

Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board Agenda  
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
Loussac Library  
August 21, 2024

**Attendance**

\_\_\_\_\_ Debra Bronson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Megan Cacciola  
\_\_\_\_\_ Marc Johnson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Rachel Odom  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cristy Willer, Chair

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call (current reading)	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:55	
Introductions	New and Continuing Board Members	6:00	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:30	
Staff update	Elizabeth Nicholai	6:45	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board  
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
January 17, 2024  
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the February 21, 2024 LAB meeting)

**Attendance**

<u>      X      </u>	Debra Bronson
<u>      X      </u>	Dennis Dupras
<u>      X      </u>	Alice Qannik Glenn
<u>      X      </u>	Rachel Odom
<u>      U      </u>	Doug Weimann
<u>      X      </u>	Cristy Willer, Chair

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

**Staff Present:**

Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director); Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator)

**Guests Present: None**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:48 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 Bronson motioned, Member Odom seconded).
- Action: Minutes from the November 15, 2023 LAB meeting approved (Member Bronson motioned, Member Dupras seconded). There was no LAB meeting in December due to the lack of a quorum.

**Mission Moments/ Staff Presentations:**

Mollie Roache, Budget Coordinator, gave a presentation regarding the library's budget, including source of funding (grants, room rentals, Foundation, Friends of the Library, Alcohol tax), expenses (HVAC, self-check machines, a new security team), and future capital project bond requests. The Beyond the Stacks event will occur in early May.

**Persons to be heard:**

None

**Director's Report:**

Elizabeth Nicolai, Assistant Director, reviewed the highlights of the January 2024 Director's Report (on file).

**Board Comments**

Cristy Willer, Chair, reminded the LAB that "A board or commission shall annually elect a chairman and a vice-chairman. The vice-chairman shall act in the absence of the chairman or in the inability of the chairman to act" (4.05.070). She asked members to consider whether they would want to run for either of these offices, and will distribute descriptions of the duties and responsibilities assigned.

**Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn at 6:58 (Member Dupras motioned, Member Bronson seconded).

Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board  
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
February 21, 2024  
Loussac Library

**Attendance**

<u>U</u>	Debra Bronson
<u>X</u>	Dennis Dupras
<u>X</u>	Rachel Odom
<u>X</u>	Cristy Willer, Chair

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

**Staff Present:**

Elizabeth Nicolai (Library Assistant Director); Rebecca Lampert (Time Admin)

**Guests Present:**

Mark Johnson – applied to board in June 2023. He has not received a response.

**Call to Order**

This is an informational meeting only, as there is no quorum possible.

Meeting started at 5:30 p.m.

**Approvals: None**

**Mission Moments/ Staff Presentations:**

Assistant Director Elizabeth Nicolai presented the Library Director's Report for February 2024.

Library is having printing and wireless issues. We are working on resolving those issues.

Municipal Code regarding library fines and fees needs to be updated. Assistant Director Elizabeth Nicolai will be rewriting code to present at an assembly meeting.

Currently there are three potential members awaiting approval from the assembly. Postponed until July meeting. Assistant Director Elizabeth Nicolai will follow-up regarding Mark Johnson – applied in June 2023.



**Persons to be heard:**

None

**Director's Report:**

Presented during Staff Presentation.

**Board Comments**

Board Member Cristy Willer asked if the board should keep the scheduled meetings, even though there aren't enough members for a quorum.

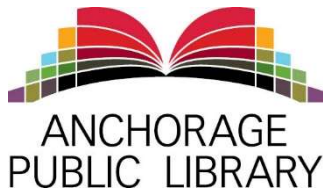
- 9 board member positions
- 4 Current members
- 3 Proposed members
- 2 Open seats remaining after 3 proposed members are approved.

Discussed the board's purpose and responsibilities.

Discussed the Open Meetings Act – requiring transparency for all boards.

**Adjourn**

Meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.



## Anchorage Public Library Director's Report, March 2024

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>.

### 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

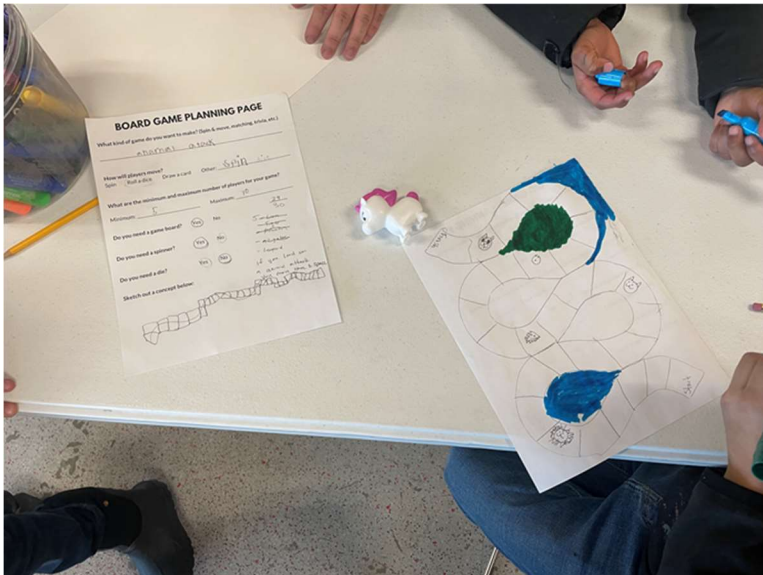
- None at this time

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time

## Social Media/Photos

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



## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) completed an outreach event at Bettye Davis East High, speaking with teens about how to become a librarian and why a day in the life of a librarian looks like.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) visited KCI Willow Crest for an outreach storytime for 19 students and hosted an outreach table at Baxter Elementary School's Family Night (speaking with 26 people about library resources).

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Youth Services staff systemwide will soon be visiting schools across Anchorage to promote Reading Rendezvous and Summer Discovery.

