

Monthly Activities Board Report May 2025

Director's Report

Two long-time members of Team Milwaukie Ledding Library have retired: Ellen Malizia and Scott Griffith. Thank you, Ellen, and Thank you Scott, for your years of service to the Milwaukie Community. But there is good news here, beyond their well-earned time away. Both have transitioned into on-call positions, so you may see them working a shift or two a month to help us out when our schedule needs it.

Now that we've made it to June, I invited everyone in our community to participate in our Summer Reading Programs. Regardless of age, we have a place for you – And prizes! For more information, please visit: <https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/library/summer-reading-program-2025>

Because the role of Library Director can seem a bit amorphous, I thought it might be interesting to share a sample of what a month looks like for me through appointments. Below includes most (but not all) of the meetings and events I attended in May.

- Attended the State of the City address, evening of Friday, May 2
- Attended City Council's Regular Session, evening of Tuesday, May 6
- Attended Noche Latina at Milwaukie High School, evening of Friday, May 16
- Interviewed 6 Candidates for Library Board, Saturday, May 17th
- Attended Council President Anderson's program on Sunday, May 18th
- Attended Library Volunteers/Partners event, evening of Saturday, May 31st

- Attended Milwaukie Momentum (City's Strategic Plan) all group meeting
- Attended monthly Library Foundation meeting
- Attended monthly Library Board meeting
- Facilitated monthly 4-hour meeting of library directors in Clackamas County
- Attended Children's Team meeting
- Facilitated Adult Services Team meeting

- Met with City Manager, Emma Sagor 4 times this month
- Met with Assistant City Manager Joseph Briglio
- Met with Chief Ryan Burdick
- Met with City Recorder/Administrative Director Scott Staufer
- Met with Joe Gardner, IT Manager
- Met with Gabriela Santoyo Gutierrez, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator
- Met with Katie Gavaris Climate and Natural Resources Manager

- Met with City Directors' Team 5 times over the month
- Met with City Colleagues to plan for Cooling Center activations this summer
- Met with the organizer coordinating Milwaukie Pride, Scott Park, 6/21, 11am-2pm.
- Met with Krystina Thomas, Ledding Library Foundation President
- Met with Emily Lowery, incoming Board member
- Met with Tom Hogan, Milwaukie Poetry Series & Library Foundation Board Members

Kudos:

Special thanks from Christine to all who helped get adult SRP ready in time – staff who helped staple packets, Tara who updated the webpage/socials, on-call librarians who helped create Book Bingo booklists (Ann H., Ann M., Gordon, Grace, Kate, Kris, and Tom), and Jana for superintending the printing order. Looking forward to a fun summer of reading!

Kudos to Sara and Jessalynn for reimagining the children's library collection, with lots of inspiration from Kelly. Languages, Library of Things, Parenting, and Children's Nonfiction are all much more accessible and user-friendly as a result.

Improving Library Services at the Point of Need:

Sara and Jessalynn's monthly delivery of books to the after-school programs at Ardenwald, Linwood & Whitcomb Elementary Schools this school year proved popular. All 3 sites wish to continue the partnership next fall.

Robert conducted two Tech Help sessions with one patron to fix a screen wallpaper issue on a tablet that was making it difficult to use and in helping a patron set up a Zoom call with their lawyer.

Supporting Staff:

Brent and Kelly attended the Cultivating a Culture of Belonging through Effective Feedback Training session for all city directors, managers, and supervisors.

Circulation staff met for their quarterly one-on-ones with Kelly throughout the month. We are preparing for upcoming changes to city's goal of initiating a formalized performance management and development plan.

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need at the Library 2024-2025			
		May	July-April
Weekly Tuesday Outreach Clients		23	131
Water Bottles/Granola Bars		146	512
Outreach Card Referrals		7	74
Parole and Probation Outreach		22	217
PITS Outreach Referrals noted		3	63
Cooling Center Days		na	23
Extended hours of Cooling Center		na	23
Cooling Center Participants		na	75
Cultural Passes		228	1577
Rent Well Participants		5	52

Don Holden, our Milwaukie-based LoveOne Outreach Specialist, now has additional support throughout the county. An additional Outreach Specialist has been hired to cover Gladstone. This allows Don to spend most of his time serving Milwaukie's community members in need.

