

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Loussac Library (Moose Room)
July 15, 2026

Board Members

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

Topic	Leader	Time
1. Call to Order	LAB Chair	5:30
2. Roll Call and Introductions	LAB Chair	5:30
3. Approval of Agenda	LAB Chair	5:45
4. Approval of Minutes	LAB Chair	5:50
5. Public Participation	TBA	5:55
6. Library Spotlight (none)	---	---
7. Disclosures	TBA	6:00
8. Unfinished Business – Budget Update	APL Director	6:05
9. New Business – 2026 LAB meeting calendar	LAB Chair	6:35
10. Monthly Board Report	APL Director	6:40
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

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 292 276 050 799

Passcode: jEfGNp

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 907-519-0237,,632109625#](#) United States, Anchorage

Phone Conference ID: 632 109 625#



**Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2026**

1. Call to Order

Chair Willer convened the meeting at 5:39 p.m. in Anchorage Public Library, 3600 Denali Street, Moose Room, Anchorage, Alaska.

2. Roll Call

Present: Megan Cacciola, Olivia Garrett, Marc Johnson, Wade Hampton Miller, and
Cristy Willer
Absent: Jen Griffis

Also in attendance were Elizabeth Nicolai, Library Assistant Director, Mollie Roache, Budget Coordinator, and Rebecca Lampert, Junior Admin Officer.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Wade Hampton Miller moved, Marc Johnson seconded,
To approve of the agenda of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of May 20, 2026

and the motion passed without objection.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Megan Cacciola moved, Marc Johnson seconded,
To approve the minutes of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of April 15, 2026

and the motion passed without objection.

5. Public Participation – TBA

Mary Weiss joined the LAB meeting online; she did not wish to speak.

6. Library Spotlight

Resource – *None*

Service: Outreach – Sandy Lukes, Community Engagement/Outreach Librarian (Will reschedule)

7. Disclosures

None

8. Old Business

None.

9. New Business

Budget Update – Mollie Roache, Budget Coordinator, discussed the process and timeline of Municipal budget approval, the Capital Improvement Plan, and the Downtown Library project.

10. Reports

Board Report May 2026 – distributed and is on file.

11. Member Comments

Cristy Willer spoke with the Head of Boards and Commissions and was told that they have not received any applicants for Board membership. Members were encouraged to tell likely candidates that there were vacancies on the Board. Recruitment for Board members will be discussed with Marjorie Harrison, Library Director, when she returns.

Megan Cacciola asked (regarding the budget) if it would be helpful to have a long-term outlook for the budget, facility maintenance, capital improvement projects, etc., versus deferred maintenance on our facilities.

Members discussed visiting the Chugiak-Eagle River Branch in August or September.

12. Adjournment

Chair Willer adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

The next Library Advisory Board will be held on June 17, 2026.

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>

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

- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) did 12 outreach storytimes for 204 people at Head Starts, daycares, rec centers, AWAIC, Covenant House, and more. This work is supported by the Alcohol Tax.
- Youth Services staff, systemwide, did outreach visits to schools in May where they invited students to join Summer Discovery, showed off STEM kits and other library resources; and signed up students, families, and faculty for library cards:
 - Loussac Library youth staff (Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Supervising Librarian), Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian), and Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian)) did five school outreach visits in May reaching 346 people.
 - Red Coffey (Youth Services Librarian, Muldoon Library) visited the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS) connecting with 196 students.
 - Katarina Pavic (Branch Manager, Gerrish (Girdwood) Library) visited the Girdwood School and talked to 107 children.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Youth Services at all locations will host Bird TLC for an interactive program about the fascinating world of avian intelligence as part of Summer Discovery.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time

Information

Recent Accomplishments

- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted a table at the Office of Children's Services' Foster Family Appreciation Night. She spoke with 91 people about library resources and Summer Discovery.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time

Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Library Youth Services staff hosted the Summer Discovery kick-off event, Reading Rendezvous on May 16. They welcomed nearly 2,000 people to the Loussac Library lawn to enjoy live entertainment and visit over 40 booths from local organizations. Youth staff registered 948 people for Summer Discovery
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) partnered with Eagle River Parks and Recreation to host a Celebrate Summer event at the Harry J. McDonald Memorial Center. There were tables for organizations, facepainting, recreational games, and the opportunity to sign up for Summer Discovery. There were 225 people in attendance. CE is considering offering this program on an annual basis.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator, Loussac Library) co-hosted a special municipal department storytime with the Anchorage Police Department for 39 people. Deputy Chief Wilson read books with the children before families toured a patrol vehicle.
- The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library has wrapped up its annual Seed Exchange, in collaboration with the Girdwood Library and Community Room Boosters, with a total of 217 participants and handed out over 1500 seed packets.
- Summer Discovery programming began in May with the Stuntology events, which brought 323 people across all five branch locations. Children and families enjoyed and learned different parlor tricks using household objects that they can try at home. **(photo below)**
- Loussac Library debuted the new playstand in the children's area, generously funded by the Friends of the Library. This playstand will encourage children to develop their imaginations and create pretend play scenarios. The first theme is "Post Office" **(photo below)**.
- The Genealogy Workshop had a busy session on May 12 with a total of 6 patrons. Amanda Andros (Adult Services Reference Librarian/Interlibrary Loan Supervisor, Loussac Library) leads this program on the second Tuesday of each month in partnership with the Anchorage Genealogical Society. The program is on summer break and will return in September.
- Mountain View Library hosted a Community Drumming Circle facilitated by Gail Jackson, Global Drum Circle Facilitator Trainer and Remo Endorsed Facilitator. Participants explored percussion instruments, creative expression, and community connection through interactive music-making. Twelve people attended.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The May citywide Community Resource Event at the Park Strip was cancelled, the Community Resource Group looks forward to AMDOT's (Anchorage Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Team) new start date at the same location on Wednesday, June 10.
- The Community Resource Group is planning to co-host the Mountain View Library edition of June's small branch Housing Resource Fairs with the state Office of Citizenship Assistance (OCA).