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Chugiak-Eagle River Library hosted a Community School Fair on March 2 with 14 schools (ASD/public, homeschool, private) represented. 48 People attended event.
- AARP Tax-Aid held two events at Mountain View Library, assisting over 50 individuals to file their taxes.
- Mountain View Library held a Seedy Saturday seed exchange. The seed exchange engaged **56 people** and served as the official season opening for the Mountain View Seed Library.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian I, Loussac) and Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian II, Loussac) led several tours of the Loussac Library for **over 100 ASD Migrant Ed and Rabbit Creek Elementary students**, introducing them to the collection and resources offered.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- APL will be adding to new online resources, Transparent Language and OverDrive LawDepot. Transparent Language is a world language learning resource that covers 100+ languages and also teaches English to speakers of many other languages. OverDrive LawDepot provides free legal forms as well as online notary service, something in great demand in our community. **We thank the Friends of the Library for the funding for these resources.** (Collection Management Services)
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) will attend a career exploration event at Dimond High School on April 22nd.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) and Jim Curran (Muldoon Branch Manager) will be hosting a library table at the Mayor's Spring Job Fair April 11 to promote library resources for job seekers like resume builders in Learning Express Library and free access to courses in LinkedIn Learning.

Limiting Factors/Concerns - None at this time

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library had excellent attendance for its March programs. 31 people attended a Family Storytime, 20 people attended the author visit with Don Rearden and 45 people attended Magical Tea Party.
- The Gerrish Library has successfully re-opened its Seed Exchange for the season, in collaboration with Master Gardener Martina Steinmetz and the Girdwood Library Boosters.
- The Chugiak-Eagle River Library had a week-long Will Eisner Week display featuring graphic novels for all ages, both fiction and non-fiction. 144 DIY comic booklets were given away.
- The Chugiak-Eagle River hosted the local Boys & Girls Club for a Spring Break visit/Lego Build program 3/13 with 25 in attendance.
- Kim Cameron (Mountain View Youth Services Librarian), participated in the Community Resource Fair at Clark Middle School, sponsored by Anchorage School District, Title 1 Family Engagement.
- Kim Cameron (Mountain View Youth Services Librarian), met with students and parents at Wonder Park Elementary's Parent Night.
- Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian/ILL Supervisor, Loussac) held the first Dish! Cookbook Club meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. She had 5 participants in attendance for the first meeting and 7 other patrons registered for future meetings. Members introduced themselves and spoke about their backgrounds and experiences with cooking, often discussing food preparation techniques that they grew up with. The focus was on nutritional meals, highlighting National Nutrition Month. Members will have their first potluck meal on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 in the Salmon room.
- The Winter Reading Challenge program from January 1st – March 16th was a great success. The numbers across the board increased for all APL locations, with a more than **91% increase** in unique participants and **117% increase** in completed blackouts. (See Recap)

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library is working on organizing an Author Visit with Arran Forbes, an Anchorage author who wrote *Pluto Cove*, a climate fiction novel set in very-remote Kenai Peninsula and David Brame, the Illustrator of *Safe Passage*, a teen graphic novel set in South Side of Chicago that follows Darius, his sister Cissy and his best friend Booger as they set out to find an armored truck that has lost a payload of cash.
- The Gerrish Library is also planning a Haiku Contest in April.
- The Chugiak-Eagle River Library plans to host a Sticky-Note Poetry asynchronous program for the month of April for National Poetry Month.
- The Chugiak-Eagle River Library has a "Weeds & Wildflowers" program scheduled with Alaska Botanical Gardens for April 30 at 4pm.
- APL will celebrate National Library Week April 7-13 with the premier of our patron designed outreach stickers, recognition by the Anchorage Assembly (April 9), and social media celebrating libraries and library workers.

### 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	2430
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	66
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	1665

- The final expenses were posted for the library 2023 general operating budget. The library spent out 99.19% of non-labor funds and 97.94% of labor funds. Because we were able to utilize our entire budget to fulfill the mission of the library and provide the best service to the community within the budget provided. Past years, we were not able to utilize the full budget due to staffing shortages and the public did not receive the best service as it meant less books available for checkout and reduction in quality of technology
- The library completed the IMLS Cares Act grant awarded in 2021 in the amount of \$69,602. The purpose of the grant was to provide technology access to and job support as part of COVID recovery. The library piloted a MiFi lending program in 2021-2022 to increase internet access, purchased laptops for patron use within the library, purchased a NorthStar Digital Literacy subscription which provides technology training and job assistance, and marketing for the NorthStar program. The final report for this grant will be available in August following the grant close out timeline.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Library senior leadership will be reviewing the Library's Capital Improvement Plan and working with partners to establish priorities.
- APL has officially scheduled for the installation of our new and improved self-checkouts and security gates for late May.
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) is working on redoing the statistical reporting for the library to the municipality through our PVR (Performance Value Results) reporting.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- People trespassed from Anchorage Public Library: 16
  - 11 at Loussac Library, 3 at Mountain View Library, 2 at Muldoon Library
- A security camera was broken out of its casing at the Loussac Library.
- By March 22 Muldoon Library accepted the resignation of both of our wonderful Library Assistants. This impacted planning and some outreach; however, with staffing support from Mountain View, Chugiak-Eagle River, and Loussac we maintained our core services and programs. Thanks to the efforts of HR/Employment we posted our position, interviewed, and now have hired two new staff members who start April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

## Library Board Updates

### Recent Accomplishments



- Friends of the Library- Beyond the Stacks ticket sales are going very well with just a few tables left before the April 13 event. They offer thanks to APL for the marketing and messaging support.

