

Municipality of Anchorage  
 Library Advisory Board Agenda  
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
 Loussac Library  
 March 19, 2025

**Attendance**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Debra Bronson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Megan Cacciola
- \_\_\_\_\_ Olivia Garrett
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jen Griffis
- \_\_\_\_\_ Marc Johnson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rachel Odom
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meneka Thiru
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cristy Willer

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call & book recommendations	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:40	
Meet the new Director!	Marjorie Harrison	5:45	
Mission Moment: Comics Plus	TBA	6:10	
March Board Report	Elizabeth Nicolai, Assistant Director	6:25	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:45	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board Minutes  
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
Loussac Library

February 19, 2025

(Subject to approval at the March 19, 2025 LAB meeting)

**Attendance**

X	Debra Bronson
remote	Megan Cacciola
X	Olivia Garrett
E	Jen Griffis
PH	Marc Johnson
X	Rachel Odom
X	Meneka Thiru
X	Cristy Willer

**X = Present, E = Excused, U = Unexcused, PH = Phone, remote = Teams**

**Staff Present:**

Elizabeth Nicolai (Acting Director); Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement Librarian); Rebecca Lampert (Time Administrator)

**Guests Present: None**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:32 pm.

**Land Acknowledgment:**

Cristy Willer acknowledged that the Board meets on the traditional lands of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina Athabascan people.

**Approvals:**

- Action: The agenda was approved as presented.
- Action: Minutes from the January 15<sup>th</sup> LAB meeting were approved as presented.

**Staff Presentation:**

Sandy Lukes, Community Engagement Librarian, gave a presentation on the Transparent Languages program. Transparent Languages Online provides an effective and engaging experience for language learners looking to build their vocabulary, practice their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, and maintain what they learn. With courses and supplemental resources in 110+ languages, Transparent Language Online can be accessed anytime, anywhere, on almost any device.

**Persons to be Heard:** None

**Director's Report:**

- The Director's Report for February was distributed and is on file.
- The newly revised Library Card Eligibility policy was discussed. Action: The policy was endorsed as presented (Member Thiru motioned; Member Garrett seconded). All approved.

**Board Comments:**

- Member Garrett asked if there had been progress in filling the empty LAB seat. Elizabeth Nicolai said that an applicant was being reviewed by the mayor's office.
- Member Willer shared about a play that Anchorage Community Theater was currently running: *Alabama Story*, based on a true story, and championed by a librarian!

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- PAWSitive Reading was held at three locations serving; 9 children at Loussac, Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac); 22 children at Chugiak-Eagle River, Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River)/ 9 children at Mountain View, Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) . This program allows children to read to therapy dogs to improve literacy and reading confidence.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted February's Explore program about hovercraft to 15 interested young patrons. Explore is part of a STEM focused series of programs for elementary-aged students.
- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac) and Teresa Churchel (Associate Librarian/Branch Rover) hosted the first event in the Elder Endeavor series. This monthly series will offer films, discussion groups, and activities for seniors at Loussac Library.
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) partnered with Anchorage School District Migrant Education to offer an indoor storywalk of Ten Rowdy Ravens. On the opening day of the storywalk, Migrant Education hosted a preschool math program for 25 children. The storywalk was read by 140 participants over five days.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Youth Services will host events for families during spring break across all locations, including a premier event: Comics Workshops with Lee Post.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Adult Services desks saw a 34% increase in patron questions asked in-person over February 2024 and a 26% increase over February 2023 for a total of 6,067 questions asked in person in February 2025. This is a significant increase and the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at Loussac is noticeably busier.
- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) presented at the annual Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children (AAEYC) conference in February to 20 early childhood educators on the importance of using diverse picture books in the classroom.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted several tours in February. 8 teens from Covenant House visited both the teen and adult spaces of the library and registered for library cards. 16 Romig Middle School Life Skills students toured the teen and children's spaces, plus participated in a storytime and craft activity.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) initiated a twice a month library/literacy program with the Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS). Kim's Storytime at RAIS saw 6 very engaged

