

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Loussac Library (Moose Room)

October 15, 2025

Attendance

_____ Debra Bronson
_____ Megan Cacciola
_____ Olivia Garrett
_____ Jen Griffis
_____ Marc Johnson
_____ Wade Hampton Miller
_____ Rachel Odom
_____ 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	
Mission Moment: Loteria	Stephanie Schott Chugiak Eagle River Branch Manager	5:45	
Electronic Resource: Points of View	Keelin Baughman Teen Services Librarian	5:55	
Strategic Plan 2025-2028	Misty Rose Nesvick Communications Coordinator	6:05	
Monthly Board Report	Marjorie Harrison Director	6:20	
Patron Communication	Bridger Reed-Lewis	6:30	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:40	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Following is a link to join the meeting virtually:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzI3YzZkMmEtMzBmOS00Y2RmLWEyYjgtZjNiMGJjMmZmZmQ1%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22127a78cb-19c5-46ca-b11f-87c33c49a907%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2232153d56-30ab-46e0-9dc1-9816df7e2721%22%7d#/registration.

Call in: +1 907-519-0237, 632109625#

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Loussac Library
September 17, 2025

Attendance

X	Debra Bronson
X	Megan Cacciola
Remote	Olivia Garrett
E	Jen Griffis
X	Marc Johnson
E	Wade Hampton Miller
E	Rachel Odom
Remote	Meneka Thiru
X	Cristy Willer

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

Staff

Marjorie Harrison (Director); Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian); Rebecca Lampert (Time Administrator)

Guest

None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:36 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. (Member Bronson motioned, Member Johnson seconded.)
- Action: Minutes from the August 20, 2025, LAB meeting was approved. (Member Bronson motioned, Member Cacciola seconded.)

Staff Presentations:

Kelsey Skrobis, Youth Services Librarian, presented an electronic resource – Scholastic Teachables. Scholastic Teachables can be found on the APL Website under Resources – Databases A-Z – Scholastic Teachables.

<https://digital.scholastic.com/site/launch/tcb?ucn=600129895>

The program provides printable activities for any subject: math, science, reading comprehension, STEM, writing, etc. Patrons can download printable lesson plans, reading passages, games and puzzles, clip art, bulletin board ideas, and skills sheets for kids in any grade. Scholastic Teachables is easy to navigate – it offers the option to search by topic, age, grade, and activity.

Director's Report:

Marjorie Harrison, Library Director, presented Anchorage Public Libraries (APL) 2nd Quarter Performance Value Results, APL Budget Submission, a letter to the Library Advisory Board from a patron, and information regarding the Muldoon Transit Station/Library. All documents were distributed and are on file.

The August Board Report was distributed and is on file. Ms. Harrison also provided an update on the Downtown Library and the APL Strategic Plan.

Board Action:

The board discussed the letter from a patron. Members felt that the patron's enthusiasm is evident and would like to invite the patron to attend a LAB meeting. Members also discussed the possibility of a collaboration between the LAB and the ADA Commission. Chairwoman Willer will work on a response soon.

Member Cacciola proposed an additional collaboration with the Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Commission regarding meeting spaces.