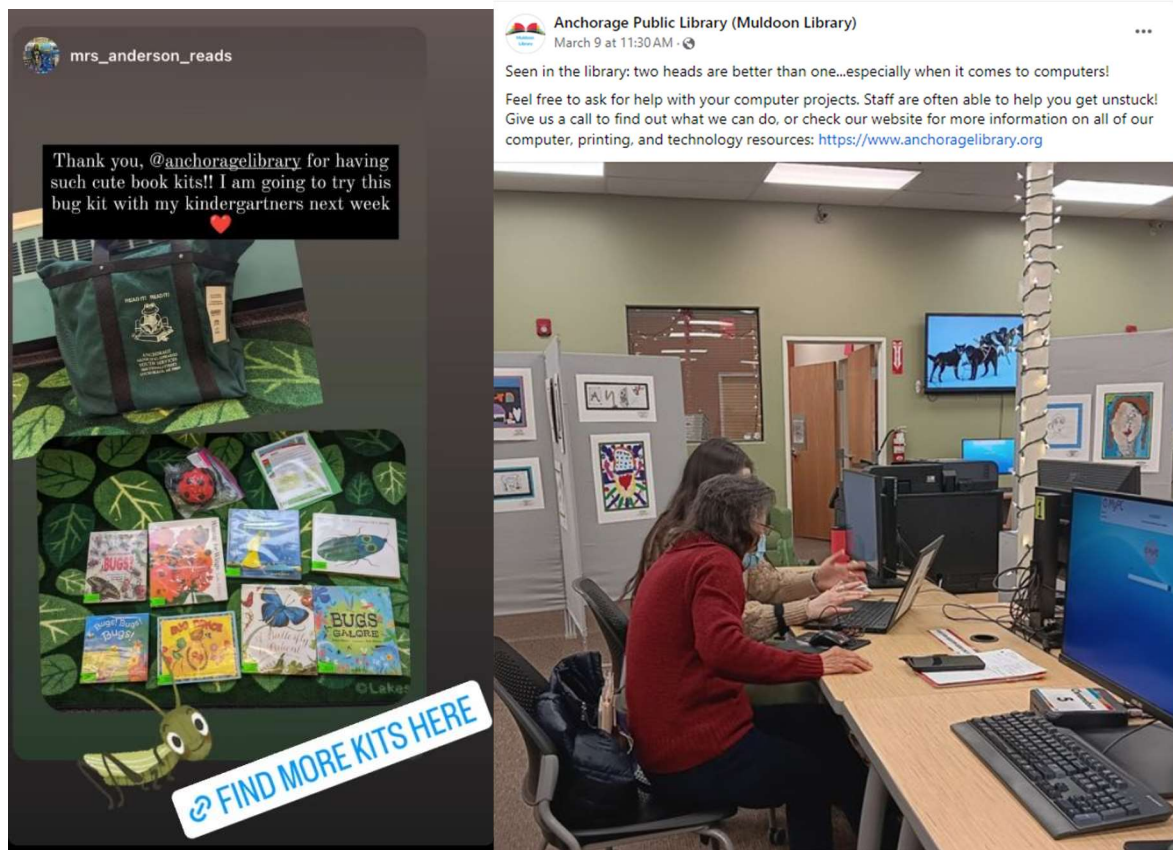
### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Anchorage Library Foundation will run their spring appeal to coincide with Library Giving Day on April 4. This year's goal is \$10,000 for support the upgrade of the primary first floor service point at Loussac library which sees the highest number of patron interactions in the entire system for checking out materials, issuing buss passes, registering people to vote, issuing new library cards and maintaining library patron accounts.
- Anchorage Library Foundation is actively working on board member recruitment and will partner with APL to boost those messaging efforts.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

## Social Media/Photos

L) Instagram appreciation post for story kits. R) Muldoon Library Senior Saturday's technology help.



## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Following Muldoon Library's Bear Aware program with AK Fish & Game on Saturday, Red Coffey (Youth Librarian, Muldoon) held a Thursday DIY Bear Bell program. It was a *wild* success with 23 attendees
- Kim Cameron (Youth Librarian, Mountain View) partnered with Anchorage School District's Migrant Education Program to host Music Together, engaging 40 pre-K students and their families.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) completed an outreach event at Dimond High School, speaking with teens about how the library can support their career and educational goals.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) facilitated a Preschool Art program for 14 participants, where children wove paper to make patterns, practicing fine motor control and pattern skills.
- The PAWSitive Reading Program launched at Chugiak-Eagle River Library in partnership with dogs and handlers accredited through Pet Partners. The first event was a meet & greet (25 attendees), following events were the individual opportunities to read to a dog (based on sign-ups, 20 attendees for session one and 18 attendees for session two). Four more dates have been added to the calendar for May and June.
- "Weeds & Wildflowers" program with Alaska Botanical Gardens took place on April 30 at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library with 7 attendees.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator), Jim Curran (Muldoon Branch Manager), and Joe Ortega (Marketing Assistant) represented APL at the Mayor's Spring Job Fair. They spoke with 20 attendees including teens looking at future careers as well as networking with other vendors to promote library services.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Youth staff systemwide will be visiting schools across Anchorage to promote Reading Rendezvous and Summer Discovery.
- Mark Worden from Go Hike Alaska will be offering an educational adventure talk on May 16 at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library.
- Nicole Levinson (Reference and Programming Librarian, Loussac) made the final arrangements for the 2024 Growing Together gardening program series, including creating and finalizing a programming guide for staff members with details about the program function and procedures. With assistance from Meghan Malone (Reference and Programming Librarian, Loussac), supplies for the first round of programs in May were packed and sent to the Muldoon branch for the first program on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- Kelsey Skrobis and Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarians, Loussac) gave a tour for approximately 60 5th and 6th graders from Inlet View Elementary and their caregivers, giving a presentation on how to utilize our catalog, website, and databases.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) gave a presentation at McLaughlin Youth Center for their Transitional Program, teens who are nearing release. Presentation covered how to get a library card, how to use the catalog, how to look for events to connect with peers, and how to do some basic searches in the catalog/in databases.
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) and Nicole Levinson (Acting Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River) attended the first annual “Spring into Summer” Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce Expo on Saturday April 20, which featured 46 scheduled booths/food trucks, and had 425 visitors, according to the Chamber of Commerce organizers.
- Katarina Pavic (Gerrish Library Branch Manager, Gerrish) promoted the Reading Rendezvous and Summer Discovery at the Girdwood School for all classes K-8 to a total of 185 students.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Meghan Malone (Reference Librarian, Loussac) will give opening remarks at the Anchorage Genealogical Society Spring Seminar on May 4th and set up an unmanned table to highlight the resources of the library.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Short staffing due to illness and previously scheduled programming has led to an increase in unstaffed hours at the Media Desk at Loussac.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library held a week-long Haiku Poetry Contest to celebrate Poetry Month and had 8 participants.
- The Gerrish Library hosted an Author Visit with Natasha von Imhof to talk about her first novel, *Double Shot of Living*, and had 12 participants.
- Mountain View Library’s monthly Community Drumming Circle, led by Gail Jackson, restarted after a 2-month hiatus with 23 participants.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) offered an in-service day drop-in program in April titled “Awesome Origami”. Children and their families used both preprinted templates and origami books for inspiration while the library supplied the paper. 57 people participated throughout the day.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) and other Loussac Youth Services staff ran the annual Dino Day program for 755 attendees.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) was approached by local teens who requested a new event for magicians to work together and practice their skills with each other. The first meeting was very successful with 6 attendees.

