

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Muldoon Library
October 21, 2026

Board Members

Ryan Foisy, Olivia Garrett, Jen Griffis, Lydia R. Johnson, Marc Johnson, Lynn McNamara, Wade Hampton Miller, Antionette M. Street, Cristy Willer

Topic	Leader	Time
1. Call to Order	LAB Chair	5:30
2. Roll Call	LAB Chair	5:30
3. Approval of Agenda	LAB Chair	5:35
4. Approval of Minutes	LAB Chair	5:40
5. Disclosures	TBA	5:45
6. New Business – Muldoon Transit Center and Library focus group	APL Director	5:50
7. Unfinished Business – Choosing Chair & Vice Chair	LAB Chair	6:20
8. Public Participation	LAB Chair	6:30
9. Monthly Board Report	APL Director	6:40
10. Library Spotlight – Muldoon Library (tour at end of meeting)	Staff	6:45
11. Board Comments	LAB Chair	6:55
12. Adjournment	LAB Chair	7:00

Following is a link to join the meeting virtually:

Microsoft Teams meeting

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**Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of September 16, 2026**

1. Call to Order

Chair Willer convened the meeting at 5:34 p.m. in Anchorage Public Library, 3600 Denali Street, Moose Room, Anchorage, Alaska.

2. Roll Call

Present: Ryan Foisy, Olivia Garrett, Lydia R. Johnson, Marc Johnson, Wade Hampton Miller, and Cristy Willer.

Absent: Jen Griffis, Antionette M. Street

Also in attendance were Marjorie Harrison, Library Director, Samantha Blanquart, Youth Services Coordinator, Kendall Millman, Early Literacy Outreach Librarian.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Wade Hampton Miller moved, Ryan Foisy seconded,
To approve of the agenda of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of September 16, 2026.

and the motion passed without objection.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Olivia Garrett moved, Lydia Johnson seconded,
To approve the minutes of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of August 19, 2026.

and the motion passed without objection.

5. Public Participation – None

6. Library Spotlight

Resource: Summer Discovery – Samantha Blanquart, Youth Services Coordinator.

Service: Youth Book Bags – Kendall Millman, Early Literacy Outreach Librarian.

7. Disclosures - None

8. Old Business – None.

9. New Business

There was discussion regarding the Circulation Policy. Members would like further information on the rule regarding fines and fees sent to collections; recommended that the library define “good standing”; and requested that Celia present the policy at another meeting.

10. Reports

The Monthly Board Report has been distributed and is on file.

11. Board Comments

Chair Willer reminded members that we would be choosing officers (Chair and Vice Chair) at the October LAB meeting and suggested that all members should consider serving as officers.

12. Adjournment

Chair Willer adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

The next Library Advisory Board will be held on October 21, 2026, at the Muldoon Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Lampert, Junior Admin Officer for
Marjorie Harrison, Library Director

For detailed Board discussion, please refer to the recording of this meeting located on the Anchorage Public Library Website at [Library Advisory Board - Anchorage Public Library](https://bit.ly/APLLABYouTube) <https://bit.ly/APLLABYouTube>

ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET SUMMARY

October 2026 – Budget Submission to the Administration

WHAT WE ARE DOING:

- Supporting our library through sustainable staffing models
- Prioritizing security for all locations
- Implementing the 2025-2028 APL Strategic Plan

STAFFING AND SECURITY:

- Increased Youth Services staffing by one full-time Associate Librarian
- Implemented department wide staffing reorganization
- Established Facilities Division including additional full-time Junior Administrative Officer

WHAT WE ASKED FOR:

The library continues to prioritize staffing and security to promote safe and welcoming public spaces. At the Mayor's Office request, we provided the following list of requests:

Increase Staffing:

- One additional security guard at Mountain View Branch Library
- Add additional Library Assistant II at Mountain View Branch Library
- Add additional Associate Librarian at Chugiak-Eagle River Library
- Add additional Professional Librarian I at Loussac Library Adult Services

Increase Revenue Opportunity

- Increase printing revenue received by \$6,000

2027 Capital Improvement Projects

- Loussac Library – Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning – Bond request of \$10,000,000.

