

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: January 16, 2026
TO: Library Board, Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney
FROM: Ryan Wieber, Library Director
SUBJECT: Library Board Meeting

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING:

Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Bennett Martin Public Library
136 S. 14th St. Lincoln, NE 68508

STARTING TIME OF MEETING: 8:00 a.m.

CHAIR OF MEETING: Jackie Ostrowicki, President
PURPOSE OF MEETING: Monthly Business Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Announcement of Open Meetings Law
2. Approval of Agenda*
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items
4. Approval of December 16, 2025 Minutes*
5. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Administration
 - b. Committee on Buildings & Grounds
 - c. Committee on Technology
 - d. Committee on Finance
 - i. Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for December 2025*
 - ii. Biennial Budget Process for 2026-2028 and Capital Improvement Plan
6. Special Committee Reports
 - a. Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries
 - b. One Book One Lincoln
7. New Business
 - a. FLCL/Eleanor Creative Presentation of New FLCL Marketing & Website
 - b. Consideration of New FLCL Board Appointees
8. President's Report
9. Assistant Library Director's Report
10. Director's Report
 - a. Central Library Update
11. Board Observations
12. Public Comment – Anyone wishing to address the board on a matter not on this agenda may do so at this time.

*Action Item

Proposed agenda kept continually current and available for inspection at the Administrative Office of the Bennett Martin Public Library. The Board shall have the right to modify the agenda at said public meeting when convened.

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at 402-441-7624, or the City Ombudsman at 402-441-7511, as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request. *Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska posted in meeting room.*

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025, 8:00 a.m.

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Jackie Ostrowicki, Lisa Hale, Terri Dunlap, Joe Shaw, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler, Marilyn Moore.

Absent: Nichole Bogen

City of Lincoln Staff present: Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, Rick Tast, Jennifer Jackson, LeeAnn Sergeant, Jennifer Hatfield. Former Board President, Dan Sloan. Foundation for LCL Executive Director, Tiffani Hill.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Ostrowicki called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law and today's agenda were posted and available for review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

Ostrowicki noted that the Agenda was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska.

Dunlap moved approval of the Agenda. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

Gerteisen moved to approve the October 21, 2025 meeting minutes. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Hale – Abstained. Motion passed 6-0 with one (1) abstention.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Did not meet.

Committee on Technology

Met on November 26. Key points included: E-rate Consultation: The library plans to utilize an expert consultant, Infinity Communications, to manage the application process for E-rate funding. This will allow for discounts on materials for the new Central Library, including infrastructure. LinkedIn Learning: The meeting also touched on LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com), a video training resource. The library previously discontinued its subscription due to privacy concerns but is now returning to the service after a price reduction to \$13,000, with access available via name and library card number.

Committee on Finance

Did not meet.

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures

Treasurer Dunlap shared that the Operational Expenditures for November 2025 were \$861,571.88. The Total of Expenditures of Other Funds was \$212,215.66 for Total Expenditures of \$1,073,787.54. Shaw motioned approval. Moore seconded. There was brief discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Executive Director Tiffani Hill shared that the Foundation has raised \$10.05 million towards the new Central Library, surpassing the halfway point of its goal, with a year-end fundraising push planned. Key points from a recent meeting include financial updates showing increases in Book Nook/thrift sales and the NLHA balance, strategic goals focused on increasing Foundation support for libraries. There was brief discussion about tiered membership levels, and plans for January 2026 membership renewals.

One Book One Lincoln (OBOL)

Librarian Jen Jackson provided a report on the successful 2025 OBOL season. She indicated future seasons will have fewer small discussion groups to prioritize the popular author visit events. Participation in the reading portion of the 2025 One Book One Lincoln program appears to have doubled compared to previous years. To provide a more comprehensive view of engagement, program reporting now includes activity for all top ten finalists rather than just the top three.