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division Woodwind Quintet on April 3, and filled the program room to capacity with 68 attendees. This program was extra special for the group because the military band that they are part of is no longer being funded. Their last public show is in May on base.
- Dish! Cookbook Club hosted by Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian / ILL Supervisor, Loussac), had a successful first potluck on April 3rd. The group watched a short video about the importance of nutrition, especially as we age. Patrons shared healthy foods, discussed their selected cookbooks, and talked about easy healthy substitutions. Each member walked away with a reuseable stainless-steel travel cutlery kit.

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library is looking forward to hosting David Brame in June, the illustrator of teen graphic novel *Safe Passage*, and author of *Pluto Cove*, Arran Forbes, in September.
- Summer Discovery kicks off with our annual Reading Rendezvous event on May 18, followed by weekly summer programs in June and July plus our reading log challenge.
- Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian / ILL Supervisor, Loussac) is working on hosting Alaskan author Michael Englehard at the Loussac Library on Tuesday, June 4th from 5:00 – 7:00.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) is coordinating with the Anchorage Symphony for their season finale concert. Loussac will put up a display of books inspired by the musical selections, and Kristie will host a table in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center prior to the concert with books for checkout and information about library offerings including medici.tv, a new performing arts streaming service available on hoopla.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) had planned a nursing home outreach visit, but the visit was cancelled due to illness. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers April:

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	2,087
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	72
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2,262

- Staff training not including mandatory safety training:

Type of Training	Number of Hours
In person trainings	86 hours
Live webinars and online courses	11 hours
Recorded webinars and online courses	97 hours

- On April 18, all library locations closed for Staff Day. All Anchorage Public Library staff had a full day of training and beginning work on the new strategic plan. The training sessions included: Anchorage Public Library history, a tour of the archives and vault, how storytime supports early literacy, Four Doors Readers Advisory theory, using Hoopla and Libby, and introductions to the works of individual departments like Collection Development, Technical Services, and Interlibrary Loan. The strategic plan work will inform the committee that begins working on the plan this summer. (See Photo)
- During staff day Sophie Mizak-Goozmer (Library Assistant II) was honored as the longest tenured employee in the Municipality of Anchorage, celebrating 49 years of service between departments including Anchorage Health Department and APL. (See Photo)
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director), Ariel Mortem (Technical Services Supervisor) and Emily Paige (Collection Management Coordinator) attended the Public Library Association conference in Columbus, Ohio from April 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> and brought home a variety of new ideas and training knowledge for library services.
- Loussac Youth Services has hired a new Early Literacy Outreach Librarian who will begin in May.
- Nicole Levinson (Reference and Programming Librarian, Loussac) will be filling in as Branch Manager at Chugiak-Eagle River Branch starting April 30th and continuing until the position is filled.
- Loussac Adult Services welcomed Sandy Lukes as our new Community Engagement Librarian on April 29. Welcome Sandy!
- Nancy Clark (Collection Management Services Coordinator) retired as of May 1 after 31 years of service at APL. The Assembly honored her service at their meeting on April 23. The new CMS Coordinator, Emily Paige, started in that position on April 29. (See Photo)

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

- The first full order with Baker & Taylor will (mostly likely) be submitted in May. Selectors are scheduling training sessions scheduled to start the first full week of May.

### **Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- Loussac Youth Services has a vacant Saturday part-time position, which will affect the number of programs and services offered during summer break until the position is filled.

## **Library Board Updates**

### **Recent Accomplishments**

- Friends of the Library held their annual Beyond The Stacks fundraising dinner on Friday April 13.

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

- The semi-annual Friends of the Library Book Sale is May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- The Library Advisory Board can only hold informational meetings until enough members are appointed and confirmed so as to have a quorum.



## Social Media/Photos

### Anchorage Public Library (Z. J. Loussac Library)

April 22 at 2:17 PM · 🌐

During our recent Staff Day we were thrilled to celebrate our own Sophie! She holds the record for being the longest tenured employee at the Municipality of Anchorage. She is in her 49th year with us, serving as a library assistant here at the Loussac Library.

You may recognize Sophie from the circulation desk, searching through the stacks to pull items for library holds, or delivering a curbside pick up. Quynh Sophie for your many years of service.

#907LibraryLove

Courtesy of Mayor Dave Bronson

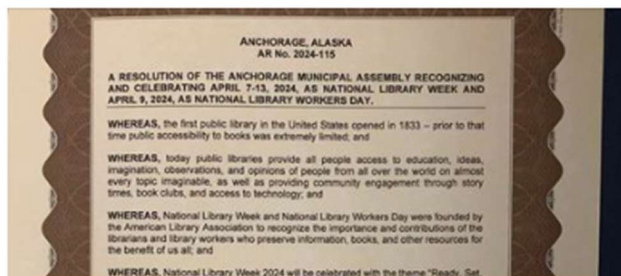


### Anchorage Public Library

★ Favorites · April 10 at 9:37 AM · 🌐



Thank you to the Anchorage Assembly and the Mayor for recognizing National Library Week April 7-13 2024 and Library Workers Day April 9. #907LibraryLove



### Anchorage Public Library is at Anchorage Public Library.

★ Favorites · April 25 at 10:18 AM · Anchorage · 🌐

Please join us in sending #907Library to Nancy Clark in honor of her retirement. In her 30+ years with APL she has served as a reference librarian, branch manager (Samson-Diamond and Chugiak-Eagle River), and most recently as Collection Management Services Coordinator.

This week she was honored with an Assembly Resolution celebrating her career as a self-proclaimed "accidental public librarian."

