

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

June 18, 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	
Tour of potential Capital Projects at Loussac	Marjorie Harrison Director	5:45	
Mission Moment: FY 2026 Budget	Mollie Roache Budget Coordinator	6:15	
Board Report	Marjorie Harrison Director	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%40thre.ad.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
May 21, 2025

Attendance

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

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

Staff

Marjorie Harrison (Director); Jim Curran (Muldoon Branch Manager); Rebecca Lampert (Time Administrator)

Guest

None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:30 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 Johnson motioned, Member Bronson seconded.)
- Action: Minutes from the April 16 LAB meeting approved. (Member Thiru motioned, Member Johnson seconded.)

Staff Presentations:

Jim Curran, Muldoon Branch Manager, presented Novelist, which helps patrons find their next book. It is searchable by keyword, title, author, series, genre, age and by appeal. Additional options include reviews of books, checking the library catalog for availability, and printed lists of books. This is available on the APL homepage: select Resources → Databases A-Z → N – Novelist. [Basic Search: NovelList - powered by EBSCOhost](#).

Guest Presentations: None

Director's Report

- The Board Report for May was distributed and is on file.
- Director Harrison provided an update on the Collection Management Policy. Other APL Policies under review are the Code of Conduct and the Facilities and Grounds Use.
- Capital Projects planning was discussed. Some possibilities for 2026 - 2030 are:
 - Learning Commons renovation (Loussac 4th Floor)
 - Children's area renovation (Loussac 2nd Floor)
 - Grounds safety and accessibility improvements
 - Muldoon Library relocation
 - Mountain View Branch renovations and repairs
 - Loussac heating and ventilation
 - Alaska Room – continued planning and funding

Board Discussion regarding reduction in IMLS funding

Member Garrett led a discussion regarding significant cuts made to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and presented a letter protesting these cuts. Director Harrison mentioned several programs and staff that will be lost due to the funding cuts.

- Action: The Library Advisory Board's letter registering opposition to the cuts to IMLS funding will be sent to all three members of the Alaska congressional delegation. ((Member Johnson motioned, Member Garrett seconded. All members approved.))

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted the final Countdown to Kindergarten of the spring at Loussac in May for 21 attendees. The program will continue again in August 2025 after the new school year begins.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac Library) attended a Job Fair at Wendler Middle school to talk to students about how to become a librarian and what skills and classes they could take in school to help them get a future job in a library and spoke with approximately 150 students.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) welcomed 25 children and parents from Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) for a "Get to Know Your Library" day. The visit introduced families to library resources, spaces, and services, fostering inclusion and access for newcomer communities.
- Mountain View Library hosted two senior programs: Senior Poetry Workshop and Elder Endeavors. Together, these events engaged 12 older adults in activities designed to strengthen memory and foster well-being through social connection and creative expression.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- All Anchorage Public Library locations will offer weekly programming for elementary school-aged children in June and July. Some highlighted guest performer programs include: Krambambuli Puppet Theatre, a meet and greet with goats from the Tiny Home(stead) plus activities from the local 4-H chapter, a comic book workshop with local artist Lee Post, and a magic show with Magic by Robbie. Each location will also have other hands-on crafting and science programming led by librarians.
- People Mover Trainings are coming to multiple locations each month this summer: Chugiak-Eagle River Library, Loussac Library, Mountain View Library, and Muldoon Library. Sandy McMahon, Transportation Travel Trainer, will teach groups more about People Mover. Some locations will be treated to a free ride to the Downtown Transit Center to learn even more as they ride.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Library Youth Services staff, with assistance from Joelle Ghosn (Library Assistant II, Mountain View Library), hosted the annual Reading Rendezvous event, the kickoff party for Summer Discovery on Saturday, May 17, 12 - 4 PM. This event hosted 40+ organizations who provide free reading and learning based activities for families, along with free entertainment on stage like The Button Box Gang, Tomodachi Daiko drummers, and storytimes with local authors. We welcomed nearly 2,000 people to the lawn over the course of the event and registered 1,091 people for the Summer Discovery summer reading program.
- Youth Services staff systemwide continued to offer outreach visits to promote Reading Rendezvous and Summer Discovery:

- Red Coffey (Youth Librarian, Muldoon Library) visited seven schools, including four Title I schools, and spoke to over 700 elementary and middle school students—all in three days.
- Katarina Pavic (Branch Manager, Gerrish (Girdwood) Library) did outreach at the Girdwood School to promote Summer Discovery to over 100 students.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) visited Willowcrest Elementary School and Taku Elementary School, speaking to 78 and 39 students respectively.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) visited Campbell STEM Elementary and Chinook Elementary, speaking to 312 and 59 students respectively.
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) visited Chugiak Elementary and Ravenwood Elementary, speaking to 127 students respectively.
- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) did a presentation at the Alaska Literacy Program for their English teachers on what resources are available at the library for their students. She and Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) are planning a follow up tour of the Mountain View Branch.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac Library) is shooting and editing a video on how to check out Law Depot resources such as legal forms and materials from our website or through the Libby app.
- The Eagle River Spinners have suggested that APL create a Library in a Box kit for Spinning. They are contributing suggestions for titles and have offered to donate drop spindles and fiber.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- LinkedIn Learning has not been able to verify library cards and is not allowing patrons to log in. The vendor has been slow to respond to requests for assistance.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library has wrapped up its Seed Exchange, in collaboration with the Girdwood Library and Community Room Boosters and Master Gardener Martina Steinmetz, with a total of 276 participants.
- The Mountain View Library held Wake Up, Garden!, an all-ages program that brought seven community members together to prepare the library's raised beds for planting. Held in partnership with Anchor Gardens as part of their Kids Garden Club kickoff, the event offered hands-on learning and encouraged community connection through gardening.
- The new van to be used as a Mobile Library and outreach vehicle arrived. Brendan Farrell (Facilities Coordinator) is working with Municipal Fleet Department on the installation of shelving as well as getting the vehicle ready for service.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Family Storytime and Cookbook Club at the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library will return in June.
- The annual Book with Chinooks program that pairs reading and baseball is returning in June. Eagle River Assembly Representative Jared Goecker has accepted an invitation to attend the event.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The Mobile Library vehicle was originally ordered in 2021. Because of the delays due to COVID and availability, a different model of vehicle was substituted. The original lift gate does not fit the new vehicle. Fleet Department is working to see if the shelving will fit. The grant funding used to purchase the shelving,

lift gate, and collection, was diverted to other outreach programs while the vehicle was on hold. Now that there is a vehicle, additional funding for a collection and lift gate will be identified as we determine the best use of the Mobile Library. A committee to determine scope and service for the Mobile Library has been formed as the first stage of the new strategic plan implementation.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers [May]

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1,344
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	98
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2,852

- In May, Anchorage Public Library staff completed 19 trainings in areas such as readers advisory, dealing with difficult situations, and how to back up your coworkers. The Alaska Library Network has purchased trainings for all libraries in Alaska on how to work with unhoused patrons as well as difficult situations. Over the next few months, staff will be working on those trainings. This assisted by David Kreiss-Tomkins (Community Resource Librarian), who has previewed and prioritized the trainings.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian, Loussac Library) worked with our website developer to transition to an updated website editor. The update required a complete rebuild of the website with lots of corrections and coordination with the developer, but the new site has many new features and formatting options.
- Anchorage Public Library staff met with the architectural GHD to give feedback on and adjust to fit budget constraints the concept drawings for the Downtown Library. The concept drawing will be available for public viewing and comment in June.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Security incidents:

Security Incidents	Loussac	Chugiak-Eagle River	Gerrish	Mountain View	Muldoon	Total
Incidents resulting in trespasses	17	0	0	8	1	26
Other Incidents						
Total	17	0	0	8	1	26

- Amanda Andros (Reference Librarian / ILL Supervisor, Loussac Library) has been monitoring the status of the IMLS grant regarding the FY2025 federal budget (corresponding to Alaska's FY2026) and analyzing the potential impact of funding for the 800# Interlibrary Loan program's operations and sustainability. There is still some uncertainty until the formal award letters are issued.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- The Friends of the Library hosted a pop-up CD sale in April and earned \$1,940. They are planning another one for September.

- The annual Friends of the Library book sale on the first weekend of May sold 10,113 books and media, earning \$16,024.
- The Library Advisory Board drafted and sent a letter supporting Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) funding at the federal level.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Social Media/Photos



Loussac Youth Services librarians at the front sign-up table at Reading Rendezvous 2025.



A family enjoys the outdoor storywalk during Reading Rendezvous 2025.



