

October Monthly Activities Board Report

From the Director:

October was a busy and successful month. Although we made a strategic decision to reduce library hours modestly, we saw more visitors walking through the door, attending programs, using Wi-Fi and total questions asked than the previous October! For full statistics, see the last page of this report.

I'm proud of how well this staff is working with each other, with our community and across City departments. This month we hosted a quarterly city-wide staff meeting, followed by our library staff development day. It's hard to find the time to bring our whole staff together for training, especially in a library that supports the community seven days per week. However, it is very important to me that we invest in this team, so they can complete the job we've asked them to undertake.

October brought the conclusion to our second annual Author Series. Attendance and participation more than doubled this year, likely in part due to our community partners helping spread the word about the series. Special thanks to the Friends of the Ledding Library for providing the funding to make our programs possible and to our community co-sponsors Spoke & Word Books who were onsite to sell books at most of the author talks. They also advertised the programs in their store with a special display. *(Work Smarter Together)*

*Cheers,
Brent Husher,
Library Director*

Kudos:

Thanks to **Kelly and Jana** for taking the lead on coordinating/planning the library staff training day. I asked for additional help with this training in building the agenda, and I think our team would agree that it was a successful day in large part because of their efforts. -Brent

Thanks to **Fida** for coordinating lunch at staff training day -Brent

We really appreciate **Nicole** working in Finance for almost six months to help fill a staffing gap until a new employee can be hired. The Finance team relayed how impressed they are with her dedication and customer service skills. **Nicole** also trained Tasha to work one day a week in finance so that Nicole could return to working in the library two days a week. They have both demonstrated how we can Work Smarter Together. We are happy they will both be back at the library soon (MM Smarter)

Kudos to **Sara** for making storytime more accessible this month with a visual schedule. Sara created a pictorial outline of storytime activities that is especially helpful for kids with sensory issues.

Kirsten coordinated a volunteer training session for teen volunteers. 13 teens have signed up to work 20 volunteer hours each this school year. It is no small feat to get them all trained!

Improving Organizational Health & Sustainability:

In October, the library instituted a modest hours change. This change is strategic and is an outcome based on priority two in the library's three-year [strategic plan](#). The goal is designed to increase organizational capacity with our current budget and staffing.

- The library is open fifty-six hours per week which is three hours more than Multnomah County Libraries and Lake Oswego Public Library, but six hours fewer than Oregon City and Happy Valley.
- The library remains open seven days per week, opening every day at 10:00am.
 - The library closes at 6pm on Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays.
 - The library closes at 7pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
 - The library closes at 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Supporting Staff:

- The library closed on Wednesday, October 30 for a staff training day. After welcoming our city coworkers to the library for a citywide meeting, the library team reviewed building evacuation plans, learned about a new translation service for use with the public, and participated in de-escalation training from Right2Be. The City's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator Gabriela Santoyo Gutierrez joined us.





- Robert attended the Milwaukie Houseless meeting with Kelly to learn more about the local outreach groups and partners in Clackamas County.
- Jana attended the NW Public Employees Diversity Conference with 5 other Milwaukie City staff.
- On Thursday, October 17, the library (along with the other departments of the City of Milwaukie) participated in the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill. At 10:17am, staff members in the library (as well as a few patrons) performed the earthquake safety skills of Drop, Cover, and Hold On.

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need:

- The library partners with Clackamas County Health, Housing, and Human Services to provide Rent Well E-Course Lab drop-in sessions.
 - Rent Well is a tenant education class that helps people overcome housing barriers related to evictions or rental history, credit, or criminal history.
 - During the October 15th lab 4 clients attended the lab.
 - Two of the clients were connected to other services.
 - Spanish instruction and other language interpretation are provided.
- Robert taught three tech help sessions with two patrons:
 - helped a patron use their app to communicate with their wife in a nursing home; helped a patron set up apps on their Android phone and delete and disable some unnecessary apps.