Social media interaction reached record levels, largely driven by winning author Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai. Her active engagement and global platform significantly boosted the visibility of the library's digital content throughout the season. The 2025 One Book One Lincoln season concluded with strong engagement, including 220 attendees at the author event and positive reception for the three finalist titles. While author participation enhanced the program's visibility, organizers noted a need to enhance online promotion for internal programming next year. The 2026 season will celebrate the 25th anniversary with year-round initiatives such as history retrospectives, reading challenges, and a public vote for a past favorite title. Event recordings are accessible on the Lincoln City Libraries YouTube channel.

Wieber added that the One Book One Lincoln program is established as the library's "signature event," demonstrating significant community impact with a \$12,000 annual budget. Organizers are currently seeking corporate sponsorships to support future growth. Other goals include specifically seeking diverse voices for the committee, including more male representatives, to ensure the committee reflects a broad range of perspectives. While the committee has successfully trended toward a younger demographic, the library will continue using social media and upcoming press releases to encourage nominations from all age groups.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval Foundation for LCL 2025 Agreements.

***FLCL and LCL Mutual Agreement**

Wieber noted that the annual review of the master agreement between the Library and the Foundation remains consistent with previous years, requiring only a date change for 2026. This foundational document, defines the expectations for both parties and establishes the collaborative tone of the relationship. Shaw motioned approval. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

***License Agreement for Office Space**

Wieber explained Lincoln City Libraries is maintaining an agreement with the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF) regarding space at the Walt Branch Library. The Foundation will continue using an office at Walt Branch for \$1,100 per month. Future Plans: A dedicated space for the Foundation is planned for the new Central Library. Dunlap motioned approval. Shaw seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

***FLCL Book Sale Agreement**

Wieber showed that this agreement establishes the partnership – big, small or book nook sales, and ThriftBooks. Beutler motioned approval. Dunlap seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

FY 2024-2025 Security Incidents Report

Administrative Aide Sarah Dale presented a recap of 2024-2025 Incidents and Bans. Both are up slightly from last year due to increased staff attention to reporting incidents of harassment and possession of illegal substances. A Security Task Force has been formed to review processes, and make needed adjustments to the Behavior Policy, including the creation of a “Code of Conduct” to display expected behaviors, rather than focusing on rule breaking. Brief discussion followed. Hale left at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ostrowicki discussed lasting impact of library services, board performance, and future strategic goals. She read aloud, Nikki Giovanni's poem "My First Memory of Librarians" to highlight the profound impact of individual interactions and community care provided by library staff.

Ostrowicki shared the Board Survey Results, which confirmed the board is highly engaged and mission-driven. Areas identified for improvement included enhancing understanding of daily operations, improving internal information sharing, expanding community advocacy, and strengthening ties with the library foundation.

President's Goals (2026): The President outlined goals for the upcoming year. Strategic Alignment: Deepen board engagement with the new Central Library project. Advocacy: Foster a closer working relationship with library staff. Formalization: Document and formalize board processes, including a self-assessment. Shaw left at this time.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glaesemann shared staffing and equipment updates for December 2025. There are currently two vacancies. Interviews have concluded for the Virtual Services position, and Zymmir Rose-McNeeLee is currently performing well in the HR clerk role. The new Bookmobiles have passed inspections after addressing minor issues such as loose cables and shelving. They are expected to arrive shortly and will be stored at a unit near 84th and Yankee Hill. The library plans to have the new bookmobiles on the road by March 2026. Graphics for the vehicles have been finalized and will be shared with the board soon.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Central Library project is moving forward despite being somewhat over budget, as organizers are actively working on value engineering and cost analysis to address the difference. The overall project budget is currently \$46.2 million. Lincoln City Libraries has secured a \$30,000 Carnegie grant. A \$10,000 grant from the Dillon Foundation for the Polley Music Library podcast booth is on hold until the new building is operational. Sampson Construction was selected as the general contractor in November 2025 and is currently working with the project team to refine cost estimates and plans.

