

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

August 20, 2025

Attendance

_____ Debra Bronson
_____ Megan Cacciola
_____ Olivia Garrett
_____ Jen Griffis
_____ Marc Johnson
_____ Wade Hampton Miller
_____ 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	
Mission Moment: Summer Discovery	Samantha Blanquart Youth Services Coordinator	5:45	
Electronic Resource: World eBook	Lisa Bricker Youth Services Librarian	6:00	
Board Report	Marjorie Harrison Director	6:15	
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/join/19%3ameeting_Yzl3YzZkMmEtMzBmOS00Y2RmLWEyYjgtZjNiMGJjMmZmZmQ1%40thre%20ad.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
July 16, 2025

Attendance

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

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

Staff

Marjorie Harrison (Director); Celia Hartz (Automation & Patron Services Coordinator); 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 Hampton Miller motioned, Member Cacciola seconded.)
- Action: Minutes from the June 18, 2025, LAB meeting were approved. (Member Odom motioned, Member Griffis seconded.)

Staff Presentations:

Celia Hartz, Automation and Patron Services Coordinator, presented information about the E-Rate Program. Ms. Hartz's PowerPoint presentation will be provided to LAB Members.

Director's Report: The June Board Report was distributed and is on file. Ms. Harrison also provided an update on the downtown library. The APL Code of Conduct Policy and the APL Photography and Filming Policy were discussed.

Board Action: None.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Summer Discovery concluded July 31st at all locations. Some commentary from patrons:
 - “We really enjoyed the extra motivation to prioritize reading each day. All the extra activities at the different libraries helped us explore new topics and locations.” – Choron R.
 - “Our family especially appreciated the encouragement to engage in reading AND other activities, spanning other disciplines.” – Elaine G.
 - “It made for a family-focused, fun summer! Thank you!! Librarians rule!!”
 - “We did it together; tracking reading minutes created an awareness, and because we read/ listened together we had more thoughtful convos.” – Marie A.
 - “These challenges are always marvelous. I especially enjoyed the impetus to talk with strangers & learn/ see who they are.”
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted the July PAWSitive Reading program for 28 attendees to practice their reading fluency (and track minutes for their Summer Discovery logs).
- Senior Poetry Workshop at Mountain View Library welcomed seven older adult participants. The program used poetry and creative writing as an activity to promote brain health and memory retention, offering an engaging and accessible way for older adults to stimulate cognitive function and connect with peers.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) continued weekly Grow North Garden Storytime in partnership with Grow North Farm. An average of 18 children and caregivers attended each session. The program supports early literacy and school readiness while connecting families to local food systems and neighborhood green space.
- With installation help from Rick Henderson (Volunteer/Room Rental Coordinator, Loussac Library), Adult Services is hosting an interactive exhibit from the Alaska State Library. *Titanic of the North: The 1918 Wreck of the S.S. Princess Sophia*, made possible by donations from the Pioneers of Alaska – Juneau Chapter and the Friends of the Anchorage Public Library, will be available on the 3rd floor of Loussac Library through August 31, 2025.
- 14 teens attended Teen CPR with the Red Cross of AK at Chugiak-Eagle River Library.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Loussac Library will host Music Together Mountain Song to offer free music classes for children ages 2-5 beginning in August and continuing once per quarter.
- The Teen Zine vol. 2 begins accepting entries from teens citywide starting August 1. The program will run from August 1 to October 17, with the goal of publishing the new volume by Halloween in time for the fall Anchorage Zine Fair.
- Muldoon Library is bringing back our community resources event, “Connect at Muldoon.” We will bring 3-5 partner agencies together on the second Thursday of each month to share information and opportunities with the residents of Northeast Anchorage. Jim Curran (Muldoon Library Branch Manager) is discussing how to grow this event with David Kreiss-Tomkins (Community Resources Librarian).

Limiting Factors/Concerns - None at this time.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library), Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator, Loussac Library), Andi Haley (Adult Services Librarian, Loussac Library) and Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) attended Anchorage School District's Learning and Leadership Summit and spoke with 31 principals and school leaders about public library resources, databases, and services, including outreach opportunities for teachers and classrooms.
- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) and Ann Glenn (Marketing Assistant) hosted activities and spoke with 500 people at the annual Teddy Bear Picnic (part of Bear Paw Festival).