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need at the Library 2024					
		Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul
Weekly Tuesday Outreach Clients		6	11	7	13
Water Bottles/Granola Bars		129	132	97	100
Outreach Card Referrals		6	8	9	13
Bus Passes		0	2	3	6
Parole and Probation Outreach		20	20	16	no data
PITS Outreach Referrals noted		3	4	6	5
Cooling Center Days		0	2	0	5
Extended hours of Cooling Center		0	5	0	18
Cooling Center Participants		0	10	0	65
Cultural Passes		113	143	195	159

Community Partnerships, Collaborations and Connections:

- Jessalynn delivered books plus one of our new outreach book sets to the Ardenwald after-school CARE site. She also shared storytime with the K-3^d grade classes. The books will stay at the site for a month for kids to enjoy. (*Improving Library Service at the Point of Need*)
- On Tuesday, October 22, Sara and Christine hosted a freshman English class from the Waldorf School. The students learned about the library and the catalog, and they spent some time getting to know the collection.

Programs and Outreach



Ballet Papalotl, a Mexican folk-dance group, performed at Milwaukie City Hall on October 12. Their beautiful costumes and dances were stunning. Director Kenya Marquez shared the historic significance of each dance, as well. Thanks to the Friends of Ledding Library for sponsoring!

Fall Author Series Concludes Second Season!

Author and adventurer Tessa Hulls discussed her graphic memoir *Feeding Ghosts*. Before Tessa's presentation the City's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator Gabriela Santoyo Gutierrez and an Equity Steering Committee member and Elizabeth Start were discussed their work.

Portland author Ferris Jabr presented an informative talk about the history of earth and his book *Becoming Earth*. He shared some truly mind-blowing facts and the audience seemed deeply appreciative of his talk.

Award winning journalist and writer Omar El Akkad came to talk about his novel *What Strange Paradise*, as well as his career as a war reporter. It was another well-attended presentation, and Omar was generous with time and stayed after the event to chat individually with audience members.







Members of the Science Fiction & Fantasy book group met to discuss *Primary Inversion* by Catherine Asaro. Their next book for November is *Provenance* by Ann Leckie.

Local favorite Will Hornyak presented ***Mostly Grimm***, a spooky storytelling program celebrating Samhain, Halloween, and Dia de los Muertos.



Halloween! Teens created costumes for rubber ducks and enjoyed the movie *Addams Family Values* at a Teen Halloween Party.

A 3-hour parade of kids in costume joined us the following Saturday for a drop-in Halloween craft and scavenger hunt during downtown Milwaukie's trick-or-treat.

Weekly read to the dog sessions resumed this month. This Dove Lewis therapy dog outreach program gives beginning and struggling readers the chance to practice reading aloud to a non-judgmental furry friend. Thanks to Jan for coordinating!

Book Displays:

For the first half of October, we highlighted Hispanic Heritage Month. For the rest of October, we featured spooky stories with our display, “Dare to be Scared”. We included many seasonal and horror movies on our “Staff Picks” DVD rack. Other displays throughout the library spotlighted Hispanic Heritage, Rosh Hashanah, Diwali, Dia de los Muertos, Halloween, and World Animal month.

Other Highlights:

- More than 500 children have signed up for our 1000 Books before Kindergarten program since it started 2 years ago. This early literacy initiative encourages language play and book sharing between caregivers and children in their first 5 years.

			Ledding October	Library 2024	Statistics		
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Circulation	56385	55402	51221	49099	25456	44630	22761
Patron visits	19631	18738	16947				
New Cards	285	333	273				
Computer use		1115	1043				
WiFi sessions	1762	1717	1485				
Questions (all desks)	3136	2778	2456				
Programs							
Adult	12	10	5				
Attendance	254	273	152				
Juvenile	32	31	30				
Attendance	1465	1420	1160				
Teen	3	7					
Attendance	112	28					
Total Programs	47	48	35				
Total Attendance	1831	1721	1312				
Volunteers							
Number	68	68	62				
Hours worked	516	505	379				