Superintendent Miller is managing the process of surplussing existing furniture and equipment. Meetings are also underway with the Lincoln Electric System (LES) to discuss solar power opportunities and address challenges with the downtown electrical grid to create the new library's all-electric design.

Patron Point: The new Patron Point software, a marketing automation platform for libraries, is being deployed this week to manage communications, including the upcoming Winter Reading Program email campaign.

Ryan introduced Caleb Swanson of Project Control who provided an update on the Central Library Project.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

Ostrowicki thanked Wieber for inviting the board to the staff holiday breakfast. What a delight to see the staff and celebrate with staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.



Memo to the Library Board

January 2026

Please note: this month's Board meeting on January 20 is at **Bennett Martin Library, at 8am.**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET: The actual percent of budget expended year to date is 31.97%, compared to the budgeted 33.33%. Annual adjusted expenditures to date are 34.12%.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2025 MINUTES

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

The committee did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

The committee met on January 7 to discuss the CIP 2026-2031 and a Central Library update. I'll present the initial FY 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Committee on Technology

Did not meet.

Committee on Finance

**Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures—Action Item*

Reports are attached. The Board will consider approval of December expenditures.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries update: Executive Director, Tiffani Hill, will provide a Central Library fundraising report and general news.

Morgan Gerteisen will give an update on the new OBOL Selection Committee members, and also talk about the plans for this special 25th year of OBOL.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. FLCL/Eleanor Creative Presentation of New FLCL Website

Tiffani Childress will have a representative from Eleanor Creative on hand to present upcoming changes to their marketing materials and website for the Foundation and the Central Library campaign.

b. Consideration of New FLCL Board Candidates

Please see the slate of candidates with biographical information in your attachments. Per FLCL bylaws, the Library Board reviews and considers these candidates for approval. They serve 3-year terms that can be renewed twice. The candidates are as follows:

1. Brian Bock
2. Angela Boule
3. Jessie Hedrick
4. Alicia Reisinger
5. Alexis Wingert

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jodene Glaesemann will provide a staffing update and other operational news.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I'll cover items in the written report and go over other items including the Central Library Project. Project Control will also be on hand for questions.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONTRACTS FILED

Business Name	Description	Date Received
Steve Shively	To give a presentation on Aaron Douglas and share examples of his art on Sat. 2/7/26 at Bennett Martin Public Library at no cost.	1/15/2026
Jewel Rodgers, Author	To provide a speech for the Stories of Us: A Celebration of Multi-Cultural Voices program at Bennett Martin Public Library on April 11, 2026.	1/12/2026
EngagedPatrons.org	Annual Subscription (2.1.26-1.31.27) for Author Alerts service for library patrons, at a cost not to exceed \$795.00.	12/19/2025
EngagedPatrons.org	Annual Subscription (2.1.26-1.31.27) for Author Alerts service for library patrons, at a cost not to exceed \$795.00.	12/19/2025
NewsBank	Annual (2026) Subscription to NewsBank online database for library patrons, at a cost not to exceed \$26,143.00	12/19/2025
Infinity Communications & Compliance	For providing consulting services for the Universal Service Fund (USF) e-rate application process enabling the library to receive "Category One" discounted broadband telecommunications charges from its provider for a term of one year with the option to extend for two (2) additional (1) year terms with written acknowledgement at a cost not to exceed \$1,650.00 per year.	12/10/2025
Cengage Learning	For access to the "ChiltonLibrary" database for library customer use from January 31, 2026 through January 30, 2027 at a cost not to exceed \$16,999.07.	12/5/2025
EBSCO	For access to the "Novelist Select" database for library customer use from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 at a cost not to exceed \$9,863.00.	12/5/2025
Janice Harrington, Author	To give the featured speech, Q&A, and book signing for the "Stories of Us: A Celebration of Multi-Cultural Voices" program at Bennett Martin Public Library on April 11, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$400.	12/1/2025



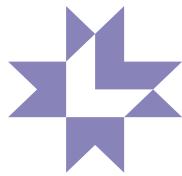
LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES
136 S. 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1899