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Loussac Library staff have several outreaches planned for August related to back-to-school events, including the Maternal Child Health Resource Fair hosted by Southcentral Foundation and the Fairview Recreation Center Back to School event.
- Katarina Pavic (Branch Manager, Gerrish Library) is planning an outreach event to promote library services with Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement/Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) at the Girdwood Farmer's Market in August.
- Stephanie Schott (Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) met with two members of the Chugiak Eagle River Historical Society who are interested in writing a history of the library. There is no timeline yet for completing this project.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The centralized ticketing system that collects Ask a Librarian form submissions and patron emails stopped working without warning on approximately June 26 and was not discovered until after the July 4 holiday. Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian) was able to recover the submitted questions and staff have responded to all patron questions submitted during this time. Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) and Celia Hartz (Automations/Patron Services Coordinator) are working with the vendor and the Municipality's IT department to find solutions.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Summer Discovery events concluded at all locations in July:
 - Mini-Golf was held on the Loussac Library lawn on July 8 for 94 people. Participants enjoyed being outside on a sunny day and trying out the picture book-themed holes.
 - Magic By Robbie presented his ever-popular magic show to a full house of 232 people at the Loussac Library and continued to fill seats systemwide, with 62 attendees at Gerrish (Girdwood) Library (see photo), 94 at Chugiak-Eagle River Library, an impressive 72 at Mountain View Library, and finishing with 65 at Muldoon Library.
 - Comics Workshop with Lee Post brought in 53 attendees to the Loussac Library who got to try out his creative comics exercises and an additional 47 at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library. Gerrish (Girdwood) Library and Mountain View Library each had 18 attendees.
 - The Artist Trading Card program capped off Summer Discovery events at Loussac Library with 16 very invested people creating their own trading cards. When the program ended, some of the kids were reluctant to leave and were sent home with blanks so they could keep going with the project. One girl created a whole comic across a series of cards!

- Police Chief Sean Case and other APD officers co-hosted special Anchorage Police Department Storytimes at three library locations:
 - Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services Coordinator, Loussac Library) co-hosted with Police Chief Sean Case at the Loussac Library for 52 attendees.
 - Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) co-hosted with Captain Amanda Fisher at the Mountain View Library for ten attendees (see photo).
 - Red Coffey (Youth Services Librarian, Muldoon Library) co-hosted with Officer Melissa Lampert at the Muldoon Library for nine attendees.
 - At all events, children were able to tour police vehicles and create junior officer crafts.
- Red Coffey (Youth Services Librarian, Muldoon Library) attended an outreach event at Clare Swan Education Center and met with 34 attendees.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) led Super Mario Showdown for 14 children, teens, and family members. The program provided a fun and welcoming space for intergenerational engagement, friendly competition, and shared play-based learning.
- Joelle Ghosn (Library Assistant II, Mountain View Library), Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library), and Tammi Mohr (Library Assistant III, Mountain View Library) participated in the Mountain View Street Fair, connecting with approximately 50 community members and representatives from local organizations. Staff answered questions, shared information about library services, and promoted upcoming fall programs and resources available at Mountain View Library.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) attended the Fairview Block Party with support from Sand Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library). Together they shared outreach materials, highlighted library resources, and engaged with residents and local partners to raise awareness of programs and services available to both youth and adults.
- The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library had great participation for its Cookbook Club in July, a total of 12 participants, that made and shared recipes from cookbooks, friends or family and socialized and discussed successful ideas and techniques to improve their recipes and cooking skills.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- None at this time.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers [July]

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1,807
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	157
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2,152

- In July, 19 Library staff members completed 22 hours of trainings on topics such as American Sign Language for Librarians, programming for young children featuring computational training, and effective communication.

- Volunteers from several departments at Loussac Library helped to move and set up one of the two Reference Desks on the third floor. Adult Services staff at Loussac now regularly staff three service points on third floor, up from two staff on this floor that has been the normal practice for the last several years. This follows suggestions from a recent space planning audit to increase safety and service on the third floor.
- Chugiak Eagle River now has five active, regular adult volunteers assisting the work of our staff. Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River Library) coordinated 19 volunTeens for a total of 48 hours in July.
- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac Library) in her capacity as World Languages Selector for all age ranges, worked with Keelin Baughman (Teen Librarian, Loussac Library) to add a teen world languages section at Loussac. She will be meeting with Emily Paige (Collection Management Services Coordinator) soon to discuss ongoing growth of the collection.
- The last two bookshelf ranges in the special collections area on the 3rd Floor of Loussac, which held graphic novels, were changed from freestanding to wall shelving, which created a continuous space to shelve all adult graphic novels, allowing for face-out and promotional display space; better lighting and sound containment in an darker and echo-prone area; more useable space for adding study tables in the future.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) led a strategic plan workgroup made up of David Kreiss-Tompkins (Community Resource Librarian), Sandy Lukes, Sara Rollins (Shelver, Loussac Library), Shu Meyer (Library Assistant III, Loussac Library), Stephanie Schott (Branch Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River Library), in reviewing our recent community survey of non-users. The group developed summary reports and action items that will be shared with all staff, additional strategic plan workgroups, and the public this fall.
- Marjorie Harrison (Library Director) and Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) met with members of the Alaska Historical Society to discuss the Alaska Room project and the library's historical holdings which are of particular concern to the society.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services Coordinator) and Rick Henderson (Volunteer/Room Rental Coordinator) are making arrangements to move additional furniture on the third floor at Loussac. The goal of these furniture movements is to improve sightlines for staff and to create workspaces for patrons that are more easily identified for their work priorities.
- As part of the strategic plan, Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) will lead a Mobile Library workgroup to develop a mission statement and plan for the Mobile Library in which shelving is currently being installed.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The Downtown Library project is still awaiting a cost estimate for construction costs. Until this is received, it is impossible to assess the viability of the project within budget limitations.
- The lift gate originally purchased for the Mobile Library is no longer able to be used due to a substitution in the type of vehicle purchased after the delays in vehicle availability. That lift gate has been transferred to another Municipal department while the Library investigates other options for obtaining a lift gate.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- Reviewed draft Code of Conduct and Photography and Filming policies

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Draft Facility and Ground Use and Security Camera policies

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Pending legal review

Social Media/Photos



Families enjoy a story with Captain Amanda Fisher and Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) on Tuesday, July 22.