This will expand the hours of the event and help build a partnership that should allow the OCA to host their own resource fairs at Mountain View Library in the future.

- Mobile Library will have its first public stops in June.
- Youth Services at all locations will host Krambambuli Puppet Theatre featuring “The Gruffalo” as part of Summer Discovery.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library will host their annual “Books With Chinooks” program on June 16.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Operations and Statistics

Recent Accomplishments

- After a thorough review of position descriptions, operational needs, and strategic plan goals, APL announced to all staff a new organizational plan. This moves divisions into groups more aligned by work types to create efficiencies and better internal communication.
- Sam Dinges (Adult Services Reference Librarian, Loussac Library) finished inventory on the sixth of eight moving boxes of Alaska books donated by local author and historian James Barnett, passing the 200 book mark from this donated collection. This collection includes numerous early and limited edition prints of rare and culturally significant works of Alaskana.
- Core Services By The Numbers
 - Access to a diverse collection of materials in various formats –
 - Circulation total for May: 126,156
 - Digital items: 51,663
 - Physical items: 74,493
 - Tech services: new items added 2,280; items repaired/records updated 572
 - Knowledgeable and approachable staff
 - Staff completed 23 training hours for May
 - Access to internet connectivity
 - Wifi unique users: 6,305
 - Computer sessions: 4,091
 - Professional reference and research assistance
 - 8,828 Reference questions answered
 - Spaces for individual or group use – visitor count
 - Loussac: 27,236
 - Chugiak-Eagle River: 6,405
 - Gerrish (Girdwood): 2,678
 - Mountain View: 11,257
 - Muldoon: 3,103*

*This is only a partial month’s footfall
 - Programming and outreach to support the mission and vision of the library
 - 57 Total Adult Programs for May
 - 103 Total Youth programs for May
 - 6 Total All Ages programs May

- Safety and Security standing update
 - 48 incidents resulting in trespass from the library
 - Loussac: 41 incidents
 - Mountain View: 5 incidents
 - Muldoon: 2 incidents

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Sam Dinges (Adult Services Reference Librarian, Loussac Library), Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian), and Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) met with Emily Paige (Collections Management Services Coordinator) and Ariel Mortem (Technical Services Supervisor) about the Alaska Native Languages books potential move to the World Languages collection. Sam and Sandy began the process of assessing the number of books that would make a good match and have a current count of nearly 50. A follow-up meeting on this project will be held in July.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- The May Friends of the Library Booksale brought in 1,384 people and total sales of \$21,308.
- Kathryn Clark started as Executive Director for the Anchorage Library Foundation.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time

Social Media/Photos

Recent Accomplishments



Post Office themed play area in Loussac Library, May 2026.



Patrons participating in a movement activity with Stuntology at Gerrish (Girdwood) Library

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Education

Recent Accomplishments

- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) did 13 outreach storytimes for 357 people at locations including head start, Anchorage parks, AWAIC, and more. This work is funded by the Municipal Alcohol Tax.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Youth Services is working with Anchorage School District to prepare students for school year success by partnering in events such as school supply distribution, joining the New Educator Symposium, and hosting events for kindergarten readiness, including an event to learn to ride a school bus safely.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Information

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Youth Services staff hosted three group tours for youth to become familiar with the children's room at Loussac Library and learn about library resources:
 - Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) hosted a tour for Spenard Recreation Center Day Camp (19 people).
 - Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator) hosted a tour for Mountain City Christian Academy Summer Club (32 people).
 - Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian) hosted a tour for Anchorage Montessori Summer Camp (28 people).
- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) and Joy White (Associate Librarian, Loussac Library) took the Mobile Library on its first monthly visit to the Fairview Rec Center. 17 people browsed the collection and learned about library resources. Five of those people joined for a storytime and one person signed up for a library card.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Community