MEMORANDUM

TO: Library Board
FROM: Jennifer Hatfield, LCL Business Office

RECAP OF EXPENDITURES - DECEMBER 2025

Library Operational Budget - FY 2025-26	\$ 888,760.37
Library Enc/Reapp - From FY 2024-25	-
Heritage Room Fund - FY 2025-26	2,947.06
Polley Music Library - FY 2025-26	<u>10,099.23</u>
Total Operational Expenditures	\$ 901,806.66
Grants	\$ (6.80)
Hompes Fund	-
Keno	70,972.44
Miscellaneous Library Donations Funds	23,030.30
Capital Improvements	<u>190,922.18</u>
Total Expenditures - Other Funds	<u>284,918.12</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 1,186,724.78</u>



LINCOLN

City Libraries

Director's Report for December 2025

Vision: *LCL: Literacy, Community, and Lifelong learning*

Mission: *Lincoln City Libraries provides access to information, ideas, books and lifelong learning opportunities that inform, enrich and empower every individual in our diverse community.*

Priorities:

1. *Maximizing Access*
2. *Communicating our Offerings*
3. *Strengthening our Potential*
4. *Growing our Support*

YTD Circulation stats are up minimally over 2024-25, with physical materials continuing its multi-year decrease (-2%). Library visits YTD are down substantially (-8%), due to the many months of traffic disruption near Gere Branch last year, and a changeover to new door counters which I'm advised are more accurate than the old ones. Of note however, is while Gere visits decreased this past fall, Walt and South Branches did see an uptick in that makeup traffic. For the year so far, Walt, Anderson, Williams and South Branches have an increase in visits and Walt, Anderson, and South are up in circulation.

While visits may be down, program and outreach attendance is up 30%. Meeting room attendance is down slightly, and study room reservations have increased 8%. Overall "Other Usage" (computers, program attendance, and room usage) has increased 12%. Kudos to our great teams across the system involved with those activities in meeting our strategic plan priority of Maximizing Access to reach more people through our services, programs, and collections.

Central Library News

Since delivery of the schematic designs in mid-November, much of the work has been behind the scenes with newly-hired Sampson Construction working on estimating costs before we land on the path forward for final design. Design Development will begin in late January and carry through March or April. During that stage, we get into the nitty gritty of planning for spaces, finishes and how everything functions together to make a complete library.

We're also continuing to identify building partners and work toward removing surplus furnishings left behind at 1111 O Street. Our partners at City Purchasing have guided us through internal distribution to other departments, and we expect the next step to be distribution of the final items to other local governments, schools, and organizations. Our goal is to have everything not attached to floors and walls out of the building by March, so Sampson can get in and begin prepping for demolition.

We hit a new milestone for fundraising as FLCL reports we now have reached \$15 million of the private philanthropy goal. This is great news, just ahead of our community-wide campaign which happens this Spring. The idea of a modern Central Library in a repurposed building downtown sits well with funders!

Summer Internship Program Coordinator, Lisa Olivigni, has reported that the Nebraska Library Commission is pausing the funding of all grants including those for our interns. We typically see six interns during the summer provide valuable help to locations, while also gaining good experience working with the public and getting a better picture on what libraries do. We'll know more soon, hopefully, whether NLC ends up funding the program—which of course is contingent on Nebraska legislative actions.

Strategic Plan **measurables** for each Priority are being developed and should be completed this month. Managers and Coordinators are meeting this week to identify what to measure and how to measure, with the goal being to always evaluate the effectiveness of our library service efforts.

Congratulations to Walt Manager, Wyatt Packard, recently named to the Board of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and to Meagan Moore (Walt Library Services Supervisor) and Claire Saathoff (BMPL Librarian) who were selected for this year's Leadership Training Program through the City of Lincoln.

