

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Loussac Library
December 18, 2024

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	
Alaska Room Update	Sarah Preskitt, xxxxxxxx	5:40	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:55	
Resource Database for News	Kristie Nelsen, Virtual Services Librarian and Adult Services	6:00	
Public Relations Award	Misty Rose Nesvick, Communications Coordinator	6:10	
Strategic Plan Survey	Mollie Roache, Budget Coordinator	6:20	
Director's Report	Elizabeth Nicolai, Acting Director	6:30	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:40	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
November 20, 2024
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the December 18, 2024 LAB meeting)

Attendance

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

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

Staff Present

Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director and Acting Library Director); Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator); Rebecca Lampert (Time Admin).

Guests Present

None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer, Chair, at 5:34 pm.

Land Acknowledgment

The Chair 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 Cacciola motioned, Member Thiru seconded).
- Action: Minutes from the October 2024 LAB meeting were approved. (Member Cacciola motioned, Member Thiru seconded).

Strategic Plan Discussion

- Mollie Roache, Budget Coordinator, presented an update on the Library's Strategic Plan.
- The LAB reviewed results from the 2018 Strategic Plan survey and discussed possible new

questions to reflect change in library use (does the rise in digital use conflict with the library's provision of a sense of community?) and other external forces. The completed survey should be administered in January 2025.

Persons to be heard

None.

Director's Report

- Elizabeth Nicolai, Acting Library Director, reviewed the highlights of the November Director's Reports (on file).
- Firefighters from the Anchorage Fire Department read books and sang songs with over 125 children, and took families on a tour of a fire engine.
- Music CDs will be retiring from circulation as 65% had not been checked out in two years, but books on CD will be kept.
- The world language collection is expanding, to include works in Ukrainian, Pashto, Kinyarwanda and Swahili.
- The annual Haunted Mini Golf program was attended by and 320 people.
- The communications team was awarded a 2024 Public Relations Society of America Aurora Award for the "Booch for Books" campaign.
- Staff talked to over 2,000 Anchorage School District freshman at the Freshman Career Expo, about the process of becoming a librarian.
- The search for a Library Director continues. Three candidates have been interviewed.
- Eight of the nine LAB seats are now filled. While there is nothing official in the code, it is the library's preference that at least one of the seats be somebody who does not live in the Anchorage Bowl.

Mission Moment

None.

Board Comments

- Member Odom requested to hear from Misty Rose Nesvick about our community outreach and the status of the Alaska Wing project.
- Member Johnson noted that we had a long evening of good discussion about the question "What is a library?"

Adjourn

The Motion to Adjourn was passed at 7:00 (Member Odom motioned, Member Johnson seconded).

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Youth Services staff systemwide hosted Books Get Our Vote, a mock election program where children voted for a book character for president. The program ran from October 21 through November 5 garnering 516 ballots, with The Pigeon earning the majority of the votes and being elected as our book President. **(photos below)**
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) working with Anchorage School District's Migrant Education Program and the Anchorage Children's Museum hosted Growing & Learning Together. Growing & Learning Together is a hands-on play-based early literacy and school readiness activity. 20 children and their caregivers were engaged. Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) also collaborated with Migrant Education and the Anchorage Children's Museum for the same program – 7 children and their caregivers attended. This was the first time partnering to reach families in Eagle River, with more opportunities to come.
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) held an event called *Explore the Northern Lights*. The program featured crafts and experiments based on a kit from Alaska Afterschool Network. There were 35 children and their caregivers in attendance.
- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) began offering a regular monthly outreach storytime to Clare House in addition to her regular monthly outreach storytimes for Covenant House (Passage House program) and Crystal Child Development Center.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Beginning in January, Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) will coordinate the return of monthly Saturday Countdown to Kindergarten hands-on programs at library locations to replace the Countdown to Kindergarten storytimes offered this fall.
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) has made a connection with the new WIC officers stationed down the hall from the library. They are interested in hosting preschool movement programs to support healthy children.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at that time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Anchorage Health Department held a Covid/Flu vaccine clinic at Mountain View Library. Twelve persons received vaccinations as well as information about health screening services.
- United Way's Health Care Navigators returned to Loussac Library on November 5 to assist patrons during open enrollment. Navigators will be available at Loussac on Tuesdays and Thursdays until open enrollment ends on January 15.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library is also working on inviting the Anchorage Health Department to hold a clinic to offer vaccinations and health information this winter.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at the time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) compiled and published the Teen Zine in print and online. At least 7 zines have been picked up physically in the Teen Underground and 10 more copies went to Stellar Secondary. The Teen Zine will return in 2025.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) and Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement Librarian, Loussac) ran a zine program at the Anchorage Museum for 10 enthusiastic children and family members.
- The Gerrish Library held its second PAWSitive Reading program with 4 participants and had a great turnout for its Family Movie Night with 11 participants, Movie Night for Adults with 7 attendees and a Thanksgiving Craft with 8 participants.
- Mountain View Library's Portrait Day at the Library had 50 attendees who received portraits provided by profession photographer, Jovell.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library hosted a gratitude card making station for families in the days leading up to Thanksgiving – 56 cards were made by children and adults.
- Adult Services and Communications are wrapping up over 4 months of planning for the Winter Reading Challenge for Grown-Ups (January 1 to March 16, 2025). 3 bingo cards, 16 booklists, and extensive marketing are being developed to promote this popular program.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) will work with other municipal departments to arrange special themed storytimes for the Transit (People Mover), Anchorage Health Department, Office of Emergency Management, and the Mayor in 2025.
- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) will begin visiting the Hmoob Cultural Center of Alaska and Pacific Northern Academy for outreach storytimes beginning in December.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Movie Nights for Adults at Gerrish will discontinue because of low participation but Family Movie Night will continue during the winter months.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers [November]