Friends of the Library board members staffing their table at Reading Rendezvous 2025, helping children create bookmarks.



Families enjoyed read alouds from local authors at Reading Rendezvous 2025, including Brooke Hartman, pictured here giving out stickers themed after her books to enthusiastic fans.



ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Draft Projects

Mollie K Roache

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Project Summary and Estimates

Proposed Bond Year	Project Description	Budget
2026	Alaska Room – Incorporated into 3 rd floor	\$500,000
2026	Loussac 3 rd Floor (Adult Services)	\$ 2,000,000
2026/2027	Mountain View Remodel	\$500,000 / \$ 4,500,000
2028	Loussac 2 nd Floor (Youth Services)	\$ 2,000,000
2028	Muldoon Relocation with new transit center	\$ 4,000,000
2029	Loussac grounds – Including Cuddy Park path, parking lot redo, book drop access, trails to transit.	\$ 2,000,000
2029	South Anchorage Branch	\$ 10,000,000
2030	Loussac 4 th Floor (Event Space)	\$ 2,000,000
2030	Loussac HVAC full replacement	\$ 10,000,000
Operating	Chugiak-Eagle River program room floor	\$ 200,000
Operating	Chugiak-Eagle River AMHS upgrade	\$ 200,000
Operating	Loussac AMHS Upgrades	\$ 400,000
Future	Loussac replace chairs in the Wilda Marston Theatre and Assembly Chambers	\$ 1,500,000
Future	Mobile Library Fleet	\$ 2,000,000
Future	Girdwood Storage/ Carpet	\$ 75,000

Alaska Room

Option 1 (Rotunda):

Restore and renovate the Loussac Library's Rotunda to serve once again as the Alaska Room, a dedicated space for the Alaska Collection and related programs. The project will reestablish the historic Rotunda as a premier public research and cultural destination, providing access to APL's unique Alaska Collection, which includes rare books, maps, oral histories, and archival materials. The space will support researchers, students, educators, and community members with improved access, specialized staff support, and public programming.

Option 2 (3rd Floor Room):

Anchorage Public Library (APL), in partnership with the Anchorage Library Foundation (ALF), proposes the construction of a new Alaska Room on the third floor of the Z.J. Loussac Library. This project includes the development of a centrally located, state-of-the-art Alaska Room as well as the restoration of the adjacent Ann Stevens Room and Galleria, which will be used for author talks, public lectures, community discussions, and cultural programming. The goal is to revitalize public engagement with Alaska's rich history, connect it to contemporary issues, and provide inclusive access to archival materials and learning spaces.

Option 3 (3rd Floor Integration):

Anchorage Public Library (APL) proposes incorporating the Alaska Collection into the planned Adult Services remodel on the third floor of the Z.J. Loussac Library. Rather than building a separate, enclosed Alaska Room, this project will create a distinct, visible area within the general layout of the Adult Services floor—one that provides dedicated space for the Alaska Collection and includes research amenities tailored to the collection's use.

This revised plan maintains the integrity and visibility of the Alaska Collection, while reducing costs and avoiding the structural and logistical challenges of a full room buildout. The new design will integrate specialized shelving, reading tables, and exhibit displays into the existing third-floor footprint, allowing for improved access to Alaska-related materials and a meaningful user experience within a shared, open environment.

Loussac 3rd Floor Adult Services

Project Title: Loussac Library Third Floor Renovation – Phase Two Completion

Project Scope & Description

This project will complete the full renovation of the third floor of the Loussac Library, building on the updates made to the front section during Phase One in 2015. The third floor is a vital space within the library, serving a wide range of patron needs including research, technology access, studying, and community gathering.

In 2025, the library relocated the media collection to the third floor as part of a strategic effort to consolidate the adult collection on one floor. The third floor houses key collections such as newspapers and periodicals, the Alaska Collection, genealogy materials, and world languages.

The 2024 space audit recommended several improvements to enhance the patron experience:

- Create collaborative work pods and quiet zones.
- Increase book displays via marketplace-style shelving.
- Add additional service points to reduce blind spots and improve safety.
- Install new signage to highlight services and collections.
- Expand space for small group meetings and individual study.

The renovation aims to transform the third floor into a more functional, safe, and welcoming environment while improving access, comfort, and service visibility for all patrons.