Kudos to the Library's representatives on the City's "**Green Team**." Lauren Eastman, Megan Peda, and Matt Norsworthy participated this past year on behalf of the library to promote sustainable practices that introduce environmentally friendly choices into our everyday work. Our library team awarded 16 "Green Bot" certificates to team members who demonstrated positive contributions toward sustainability. Bennett Martin received Bronze Level recognition from the Mayor's Office.

Examples of the Strategic Plan in action:

- Melanie N. (Gere-South) shared this interaction that included Yoel S.T.: "Yoel assisted a patron in learning to use the scanner, and later the patron asked for assistance in then e-mailing those documents. This is the type of thing we do almost every single day as library workers, but what made this interaction special was when the patron explained what they were accomplishing that day. A clerical error was threatening to cost more than half of the patron's annual salary, and they had to submit each money order receipt to file an appeal. The patron explained that if there was no library or library staff to help scan and e-mail those documents, it could have spelled disaster for their family! It was a humbling reminder to me that the library's resources, equipment, accessibility, and customer service could be significantly impacting a person's life on any given day. It felt really amazing that Yoel didn't even know this routine customer service experience may have saved a family thousands of dollars!"
- Diane V. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "A customer who lives out of county had her husband drop her off at South while he was at a meeting at Westminster. She said she is a regular Seward library user and commented what a nice library South is and I replied with how much I liked the Seward library. She was looking for a Book Nook to buy a book to read while she was waiting but since there isn't one at South she was excited to find the book she was currently reading from Seward. She thanked me again as she left saying how nice it was to have a pleasant place to spend the time while she was waiting for her husband."

- Toni Y. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "A patron came to the front desk at Gere asking if we could help her find an Omaha World Herald (OWH) article from this summer. I walked her out to a catalog computer where I was able to show her the OWH Newsbank database. Within a few minutes she had located what she needed. I made sure to show her how she could log in with her library account from home as well if she ever wanted to do that kind of research without making the trip."
- There were 25 Tech Time appointments this month at Gere with 18 unique customers. Leanne D. shared this: "I am always amazed at how determined people are to learn something new. I had an older patron who wanted to learn some basic bells and whistles of his new Dell laptop, and when I showed him some features I had him repeat what I had done so that he could get his hand/eye coordination into his memory. He was so thankful to learn some of the basic things (putting icons on the desktop, bookmarking links, storing photos), and when he discovered he could do it himself, he exclaimed, 'You just made my whole day!'"
- Marcy G. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "I was leaving my Ophthalmologists' office and noticed a staff person reading at her station so I asked her what she was reading. She showed me the book and I suggested another author that was similar. She then told me she just got her library card three days ago. I asked if she's signed up for Libby yet. She said she hadn't so I told her what a great app it was and directed her to our website to get signed up."
- Cally O., Greg W. and Ronda H. hosted the New Year's Eve Celebration at Gere on the 31st. Cally shared: "We ended the year at Gere with our first *Noon Year's Eve* party. We had approximately 300 kids and adults visit during the 1-hour and 30-minute party. There were bubbles and a disco ball, music to dance to, glitter tattoos, and crafts in the meeting rooms."
- One of my more interesting reference questions this month involved the technical issues surrounding how to make good audiobook recordings, an interesting combination of my music background and my previous experience running the studios at the Talking Book and Braille Service. As we look toward a studio in a future central library, I imagine that narration recording will likely be a regular component of our offerings in addition to musical projects!
- The Polley Music Library Show on KZUM had four episodes in December, which featured a book on the history of French underground music in the 1970s, a biography of Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina who passed away earlier this year, a great book on the history of the band Talking Heads and the NYC scene from which they evolved, and a book about the 90s alternative rock scene.
- Lisa O. (Eiseley-Williams) reports: "I was working at Williams one morning, and a grandmother came in with her preschool granddaughter. When I was checking out their materials, I mentioned our Thursday family storytime at Williams. The woman said "Oh, yes! We come to that each week. We also go to storytime with Miss Susan at Eiseley on Wednesdays. Maeve (her granddaughter) really enjoys both sessions."
- Celeste W. (Eiseley-Williams) organized Kooser Kodiak Art Night at Eiseley Branch Library. Six different fifth grade glasses have been rotating through their various artworks for display. During this first Art Night, 29 patrons browsed the artwork.
- During regular programming in December at Eiseley, Pam C. reached 32 children at Project Future in Air Park and Celeste W. provided story time for 62 children at Project Future in the Highlands.