Recent Accomplishments

- The Community Resource Group attended two new outreaches this month. David Kreiss-Tomkins (Community Resource Librarian) attended CITC's Morning Brew, talking with 21 parents about library resources and Medicaid applications. Felicite Toney and Elizabeth Kleweno (Community Resource Specialists) joined the Anchorage Multidisciplinary Outreach Team's Community Resource Event on the park strip, talking with 52 participants and signing five people up for library cards, in addition to registering replacement cards. The outdoor event will continue monthly at different locations around the city.
- The Community Resource group partnered with the Office of Citizenship Assistance to run the Mountain View Library resource fair during this month's edition of smaller-branch resource fairs. Through their partnership, we were able to have the DMV table at the library to provide patrons identification card services. This month's set of fairs had the highest attendance yet, at 102 patrons at the four branch locations.
- Cookbook Club has returned to the Gerrish Library in June and has had four participants for its first session.
- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted the Storytime on the Bus program with People Mover for 111 riders. Storytime on the Bus will travel to Chugiak-Eagle River Library, Mountain View Library, and Muldoon Library in July and August.
- Summer Discovery programming kicked off in earnest at all library locations.
 - o June brought three paid performers to APL. These programs are funded by the Friends of the Library:
 - Krumbambuli Puppet Theatre (281 people)
 - Bird TLC (275 people)
 - Tiny Home(stead) goat Meet and Greet (970 people)
 - o Chugiak-Eagle River Library has had a record-breaking number of registrations for the Summer Discovery program, 808 participants so far, compared to 657 total for last summer.
 - o Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted sun printing craft event to celebrate the summer solstice for 28 people.
- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian), Marjorie Harrison (Library Director), and Ellie Kinney (Associate Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted an outreach table at the Downtown Summer Solstice Festival on June 20. They shared information about the new Downtown Library and library services.
- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian), Felicite Toney (Community Resource Associate Librarian, Loussac Library), and many APL staff and family volunteers participated in the Pride Parade on June 27. This was the first parade for the new Mobile Library. **(photo below)**

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Community Resource Group is excited to start monthly resource fairs at the Loussac Library on July 22 from 3-5pm in the Moose, Salmon and Beluga rooms on the second floor.
- Katarina Pavic (Branch Manager, Gerrish (Girdwood) Library) will hold an outreach event at the Girdwood Forest Fair on Friday, July 3 and the Girdwood Farmer's Market on July 19 to promote Summer Discovery and library events and services.
- Kendall Millman (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) will host Stroller Stories special family storytimes at nearby Cuddy Park in July, August, and September.
- APL will announce our fall author visit on July 6. This year will feature an author of adult fiction connected to a streaming TV series. APL rotates a top tier author between adult and children's audiences every other year.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- While Library staff is excited about the possibilities of the new Mobile Library, the amount of locations of recurring stops and services will be limited by the capacity of existing staff.

Internal Operations and Statistics

Recent Accomplishments

- Core Services By The Numbers
 - Access to a diverse collection of materials in various formats –
 - 125,838 items circulated (74,719 physically and 51,119 digitally)
 - Tech services : new items added 2,409; items repaired/records updated 1,282
 - Knowledgeable and approachable staff
 - 5 Staff training hours for June
 - Access to internet connectivity
 - 6,964 unique Wifi users
 - 4,409 Computer sessions
 - Professional reference and research assistance
 - 2,820 Reference questions answered
 - Spaces for individual or group use – visitor count
 - Loussac Library – 25,835
 - Chugiak-Eagle River Library – 6,902
 - Gerrish (Girdwood) Library – 2,054
 - Mountain View Library – 11,925
 - Muldoon Library – 3,323
 - Programming and outreach to support the mission and vision of the library
 - 47 Adult Programs for 368 people
 - 130 Youth programs for 4,914 people
 - 8 All Ages programs 5,916 people
- Safety and Security update
 - 29 incidents resulting in trespass from the library
 - Loussac Library: 24 incidents

- Mountain View Library: 5 incidents
 - 2 incidents not resulting in trespass, both at Gerrish (Girdwood) Library
- Due to increased patron requests through “Notify Me” tags and Suggest A Purchase forms, Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian) has been identifying and purchasing titles from incomplete fiction series in OverDrive (Libby) as budget permits. This will reduce waiting times for patrons.
- Rayette Sterling (Branch Manager, Mountain View Library) completed the updated Municipality of Anchorage Language Access Program training. Language Access provides translation services for library patrons in compliance with Federal law.
- The Alaskana microfilm reels have been successfully relocated to the third floor at Loussac. Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian/Interlibrary Loan Supervisor, Loussac Library) has organized and arranged the collection to improve accessibility and make materials easier for patrons and staff to locate and use. The collection will be formally labeled in July 2026

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- APL will conduct a survey of current (last 12 months) Hoopla users to inform 2027 budget decisions and receive feedback on the first 6 months of service changes that resulted in fewer individual borrows and a daily borrowing cap.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Demand for digital items continues to increase while limiting factors on the processing of our physical collection continue. Part of the library re-org will hopefully address some of these factors as staff and workflows are adjusted to accommodate increased in-house processing of physical materials.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- None at this time