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1,092
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	28

New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2,334
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- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) traveled to St Louis for the Library Marketing and Communications Conference (LMCC) where she networked with over 400 library marketing professionals from public, academic, and specialty libraries across the country. She attended sessions around improving accessibility to marketing for people with disabilities, participated in multiple round table discussions, and bought back ideas for future APL marketing collateral. She was also asked to join their board for the Library Marketing and Communications Group and is considering that opportunity.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian) attended the Alaska Out-of-School Time Conference in Fairbanks, AK, learning about many math and literacy program opportunities for elementary school age children that can be adapted for library use in 2025.
- The Anchorage Assembly approved the 2025 budget. For the library, this included funding for a new position, upgrades to positions, and an increase in digital collection budget. Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator) and Elizabeth Nicolai (Acting Director) successfully advocated for these budget items first as a presentation to the Mayor in July as part of the budget process and to the Assembly in October.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) had an initial meeting with a local podcast producer and former radio DJ to explore the idea of APL starting a podcast in early 2025.
- On November 6, the Anchorage Assembly passed an update to Municipal code removing overdue fines from code as well as library rental charges and other fines. This change, shepherded through by Elizabeth Nicolai (Acting Director) will allow such fines to be updated in library policy without updating code for each change.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) will be working with Collection Management Services staff to create a standing order for teen large type books, increasing access to popular titles to kids with low vision or other reading difficulties. She is also looking into publishers with dyslexia friendly font options.
- Celia Hartz (Automation and Patron Services Coordinator) is coordinating the addition of a 5th locker tower to the Dimond Express Library lockers at Dimond Center. The new tower will be installed and re-wrapped with updated graphics provided by Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) in December. The new tower will expand access to the popular remote option during the busy winter months.
- Effective December 8, APL will no longer have music CDs in our collection. Emily Paige (Collection Management Services Coordinator) used circulation data and staff feedback to determine the retirement of of music CDs. Factors included- Low circulation: In the last year, 63% of the whole CD collection was not checked out (includes all locations). APL has not purchased any new music CDs for almost 2 years and has no plans for future purchases. Digital access: The library offers digital music through Freegal and Hoopla. Money: It costs money to relocate shelves and the project has limited funding. This retirement is part of the larger plan to move teen materials to the second floor of Loussac and move all remaining media items to the third floor. Play-aways and CD audiobooks are still part of the collection.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- After 2 years of “Stuff From The Stacks” the DJ who hosted the feature on Kbear 104.1 has left the air waves. With that feature Misty Rose Nesvick leveraged the free 3-minute weekly spotlight into almost \$11,000 in earned media for the library. APL is currently exploring moving the feature to another radio station in the market with the hopes of similar earned media potential.
- Security Update:

Security Incidents	Loussac	Chugiak-Eagle River	Gerrish	Mountain View	Muldoon	Total
Incidents resulting in trespasses	3	1	0	2	0	6
Other Incidents	5			1		6
Total	8	1	0	3	0	12

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- Friends of the Library booksale was held November 1 to 3rd and brought in over \$20,000.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Future Library Advisory Board meetings will include a mission moment from Misty Rose Nesvick on publicity awards, librarians presenting on databases, and information about the Alaska Room.