Thank you for your dedication Nancy. May your books be spicy, your ball games ... See more







## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Mountain View Library hosted a Storytime for Tyson Elementary and Ridgeline HeadStart Pre-school. Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) engaged 26 children and their care givers in Storytime.
- Mountain View Library kicked off the summer gardening season with a re-fresh of our teaching garden. Volunteers contributed 10 hours of weeding, watering, and planting.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) and Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) visited KCI Willow Crest Headstart for the final storytime of the school year, sharing stories with 11 students.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Ridgeline HeadStart is planning regular field trips to the Mountain View Library throughout the summer.
- Teresa Churchel (Associate Librarian, Mountain View) will support for the Growing Together Program and assist with coordination of volunteers/budding gardeners.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) will begin offering Teen Life Skills classes in June at different branch locations. This year's skills include Laundry 101, Intro to First Aid and CPR, and a Job Interview Workshop

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- Youth Services staff systemwide blanketed the city in outreach visits to promote Summer Discovery at the Library. Summer Discovery encourages reading and learning all summer long and prevents the "summer slide". These visits included:
  - Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) Williwaw Elementary School's Coffee & Conversation- 15 parents and teachers. **(see social media below)**
  - Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) Ocean View Elementary School -approximately 44 students in the first-grade classrooms.
  - Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) - Campbell STEM Elementary School - approximately 110 students in the third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms.
  - Red Coffey (Muldoon Youth Librarian) visited with 466 elementary students across 4 schools.
  - Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian - Mountain View) - at Airport Heights Elementary -140 students.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac), Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Supervisor, Loussac) and Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) provided tours, storytime, and a scavenger hunt to 115 students from Denali Montessori Elementary School (kindergarten through third grade) on May 2 and 3.
- Loussac Youth Services staff held the annual **Reading Rendezvous** on May 18, welcoming **about 2,300 patrons** to the event and signing up around 1,200 people for Summer Discovery. **(See photos below)**



- Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement Librarian, Loussac) started selecting new items to add to APL's World Languages collection. This section of materials has been without a selector for some time. She is working on ways to engage members of the community to request titles in their reading language as well.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) assisted a film production company in Los Angeles in finding and requesting Inupiaq language recordings from Anaktuvuk Pass for an upcoming documentary.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Collection Managements Services is in the process of adding Transparent Languages as a new world language learning tool to the library's digital resources.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library held its first Harry Potter Drawing Contest to celebrate International Harry Potter Day on May 2 and held a Star Wars Movie Marathon to celebrate Star Wars Day on May 4 with a total of 24 people attending. Another 9 people attended the Stars Craft Day and 14 people attended Star Wars trivia event.
- The Gerrish Library has closed its annual Seed Exchange, in collaboration with Master Gardener Martina Steinmetz and the Girdwood Library Boosters. The seed exchange handed out 1,000+ seed packets.
- Meghan Malone (Reference Librarian, Loussac) and Kristine Nelsen (Virtual Engagement Librarian, Loussac) had a library sponsored snack station for Bike to Work Day on May 17th outside Cuddy Park. 28 cyclists came for snacks, drinks, and swag. APL Staff also formed a team and biked to work that day. **(see photos below)**
- Meghan Malone (Reference Librarian, Loussac) had 3 participants for Pro-CRAFT-inators program on May 21st. A woman seeking encouragement on her knitting project got the boost she needed to continue and future dates for the program were discussed.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) and Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement Librarian, Loussac) set up a table before the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra's season finale concert to check out materials and share library services. Attendees were happy to see the library in the community and several items were checked out. **(see social media below)**

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) will be attending the Pride Pop Up Artist Alley in June at Grow North Farms.
- Award-winning children's author Christine Day, best known for her 23-24 Battle of the Books selection "I Can Make This Promise" will visit multiple APL locations for author talks and a writing workshop at Loussac Library June 25-27.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers for May 2024

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	542
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	83
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc., added to the collection	1,752

- Collection Management Selector training with the library's new book vendor Baker & Taylor is completed and the regular cycle of book ordering is scheduled to start in June. There are 18 selectors across all locations who hand pick [insert average of monthly items per month] to add to the Library's permanent collection.
- Collection Management Services received two donations of Alaska book collections: one was from a bequest from a man in California and the other was from Laurel Downing Bill, author of the *Aunt Phil's Trunk* book series about Alaska. Laurel's donation was of her aunt Phyllis Downing Carlson's Alaska book collection, which served as research resources for the Laurel's book series. Phyllis Downing Carlson was the Alaska reference librarian at Loussac in the late 60s or early 70s. These contained rare items that have long been on the wish list for our Alaskan collection.
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) and Andi Haley (Adult Services Supervisor, Loussac) reviewed the comments from the public review period of the 65% drawings of the Alaska Wing with RIM Architects. The comments were very positive across the board, with noted excitement from patrons regarding the grand staircase that will allow provide a more welcoming way to access the lower level of the Alaska Wing.
- In May, Anchorage Public Library staff attended 12 trainings totaling 17 hours of continuing education.
- The new Early Literacy Outreach Librarian (based at Loussac), Kyrie Rhodes, started May 13.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) is a member of a city-wide work group that is updating the city emergency communications plan as it relates to the Emergency Operations Center. This plan will help ensure timely and accurate information is conveyed to the public in the event of a major emergency like earthquake, wild land fire, toxic waste spill, etc. This is a months long project set to conclude at the end of the summer.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Jim Curran (Muldoon Branch Manager) will be covering the Chugiak-Eagle River Branch Manager position being June 4. The hiring process for that position continues.
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) will begin work on the capital campaign for the Alaska Wing renovation, working closely with the Anchorage Library Foundation.
- The Alaska Wing Renovation Team will review the drawings for the 95% stage of the project in early July.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- In May 2024, there were 4 incidents that resulted in people being trespassed from the library. There were two incidents of graffiti or facility damage.

## Library Board Updates

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Friends of the Library donated almost \$50,000 in additional 2024 funds to Anchorage Public Library which will be used to purchase Transparent Language database, replacement for story-packets for children, prizes for Summer Discovery, an additional summer performer for youth, an author visit this fall for adults, and adding legal forms to Overdrive.