- Peter J. (Virtual Services) posted newly available videos of Lunch at the Library and Ames Reading Series programs to our YouTube channel, and embedded them in the relevant pages on the Website. All Ames and Lunch at the Library programs are recorded and available online.
- Walt Branch Manager Wyatt P. reported that Walt saw an increase in circulation in December of about 1,700 items and is up 4.91% so far this fiscal year. The Mini RenFaire and Noon Year's Eve programs brought in big numbers, with the traffic count showing 553 and 383 people during the times of those programs.
- Lisa W. supervised the Baby and Toddler Stay and Play on 12/2. "There were 78 attendees during the morning play session. The owners of Little Play & Company brought in play equipment and ride on toys for toddlers under three years old. Walt library provided books, balance beams, and stepping stones and other large motor toys, as well as a soft mat and toys suitable for young babies. Parents and grandparents that attended with little ones remarked that they would enjoy this program if offered again."
- Courtney S. and Laurie J. reported, "On 12/6, we held our first Mini RenFaire, and it was a *great time!* Over 550 people were in the building during the event hours. Attendees were able to participate in a wide variety of activities. For crafts, attendees could make magic wands, a felt coin purse, and a coat of arms button. There were opportunities to slay the dragon with archery, and joust with pool noodle swords. There were guest presentations on the history of the English language, the Renaissance guitar, and a performance of medieval-inspired music. In our town square, attendees could meet with guest groups. The Society for Creative Anachronism; UNL's Medieval and Renaissance Studies department; the Handweavers Guild of Lincoln; and Holly, a local pottery artisan; who were all available to demonstrate a variety of crafts, instruments, and information about the medieval and Renaissance time periods."



Walt Branch's Ren Faire on December 6

- Memory Café at Walt was featured in [this quarter's edition of Living Well, published by Aging Partners](#). The article is on page 11 and an additional photo on page 19. Excellent work by Librarian Vicki C. on developing this program and communicating how it connects to LCL's mission.
- Lisa W. and Jessica S. led the Noon Year's Eve family program on 12/31. Lisa W. reported, "The Noon Year's Eve Party on December 31 ran from 10:30 a.m. to noon and was packed with craft time, dancing and family fun. Kids made disco ball crafts using almost all 120 plates, and the youth area filled up fast. Early sing-alongs and dancing in the meeting rooms kept everyone moving. At 11:30

a.m., the full dance party kicked off with action songs, glow bracelets and a conga line. Sparkle curtains and disco lights decorated the doors as more families arrived. The celebration wrapped up with a big-screen countdown, a virtual balloon drop, and fireworks. About 170 people joined the dance party portion, with almost 400 people visiting Walt Branch Library that morning.”