Key Renovation Components

a. Flooring

- Replace old carpet (installed in 1992) throughout the third floor.
- Address current tripping hazards and wear-related bubbling.
- Install flooring that is easier to maintain and navigate, especially for wheelchairs, walkers, and book carts.
- Match new flooring to Phase One for a cohesive visual identity.

b. Electrical Upgrades

- Modernize outdated 1986 infrastructure.
- Add outlets and switches to meet modern needs for personal devices and library equipment.
- Remove outdated outlet boxes that currently protrude from the floor and pose tripping hazards.

c. ADA Compliance

- Modify restrooms to meet current ADA standards (widen doorways, add door-opening buttons).
- Install lower sinks and water fountains.
- Adjust layout for independent and equitable access to all library services and collections.

d. Layout Modifications

- Open sightlines by lowering shelving units and replacing end panels.
- Increase natural light and improve staff visibility.
- Enhance navigation and safety for both patrons and staff.
- Reduce shelf height in line with trends toward digital resources, making print materials more accessible.

e. Additional Modifications (as needed)

- Focus on creating a warm and welcoming environment.
- Remove unnecessary walls or reposition doorways.
- Create flexible open areas for collaborative use or programming.

Current Use & Justification

The third floor is heavily used for a wide range of services, including:

- Browsing, studying, and quiet reading,
- technology access (WiFi, scanning, printing, copying, public computers),
- and community programs and research (genealogy, Alaska Collection).

2024 Usage Data:

- 37,853 WiFi users
- 33,397 public computer sessions (majority on the third floor)
- 4,000 adult print materials checked out weekly

Community Input & Safety Concerns

- A 2025 public survey revealed:
 - 22% of respondents cited safety concerns as a reason they do not use the library.
 - 30.9% said they would be more likely to visit if the library felt safer and more welcoming.
- The current layout contributes to blind spots and insufficient staffing visibility.
- Adding service points and opening the layout will improve patron confidence and comfort.

Benefits of the Project

a. Improved Functionality

- Flooring and electrical upgrades improve usability and aesthetics.
- ADA-compliant features ensure inclusive and equitable access.

b. Enhanced Safety and Visibility

- Open sightlines and strategically placed service points reduce blind spots.
- Layout improvements make the third floor more inviting and easier to monitor.

c. Better Patron Experience

- Marketplace-style shelving increases discoverability of materials.
- New signage promotes services such as:
 - Digital collections
 - Online resources
 - Upcoming programming
 - Physical book displays

Conclusion

This renovation is a critical next step in revitalizing the Loussac Library to meet the evolving needs of Anchorage's adult patrons. By creating an open, inclusive, and functional third-floor environment, the library will provide a safer and more engaging space for research, study, community connection, and lifelong learning.

Mountain View Remodel

Project Overview: Mountain View Library Remodel & Expansion

Project Goal:

To transform Mountain View Library into a safe, accessible, and inspiring space that meets the evolving needs of the community while supporting the Anchorage Public Library's mission to deliver equitable access, lifelong learning, and strong neighborhood engagement. The Mountain View Library Remodel & Expansion project addresses critical safety, space, and service challenges at Anchorage's most heavily used neighborhood library.

Key Justifications for the Project:

- **Exceeds Current Capacity:**
The branch has the highest foot traffic of any neighborhood library location with 112,000 annual visits in 2024 and leads in both WiFi usage and public computer sessions. However, the facility lacks essential components such as teen areas, individual study rooms, general seating, and safe, functional staff workspaces.
- **Significant Safety Concerns:**
A 2024 review identified numerous safety-related deficiencies, including blind spots within and around the building, an outdated circulation desk with only one exit, and poor visibility throughout the site. In 2024, Mountain View Library recorded 41 trespass incidents—nearly four times that of all other branches combined.
- **Deteriorating and Unwelcoming Exterior:**
The exterior suffers from cracked sidewalks, faded signage, and worn landscaping, all of which create hazards and make the facility feel uninviting. These conditions hinder safe access and diminish the library's role as a public gathering space.
- **Proximity to Clark Middle School:**
Located directly next to Clark Middle School, the library plays a vital role in serving youth during after-school hours. However, the absence of a dedicated teen space and limited program areas make it difficult to safely and effectively support this high-need population.
- **Community-Driven Priorities:**
According to a **2025 public survey, 30.9% of respondents** identified *"making the library a safer and more welcoming place"* as the top factor that would increase their library use. This project is supported by the Library Advisory Board as a top priority.
- **Critical Community Resource:**
Mountain View is a neighborhood with a **child poverty rate exceeding 70%**. The library serves as a lifeline for free internet access, educational programs, and a safe space for families, students, and job seekers. The current facility limits the library's ability to deliver these services.