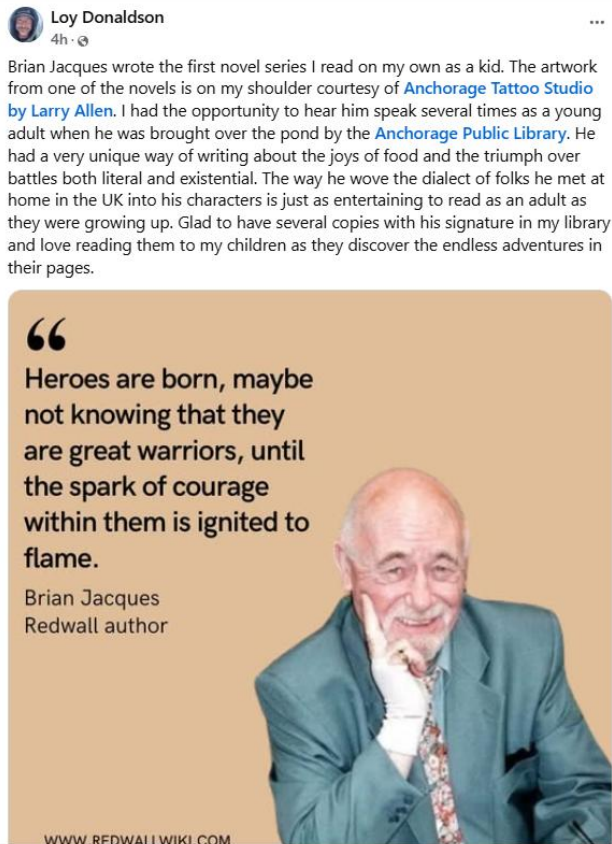
Next Steps/Coming Soon

- New Library Advisory Board members are up for Assembly approval at the July 7 meeting

Social Media/Photos

Recent Accomplishments

- A patron on Facebook shared the impact of an author and their subsequent visit had on his childhood and how he's engaging with his own children.



- APL Mobile Library on parade



Anchorage Public Library Budget

2026 ANNUAL UPDATE

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Mission and Vision

Connecting people to education, information, and community.

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.



Values

ACCESS | COMMUNITY | **INTEGRITY** | LEARNING

We endeavor to be trusted stewards of public resources by providing reliable and sustainable services.

We are supportive of each other, **transparent in decision making**, and mission focused.