Member Thiru has elected to step down from the board. This will be her last meeting.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Kim Cameron (Youth Service Librarian, Mountain View Library) wrapped up the Storytime at Grow North Farm season with 17 participants.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library (and two wonderful dogs) hosted 23 children and adults at PAWSitive Reading.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) hosted an event with a biologist from the US Fish and Wildlife Service about migratory birds of Alaska for 11 people. Despite the rain, the enthusiastic children and their families had hands-on experience observing birds on the Loussac Lawn and gathering and presenting information about the birds to their peers.
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) kicked off Expanding Horizons, a new lecture series featuring University of Alaska Anchorage faculty. Loussac Library hosted Dr. Forrest Nabors, Associate Professor of Political Science, on September 18 to hear his latest research into the founding principles and conflicts that shaped the creation of the United States.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) and Stephanie Schott (Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) attended orientation for visitors to Hiland Mountain Correctional Center in Eagle River. The Education Coordinator has requested a visit to their Parenting Class to share early literacy information. David Kreiss-Tomkins, Elizabeth Kleweno, and Felicite Toney (Community Resource Specialist team) will also attend orientation, so they can visit at Hiland in the future.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library will hold a Journaling Workshop led by local author Jamey Bradbury on October 4.
- Muldoon Library added another tool for our crafting programs: a Chompsaw—think of it as a table router for cardboard and foam. We are looking forward to new and exciting cardboard construction program.
- The Expanding Horizons Lecture Series will continue at Loussac Library on Thursday, October 16 when Dr. Katherine Rawlins invites us to explore the night sky and consider things we cannot see.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Anchorage Public Library hosted a series of Employment Resource Fairs across all four branch libraries. These events provided valuable connections between community members seeking employment and local employers, while also supporting workforce development skills.
- Rayette Sterling (Branch Manager, Mountain View Library) with support from Joelle Ghosn (Library Assistant II, Mountain View) participated in the Mountain View Elementary School Community Family Night engaging 209 children and caregivers in activities supporting literacy, learning, and family connections.

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac Library) and Sandy Lukes (Community Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) attended the Freshman Career Expo at the Dena'ina Center on September 26 to talk about becoming a librarian and what classes you could take in high school to prepare for a career in information sciences. There were approximately 3,000 students in attendance from every ASD high school, including Polaris and King Tech.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- All Branch Libraries will be hosting Employment Resource Fairs in October and November.
- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) will present at the statewide Imagination Library conference in October about how Imagination Library programs around Alaska can partner with their local libraries.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library had great attendance for its programs this month with Friendship Bracelet Craft, 21 participants, Stuffed Animal Sleepover had seven and Emergency Preparedness Storytime with Kari Wiederkehr (Disaster Cost Recovery Specialist, MOA Office of Emergency Management) had 15. To celebrate the Girdwood Fungus Fair, the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library created an interactive display where participants colored their own mushrooms and had 21 participants.
- Muldoon Library hosted Countdown to Kindergarten, welcoming five families exploring their Kindergarten and PreK options in Anchorage.
- Mountain View Library's Family Game Night saw 13 participants who enjoyed a family-friendly evening of board, card and video games that encouraged intergenerational play and connection.
- Mountain View Library celebrated 15 years of service on September 27, with 117 attendees. The event highlighted the library's role as a trusted community space and brought neighbors together in celebration.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library is hosting a small display from the Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society about local homesteads and homesteading families that will run through October.
- Muldoon Library's Artist Trading Card Club was a big hit on September 13, a rainy Saturday. We had 23 happy artists creating fun, new pieces.
- September was Library Card Sign Up Month which we celebrated with these events:
 - **Booch For Books-** APL partnered with Zip Kombucha for the third annual Booch for Books campaign. Zip brought back the custom library kombucha flavor "To Chai For," library cardholders could receive 10% off their purchase all month, and proceeds from the sale of our flavor were donated to the library. At the annual book tasting event on September 11, Meghan Malone (Reference Librarian, Loussac Library) with assistance from Sandy Lukes (Reference Librarian, Loussac Library) paired kombucha flavors with books for participants. People filled out tasting guides of the books they were paired with and if they liked the book they could check it out. People could also sign up for library cards. 40 tasting guides were returned, 5 library cards were created, 26 books were checked out, and about 54 conversations between library staff and participants were had.
 - **Scoops & Stories-** APL hosted an ice cream flavor creation contest with local partner Wild Scoops. Ideas had to be based on a children's book and patrons got to vote on the final choice. Wild Scoops brought the flavor to life and premiered it at an event on September 30. Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) and Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) tabled at the event for families to try the winning flavor "It's Going To Be Amazing" based on

the picture book “The Rabbit Listened” by Cori Doerrfeld, and get book recommendations for their favorite ice cream flavors. They spoke with 88 people, checked out seven books, and signed two people up for library cards.

- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted an American Sign Language storytime with presenters from Programs for Infants and Children, Hope Community Resources, and Rural Deaf Student Support. 59 people attended and appeared enthusiastic, asking for an encore in the future.
- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian) was interviewed in Spanish on Radio Latina (OutNorth Radio) where she talked about Library Card Sign-Up Month, Booch for Books, Scoops and Stories, Hispanic Heritage Months, the Spanish language collection, and gave a couple book recommendations from that collection.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian) was a guest on “Talk of Alaska” with Alaska Public Media. On this state-wide radio program she promoted library events, recommended fall reads, and shared titles featured on library social media for Hispanic Heritage month.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library is holding its first ever, all ages Loteria event on October 4 with the help of the kindergarten teacher at the Eagle River Elementary Spanish Immersion program.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers [September]

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1222
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	76
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc., added to the collection	1997

- Library staff attended 15 trainings, totaling 34 of hours of training time on topics such as How Comics Can Increase Health Literacy, Teens in Groups, and Native Stories.
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) served on the negotiating team for the Municipality working on the new Anchorage Municipal Employees Association (AMEA) contract.
- Stephanie Schott (Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) joined the interview panel for the new Eagle River Parks & Recreation (ERPR) Manager. The new Manager starts October 1 and was a strong library partner in his previous position.
- Stephanie Schott (Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) and Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) met with the new Eagle River Parks & Recreation Program Coordinator to discuss ways to partner together in parks around the area. Possible projects include a permanent Story Walk installation and bike repair clinic in the spring.
- Working with People Mover, Muldoon Library staff, Marjorie Harrison (Director), and Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) attended several events about the possible new combination Bus Transit Center/Muldoon Library. In coming weeks, there will be more events, an open house, and a survey of users.
- Work on the design of the downtown library branch, led by Bryce Klug from GHD, kicked off on September 29th. This initial meeting was to discuss space plan comments and identify ways to incorporate recommendations into the design plan.

- APL submitted a proposed flat budget, emphasizing staffing and security, to the MOA Administration.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Security Report:

Security Incidents	Loussac	Chugiak-Eagle River	Gerrish	Mountain View	Muldoon	Total
Incidents resulting in trespasses	16					16
Other Incidents	3			1	1	5
Total	19	0	0	1	1	21

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments – None at this time

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Friends of The Library will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday October 8. Featured speaker will be Kate Mohatt, co-author of "Mushrooms of Alaska" and "Mushrooms of the National Forests in Alaska."
- The Friends of The Library book sale will be held November 7-9.

Limiting Factors/Concerns – None at this time

Social Media/Photos



Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library.



Sandy Lukes, David Kreiss-Tomkins, Elizabeth Kleweno and Felicity Toney getting ready to provide library cards and information about library resources at Project Homeless Connect on September 23rd.



Patron Instagram post: “Library date!”

Anchorage Public Library Budget Summary

October 2026 – Summary of Mayor's Proposed Budget

What we are doing:

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

Staffing:

- Community Resource Team fully staffed as of 09/02/2025.
- Staff turnover has decreased. 2025 saw an average vacancy of 5, the lowest since before COVID.
- Since 2024, the library has upgraded 7 positions to align with position duties, increased staffing hours by 14, and created a new branch floater position.

What we asked for:

The MOA Administration submitted their [proposed budget](#) to the Assembly on October 2nd.

The Mayor accepted the following budget changes requested by the library:

Increase Staffing and Security:

- One FT Associate Librarian position in the Youth Services Department at Loussac Library
- Additional 40-hour security guard stationed at Loussac Library

Decrease Operating Budget to cover staffing and security:

- Increase room rental revenue by \$45,000
- Reduce Anchorage Library Foundation Grant
- Eliminate / delay facility improvement projects
- Reduce physical collection budget
- Reduce digital collection budget

2026 Capital Improvement Projects

- Loussac Library 3rd Floor with Alaska Collection (Design) – *Proposed for 2026*
- Mountain View Library Facility Update (Design) – *Delayed to 2027*
- Loussac Library 2nd Floor with Youth Services Area (Design) – *Proposed bond request for 2026*

What you can do:

- Thank the Administration for maintaining our budget and approving the requested staffing priorities.
- Write to an Assembly member or speak at a meeting showing support for the budget as proposed.
- Donate to the Anchorage Library Foundation to support operating and capital projects.