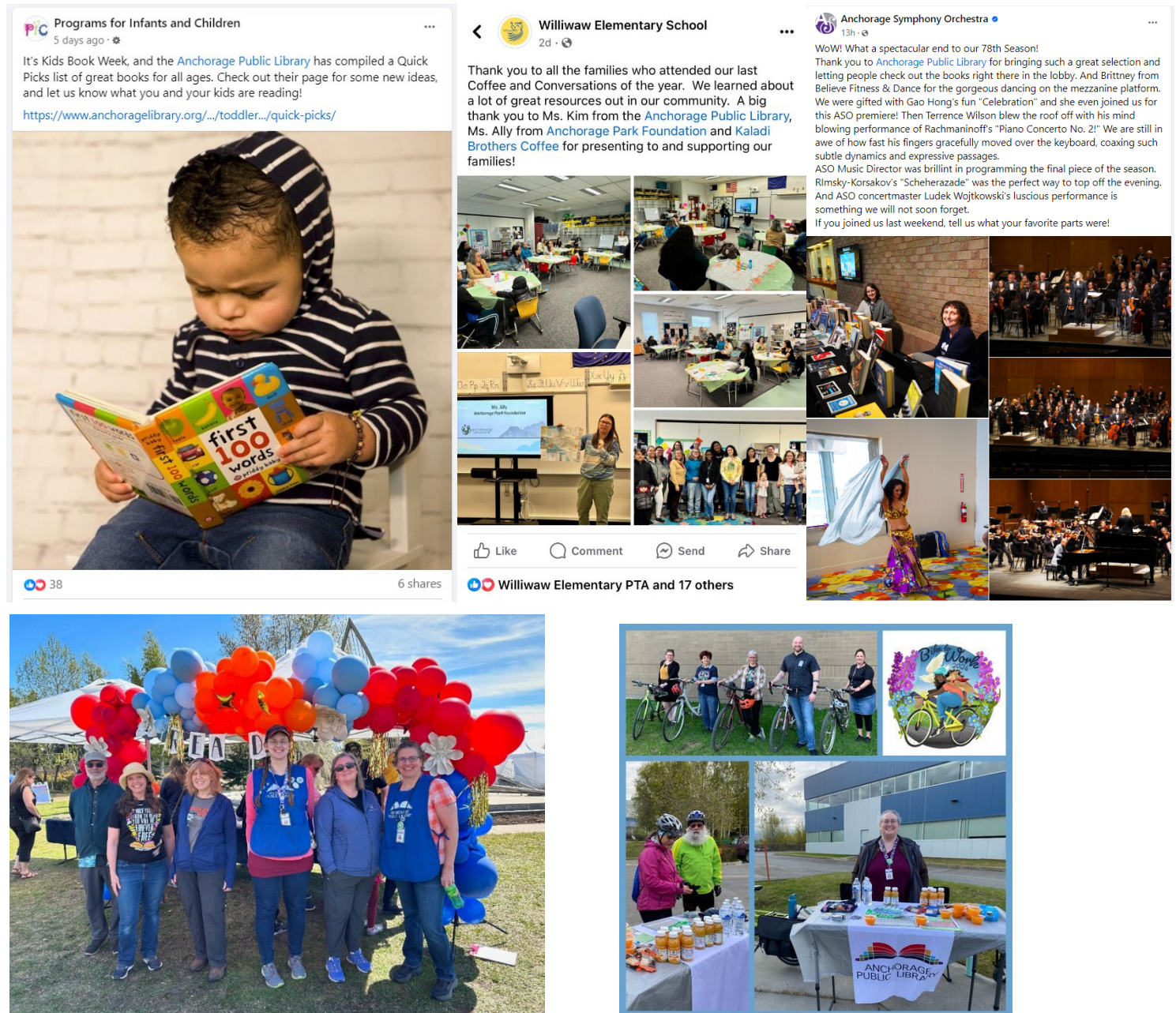
### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The Library Advisory Board continues to lack a quorum of confirmed members.

## Social Media/Photos



## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted the return of PAWSitive Reading to the Loussac Library and had a full slate, with 12 enthusiastic children reading to dogs and 20 attendees overall.
- Mountain View Library is working with the Alaska Department of Labor to provide hands on resume assistance and workforce development. The Alaska Department of Labor staff are available on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays for individual assistance to library patrons.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The second full month of Summer Discovery will include STEM programing with Mission to Mars (partner Anchorage Museum) and storytelling through comics with workshops by Lee Post. Summer Discovery encourages reading AND learning through a variety of activities to help fight summer slide.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns (none at this time)

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- A world language learning resource - Transparent Languages - has been added to the library's digital offerings and goes live July 1. It offers access to more than 110 languages, including ESL and several native Alaskan languages including Yup'ik, Gwich'in, Holikachuk, Hän, Deg Xinag, and others.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian) gave a presentation on how to use the library's digital resources to access journal and news articles and how to request materials through Interlibrary Loan. Attendees included Anchorage Assembly members and municipal staff and was also open to the public. A training video covering the same content will be available soon.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian) and Lina Kianipour (Interlibrary Loan Specialist) coordinated with the Los Angeles Public Library and the UAF Rasmuson Library to provide recordings of traditional Inupiaq songs and stories to a film production company in Los Angeles that is making a documentary about Anaktuvuk Pass.
- Sandy Knipmeyer (800# ILL Service) filled 303 requests this month. This is an increase of 3% from June 2023. APL is submitting our annual grant request to the State of Alaska to fund this position with an expectation of higher user and material numbers than last year.
- Mountain View Library, in partnership with Alaska Public Media, hosted Ready Jet Go! PBS Summer Camp with 14 participants. Mountain View Youth Services Librarian, Kim Cameron, worked with camp facilitators engaging campers in STEM activities and sharing library resources over 3 days.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- A legal forms/templates database - LawDepot – has also been added to the library's digital offerings. It will go live in mid-July.



- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) will present a literacy skills refresher with the educators from Cook Inlet Native Head Start.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The new digital resource LawDepot has a notary services available for patrons to utilize but there is a cost per notary transaction to be paid by the user. To offer an online notary service at no cost to users is currently cost prohibitive and would require dedicated computers, cameras, scanners; a private room; and extensive staff time.
- The wireless connection at Loussac Library was very slow this month. This resulted in issues with printing, patron computer use, and program presenters having difficulty presenting videos.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- Summer Discovery programming has been successful systemwide. Some highlights include:
  - Outstanding attendance at the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library with Alex Zerbe's Zaniac Comedy show drawing 52 participants and Bird TLC drawing 44 participants.
  - Chapter book author Christine Day hosted an evening writing workshop at Loussac Library for 21 people.
  - Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted an Afternoon of Art program for 45 people who tried out several new art techniques and projects.
- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) assisted Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) with a tabling at the Alaska Regional Safety Fair, discussing Summer Discovery and distributing flyers.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) attended the Pride Pop Up Artist Alley at Grow North Farms, checking out books, signing folks up for library cards, and passing out "You Belong @ Your Library" pins.
- Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian / ILL Supervisor, Loussac) hosted Michael Englehard at Loussac Library on Tuesday, June 4 from 5 - 7 PM This longtime wilderness guide, anthropologist, and Fairbanks author read from his new book *Arctic Traverse: A Thousand-Mile Summer of Trekking the Brooks Range*. The visit included a visual presentation with video clips highlighting his various experiences in the remote Alaskan wilderness. Patrons participated in a captivating Q&A session, and many purchased copies of his books complete with a personalized signing.
- Nicole Levinson (Reference and Programming Librarian, Loussac) ran outreach events at the Anchorage Museum's Lunch on the Lawn series as part of the Growing Together summer gardening program. Between Summer Discovery sign ups and gardening activities, there were 89 total interactions combined for the two events. Nicole was accompanied by Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac) and Meghan Malone (Reference and Programming Librarian, Loussac).
- Andi Haley (Adult Services Supervisor, Loussac) hosted I Read What I Want book club on June 11. It had ten attendees for the best turnout since its return in September 2022.
- Kim Cameron (Mountain View Youth Service Librarian), Teresa Churchel (Mountain View, Associate Librarian), and Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac) participated in the World Refugee Day event sharing information about the library resources and services offered to the community, as well as engaging over 60 young attendees in games and button making.
- Partnering with ASD's summer extended learning program, Red Coffey (Muldoon Youth Service Librarian) held an inclusive storytime for visually impaired students and their families. They read *On Account of the Gum* by Adam Rex and engaged in a slime-making activity.