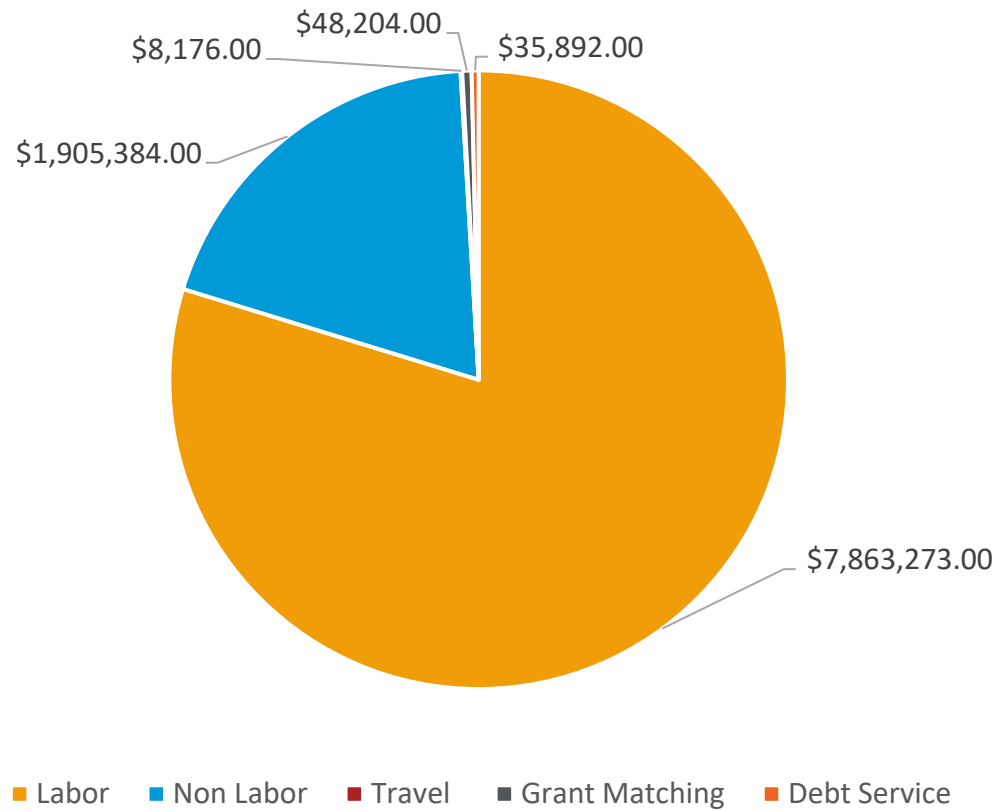
2025 Budget

ACCOUNTABILITY

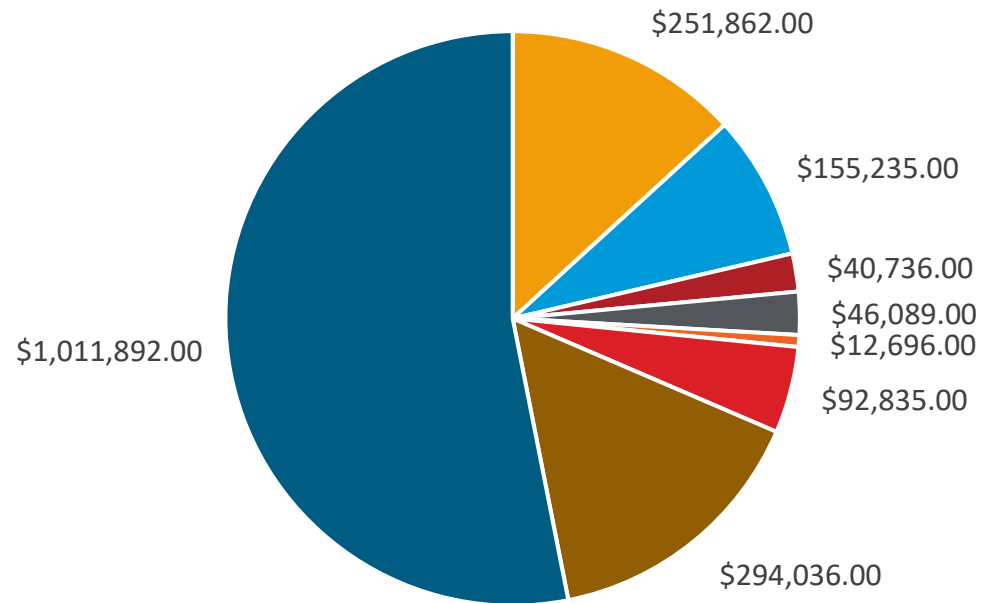
Operating Budget Recap

97% spent out on labor | 99% spent out on non-labor

2025 Actuals



2025 Actuals



- Administration
- Branches
- Adult Services
- Circulation
- Youth Services
- Technical Services
- Automation
- Collections