WHAT WAS ASKED OF US

Per the Mayor's Office direction, the library prepared a budget equal to the same dollar amount as our 2026 budget (also called a "flat" or "net-zero budget") and a budget with a 5% reduction.

Decrease Operating Budget:

To meet the request for a 5% reduction (\$530,000) the library has provided a list of options and costs, including:

- Reduce funding provided to Anchorage Library Foundation
- Eliminate hoopla and reallocate remaining line item funds to Overdrive resources
- Move DTX Library Locker to Chugiak-Eagle River Branch
- Eliminate LinkedIn Learning and Law Depot

WHAT WE STILL NEED:

- Funding for the reduced budget lines, prioritizing restored budget for collections.
- Donations to the Anchorage Library Foundation to support operating and capital projects.

PLANNING AHEAD:

The library is planning to conduct a follow-up review of positions and org chart in 2027 following the 2026 reorganization. Thank you for your continued support.



Anchorage Public Library Board Report, October 2026 Activities for September 2026

Our mission is connecting people to education, information, and community. Each month we share our wins, our challenges, and public information, in service of the Municipality of Anchorage.

Education

Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library has introduced a new Baby Storytime that will be offered twice a month through the storytime season. The first event brought together 16 babies and caregivers for songs, rhymes, and open play.
- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) did 12 outreach storytimes for 199 people at locations including Head Starts, parks, AWAIC, and more. This work is funded by the Municipal Alcohol Tax.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) attended First Friday at the Anchorage Museum. She hosted a bookmark-making table and spoke with 97 people, which included one library card sign up, one card renewal, and 20+ submissions for the Scoops & Stories ice cream flavor contest.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) is partnering with the librarian at Clark Middle School to provide monthly library programs and library card sign-ups. In September, 105 students participated in library activities and received library cards.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) provided Storytime outreach at the Mountain View Community Center, engaging 30 school- and preschool-aged children.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Loussac Library will host staff from UAA Engineering's K-12 Outreach group who will lead a hands-on STEM program in October for children in grades 3-10.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Information

Recent Accomplishments

- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted a tour of the children's room and teen space for 11 Pacific Northern Academy fifth graders, showcasing library resources and online databases.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Community

Recent Accomplishments

- In October, we broke ground on the new Downtown Library in a ceremony with the Mayor, members of the Anchorage Library Foundation, and other stakeholders.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library's first annual Pirates at the Library event invited the Privateers of the Emerald Rose, the Brotherhood of Oceanic Mercenaries (B.O.O.M) Alaska Crew Members (from 3 Barons Renaissance Fair) to share the history of piracy and games for all ages. 68 folks attended – some in full pirate garb!
- Muldoon Library hosted the Muldoon Transit Hub & Library planning and engagement team at Muldoon Farmers Market and in the library to share updates and gather further input on site selection and services for the project. Both were well attended.
- The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library held a Mushroom Masterpieces program for Girdwood's Fungus Fair in collaboration with Turnagain Mycological Society and Four Valleys Community School where 25 participants painted mushroom planter stakes.
- Booch For Books, the Library's annual partnership with Zip Kombucha, brought over 40 people to try Kombucha and Book Tasting combinations with proceeds benefiting the Anchorage Library Foundation.
- The Scoops & Stories contest, wherein patrons design ice cream flavors based on their favorite children's books, brought in over 60 delicious flavor submissions. This year's winning flavor was inspired by the classic title *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCluskey.
- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) tabled at the Scoops & Stories event for families to try the library book-inspired ice cream and get book recommendations for their favorite ice cream flavors. She spoke with 113 people about library services and resources.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted Megon from Music Together Mountain Song for a new, free music program for babies 0-9 months old for 21 attendees. The baby-only music program will continue quarterly on the same schedule as the family music program.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library will have a presentation on beluga whales with Michelle Trifari from the Alaska Beluga Monitoring Program to talk about the critically endangered Cook Inlet beluga in October.
- The Loussac Library will host the annual Haunted Mini Golf program in October.
- October will have two special storytimes across the different branches: firefighter storytime with Anchorage Fire Department and Girdwood Fire and Rescue plus Spanish-language storytimes.
- In October, best selling author Julia Quinn will join the Library for two events and a donor tea.
- Loussac Youth Services will host an event with award-winning author and illustrator Michaela Goade for elementary-aged children and their families in October.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Operations and Statistics

