

March 2025 - Monthly Activities Board Report

Library Director's Message:

Looking for a quick way to review library programming this month and next? Our team creates brochures by audience available in print at the library or [online](#).



Kids ages 0-5 in the tri-county area (Clackamas, Washington & Multnomah) can now sign up to receive a book per month delivered to their doorstep – free!

Sign up at go.lincc.org/dpil or scan the code below.

Sign up here!



The books come from [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) with funding from the United Way of Columbia-Willamette. Thanks to the United Way's sponsorship, we can start promoting it locally. [Sign-up here.](#)

At the federal level there has been news that will impact libraries across the country.

- First, The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has placed its entire staff on [administrative leave](#).
- Second, congressionally approved grants to [State Libraries and others](#) have been terminated.

A copy of the letter sent by IMLS Acting Director Keith Sonderling is to the right. There will surely be judicial challenges to this and we'll keep an eye on the State Library's [evolving response](#).

Dear IMLS Grantee,

This letter provides notice that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is terminating your federal grant effective April 1, 2025, through the termination clause in your Award Agreement.

This grant is unfortunately inconsistent with IMLS' priorities. Independently and secondly, the President's March 14, 2025 executive order mandates that the IMLS eliminate all non-statutorily required activities and functions. See *Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy*, E.O. 14238 (Mar. 14, 2025). Therefore, the IMLS hereby terminates your grant in its entirety effective April 1, 2025.

Please remember that your obligations under the Grant Agreement continue to apply. Additionally, an audit may be conducted by IMLS after the termination of the agreement.

Please contact grant-notices@imls.gov with only urgent questions. We wish you well.

Sincerely,

Keith Sonderling

Acting Director

ksonderling@imls.gov

955 L'Enfant Plaza SW #4000, Washington, DC 20024

While most of Milwaukie Ledding Library's budget is locally supported primarily through property taxes, we do receive indirect support through programs and grants administered through the State Library.

Grants administered through the state library can fund things like ongoing training for libraries, their boards, and staff; discounted internet for schools and public libraries; teen internship programs at public libraries; and summer reading programs.

Anyone looking to show some love for Milwaukie's Ledding Library, please think about supporting [Friends of the Ledding Library](#) or the [Ledding Library of Milwaukie Foundation](#)

Kudos:

Feedback received after a tech help session:

Thank you Christine!! Ann really appreciated your tutoring and she expressed that the more she went over things with you, the more relaxed she felt. I received a text from Susie, Ann's daughter and she sends her thanks "for empowering my mom".

Kudos, thanks, and extra credit for Jana for putting on an IT hat when we ran into technical difficulties during and after a City internet outage in early March. She crawled under desks, sourced peripherals, and reconfigured cables to get the Circ desk up and running by opening. She truly went above and beyond!

Improving Library Services at the Point of Need:



Jana and Eileen joined families at the Wichita Head Start Family Night. After storytime, the kids each got a free book and a 1000 books before kindergarten bag. 3 kids also signed up for library cards. The books and 1000 books program are both paid for by the Ready to Read grant from the State of Oregon.

Jessalynn and Sara each visited after-school programs this month at Linwood and Lot Whitcomb Elementary Schools. They shared storytime and delivered books for the K-5 grade students to enjoy on site.

Supporting Staff:

We welcomed new on-call librarians Ann Heiliger, Kate Houston, Dre de Leon, Kimberly Peterson and Chuck Quilty to the library team. We're thrilled to have such an impressive group of librarians join us. Kate, Dre & Chuck started training in March. Ann and Kimberly will both start the first week of April.

Alex King was selected for a temporary promotion to Human Resources Analyst this month. They will work 20 hours a week in the HR department. This is a wonderful opportunity for professional development and to collaborate with other departments in the city.

Becky, Kelly, and Lizzie Figueroa from Wilsonville interviewed internal candidates for a part-time Library Assistant I position (Position replacing Elysa after retirement in January 2025) and a temporary Library Assistant I position (Replacing hours for Alex who is working part-time in Human Resources). Joelle Flegal was selected for the part-time position and Cassidy Mahoney was selected for the temporary position. Both candidates are from our current pool of On-Call Library Assistants.

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need:

Brandi Johnson and Glen Suchanek attended the monthly Help Milwaukians Most in Need Group to discuss the services provided by LoveOne, Father’s Heart, and Clackamas County.