2025 Projects Completed

Displays

Teen Area on 2nd Floor

Administration Printer

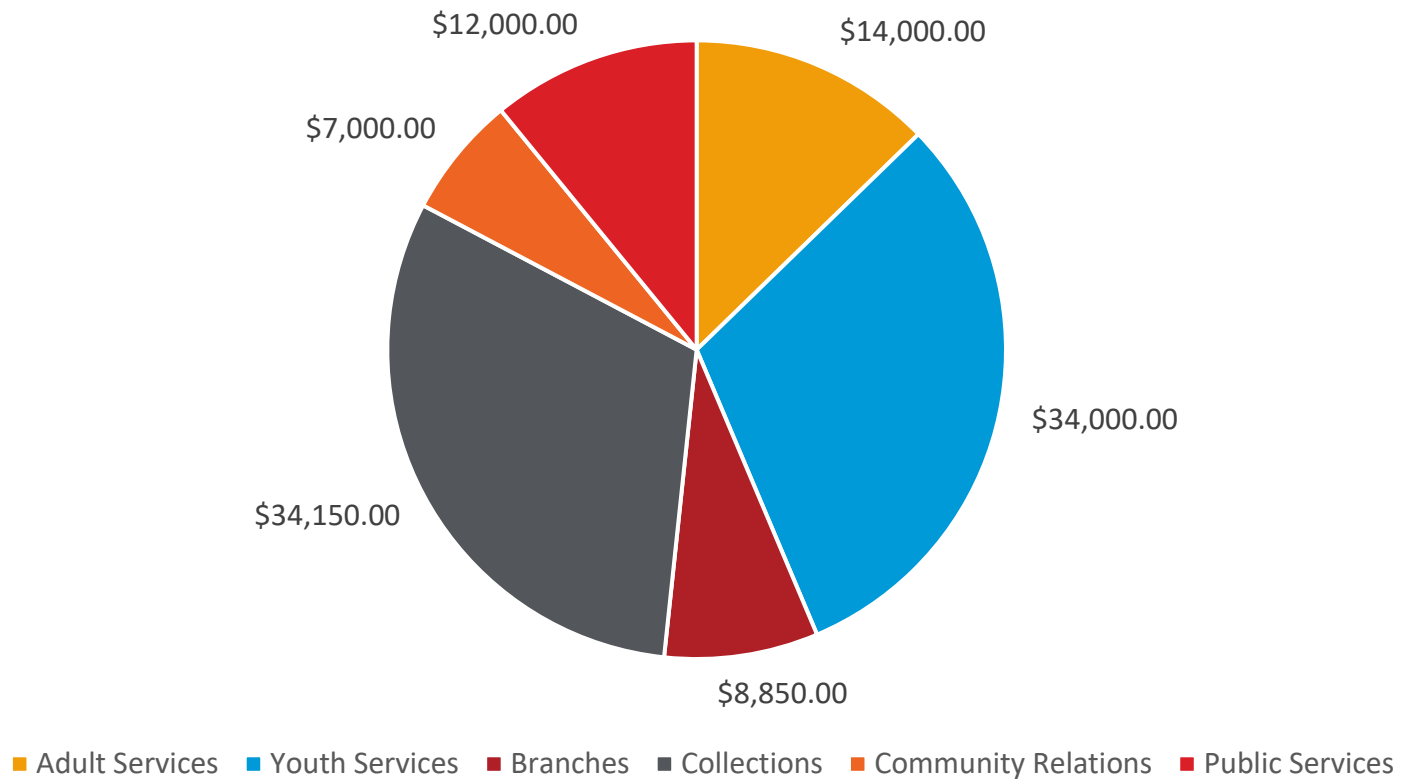
Mountain View sidewalks

HVAC panel installed at Loussac

Chugiak-Eagle River awning over bookdrop

Mountain View Community Room tables

2025 FOL Donations



Anchorage Library Foundation

2025 Giving

- Mountain View Bike Rack
- Mini Grants
- Mobile Library Wrap
- Marketing

2026 Library Budget

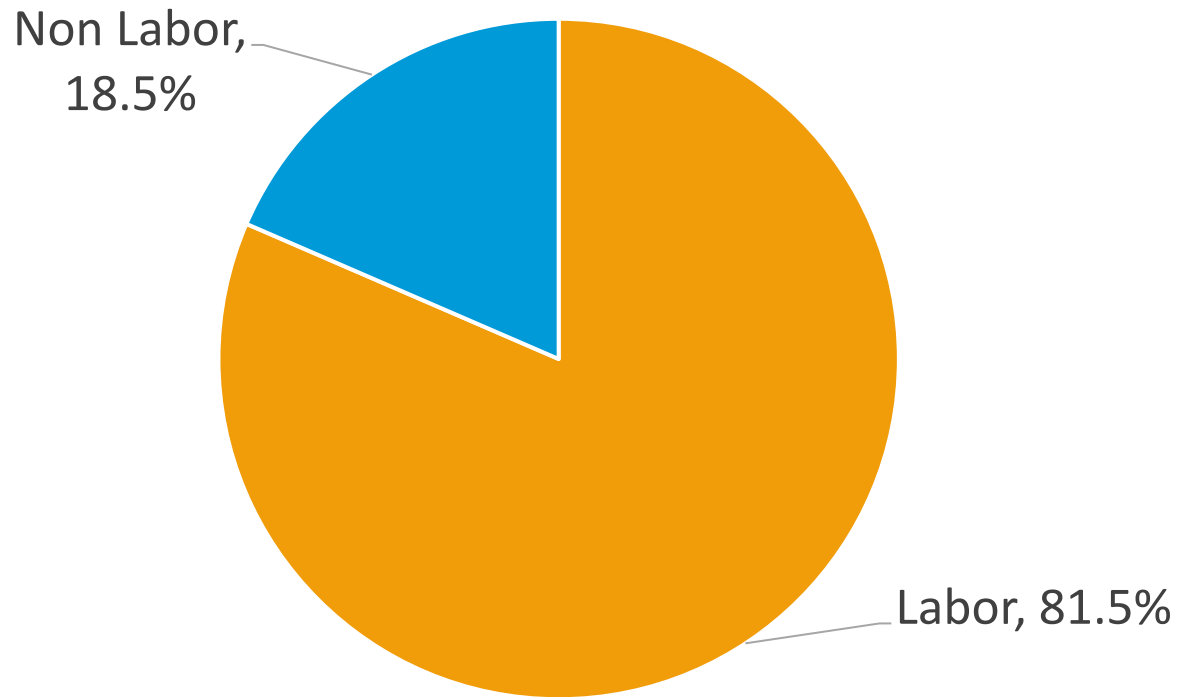
TRANSPARENCY

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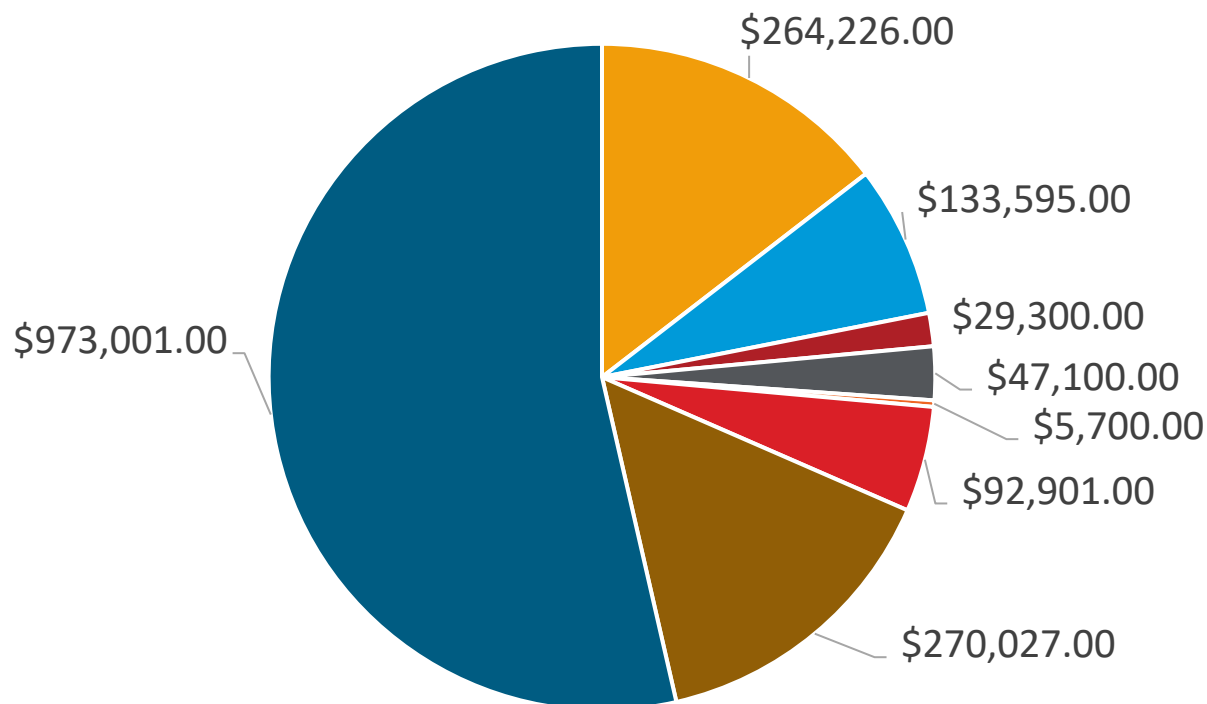
A little perspective