Community Partnerships, Collaborations and Connections:

Robert met with Brent Balog of Workforce Oregon again this month and discussed several opportunities for collaboration. Brent is going to get Robert in touch with Abbie Sanchez from Northwest Family Services who may be interested in staffing some time to make herself available for providing onsite help.

We partnered with Clackamas Parenting Together to offer two drop-in playgroups with parenting tips in May. Aptly named Joyful Parenting, the sessions modeled simple everyday ways for young children and their caregivers to explore the world through play.

Families from the Wichita Center's Ready Set Go program came to the library for a storytime and chance to get library cards on May 8.

The Portland Waldorf School's early childhood teachers shared a storytime at the library on May 12.

The Sojourner Marimba Band gave an hour-long performance in the amphitheater on Saturday morning, May 31. We couldn't have asked for a better kick-off to summer programs in the park!



On May 31, library staff hosted the 3rd Annual Library Volunteer, Friends, and Partner Reception. We are grateful for the ongoing support that is provided through our community. Over 50 were attendance and enjoyed full nacho bar provided by the Friends.



Programs and Outreach

The Library hosted the Oregon Humanities Conversation Project *What Matters at Life's End* on Saturday, May 17. Facilitator Wendy Usher guided the 23 attendees in conversation and reflection about death, dying, and end of life wishes. Earlier in the month, we offered another Oregon Humanities Conversation called *Softening Sharp Teeth: Getting Curious about Conflict*, which led to an intimate, honest group discussion.

The nine members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy group met this month to discuss Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Lathe of Heaven". Twelve Daylight Book Clubbers met to talk about "What an Owl Knows" by Jennifer Ackerman. The Ledding Book Club had nine readers in to discuss "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett.

Taking a break from weekly storytimes, we offered 2 baby sign & play classes, a stretch, dance, play class for preschoolers, a Spanish storytime, and 2 drop-in parenting playgroups.

May marks the end of another year of LEGO Club. Once a month, LEGO expert Molly Patton inspires kids to create the most amazing designs with only a hint of a theme – i.e. Parks.



Outreach-Delivering Services outside of the Physical Library

May was a huge month for outreach. Library staff tabled at 4 different school events: the Noche Latina celebration at Milwaukie High School for Latino families throughout N. Clackamas Schools, Rowe Middle School's SpringFest, and Family Nights at Lot Whitcomb's After-School Program & Ardenwald Elementary. Thanks to Brent, Dana, Tor, Eileen, Jessalynn, Joelle, Kirsten, Tasha & Jana for trying to connect more Milwaukians with library resources.

Book Displays: During May, library displays included Jewish Heritage Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and Older Americans Month. We also featured Star Wars books/movies/audio for "May the Fourth Be with You".

Other Highlights:

During the last Revitalize Milwaukie committee meeting, Melissa Perkins mentioned to the group that it would be nice to have the water fountain on Main Street working again for community members. Many of the team members of the committee are new to Milwaukie and did not know that there had been a working water fountain on Main Street many years ago. Since this committee involves departments across the city, they were able to check into the fountain and fix it. Thanks to Melissa's connection to the community, Milwaukie now has a working water fountain on Main Street.

(MM Revitalize, MM Need, MM Smarter)

In May, 928 items were added to the collection, the largest amount during this fiscal cycle. 836 of those items were books and other print materials. On average we add 586 books and print materials per month. Thank you to David, Jan, Kirsten, and Fida for all of their work in getting these materials added and processed for our library patrons.

			Ledding May	Library 2024	Statistics		
Circulation	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	57410	57353	52388	49303	30794	6179	42682
Patron visits	22719	18194	16224				
New Cards	356	309	309				
Computer use	1207	1584	1122				
WiFi sessions	1701	1246	1359				
Questions (all desks)	2763	2803	2631				
Programs							
Adult	9	15	4				
Attendance	106	107	93				
Juvenile	21	19	25				
Attendance	1082	1304	1421				
Teen	2	5	6				
Attendance	118	14	32				
Total Programs	32	39	35				
Total Attendance	1306	1425	1546				
Volunteers							
Number	63	87	69				
Hours worked	457	770	765				