What's next:

- The Assembly will review the proposed budget, propose any changes, vote to approve the budget in November.

Thank you for your continued support.

Strategic Plan

20 | 20
25 | 28



ANCHORAGE
PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Plan

Anchorage Public Library's 2025-2028 strategic plan emphasizes internal order to enhance external engagement. By establishing a strong foundation and structure, APL aims to better serve the community through skilled supported staff and prioritized resources. The plan, developed with input from staff across all levels, focuses on addressing challenges and valuing staff contributions. It includes six categories with specific goals and action items assigned to workgroups. These workgroups will collaboratively implement the plan over the next three years. With this strong infrastructure in place, APL will work to address external challenges identified through community feedback provided as part of the planning process, as well as in the future.



Staffing

In three years, we will be successful if we have a well-trained, mission-focused, empowered, supported, and celebrated staff that wants to stay with us and serve the public.



Communication

In three years, we will be successful if we have optimized communication within the department to maximize comprehension, retention, and mutual accountability throughout the library team.



Safety & Wellness

Library work and library spaces have seen an increase in challenges related to safety and the mental and physical well-being of staff and patrons. In three years, we will be successful if we have intentional systems and operational strategies that prioritize health and safety for employees and patrons.



Community

A survey of non-users was conducted as part of the planning process. Data from the survey will be incorporated into action items for strategic plan workgroups. Future community engagement will come in year three as capacity to receive and address feedback increases.



Operations & Change Management

In three years, we will be successful if all changes made are mission-focused and implemented with deliberate preparation, collaboration, and after-action review, improving operations in ways that positively impact patrons and staff.



Leadership & Team Culture

In three years, we will be successful if we have created reciprocal trust among all library leaders, staff, and the library community as a whole, with mutual accountability and consideration for each other.

Community Survey

As part of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan process, Anchorage Public Library worked with Hays Research Group to conduct a survey targeting non-users of the library. This target was identified as a priority by the Strategic Plan Committee, with additional support from the Library Advisory Board.

The survey was conducted via text message to Hays database of survey takers, e-mail to APL lapsed users of one year or more, and a boosted social media campaign by Hays.

We received over 700 responses that generally represented patrons from all five library location communities; however, some users did not consider using Libby or Hoopla as “using a library i.e building” so responses were more limited than we hoped.

After reviewing the data, the following trends rose to the forefront as the largest opportunities to help increase library usage or decrease stoppage.

- **Safety & Security**
- **Public Communication**
- **Time**

Safety & Security

Safety concerns were the primary reason reported for discontinued library patronage. 30% of respondents reported they would be more willing to use the library if the library became a ‘safer and more welcoming place’.” APL will prioritize addressing security concerns for visitors, both inside and outside of library buildings, as well as a continuing to focus on safety in operations.

Public Communications

The survey demonstrated a need for increased external communication about libraries and the services they provide. ~29% respondents selected ‘I’m not aware of the resources or programs offered’ as an option to the question ‘Please identify the main reasons you haven’t used your public library recently.’ APL will explore ways expand and enhance public communication via public relation and marketing efforts.

Time

This survey made clear a common theme of time. Adults are too busy and do not have enough time to visit a library and/or they do not have time to use the materials/resources they would get from a library. Factors include their stage in life, locations are too far away or inconvenient, open hours are not convenient, materials and programs are not interesting enough to prioritize over other time usage, and wait times for materials too long. This topic will be tackled across departments and work groups to devise creative solutions.





Your Library

Mission

Connecting people to education, information, and community.

Vision

Our vision is for the Municipality of Anchorage to be an educated and connected community where our Library is an essential center for learning, inspiration, and community pride for people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures.

Core Services

- Access to a diverse collection of materials in various formats
- Knowledgeable and approachable staff
- Access to internet connectivity
- Professional reference and research assistance
- Spaces for individual or group use
- Programming and outreach to support the mission and vision of the library