THE LIBRARY
OPERATING
BUDGET IS
1.6% OF THE
TOTAL
MUNICIPAL
BUDGET.

2026 Library Operating Budget

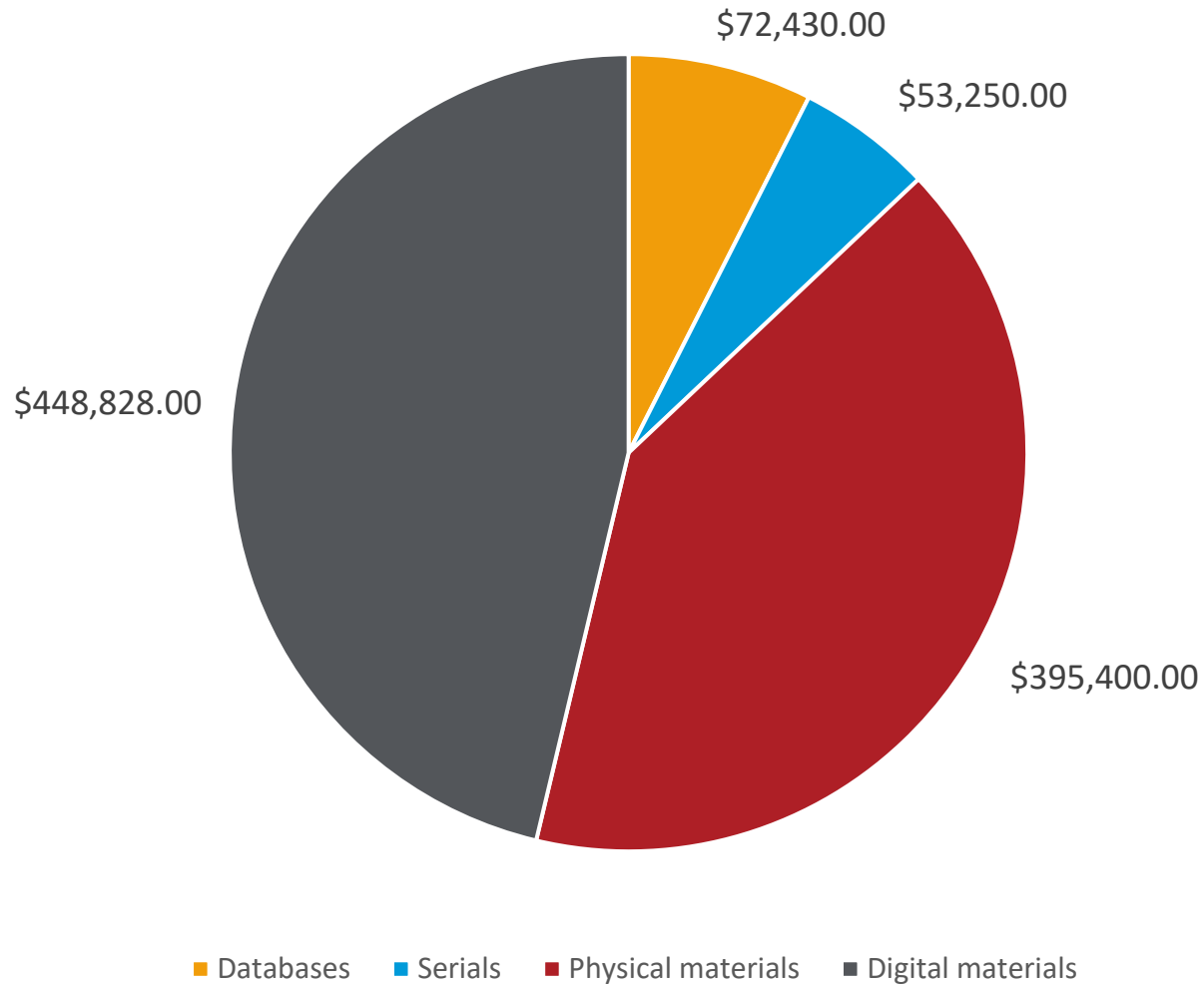


2026 Non-Labor Budget



Admin Branches Adult Services Circulation
Youth Services Tech Services Automation Collections

Collections Budget



2026 Projects

Strategic Plan Workgroups and Initiatives – All Year

Additional Security guard for Loussac - January

Lucky Day collection - March

New printing software - April

Book vendor onboarding – June

New desk for Chugiak-Eagle River* – June

Mobile Library – June

New incident reporting software – November

2027 Budget Planning

ADVOCACY

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Priorities



Staffing

Safety and
Security

Core
Services

Challenges

Municipal budget forecast

Demand for digital materials

Building maintenance

Aging technology

Staffing levels and capacity

Safety and security

Capital Improvement Projects

Loussac 2nd Floor Construction

Loussac 3rd Floor Design and Construction

Loussac 4th Floor Design and Construction

Loussac HVAC

Loussac Grounds

Mountain View Library Remodel

Muldoon Library and Transit Center

South Anchorage Branch

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Previous Bonds

Loussac Library – 3rd Floor

Design funded up to 30%. Project start delayed, so the original plan to bond for construction in 2027 has been pushed back.