This remodel and expansion will not only improve safety and accessibility, but also ensure the library continues to fulfill its role as a welcoming, supportive, and future-ready community hub. By expanding the building, redesigning the layout, and upgrading the site's exterior, the project directly responds to urgent needs while aligning with the Anchorage Public Library's mission to provide equitable access and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Phase 1 – Design and Engineering Study

Scope:

This phase focuses on planning, design development, and engineering evaluation to prepare for construction. It will provide a complete understanding of the existing site limitations, community needs, and proposed design solutions.

Key Activities:

- Engage professional space planners, architects, and engineers.
- Conduct detailed design and engineering studies, including:
 - Space needs assessment,
 - feasibility and code compliance review,
 - site analysis (interior and exterior),
 - and safety and security audits.
- Develop schematic design options and refine based on stakeholder input.
- Prepare cost estimates and phasing plan.
- Ensure integration of 2025 bond-funded security improvements.
- Conduct community engagement to confirm priorities and gather feedback.

Deliverables:

- Finalized schematic and design development plans
- Engineering and code review reports,
- Detailed construction cost estimates,
- Implementation timeline and phasing strategy,
- Permitting and regulatory readiness.

Phase 2 – Construction

Scope:

This phase includes all physical work required to remodel and expand the facility based on the approved designs from Phase 1.

Key Activities:

- Expand building footprint to add:
 - General seating,
 - space for teens, families, and students,
 - and collaborative workspaces and study rooms.
- Interior renovations to:

- Eliminate blind spots.
 - Redesign the circulation desk for staff safety and user service.
 - Improve sightlines for supervision and comfort.
- Exterior improvements including:
 - Sidewalk repair/replacement,
 - updated signage and refreshed façade,
 - and landscaping redesign to eliminate concealed or unsafe areas.
- Site security enhancements:
 - Install new surveillance systems (from 2025 project).
 - Reconfigure spaces to reduce loitering and increase visibility.

Outcomes:

- A safer, more accessible, and welcoming facility.
- Expanded programming and seating capacity.
- Increased staff efficiency and security.
- Enhanced ability to meet the evolving needs of a high-use, high-need neighborhood.

Increased operating expenses: One additional FT staff member and one PT staff member.

Loussac 2nd Floor Youth Area

Project Scope & Description

This project will renovate the second floor of the Loussac Library to create a fully dedicated, interactive, and welcoming Youth Services Area. The renovation will transform the entire floor into a cohesive, youth-centered space for children, teens, and families—uniting various existing youth areas under one design. While the teen area was successfully relocated from the third to the second floor in 2025, the front half of the floor still serves as adult seating and houses the adult book collection. This project will complete the transition, replacing outdated features in the children’s area—which hasn’t been updated since the library’s construction in 1986—and finalizing the second floor as a vibrant hub for youth engagement.

Key Renovation Components

- Architectural and engineering design
- Structural upgrades
- Reconfiguration of layout for improved space flow, accessibility, and safety
 - New, well-ventilated and spacious storytime area
 - Modified, child-friendly shelving
 - Dedicated space for tutoring or group projects
 - Stroller parking
 - New staffing area utilizing old cafe space
- Updated signage, furniture, and shelving units

Current Conditions and Justification

- The current children’s area shows significant wear:
 - Carpeting is torn and bubbling, especially around high-use zones.
 - Sightlines are poor, reducing supervision and accessibility.
 - Furniture is not conducive to comfortable or safe use by families.
 - The story theater, used by infants to preschoolers, is small, windowless, poorly ventilated, and overheats during large programs.
 - Staff workspace is inefficiently designed, causing storage and access issues.
- Usage statistics underline the need for this investment:
 - An average of 600 patrons check out 4,000 children’s items per day.
 - In 2024, 477 youth programs attracted 29,016 attendees (10% of annual library visits).
- 2024 space audit findings:
 - The children’s area feels overcrowded.
 - Seating is insufficient.

- Space is dominated by collections rather than interaction or collaboration.
- Recommendation: dedicate the entire second floor to youth, with three staff and one security guard present at all times.