children, the second part of the program was a Family Movie at the Mountain View Library with 20 children and their parents enjoying *Inside Out* from the library's DVD collection.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) and Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) will attend the Living Library event at East High on March 21. Students will get the chance to learn how to become a librarian, what education is needed, what the workday looks like, etc.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) will visit Campbell STEM Elementary for their spring positive behavior program to talk about library resources and provide hands-on play with STEM kits.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Demand for digital content is steadily increasing, as are the costs to license content. It is becoming increasingly difficult to purchase enough copies of popular titles to keep wait times down while also adding new titles to the collection and re-purchasing licenses to expired titles. Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) is working with Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director), Emily Paige (Collection Management Services Coordinator), and Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator) on possible solutions.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- APL's 2025 premier author event was announced using a social media partnership with local bookstagram influencer the Readerosaurus. The marketing campaign coordinated by Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) and Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) will also include community posters, newsletters and additional social media. Response to the upcoming visit of kid's chapter book author Max Brallier (April 7-10) has been overwhelmingly positive, in particular with the target audience of 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade readers.
- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) did multiple outreaches including, presenting 3 storytimes at Best Beginning's "Snowy Day Family Event" for over 40 children and their families in attendance and attending the Family Education Night at Kids Corps Head Start, presenting information about library resources to 9 caregivers and offering a storytime.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator, Loussac) hosted the annual Be My Valentine's Storytime for 81 attendees. After the storytime, children practiced their fine motor skills creating valentines for their loved ones.
- Stephanie Schott (Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River) partnered with the Anchorage Genealogical Society to offer a Genealogy Workshop for library users to scan documents, learn about Ancestry Library Edition database, and get basic research assistance to 8 adults. The event will be offered again in March.
- The Girdwood Library and Community Room Boosters had a meeting with Katarina Pavic (Branch Manager, Gerrish Library) who are reaching out to local businesses in Girdwood to provide prizes that could be part of the auction for Between the Stacks.
- Mountain View Library hosted a dialogue on Homelessness in partnership with the Mountain View Community Council and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. Fifty-seven attendees included individuals currently living in Davis Park, an APD representative, and Mountain View community members.
- Muldoon Library hosted 2 performances of Krambambuli Puppet Theater in partnership with Anchorage School District's Migrant Educator. We saw 107 attendees across the 2 presentations.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- FOCUS (Family Outreach Center for Understanding Special Needs) is planning to bring 20 special needs adults to Chugiak-Eagle River's Create Something Special program in March. Create Something Special is a craft program for special needs adults.
- The Gerrish Library is excited to partner with The Girdwood Library and Community Room Boosters and Master Gardener, Martina Steinmetz, for its Seed Exchange program starting March 20.
- Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian / ILL Supervisor, Loussac) is assisting as a judge for the UAA/Anchorage Daily News Creative Writing Contest in her role as APL's representative on the board of the Alaska Center for the Book. She is serving on the panel judging high school poetry, of which there are 33 entries submitted from students statewide.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Marjorie Harrison began as Library Director on February 18. Her confirmation hearing was February 28 and her confirmation vote is set for the Assembly meeting of March 4.
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) led the hiring team for selecting a new Community Resource Librarian who will begin in April. After they begin, the remaining two Community Resource Group members will be hired.
- The Fleet department of the Municipality of Anchorage has received delivery of a new van intended for library outreach programming. Brendan Farrel (Facilities) is working on installation of shelving for its launch and Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) is leading a team to develop plans for implementation.
- Collection Management Services by the numbers [February]

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1865
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	116
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2839

- The entire adult Media collection at Loussac, which includes DVDs, Audiobooks on CD, and Playaways, was successfully relocated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. This project was led by the Collection Management Services department but was only possible because of the collaborative help of many different staff members from all the other departments at Loussac.
- Teresa Churchel (Associate Librarian/Branch Rover) who has worked at Mountain View since its opening in 2010, is now our Library Associate/Branch Rover. This newly created position provides staff coverage for the four branch library locations as needed. In addition, she will provide paraprofessional support to Branch Managers for special projects, as well as training for support staff.
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) began meeting with the architects and project manager for the Downtown Library construction project in Old City Hall.
- On February 3 Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications) presented at an American Libraries Association webinar for John Cotton Dana Award winners. This panel highlighted APL's campaign and encouraged other libraries to enter the awards competition. It was attended by 30 participants from across the country.
- New Security Gates were installed at all locations coordinated by Celia Hartz (Automations) and Brendan Farrell (Facilities). In addition to providing security to ensure items were checked out, these will also give more accurate door counts to know the number of visitors at each location.

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Teen collection at Loussac will be moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in March.
- Chugiak-Eagle River is shifting all of its adult non-fiction collection and adding “windowing” to display books outward. A huge thanks to Cherish Jordan (Library Assistant II) for almost single-handedly moving every single book – the move will be completed the first week of March.
- A staff committee led by Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) and Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac) is planning APL’s annual Staff Day for Thursday, April 17. All locations will be closed and staff will engage in skill building sessions and learn about the new strategic plan.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Security Report:

	Loussac	Chugiak-Eagle River	Gerrish	Mountain View	Muldoon	Total
Security Incidents						
Incidents resulting in trespasses	16	0	0	6	1	23
Other Incidents						0
Total	16	0	0	6	1	23

## Library Board Updates

### Recent Accomplishments

- Library Advisory Board endorsed the Library Card Eligibility policy.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon


- Saturday, April 5, 2025 is the annual Beyond the Stacks fundraiser for Friends of the Library.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns



- None at this time.

## Social Media/Photos



### Winter Reading Challenge comments from Facebook

 I absolutely love the Hoopla and Libby apps that you get for free with a library card. Almost finished with Fourth Wing and am about to start Iron Flame tomorrow. I love our public library resources!!!!



3d Like Reply 4

 Author  
**Anchorage Public Library**  
 Thank you for the #907LibraryLove  Those are perfect for checking off any of the Sci Fi/ Fantasy, Book With More than 20 Chapters, and of course "Readers Choice" squares. If you listened to the dramatic audio versions on hoopla they could count for an Audiobook square! So many to choose from. We hope you're taking the challenge but even if not, we love hearing about folks enjoying their public library. (Bonus points when you tell your friends. 😊) ~Team APL

3d Like Reply 2 🙌

  same!! This adult book challenge reminds me of being a kid. I ALWAYS did all my reading because I loved it but I also loved my personal Pan pizza from Pizza Hut! 🍕📖💙🌟 Last March I signed up for APL and I read 92 books last year! I'm slacking though. I think I've only read 3 books this month.

2d Like Reply Edited 2 🙌

  wow 92 books is impressive!! My goal was only 1 book per