Magic by Robbie draws a large crowd to Gerrish (Girdwood) Library on Wednesday, July 16.

How E-Rate and OWL Funding Power APL's Internet

The Magic Behind the Funding that Keeps Our Wi-Fi Fast and Free



What is E -Rates?

- A federal program providing discounts on internet and telecommunications services for schools and libraries
- Managed by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the FCC
- Helps libraries provide affordable internet access to the public

Who Can Apply?

- **Public and Private K –12 Schools**
Individual schools and school districts that provide elementary and secondary education, including charter schools and some private schools (if non-profit and non-sectarian).
- **Public Libraries and Library Systems**
Libraries that are eligible for assistance from a state library administrative agency under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). This includes main libraries, branches, and bookmobiles.
- **Consortia of Eligible Organizations**
Groups formed by two or more eligible entities (such as schools and libraries) to aggregate purchasing and apply for E-Rate funding collectively. Includes regional networks and education service cooperatives.



How is our discount calculated?

- Based on local school district's percentage of students eligible for free/reduced lunch
- Rural vs. urban location impacts discount rates

What can we use it for?

Category 1: Internet Access & Network Services

Services that bring connectivity TO the building.

- Internet access (fiber, cable, DSL, etc.)
- Data transmission services (WANs, leased lit fiber)
- Basic installation and activation fees
- Maintenance of these services

Category 2: Internal Connections & Equipment

Services and equipment that distribute connectivity WITHIN the building.

- Wi-Fi access points and controllers
- Routers, switches, and cabling
- Firewall equipment
- Network management and software



How do we apply?

E-RATE APPLICATION PROCESS



E-Rates is a July to June FY Process

Staff and Consulting Costs?

Why do we hire a consultant?

- E-Rate rules change frequently—**we need an expert** to stay compliant
- Consultant ensures **ironclad contracts** that maximize our funding
- Helps us **avoid costly mistakes** and navigate application complexities

How much time does it take?

Big Years (New ISP Contract - 2023):

- Writing the RFP, reviewing bids, implementing contract
- **Estimated staff time: 100+ hours**

Small Years (Renewal - 2024):

- Simple contract renewal
- **Only a few hours of staff time**

Why should you care?

- Some years require **major effort**, while others are **quick and easy**
 - A big year means other automations projects may be put on hold.
- Having an **experienced consultant** saves staff time and ensures compliance



How does our Internet actually get used?

Total Usage in 2024

- **70,712 unique users** connected to our Wi-Fi, representing 25% of the population of Anchorage
 - This doesn't include users on our desktops (each desktop is 1 user)
 - i. There were 50,863 PC Reservations in 2024
- **127.16 TB of data** moved across our network

What Are People Using It For?

- **Top Streaming Services:** YouTube, iTunes, Prime Video, Netflix, Hulu
- **Most Used Overall:** Secure browsing (banking, shopping, email)
- **Surprisingly High Usage:** Online gaming

Why It Matters

- Many users rely on the library for high-bandwidth activities
- Helps bridge the digital divide for streaming, gaming, and secure browsing

How much data is 127.16TB actually?



Streaming Equivalent:

- About **63,580 hours** (7+ years) of **HD video streaming**
- Roughly **20,000 full-length HD movies**

Photos & Documents:

- Around **25.4 million high-resolution photos**
- Nearly **64 million PDF documents**

Gaming Data:

- Could download **1,200+ modern AAA video games**

Other Ways the Library is Saving

The Online With Libraries (OWL) Program

Originally launched to expand connectivity in rural Alaskan libraries, OWL has evolved to meet modern needs. One of its newest offerings, the **Internet Cost Assistance Grant**, helps libraries cover internet service expenses, making high-speed access more affordable.

By combining OWL funding with E-Rates, we do our part to keep costs low for the MOA and provide reliable internet for our patrons - whether for job searches, online learning, or streaming.



So, all this effort, how much are we saving?

Funding breakdown for OWL/FCC FY 2024 - 2025

- Original ISP Cost: \$3,130/month → \$37,560/year
- E-Rate Discount (60%) Applied: - \$22,536
- OWL Program Funding: -\$16,316.40
(split over two MOA FYs, \$8,158.20 per year)
- Final Cost to APL in 2024: \$6,865.80/year



What about 2025?

The State Library has confirmed its commitment to continuing the **Internet Cost Assistance Program**, which means APL will pay nothing for internet in 2025 - aside from staff time and consultant fees.

Thank You!

Anchorage Public Library will continue to maximize E-Rate and OWL funding to support internet access for our community.

Questions or comments?

Feedback is always welcome!

Celia Hartz

Automations & Patron Services Coordinator