Project Impact & Goals

- Create a safe, accessible, and engaging environment for children, teens, and their families.
- Reflect Anchorage’s commitment to investing in youth and family wellbeing.
- Support learning, literacy, and social engagement outside of school.
- Provide flexible spaces for:
 - Storytime for young children,
 - teen hangout and study areas,
 - after-school activities and tutoring,
 - and comfortable caregiver-child reading areas.
- Enhance staff visibility, safety, and service capacity.

Community and Educational Context

- The library is a critical partner in Anchorage’s PreK–12 literacy efforts, often collaborating with the Anchorage School District.
- In 2023, 55% of incoming kindergarteners scored “well below benchmark” on the mCLASS early literacy screener. 48% of 3rd graders tested below the 50th percentile in reading on the MAP Growth assessment.
- Libraries provide free, equitable access to high-interest materials, programs, and learning spaces for all ages.

Conclusion

This project represents a strategic, much-needed investment in Anchorage’s youth and educational future. Renovating the Loussac Library’s second floor will:

- Modernize outdated infrastructure,
- expand services to meet growing community demand,
- and create a vibrant, safe, and inspiring environment that supports early literacy, family engagement, and youth development.

By transforming the Loussac Library’s second floor into a premier destination for youth and families, the City of Anchorage will affirm its commitment to equity, education, and community wellbeing.

Muldoon Relocation

Project Title: Muldoon Library & Transit Center Co-Location Facility

Project Scope & Description

Anchorage Public Library (APL) and the Municipality of Anchorage's Public Transportation Department (PTD) are collaborating on a project to co-locate a new public library and a modern transit center in Northeast Anchorage, serving the fastest-growing and most diverse areas of the city. This project would create Anchorage's first transit-oriented development (TOD) that brings together critical public services to improve access, safety, and community vitality.

In 2024, PTD issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to begin the site selection process. The goal is to relocate the existing Muldoon Transit Hub to a centralized off-street location and construct a new Muldoon Library to better meet the needs of the area's 42,375 residents.

The project will provide:

- A new, purpose-built Muldoon Library
- A transit center that enhances pedestrian safety and rider convenience
- Opportunities for shared infrastructure, reduced capital costs, and more accessible public services

The current Muldoon Library is housed in a leased storefront space in Muldoon Town Center. The facility lacks natural light, has no study rooms or dedicated community space, and cannot accommodate the growing number of users—especially youth and seniors. Similarly, the current transit hub consists of a collection of bus stops spread along a busy road with limited safety features and no indoor waiting space.

Together, this joint facility would create a true civic hub for the Muldoon neighborhood—anchoring nearby commercial, residential, and park developments and serving as a catalyst for future investment.

Key Project Components

a. Site Selection, Planning & Design

- Collaborative site identification between APL and PTD
- Development of architectural, engineering, and space planning documents
- Planning funded in part by a \$450,000 FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Grant

b. Library Construction

- A new municipal-owned facility designed to include:
 - A vibrant children's area to serve families from 9 nearby elementary schools (6 of which are Title I)
 - Study rooms, collaborative spaces, and a large community meeting room with external access for public use and rentals
 - Expanded technology services, marketplace displays, and a more functional layout
 - Improved restrooms and natural lighting
 - Optional automated holds locker in the transit center for 24/7 material pickup

c. Transit Center Development

- A consolidated, off-street facility for rider transfers and improved operator conveniences
- Designed for safe, efficient operations and visibility
- Establish Anchorage's first true Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in a low-income, minority-majority area

d. Municipal Efficiency

- Transitions both departments out of leased space and into MOA-owned infrastructure
- Reduces long-term costs and allows for future improvements and upgrades

Current Use & Justification

The Muldoon Library is outperforming the capacity of its current facility, which has a meeting room limit of only 49 people and no dedicated study rooms. In 2024, the branch recorded:

- 44,660 visits (up 3,000 from 2023)
- 268 youth programs with 3,288 attendees
- 89 adult programs with 275 attendees
- 66,963 physical checkouts, despite increasing digital usage

The current transit hub in the area consists of scattered bus stops that fail to support safe, accessible, and efficient transfers. Northeast Anchorage, and particularly the 99504 zip code, is a transit-dependent community with high proportions of seniors, youth, and residents without private vehicles. Current bus stops in the area and the library both abut a busy 4-lane artery which lack sufficient protected crosswalks, pedestrian bridge(s), or adequate bike trails. This makes accessing bus service and the library difficult, if not dangerous cyclists, youth, seniors, and those with mobility issues. Improved transit and library access will benefit:

- Seniors (14.1% of the Northeast population)
- Students from nine local elementary schools
- New residents from upcoming HUD-funded housing (via Cook Inlet Housing Authority)

Community & Equity Impact

This area includes Census Tracts 7.02 and 7.03, both eligible for AoPP funding due to their designation as persistent poverty areas. This project directly aligns with equity goals by:

- Improving access for low-income, transit-dependent residents
- Creating a safe and welcoming space for all ages and abilities
- Supporting early literacy, digital access, and community engagement

The new facility would provide similar community space benefits seen at Mountain View and Loussac Libraries, where meeting rooms are frequently used and generate rental revenue.

Benefits of Co-Location

a. Improved Accessibility

- Centralized access to library services and transit in a walkable hub
- Supports patrons with mobility issues, seniors, and youth—especially during Alaska’s harsh winters

b. Shared Infrastructure & Reduced Costs

- Consolidated parking, mechanical systems, security, and maintenance
- Greater efficiency in operations and future upgrades

c. Community Development

- Acts as a civic anchor for a new Muldoon “town center”
- Encourages smart growth and mixed-use development

Conclusion

The Muldoon Library and Transit Center Co-Location Facility is a forward-thinking investment in equity, access, and neighborhood revitalization. The project supports municipal goals, addresses longstanding service gaps, and positions Muldoon as a vibrant civic hub for decades to come.

Loussac Library Grounds Safety and Accessibility Improvements

Project Scope & Description

Anchorage Public Library is proposing a project to reconfigure and improve the exterior layout, pathways, and access points around the Loussac Library, in partnership with municipal departments including Parks and Recreation and Transportation Planning. These improvements will enhance safety, accessibility, and usability of both the library and its surrounding grounds, including better integration with adjacent Cuddy Park.

The project is focused on creating a more connected, pedestrian-friendly, and ADA-compliant site that meets the needs of library patrons, community members, and event attendees. Despite its central location and proximity to other civic amenities, the current layout and condition of the Loussac Library grounds create barriers to access and limit use of outdoor spaces.

Key Improvements Include:

- **Pedestrian Access:** Construct a safe path linking Cuddy Park to the library; repair and expand sidewalks; improve access to bus stops year-round.
- **Parking & Circulation:** Clarify vehicle flow, resurface parking lots, and improve signage; redesign book return area for safer drop-offs.
- **Outdoor Event Space:** Renovate the stage and lawn to support events like Reading Rendezvous and other library programs.
- **Building Access & Signage:** Explore creating direct access to the Rotunda from the parking lot; install visible, accessible signage and lighting.

This project will enhance safety, increase access, and demonstrate the Municipality's ongoing commitment to maintaining Loussac Library as a central and welcoming civic space.

Improvements will support year-round programming, better connect the library with the surrounding neighborhood, and encourage greater use of outdoor amenities.

South Anchorage Branch

Project Title: South Anchorage Library – New Branch Development

Project Scope & Description

Anchorage Public Library proposes establishing a new **South Anchorage Library Branch** to restore essential library services to a growing and underserved area. Ideally located in a renovated municipal building, the project supports the Municipality's goal of maximizing public facility use while reducing leased space.

Since the closure of the Samson-Diamond Library in 2010 due to budget cuts, South Anchorage has lacked full-service library access. In its final year, Samson-Diamond served **73,000 visitors** and circulated **68,000 items**, highlighting strong local demand. Since its closure, residents have consistently advocated for the return of library services on the South Side. A remote holds locker was installed at Dimond Mall in 2023, however it offers limited access and cannot replace in-person services, staff support, or programming.

A 2025 public survey found that **15% of respondents** cited library locations being too far away as their top barrier to use—underscoring the need for a permanent branch in this region.

The proposed branch would feature:

- A large community room
- Study rooms and flexible workspaces
- A vibrant children's area and dedicated teen space
- A computer lab with printing, copying, and internet access

Restoring library services in South Anchorage will:

- Increase access in a currently underserved area
- Support literacy, learning, and digital inclusion
- Offer safe, welcoming public space
- Strengthen the library system's connection with South Anchorage residents

This project aligns with APL's mission to provide equitable access to education, information, and community across the city.