- This past month Sue Sommers (Chugiak-Eagle River Youth Services Librarian) hosted her 6<sup>th</sup> annual Books with Chinooks event. Members from the local Eagle River baseball read books and participated in storytime activities.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library will be holding a Deconstruction Program in August where participants take apart technology and learn how they work. The program will be in collaboration with Robert Zamarron (Information Center Consultant II, Loussac).
- The Gerrish Library is working on setting up an Author Visit in September with Arran Forbes, author of *Pluto Cove*, a novel set in the Kenai Peninsula and holding a PAWSitive Reading program.
- Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian/ILL Supervisor, Loussac) will host Monica Hall, author of *Practically Still a Virgin: An Adoption Memoir* at Loussac Library on July 24 from 5:30 - 7 PM

### Limiting Factors/Concerns (none at this time)

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) traveled to San Diego to attend the American Library Association Annual conference where she accepted the John Cotton Dana Award for Library Public Communications on behalf of APL. APL was recognized for our “Booch For Books” program and was one of 8 libraries selected for this award out of over 100 nation-wide. Misty Rose also presented at the PR Exchange showcasing the campaign to conference attendees. The award comes with a \$10,000 prize that will be used for future marketing efforts that promote library services and access for our community. On a fun note, she also met internet influencer and library super star Mychal Threats (Library Joy!). (PHOTOS BELOW)
- Collection Management Services by the numbers [June]

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	516
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	22
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	1390

- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator, Loussac) and Virginia McClure (Library Director) met with members of the Anchorage Library Foundation on June 21 to give a tour and overview of the Alaska Wing and discuss plans for the upcoming capital project to rebuild the space to be welcoming and accessible for all patrons. Those in attendance went over the project budget and plans for the next step toward launching the capital fundraising campaign.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The new Chugiak-Eagle River Library branch manager will start with APL in July

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Security report: 14 people were trespassed following incidents in the Anchorage Public Library. One window in the Alaska Wing was smashed at the Loussac Library.
- In mid-June Library Director Virginia McClure tendered her resignation from APL citing the need to care for her mother who is suffering from dementia. Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) will be Acting Director effective July 6. We look forward to working with the new administration to find an excellent candidate, however we recognize that any vacancy, including executives, will mean stretched human resources in the short term.

## Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments (none at this time)

Next Steps/Coming Soon (none at this time)

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The Library Advisory Board is down to two members and will not have quorum until new members are appointed. No meeting was held in June, and no meeting is planned for July.

## Social Media/Photos

Misty Rose Nesvick at ALA with Mykal Threets

John Cotton Dana Award Winners



## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Summer Discovery programming:
  - Magic by Robbie continues to remain popular systemwide, completely filling rooms at Loussac, Chugiak-Eagle River, and Muldoon and bringing in an impressive 66 people to Gerrish Library.
  - The Comics Workshop with Lee Post brought in many attendees who got to try out his creative comics exercises. The program at Loussac filled every table in the Learning Commons with 68 attendees and 64 attendees squeezed in at Chugiak-Eagle River.
- Summer Discovery commentary from a Loussac patron: "My emerging reader made huge but tenuous reading progress in Kindergarten last year. Having this goal of 30 minutes of reading was a HUGE motivator to sit down and read at the end of a long day at camp. He's going to head into 1st grade a stronger reader than he left Kindergarten and I think he otherwise would have lost skills."
- Therapy dogs Gracie (with handler Dan) and Whisky (with handler Carrie) visited Muldoon Library for a Pawsitive Reading session. 17 people attended reading sessions for children in grades K-4 to practice reading out loud to a patient, nonjudgmental dog. Handlers Dan & Carrie volunteered Gracie & Whisky's time at no cost and will return in August for another visit.
- Summer Volunteers continued at Loussac with 6 individual kids for a total of approx. 32 hours of time in July. Volunteers assist with prep for Tuesday Summer Discovery events, cleaning the Youth Services area, and other tasks as necessary, including designing a new decorative wall in the youth space based on the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.
- Mountain View Library's Garden program has been very well received. Fourteen people attended the Backyard Composting program.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) is beginning to coordinate with ASD Migrant Education to bring new preschool programming to the branch. Migrant Education already partners with Mountain View Library to offer a "Music Together" program.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns (None at this time)

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement and Outreach Librarian, Loussac) tabled successfully at the first We Are Anchorage Multicultural Festival on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Staff successfully registered 8 residents for library cards, checked out 7 library materials, and had conversations with 188 people.
- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) attended several outreach events in July including: the Teddy Bear Picnic at Bear Paw, Alaska Zoo Family Fun event, and Clare Swan Early Learning Center's Family Enrollment Cruise, connecting families with library resources and signing families up for Summer Discovery.
- Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian & ILL Supervisor, Loussac) hosted an author talk featuring Monica Hall on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hall shared stories and pictures from her memoir *Practically Still a Virgin: An Adoption*



*Memoir*. Patrons participated in a captivating Q&A session and purchased copies of her books complete with a personalized signing.