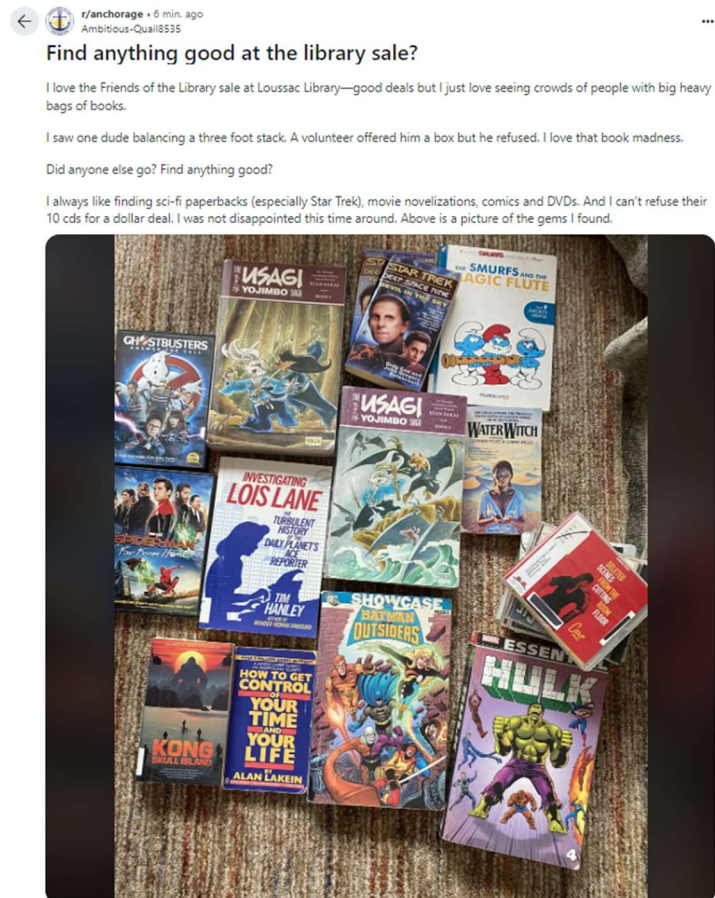
Limiting Factors/Concerns

- There remains one vacant seat on the Library Advisory Board. The board is working to see if they can recruit someone from Chugiak-Eagle River.

Social Media/Photos

Photos- An Anchorage School District elementary school that incorporated APL's Books Get Our Vote program into a civics lesson. 4 total elementary schools requested ballots in addition to patron participation at all 5 APL locations.

Social- Much #907LibraryLove on the Anchorage sub Reditt. Praise for FOL booksale and a full thread of library info.





Log In



r/anchorage 2 days ago
InterestingDelay7446

Join



Reasons to get a Loussac library card

- Access to Libby, get free audiobooks and books for EReaders.
- Access to Law Depot, get free legal documents made up specifically for your situation.
- Have books put on hold from libraries all over the state and simply go pick them up at the Anchorage library when they are ready.
- Save loads of \$\$ and support the local library ecosystem!

Edit ~ added punctuation

↑ 206 ↓ ○ 37 🗑 ➦



bunny_387 • 1d ago •

They have a pick up at dimond center too, super cool

↑ 4 ↓ ○ Reply ...

(+) 1 more reply



Roginator5 • 1d ago •

Don't they still have a ton of DVDs and Blu-rays?

⊖ ↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...



Happy_and_bright • 1d ago •

They sure do.

These can also be put on hold for pickup. If the dvd is at the Muldoon or Sitka or Fairbanks libraries and you want to pick it up at Loussac, they will send it there and notify you when ready for pickup. I've done that when I can't locate a movie on a streaming service or if the DVD has special features on it that I want to see.

Sometimes they aren't playable due to scratches. When I return them, I include a note slipped in the front of the case about that.

↑ 3 ↓ ○ Reply ...



Log In



Spooniesgunpla • 1d ago •

Hell yeah, we support literacy in this city. Picking up a habit of reading and exercise is the best way to stay on the top of your game.

↑ 14 ↓ ○ Reply ...

(+) 1 more reply



HoaryPuffleg • 1d ago •

Also. VOTE FOR PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT LIBRARIES!

Having a card and using it is fantastic but libraries need money. Those ebooks and downloadable audiobooks are expensive and the license doesn't last forever. Quality staff deserve living wages and upkeep of buildings is pricey. All those databases you want to use cost money.

The library is one of the few places that expects nothing from you beyond returning your stuff on time. It also is one of the only institutions that is shown to give more back to its community than it costs.

↑ 11 ↓ ○ Reply ...



DeadGodJess • 2d ago •

You can get access to the APL digital benefits from any Anchorage Public Library, not just Loussac. Also, different branches have different programs onsite, like fiber arts groups and free play times for kids.