worked with the Alaska Chapter of Better Investing to host a class on how to use the library's ValueLine database.
- The Gerrish Library had a wonderful turn out for its October programs. The highly anticipated Harry Potter Trivia Night had 45 attendants! Little Monster Game Night had 25 and the Halloween Craft had 32.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Countdown to Kindergarten, a collaboration with the Anchorage School District, will be held at Chugiak-Eagle River Library in November.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) attended the Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children childcare administrator summit presented about library resources, and registered administrators for library cards.
- A daycare worker who regularly brings a crowd to Loussac's preschool storytime reported to Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian) that she copies our songs/rhymes and bought some of the same toys because the kids love them so much.
- A new marketing campaign, utilizing the waiting area screens at the Anchorage DMV/ Bureau of Vital Records, kicked off in October. This 12month campaign features video and logo placement to promote library core services and events. The library has identified the DMV as an ideal source of advertising as it reaches a wide variety of Anchorage residents who the library might not reach through other advertising venues such as radio, social media, and outreach events. Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator)
- Golden Afternoons continued this month with a presentation on nutrition by Diane Peck, MPH, RDN, from the State of Alaska Department of Health. Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) reported that patrons walked away

having learned something new – one patron wrote on a survey that there was “lots of good info and helpful handouts.”

- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) tabled at the ALCU’s Decarcerated event, an event to promote awareness about issues facing incarcerated populations. During the event, Meneka featured titles by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people as well as books about the criminal justice system.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) hosted a library tour for Ukrainians who have recently relocated to Anchorage. All 26 attendees signed up for library cards and learned about the various digital services, materials, and kits available to them with their new cards. **(picture below)**

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) submitted a program proposal for the Alaska Association for the Education of the Young Child annual spring conference.
- Lisa Bricker (Acting Youth Services Coordinator), will attend the Anchorage School District librarians’ conference on Nov. 10 to provide information on public library resources and provide physical versions of the ASD cards that the public library offers to students.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) will be visiting a skilled nursing facility in November to issue library cards to residents. This event was scheduled for October but was rescheduled due to a COVID outbreak.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Library’s “Carve a Pumpkin” wall was huge success with not only 367 pumpkins on the wall, but at least 500 pumpkins cut out since some of them leave with their “carvers”—this is an annual favorite with library visitors. **(picture below)**
- Loussac Library hosted our second annual “Haunted Mini-Golf” in Youth Services, which drew over 200 people. **(picture below)**
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) set up the October response board for “Favorite Fall Haunts” asking patrons to share where they like to go in the fall. Favorite locations included staying home to spend time with friends and family, Anchorage parks, local coffee shops and restaurants, the Anchorage Museum, Anchorage Zoo, and of course the Library. We heard from 75 respondents.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) continued hosting Dungeons & Dragons this month with 14 people attending the October session. One of the volunteer Dungeon Masters hosted a separate “How to be a Dungeon Master” session, which had 8 people in attendance, including some of our regular players. He provided lots of great resources for players to use in hosting their own games. We hope that some of the folks that came will try DMing at future monthly library events.
- Meghan Malone (Adult Services) will take over hosting Café Entre Amigos following Meneka Thiru’s departure from the library in November. Participants in this program improve their Spanish language skills by conversing with each other, playing games, and watching presentations.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library is hosting an author and professor from Anchorage, Sharon Emmerichs on November 17, to talk about her debut novel *Shield Maiden*, which re-imagines Beowulf from the perspective of a young woman reclaiming her power.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers for October:

| Task | Number of Items |
|---|-----------------|
| Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items | 791 |
| Donations- Added to the collection from community donations | 31 |
| New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection | 2860 |

- Staff training:
 - Library staff continue the 8 week Library Journal Library Management Training Course.
 - Youth Services staff watched the School Library Journal's Day of Dialog webinar to learn about new books and services.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) worked with the library's website development vendor to get additional functionality required to create a virtual open house for the Alaska Room Redesign. The virtual Open House will run through the month of November and close on Thursday, November 30 at 5:00pm.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Staff Updates:
 - The Teen Services Librarian position has been filled with Keelin Baughman transferring over from Mountain View in November.
 - Ariel Mortem has been hired into the Technical Services Supervisor position which has been vacant for 5 months. She begins on November 13.
- The project team working on the new Alaska Room Redesign will be hosting an in-person Open house on Thursday, November 16 from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to view drawings created by RIM Architects at the 35% stage, offer feedback, and see how the design will fit into the original Alaska Collection rotunda space.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Incidents and vandalism during October 2023
 - 3 people trespassed from Mountain View and 1 person trespassed from Loussac Library
 - Loussac Library had an incident of graffiti and of relocated bicycle racks

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- The Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the Anchorage Library Foundation and Anchorage Public Library has been finalized and signed.
- The Downtown Library committee is working through the legal agreement for the appropriation of funds held by the Anchorage Library Foundation for this project.

- The Anchorage Assembly approved new Library Advisory Board member Rachel Odom

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Friends of the Library Book Sale will be November 3rd to 5th.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- There are still three vacancies on the Library Advisory Board and three additional members with expired terms. Expired terms been extended by 120 days according to 4.05040 of Anchorage Municipal Code

Social Media/Photos

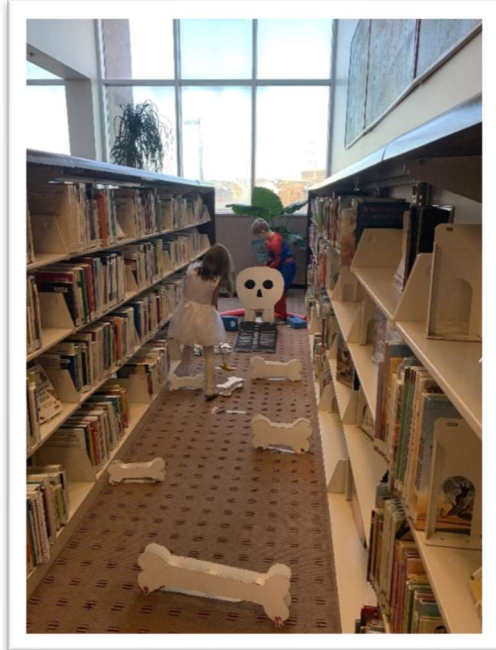
L) Instagram Post from Hmoob Cultural Center of Alaska sharing their visit to Mountain View Library during an Anchorage School District in-serves day.

R) Instagram Story from a patron excited about their InterLibrary Loan



L) Loussac Youth Services Pumpkin Wall

R) Haunted Mini Golf takes over the stacks of the second floor of Loussac.



Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) gave a tour and coordinated new library cards for 26 Ukrainians recently relocated to Anchorage.