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### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) and Red Coffey (Youth Services Librarian, Muldoon) will jointly present at the August AYDC meeting about the Anchorage Public Library and ways other youth-serving organizations can use our resources with their programming.
- Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement and Outreach Librarian, Loussac) is working on making the World Languages collections more easily findable and accessible on the APL website.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) is collaborating with a librarian at NYU on a December webinar covering music streaming services for libraries. This webinar will be available to librarians across the country and is jointly sponsored by the American Library Association and Music Library Association.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns (none at this time)

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- Katarina Pavic (Branch Manager, Gerrish Library) set up an outreach table with Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement Librarian, Loussac Library) to promote library services and programs during Forest Fair in Girdwood and had a total of 115 attendants.
- During the Seward Highway closure on Saturday, July 20, Ambler Stephenson (Senior Library Assistant, Gerrish Library) and Katarina Pavic (Branch Manager, Gerrish Library) helped a group of special needs students (11) and their caregivers (3) that were stranded in Girdwood by setting up a Game Night program in the Girdwood Community Room with various board games, LEGO's, Magna Tiles, and a game of Twister as well as setting up the projection screen for the group to watch a movie. The group was very pleased with the space, entertained with the games and the movie and thanked the library employees before they left when the library closed.
- Kim Cameron (Mountain View, Youth Services Librarian), Rayette Sterling (Mountain View, Branch Manager) and Teresa Churchel (Mountain View, Associate Librarian) interacted with 150 children and grown ups at the Mountain View Neighborhood Street Fair.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator), Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator), Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac), Meghan Malone (Adult Services Librarian), and Amanda Ambros (Adult Services Librarian) are preparing for a robust Library Card SignUp Month in September including:
  - Booch For Books September 12 , 5:30-7:30PM (Zip Kombucha)
  - An Evening With Mary Roach, September 17 5:30-7:30
  - Scoops n' Books September 24, TBD (Wild Scoops)
- The Gerrish Library will have an Author Visit with Arran Forbes to discuss her book *Pluto Cove*, a novel set in the Kenai Peninsula and a PAWSitive Reading Program in September.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Chugiak-Eagle River Branch currently has 3 vacancies due to transfers and resignations. As the new positions are being hired the branch is receiving support from both Mountain View and Muldoon branches.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers: July

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	670
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	95
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	3,137

- IMLS Grant Final Reporting
  - The Library completed its IMLS Cares Act Grant to increase internet access to patrons awarded in September 2021. The library successfully piloted three programs designed to increase technology access to the residents of Anchorage focusing on the Mountain View, Muldoon, and Loussac branches. The library checked out MiFi devices, purchased a subscription to NorthStar Digital Literacy, and bought Windows based laptops for in-library use at the Mountain View Library.
  - The MiFi program ran from January 2021 through September 2023. During the program, the library successfully checked out MiFis 2,162 times. Despite the overwhelming response, the library determined the program was unsustainable from both a budget and staffing perspective.
  - The laptops at Mountain View went live in April 2024 and has been a success. The laptops are only available within the library but do not have a time limit, allowing patrons to work on longer projects. The library is currently working on a plan to implement laptop checkout at the Loussac Library. The grant highlighted the need for internet access among Anchorage residents. The library hopes to continue to look for ways to address this need within library scope of services and staffing levels. It will take more than just the library though, to fully address the need for digital access.
- Stephanie Schott joined APL staff as Chugiak-Eagle River's new Branch Manager on July 16.
- Jim Curran (Muldoon Branch Manager) filled-in for Chugiak-Eagle River's manager vacancy and is serving as acting "Branch Coordinator" while Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) continues as acting Library Director.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) set up the new Transparent Languages database on the APL website and is working on connecting this resource to our Orangeboy account.
- Sandy Knipmeyer (800# & Reference Backup Library Assistant, Loussac) filled 243 requests and answered 41 reference questions in July.
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) facilitated a visit from David Vinjumari of ThirdWay Space. Mr. Vinjumari conducted a space audit of Loussac Library in preparation for the move of young adult materials to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the adult media collection to the third floor. He also conducted a space audit of Mountain View Library in an effort to evaluate the work flow of the main service desk. A report is expected in mid-September with his findings regarding both locations. Thank you to Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator) for her assistance helping Mr. Vinjumari navigate both locations and giving a clear explanation of APL's systemwide space and budgetary needs.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) will present at the joint AKLA/ PNLA conference in August to librarians from around the Pacific Northwest on ways to make their library storytimes more interactive and engaging with hands-on activities.
- Multiple staff from Adult Services, Youth Services, and Technical Services will attend the AKLA/PNLA conference in Juneau, to continue their professional development as part of APL's 2024 commitment to invest in staff training.
- Brendan Farrell (Facilities Manger) will offer de-escalation training to front facing staff over August and September. This verbal de-escalation training comes from Crisis Prevention Institute and is used by libraries, health care organizations, and other public institutions across the nation to provide tools to staff for navigating high demand patron interactions. Brendan completed a certification course to allow him to offer this training. Each public facing staff member will receive six and a half hours of training before November.
- The Library is working with the Mayor's office to develop materials to for the upcoming Library Director search. We hope to launch that search in August and will dedicate marketing budget to support that effort.
- 

#### **Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- Loussac Library had one incident resulting in trespass and a number of incidents of facility damage without a known individual who caused it. Mountain View had two incidents resulting in trespass.
- Adult Services at Loussac received two resignations in July effective July 31 and August 10 respectively. Both positions have been posted and will be open for most of August.

### **Library Board Updates**

**Recent Accomplishments (none at this time)**

**Next Steps/Coming Soon (none at this time)**

#### **Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- The Library Advisory Board is down to two members and will not have quorum until new members are appointed. No meeting was held in July, and no meeting is planned for August.

### **Social Media/Photos**



Anchorage Public Library (Muldoon Library)

July 31 at 5:21 PM · 🌐

Wow! Aria M. chose the Muldoon Library for the Comics Workshop with Lee Post of [Post Marks, LLC](#) on her birthday! We are honored and delighted that she would choose to spend part of her birthday with us at our last Summer Discovery event of the year.

We at the library love to be part of your and your family's story. Find out what's coming up at the Muldoon Library: <https://bit.ly/APLMDEvents>





Anchorage Public Library (Mountain View Library)

★ Favorites · July 18 at 5:15 PM · 🌐

...

Thank you [Magic by Robbie](#) for an AMAZING show today. What a great turnout! [#907LibraryLove](#)