Recent Accomplishments

- Mountain View Library continues to provide needed services to the community while operating with limited hours and services during building repairs. In September, staff expanded available services to include bus pass sales.
- Core Services By The Numbers
 - Access to a diverse collection of materials in various formats –
 - Circulation total: 127,842
 - Digital: 50,316
 - Physical: 77,526
 - Tech services:
 - New items added: 3,173
 - Items repaired/records updated: 429
 - Knowledgeable and approachable staff
 - 30 staff training hours
 - Access to internet connectivity
 - Wifi sessions: 7,154
 - Computer sessions: 4,255
 - Professional reference and research assistance
 - Reference questions answered: 8,432
 - Spaces for individual or group use
 - Door Count Total: 54,173
 - Loussac Library: 25,367*
 - Chugiak-Eagle River Library: 6,733*
 - Gerrish (Girdwood) Library: 2,197*
 - Mountain View Library: 15,672
 - Muldoon Library: 4,204
 - *Due a connectivity issue with the computers and gate counters, these numbers are estimates and not exact.
 - Programming and outreach to support the mission and vision of the library
 - 66 Adult Programs; 688 attendees
 - 135 Youth programs; 3,556 attendees
 - 11 All Ages programs; 532 attendees
- Safety and Security Incidents Reported: 63
 - Loussac Library: 59
 - Chugiak-Eagle River Library: 1
 - Gerrish (Girdwood) Library: 0
 - Mountain View Library: 3
 - Muldoon Library: 0

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Key personnel updates:
 - A new Collection Management Services Coordinator will start in October
 - Hiring for a new Adult Services Coordinator will start in October
 - Brendan Farrel began as the new Facilities Coordinator
 - Sarah Preskitt began as the new Budget Coordinator
 - Kim Cameron will begin in October as the Muldoon Library Branch Manager
 - Jon Ebron will begin in October as the Downtown Library Branch Manager. The rest of the staff for the Downtown Library will be hired in October and November.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- On September 7, the MOA implemented a significant upgrade to its purchasing module. While the upgrade includes helpful improvements, the transition has created operational challenges, including issues with existing Purchase Orders and changes to established workflows. Legacy POs are no longer active in the new system, requiring additional staff time to resubmit and reconcile orders. Familiar processes have also changed, with new error messages and system behaviors requiring staff to learn as they go. As a result, purchasing activity is taking considerably longer than usual during the transition period.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library is experiencing staff turnover and will not be fully staffed until late Oct/early Nov. Three positions have been vacated – though one was the result happily of an internal promotion. There will be an increased need for the Rover to help maintain consistent staffing levels while we hire and train one full-time and one part-time position. Also, our weekly Tech Time Drop-In events will be cancelled in October to give more time for desk coverage and training new staff.
- Mountain View Library continues to operate with limited hours and services during building repairs and is not currently able to provide library programming on site.

Social Media/Photos

Recent Accomplishments

- The Downtown Library ground breaking received positive coverage in the news media as well as bringing together many dignitaries and stake holders. See below news story from Alaska Public Media.

One woman's donation is bringing a new library to downtown Anchorage

Alaska Public Media | By **Hannah Flor**

Published September 23, 2026 at 11:22 AM AKDT



Matt Faubion / Alaska Public Media