

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) and Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac Library) presented to 25 school librarians at the Alaska School Library Learning Academy in June. They covered Anchorage Public Library's Youth Services Department's book selection and collection management criteria. Keelin also presented two sessions on how to repair books.
- Mountain View Library's Kid's Summer Gardening Club, in partnership with Anchor Gardens, kicked off with four enthusiastic participants, all fully engaged and ready to dig in for a season of growing and learning!

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Loussac Adult Services will host *Titanic of the North: the 1918 Wreck of the SS Princess Sophia* the week of July 14 through the end of August on the 3rd floor. This interactive exhibit chronicles the worst shipwreck to occur in the Pacific Northwest, where over 350 passengers were lost when the ship hit Vanderbilt Reef near Juneau and sank with all aboard during a winter storm.
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) is working with the 18 UAA faculty members who responded to a call out for speakers. Originally scheduled for monthly presentations at Loussac Library from September through December, the UAA Speaker Series will launch in September and run through the Spring 2026 semester at multiple APL locations due to speaker interest.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- David Kreiss-Tomkins (Community Resource Librarian) worked with the Anchorage Health Department's Community Safety and Development team to host a three-hour pop-up tabling session at Loussac Library using the library's laptops to register patrons for emergency rental assistance. He connected with 25 people.
- Emily Paige (Collections Management Services (CMS) Coordinator) with Misty Rose Nesvick, (Communications Coordinator) sent out a 6-question Hoopla use survey on June 20 to over 5,000 active Hoopla users. 1,324 responses were received during the 10 days the survey was open. As the survey prefaced, "Due to increased demand and rising costs, Anchorage Public Library is considering changes to our digital collection which includes hoopla. These changes may include replacing hoopla with other vendors who provide similar access to resources, or making adjustments to how hoopla is offered to our cardholders." Thus, the purpose of the survey was to help guide decisions regarding digital resources and budget needs, "while serving our community and the growing use of digital items." More information about the survey results will be forthcoming.
- Sam Dinges (Reference Librarian, Loussac Library) represented APL at the Juneteenth Anchorage Citywide Celebration, holding over 60 conversations with attendees about Library offerings and signing up nine attendees for new library cards.

- Muldoon Library hosted a Planting Party on June 14. Volunteers from Anchor Gardens gave a short presentation on container planting and then assisted participants as they filled the concrete planter in the library parking lot.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) and Joy White (Adult Services Senior Library Assistant, Loussac Library) worked together to create a presentation of APL resources and services for the Aging and Disability Resource Center's monthly Brown Bag Education Series. Sandy will present for the series on Tuesday, July 8.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Systemwide Summer Discovery programs have been well-attended at all branches. In particular:
 - The Krambambuli Puppet Theatre presented their version of Stone Soup to 311 attendees across all five locations, with 118 at Loussac Library, 91 at Chugiak-Eagle River Library, 34 at Muldoon Library, 18 at Mountain View Library, and 50 at Gerrish (Girdwood) Library.
 - The Meet and Greet with Goats from The Tiny Home(stead) brought in a record-breaking 1,312 attendees across all events, with 700 at Loussac Library, 250 at Chugiak-Eagle River Library, 165 at Muldoon Library, 102 at Mountain View Library, and 95 at Gerrish (Girdwood) Library. **(see photos below)**
 - The Science Discovery events co-hosted with the Campbell Creek Science Center brought in 193 attendees at three events between Loussac Library, Chugiak-Eagle River Library, and Mountain View Library.
- Branch-specific, librarian-led events have also done well:
 - Gerrish (Girdwood) Library hosted 21 people at their Plant and Play program and 17 came to make their own buttons.
 - Loussac Library had 24 come design and play their own board games. Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) facilitated this program to a small, but dedicated group. One family indicated that they attended another board game program at Loussac Library a few months ago and one of their children has become extremely interested in making up her own games as a result. She came to the library that day with a game idea ready to go!
- June Summer Discovery registrations: 1,032 (including 459 elementary-aged children). This is a 7% increase in registrations over June 2024. Total registrations so far are 3,241.
- Mountain View Library was recognized by Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) at their World Refugee Day event for our ongoing outreach partnership. This honor is thanks in large part to Kim Cameron's (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) outstanding work, leading bi-weekly Storytimes at the RAIS facility and hosting family events at Mountain View Library. Her efforts have built strong connections with refugee families and reflect our commitment to inclusive, community-centered service. **(see photo below)**
- Muldoon Library joined the Annual Spirit of Muldoon Picnic at Chanshtnu Park on June 14. Over 100 participants came for music, fun, and food.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) and Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services Librarian, Loussac Library) conducted outreach at the Pride Pop-up event at Grow North Farm, engaging with 25 attendees and celebrating inclusion, visibility, and community connection.

- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian), David Kreiss-Tompkins (Community Resource Librarian), and Sara Rollins (Shelver, Loussac Library) decorated the book cart for the Anchorage Pride Parade that APL staff attended on June 28.
- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian) and Ann Glenn (Marketing Assistant) tabled at the Downtown Summer Solstice Event and signed up 25 people for library cards. They had 183 interactions and ran out of swag and library promotional materials due to enthusiastic engagement.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library is working on setting up an Author Visit in August with Tricia Brown, author of *The Queen of Fairbanks*.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers [June]

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1,492
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	95
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc., added to the collection	1,857

- Emily Paige (CMS Coordinator) completed a review of the book collection in the Ann Stevens Room, moved damaged material into storage to be reviewed later, organized the remaining materials, and added in a couple dozen donated Alaskan titles. The two book sets that had been added to the room in February (the “100 greatest Books Ever Written” leather bound set donated to the Friends of the Library and the “Birds of North America” set that had been removed from Loussac’s general reference collection) were also integrated in with the rest of the Ann Stevens Room collection. Ariel Mortem (Technical Services (TS) Supervisor) and the TS team will be moving forward with inventorying the Ann Stevens Room collection; this special collection will remain as an in-library-use only collection.
- The Collection Management Policy was updated and put into effect on June 2. The new policy has been posted on the library’s website on the Policies page.
- Anchorage Public Library staff completed 48 trainings in June on topics such as “Dementia: How to work with people with Dementia and Alzheimer’s”, “Genealogy 101 for Librarians: : How to get started assisting family history researchers”, and “Backup: How coworkers should provide backup during conflict!”.
- Mountain View Library staff, using insights from the recent space audit, have relocated new books, large print collections, and the hold shelf to better highlight our materials, while adding more seating and workspace for visitors.
- George Felder (Information Specialist, Loussac Library) retired on June 30 following 24 years of service with the Municipality of Anchorage. We wish him well in retirement!
- Thirteen workgroups were formed to address strategic plan priorities: Operations and Change Management, Community, Employee Recognition, Communication, Safety & Security, Historic Knowledge, Organizational Structure, Onboarding, Cross-Training, Leadership & Team Culture, Core Values, Mobile Library, and Evaluation Structure.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- In June, Anchorage Public Library staff received the concept plan from GHD architectural firm for the Downtown Library to be located in Old City Hall. GHD presented at the Historic Preservation Commission and Marjorie Harrison (Library Director) presented at the Anchorage Assembly Committee for Quality Government Services. Public input will be sought in July through a “virtual open house” online as well as Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Library Director) and Marjorie attending Downtown Community Council and setting up a table during a Fridays on Fourth concert on July 11.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- None at this time.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Friends of the Library do not meet in July. The August meeting will be a joint meeting with the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library boosters at Gerrish (Girdwood) Library on August 13.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Social Media/Photos

Part of Summer Discovery 2025 Meet and Greet with Goats program from The Tiny Home(stead) at the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library.



Summer Discovery Goats at Mountain View

World Refugee Day – Community Partner Award received by Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library)



Muldoon Library Planting Party