Loussac Elevators

Project commenced Spring 2026 to replace staff elevator and public elevator 2 and 3 located in the central core of the building.

Loussac Skylight / Windows

In 2025, voters approved a \$2.5 mil bond to fund new windows at the Loussac Library. Capital projects staff has begun initial review of the current skylight.

Chugiak-Eagle River Carpet

Voters approved the project in 2025. No movement yet on getting new carpet.

2026 Project Updates

Loussac Library – 2nd Floor

Bond for design passed in April 2026. Timeline for project start TBD.

Mountain View Library

Although identified as a 2026 priority, the administration did not move the remodel/expansion forward due to competing municipal maintenance needs.

Downtown Library

Construction scheduled for summer 2026. This is the top priority for library staff and municipal teams. Funded by an Alaska State Grant and the Anchorage Library Foundation.

Proposed 2027 Bond Package

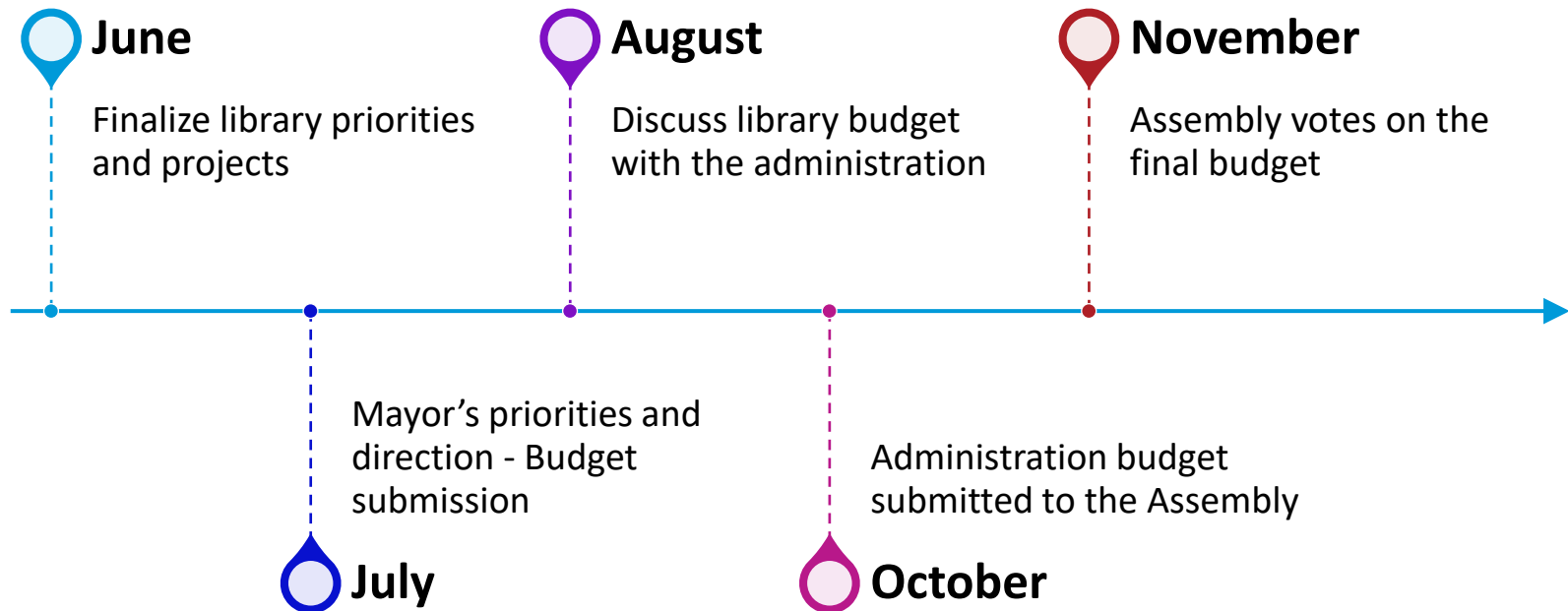
Loussac 3rd Floor – Complete Design

Request additional funding to increase budget from 30% to 100% engineering and design.

Loussac HVAC Replacement

Phase 2 requested for 2027 bond. Phase 1 (control panel replacement) was completed in 2025 using operating funds made available through staffing vacancies. Need to coordinate with MOA Facilities if identified as the priority project.

TIMELINE



FEEDBACK

The proposed
capital
improvement plan

Additional
priorities for our
non-labor budget

Thank you

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT,
ADVOCACY, AND ENGAGEMENT.