Loussac Library 4th Floor Event Space (Learning Commons)

Project Title: Loussac Library Fourth Floor Renovation – Learning Commons & Media Studio

Project Scope & Description

This project will renovate the Learning Commons, adjacent staff areas, and former media studio on the 4th floor of the Loussac Library to create a modern, flexible space for library services, community programs, and events. It will also improve access to the floor by remodeling or expanding the hidden stairwell connecting the 3rd and 4th floors. Currently enclosed and marked by doors on both ends, the stairwell discourages public use and contributes to the underutilization of the space. The entire area has not been upgraded since the library opened in 1986.

Key Renovation Components Include:

- Planning & Design: Engage professionals to create a community-focused, accessible layout.
- Infrastructure Upgrades: Improve lighting, acoustics, flooring, and electrical systems.
- Flexible Layout: Reconfigure space for events, tech integration, and public use.
- Media Studio Renovation: Convert the former studio into a usable area for library or partner programs.
- Stairwell Access: Redesign the stairwell to enhance visibility, safety, and public use.
- Staff Area Improvements: Optimize workflows and workspace functionality.

Justification and Benefits:

Currently used primarily as a rental space generating ~\$15,000 annually, the Learning Commons has much greater potential. Renovation will:

- Increase revenue from rentals and events,
- Support expanded programming and public-private partnerships,
- Provide a welcoming and accessible environment for Anchorage residents,
- Modernize infrastructure to meet current service models and technology needs,
- Encourage public use of the 4th floor through improved visibility and access.

Conclusion:

Upgrading the 4th floor of Loussac Library will activate an important but underused space, aligning with the library's strategic goals to modernize facilities, expand public access, and provide flexible, welcoming environments for all.

Increased operating expenses: One additional FT staff member to assist with monitoring and managing the space.

Increased revenue: \$20,000 annually

Loussac HVAC

Description:

Replace the aging HVAC system at the Z.J. Loussac Library, a 140,000 square foot facility serving as the flagship branch of the Anchorage Public Library system. Originally installed over 40 years ago, the existing system is beyond its expected lifespan, increasingly inefficient, and difficult to maintain.

Scope of Work:

The project will involve a comprehensive overhaul of the building's mechanical systems, including:

- Full replacement of HVAC equipment (air handling units, pumps, chillers, boilers, etc.).
- Upgrade of ventilation systems to meet modern air quality standards.
- Integration of high-efficiency components to improve energy performance and reduce operational costs.
- Zoning adjustments to improve climate control across different building areas.
- Modern building automation system (BAS) integration for real-time monitoring and control.
- Ductwork modifications where needed to improve airflow and meet current codes.
- Replacement or refurbishment of terminal units (e.g., VAV boxes, fan coils) throughout staff, public, and support spaces.
- Environmental remediation if needed during removal of old infrastructure (e.g., asbestos or other hazardous materials).

Background & Comments:

In 2024, APL funded a temporary fix to replace the HVAC system's control panel using operating budget resources. While this stopgap measure will ensure basic operability, a full system replacement is now essential to meet building and health standards, provide thermal comfort for patrons, and protect staff working conditions.

The system's deterioration has led to inconsistent temperatures, poor humidity control, and strain on maintenance resources. This project will support Anchorage's goals for sustainable infrastructure and extend the lifespan of this important civic facility. It aligns with the Municipality's priorities for maintaining and upgrading existing assets and ensures that the Loussac Library continues to be a welcoming and healthy community resource.

Operating Funds – Capital Projects

Chugiak-Eagle River Program Room

This is a high priority project. The program room floor has a sink hole. Waiting on a full evaluation from facilities to determine scope and cost. The building is owned by three organizations – MOA, Alaska Club and another business. Any major structural issues will need to be addressed with all parties.

Chugiak-Eagle River AMHS Upgrade

Update System – Due 2029

Loussac Library AMHS

Update system – Due 2027

Future Projects

Mobile Library Fleet

Long term goal once current mobile library van is up and running. Use of current van will be used to provide basis for expanding the service.

Loussac – Theatre and Assembly chairs

Description: The Wilda Marston Theatre and the Assembly Chambers both need to have their chairs replaced.

Gerrish Library – New Carpet

Description: The carpet at the Gerrish Library in Girdwood is becoming worn. The building is managed by the Parks and Recreation department. Any improvement projects would need to be coordinated with them.