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need at the Library 2024										
	March	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	
Weekly Tuesday Outreach Clie	20	5	20	13	15	6	11	7	13	
Water Bottles/Granola Bars	127	46	52	62	139	129	132	97	100	
Outreach Card Referrals	7	5	8	8	5	6	8	9	13	
Bus Passes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	6	
Parole and Proboation Outreach	25	22	30	35	30	20	20	16	no data	
PITS Outreach Referrals noted	8	7	2	7	4	3	4	6	5	
Cooling Center Days	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	0	5	
Extended hours of Cooling Cent	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	0	18	
Cooling Center Participants	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	0	65	
Cultural Passes	193	102	141	153	170	113	143	195	159	
Rent Well Participants	8	8	8	11	8	4				

Community Partnerships, Collaborations and Connections:

K-5th grade students enrolled in the Clackamas Web Academy came to the library on a field trip on March 7 with their parents. For many of the kids, it was their first visit to the library. They enjoyed storytime, a library tour, and the chance to get library cards.

We shared storytime with the Ready Set Go families in their Wichita classroom, with teacher Denys translating to Spanish. The Metropolitan Family Services kindergarten-readiness program will come to the library on a field trip in May.

Programs, Services, and Outreach

Tasha and Fida visited Seed Libraries in LINCC to get ideas for ways to improve the current seed library. They came back with ideas for donations, organization, displaying, and marketing the seed library.

The Clackamas County Braver Angels hosted a discussion of community members interested in breaking down social and political divides through conversation, engagement, and understanding.

A standing-room-only crowd of enjoyed the Celtic tales and songs of Will Hornyak. The storyteller is a Milwaukie native and a regular favorite here at the library.



Robert helped 3 patrons with technology assistance: resetting older laptops and use of their DVD player.

Robert scheduled Ida West to give a presentation for "Women and Money" on Saturday, June 7th, from 2:00 to 3:00.

Tara coordinated with Colleen Johnston (Clackamas County Master Recycler) to host the third Repair Fair to be held in the Ledding Library Community Room. For those unfamiliar with repair fairs, they are free community events that bring volunteers with fixing skills and people with broken items together. The goal is to extend the lifetime of everyday objects and reduce waste. A total of **52 repairs** were made.

The Milwaukie Poetry Series hosted featured poet Judy Montgomery and a bilingual Arabic poetry reading this month.



Tara hosted award-winning writer Maggie Stuckey, author of *The Bountiful Container* and *The Container Victory Garden*. Maggie shared how even with little or no suitable outdoor garden space just about anyone can grow their own healthy food. It was a packed house.

To demonstrate just how easy it is, Maggie planting up an actual container garden, sharing tips & tricks and answering questions as she goes along. Everyone in the audience was entered into a drawing, and one lucky person got to take home the finished garden.



Teens took over the library at our Spring Break Teen Lock-In. Staff from N. Clackamas Parks & Recreation District joined 6 library staff for the Friday night after-hours event. For two and a half hours, teens could enjoy pizza, karaoke, video games, ping pong, a photo booth, button-making, board games or just a place to hang out.

Science educator Rick Reynolds brought hands-on activities, magnifying glasses and a variety of bat skeletons to his Helpful Hungry Bats program during Spring Break. We also offered a drop-in art lab with bookmark-making supplies and a weeklong scavenger hunt.



March Book Displays:

Our main lobby display featured Women's History Month. Women's history was also highlighted in the teen room and the Children's library. Our second lobby display showcased Irish American Heritage Month. Additional displays throughout the library included Ramadan & Eid Al-Fitr and Jane Austen (the author was born 250 years ago this year).



Other Highlights:

March 2025 recorded the highest circulation, door count, and new library cards issued since the beginning of the Fiscal Year.

Circulation 60,728

Door Count 22,077

New Library Cards 408

			Ledding	Library	Statistics		
			March	2025			
Circulation	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	60728	63785	57317	50,910	31,873	33,211	46,254
Patrons Visits							
	22077	20240	18272				
New Cards							
	408	461	468				
Computer Use	1295	1270	1006				
Wifi Sessions	1718	1759	1539				
Questions							
All Desks	3307	3481	3,317				
Programs							
Adult Programs	12	17	9				
Attendance	302	363	218				
Juvenile Programs	31	31	32				
Attendance	1322	1856	1774				
Teen Programs	3	6	7				
Attendance	136	45	32				
Total Programs	46	54	48				
Total Attendance	1760	2264	2024				
Volunteers							
Number	64	65	82				
Hours worked	377	390	620				