

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) attended the ANC Zine Fair and talked to over 70 people about zine programming at APL including upcoming workshops in 2025. The library gave away 43 copies of the new Teen Zine and several other zines made by APL staff.
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services, Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) offered our location's first Preschool Open Play program. There were 17 preschoolers and their caregivers who enjoyed playing with educational toys

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) will launch a new teen reading challenge called "Diversity before University" to encourage youth in grades 9-12 to read more diverse books over the course of the academic year. The first challenge will run from January to May 2025 and restart in the fall.
- All APL locations will launch our fourth annual Winter Reading Challenge for Grown-Ups from January 1-March 16, 2025. Three bingo cards are available to help readers read outside of the comfort zone, explore new genres, and earn pizza! Adults 18 and older are eligible to earn pizza, stickers, and scratch and sniff bookmarks, and each bingo (up to 4) will enter patrons into a drawing to win a limited-edition WRC mug. Adults who complete an entire bingo card will be entered to win a kindle and case.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services launched two new databases to fill the gap left by the State Library's SLED database cuts: LearningExpress Library (educational learning, testing prep, career training) and Chilton Library (automotive repair).
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) presented at the Family Literacy Night event hosted at Central Middle School, focusing on library databases and services. She also spoke with families about how their students can use their Anchorage School District library cards at APL.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) will present at the Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children conference in February 2025 on diversity in picture books for early childcare educators.
- Chugiak- Eagle River Library will host an Anchorage Health Department vaccination clinic on January 16.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library had a very successful Family Movie Night program with 13 participants.
- Youth staff at Loussac Library brought back the popular Noon Year’s Eve dance party on December 31 and hosted approximately 700 children and adults who enjoyed rocking out to DJ Spencer Lee and the balloon drop at noon. (Photo below)
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator, Loussac) hosted the cast from Alaska Junior Theater’s Peter and the Wolf production for a meet and greet, reading, and craft for 34 children and adults on December 11.
- Mountain View Library hosted the Mountain View Neighborhood Holiday Potluck, sponsored by the Mountain View Community Council. Thirty –five attendees enjoyed moose chili, cornbread and a variety of holiday treats.
- Red Coffey (Muldoon Library Youth Services Librarian) launched our system-wide sticker contest in December. For the second year in a row, youth ages 5-18 get to design a sticker representing their favorite library location, with an overall people’s choice sticker being chosen from 5 finalists. Stickers will be given away at library outreach events. The contest ends January 8.
- Muldoon Library hosted their first Fireside Hangout event—occurring weekly through the holiday season. Community Members were able to relax, chat, knit, or read a book by a cozy virtual fireplace. Hot beverages were provided. We averaged 5-7 participants per event.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library served as a two day stop on the Eagle River Chamber of annual Commerce’s Merry Marchant Munch. There was a snowflake making station and board games out to families to play. Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian) hosted a mini-golf course along with three volunteers. Over 100 people stopped into the library for activities.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Katarina Pavic (Branch Manager, Gerrish Library) is working on starting a Children’s/kid lead Book Club in 2025.
- Stephanie Schott (Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River) is partnering with families of local adults who experience special needs to offer space to come together to craft and socialize. The program “Create Something Special” will run monthly January – March 2025 and may take a break during warmer months.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Marjorie Harrison was announced as the new Library Director. Harrison has nearly 30 years of library and management experience in libraries across the U.S., the mayor’s office said in a written statement. She most recently worked as executive director of a 13-branch library system in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Harrison has a master’s in library science from Wayne State University and has worked as a librarian, coordinator and director at libraries in Arkansas, Nebraska, Michigan, Colorado and Washington. She will join APL this spring.
- Collection Management Services by the numbers [December]

Task	Number of Items
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Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1,325
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	159
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	3,155

- Collection Management Services retired the music CD collection on December 8, 2024, after the following factors were considered and staff feedback was gathered:
 - Low circulation: In the last year, 63% of the whole collection was not checked out (includes all locations).
 - APL has not been purchasing any new music CDs for almost 2 years and has no plans to re-start.
 - Digital access: The library offers digital music through Freegal and Hoopla.
 - Space use: layouts and collections continue to evolve across all APL locations
 - Money: It costs money to relocate shelves and the plan of moving media to the 3rd floor has limited funding.
- Collection Management Services and Adult Services, with the help of additional staff when available, have begun the shifting process to re-arrange the adult collection on the 3rd Floor at Loussac Library. This is part of a plan to bring Media (DVDs, audiobooks) to the 3rd Floor and put the Teen collection on the 2nd Floor in order to create a larger teen patron and programming area.
- Loussac Library second floor adult bathrooms were renovated with new stall walls. (Photos below)
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator, Loussac) worked with staff from the Alaska Center for the Book and hired a new Reading Rendezvous Coordinator to begin work in January 2025 for the annual May event.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) compiled updated library swag orders including APL logo pencils, APL brand pop fidgets, APL logo baby paper, and specialty stickers and bookmarks to use for outreach events in 2025. Items were selected to connect our community with our library brand, specifically related to books, reading, or learning.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The memorandum of agreement between the Anchorage Library Foundation (ALF) and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) for the construction and operation of a Downtown Library will go before the Anchorage Assembly on January 7, 2025.
- Applicants for the Library Marketing Assistant will begin interviews in January with the hope of filling that position by the end of the month.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Security Report:

Security Incidents	Loussac	Chugiak-Eagle River	Gerrish	Mountain View	Muldoon	Total
Incidents resulting in trespasses	7	1	0	2	1	11
Other Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	1	0	2	1	11

Social Media/Photos

