

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Youth Services hosted 10 VolunTEENs in February for a total of 34 volunteer hours.
- Youth Services staff systemwide signed up 29 children for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Librarian, Loussac) and Kim Cameron (Mountain View Youth Librarian) will host a table at Bettye Davis East High School's Living Library Career Exploration Fair on March 22nd.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) will present at the annual conference for the Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children on using picture books in the classroom to teach and reinforce social and emotional learning.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- With the Early Literacy Outreach Librarian position vacant, the library won't be able to attend as many youth outreach events in the spring. The position has been posted and we hope to hire by the end of April.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Librarian, Loussac) provided a tour and resource scavenger hunt for 10 2nd/3rd graders from the Anchorage Waldorf School.
- Mountain View Library kicked off tax season with AARP Free Tax Aid being offered on Saturdays from 10am – 2pm. AARP's trained tax advisors assisted 58 individuals to date. Sessions are also available at Loussac Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12pm-6pm.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Chugiak-Eagle River Library will be hosting a Community School Fair in March with 14 schools (ASD/public, homeschool, private) represented.
- AARP Tax Aid continues through April 6 at Mountain View Library and through April 11 at Loussac Library.
- The Mayor will announce the selection of Old City Hall as the site of the Downtown Library at a press conference in early March.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library had a great turn out for its recent Game Night Program, 32 people attended and 54 people completed our monthly interactive Code Quest program.
- Red Coffey's (Muldoon YS Librarian) Pokémon Day brought in 30 participants and included activities provided by Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) and giveaways provided by local business Bosco's Comics, Cards & Games!
- Chugiak-Eagle River library hosted their first Teen Anime Club with 9 teens attending, most of whom were new to the library, and all were interested in continuing the club. Monthly club meetings have been scheduled.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Librarian, Loussac) served as a judge for the Anchorage Daily News writing contest in the 9-12 grade poetry category and 6-8 fiction category.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Librarian, Loussac) hosted a school-age Build a Board Game program for 27 attendees who designed and created their own board games using craft supplies and die cuts. (See photo below).
- Mountain View Library hosted the Anchorage Regional Poetry Out Loud competition in partnership with the Alaska State Council on the Arts. Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country.
- Meghan Malone (Adult Services Librarian, Loussac) held Loussac's first Pro-CRAFT-inators program on Tuesday, February 20. The program's 5 participants stated they were excited to return for the next session on March 19th.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish library is looking forward to hosting author Natasha Von Imhof in April to discuss her debut novel *Double Shot of Living*.
- The Gerrish Library is excited to partner with The Girdwood Library Boosters and Master Gardener, Martina Steinmetz for its Seed Exchange program starting March 19.
- Mountain View Library is looking forward to the kickoff of gardening season beginning with our Seedy Saturday program on March 9.
- Amanda Andros (Adult Services Librarian, Loussac) has been preparing for Dish!, the new cookbook club at Loussac. This program will highlight our vast cookbook collection while providing a platform for patrons to come together to share the joy of cooking. The new book club will meet on the first Wednesdays of the month in the Salmon Room starting March 6 from 5:30-7PM

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers for February:

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1234

Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	30
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	1807

- The new contract with book vendor Baker & Taylor was approved and signed by Assembly and Municipal officials. Collection Management Services and Technical Services staff are working to set up systems with Baker & Taylor to begin ordering print materials for the collection.
- In the absence of a contracted vendor for print materials, selectors have been placing direct orders through Amazon and other outlets to continue adding to the library collection. These purchases are primarily paid for with Friends of the Library donation funds.
- Muldoon Branch has purchased a new security camera system that will replace our current one, which is 18 years old with 8 nonfunctional channels. Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator) was key to securing funding for this project.
- The library is working to streamline funding requests to the Anchorage Library Foundation and increase collaboration on upcoming projects. In February, the library received a mini grant from the Foundation for \$1,900 to help fund staff day.
- In December 2023, the MOA signed a contract for exterior cleaning at Mountain View Library in the amount of \$41K. During the first quarter budget process, the library shifted priorities to fund this entirely out of operating funds for 2024 to ensure the library has the support needed for daily trash pickup, power washing, and on call services. The library continues to prioritize safety and welcoming facilities with our budget.
- Mountain View Library welcomed Kim Cameron as the Mountain View Youth Services Librarian. Mountain View Library is now fully staffed.
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) and Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator) are working with the Office of Management and Budget on developing a new PVR (Performance Values Results) template to better showcase our accomplishments to taxpayers and decision makers.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- In March, Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications) will participate in Alaska Ex 2024 as a member of the Office of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center Initial Response Team. This will be a statewide multi-agency drill to test and practice the Municipality of Anchorage's ability to respond to a large-scale emergency.
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) is coordinating the public comment period for the next phase of the Alaska Room Redesign project. Drawings for the 65% design phase and décor options will be available online in mid-March before an in-person Open House scheduled for Wednesday, March 20 from 4:30-6:30PM in the Alaska Wing.
- Nancy Clark (Collection Management Services Coordinator) has tendered her resignation in anticipation of retirement. After 31 years of Municipal service, her last day with Anchorage Public Library will be April 30. The position is posted in hopes that a new coordinator will be able to train with Nancy before her retirement.
- The library submitted three requests to OMB as part of the first quarter budget revision process: two transfer requests to capital projects (HVAC and Mountain View Security Cameras) and labor increase to cover Monday holidays in 2024.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Fourteen people were trespassed from Anchorage Public Library locations in February 2024.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- Anchorage Library Foundation- Downtown Library Update: the agreement between the Anchorage Library Foundation and the Municipality of Anchorage is being reviewed to establish the transfer of funding between the two entities.
- Anchorage Library Foundation- The Foundation will be supporting APL's strategic plan process for 2024 with funding for a contract with Managing Me Enterprises that will focus on both improving internal systems through staff development, as well as guiding structure for the full strategic plan development.
- Friends of The Library- After a very healthy fundraising year in 2023, the Friends board voted to approve an additional grant of \$50,000 to APL adding to the original donation amount of \$100,000. Assistant Director Elizabeth Nicolai will present a proposal at the March meeting.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time

Social Media/Photos

Build a Board Game (Loussac, February 21, 2024)