- Shannon K. at Walt reported, “Crochet class is a big hit.” 32 adults attended in December.
- Scott C. (BMPL) facilitated two sessions of Troll for Initiative, as well as Adult Storytime in the month of December. Though Just Desserts took December off, they’re looking forward to celebrating their 200th consecutive meeting in January!
- Kim J. (BMPL) was able to work on some extensive research for a customer, “One of the most interesting questions I had the opportunity to respond to was from a woman researching a man who had died while under the care of the Lincoln Regional Center in 1883. She was trying to locate the site of the grave. Using the Lancaster County Cemetery Index, the Sittler Index and some online historical sites, I was able to provide her with a grave location, history of the cemetery, and a history of the Lincoln Regional Center, which underwent many name changes over the years. I also sent her photos of what the cemetery looks like. There are no headstones for the graves, so you would never know that a cemetery was there. The woman appreciated our help!”
- In the “other duties as assigned” category, Caralyn K. at BMPL relayed this phone interaction: “A patron called because they said the mental health crisis numbers weren’t picking up and did I know of any others she could call. I researched several different ones and chatted with her a bit until she was calmer than when I first answered the phone and emphasized she could call back if those numbers didn’t work and we’d try again.”
- Lauren E. (BMPL) said they’ve assisted multiple patrons experiencing homelessness with winter gear like hats, gloves, socks, and hand warmers. “They expressed gratitude and appreciation for the services we provide.” Lauren also monitors those supplies we have, letting supervisors know if anything is getting low.
- Jackie S. (BMPL) shared, “We have a patron who often comes in for computer help, usually with scanning. I helped him a couple of times this month scanning in documents and sending them as email attachments. The last time I helped him he specifically noted how much he appreciated a number of the staff members at Bennett Martin, and how he would not be able to figure out the technology stuff without us.”
- A longtime library customer at BMPL wanted to thank staff, in particular Kim J., Scott C., and Charlotte M., for the help they gave him when he moved to Nebraska from another state. The move had been difficult for him but “he learned to cope through help he received at our libraries.”

Ryan Wieber,
Library Director
1.16.26

December 2025 Use Compared to December 2024
Lincoln City Libraries

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan Change	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print Loan Change	Total Checkouts		Total Loan Change
	2025	2024		2025	2024		2025	2024	
BMPL	10,158	11,019	-7.81%	2,436	3,148	-22.62%	12,594	14,167	-11.10%
Anderson	9,328	9,064	2.91%	1,956	2,314	-15.47%	11,284	11,378	-0.83%
Bethany	5,693	6,171	-7.75%	985	842	16.98%	6,678	7,013	-4.78%
Eiseley	17,111	17,516	-2.31%	2,297	2,369	-3.04%	19,408	19,885	-2.40%
Gere	42,465	43,066	-1.40%	5,840	6,231	-6.28%	48,305	49,297	-2.01%
South	7,802	7,191	8.50%	1,200	1,159	3.54%	9,002	8,350	7.81%
Walt	32,461	30,983	4.77%	4,539	4,370	3.87%	37,000	35,353	4.66%
Williams	1,116	549	103.28%	125	101	23.76%	1,241	650	90.92%
Lied Bookmobile	984	1,164	-15.46%	53	66	-19.70%	1,037	1,230	-15.69%
InterLibrary Loan	166	136	22.06%	0	0	0.00%	166	136	22.06%
Subtotal Checkouts	127,284	126,859	0.34%	19,431	20,600	-5.67%	146,715	147,459	-0.50%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	48,266	47,148	2.37%	48,266	47,148	2.37%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	33,975	34,703	-2.10%	33,975	34,703	-2.10%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,135	1,047	8.40%	1,135	1,047	8.40%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	127,284	126,859	0.34%	102,807	103,498	-0.67%	230,091	230,357	-0.12%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan Change	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan Change	Visits 2025	Visits 2024	Visits Change
	2025	2024		2025	2024				
BMPL	4,452	4,898	-9.11%	8,142	9,269	-12.16%	8,904	9,924	-10.28%
Anderson	5,575	5,564	0.20%	5,709	5,814	-1.81%	5,451	5,043	8.09%
Bethany	3,776	4,096	-7.81%	2,902	2,917	-0.51%	2,498	2,724	-8.30%
Eiseley	12,422	12,712	-2.28%	6,986	7,173	-2.61%	7,954	8,534	-6.80%
Gere	27,402	26,505	3.38%	20,903	22,792	-8.29%	14,950	16,498	-9.38%
South	5,029	4,435	13.39%	3,973	3,915	1.48%	3,556	3,368	5.58%
Walt	24,358	23,142	5.25%	12,642	12,211	3.53%	11,959	11,241	6.39%
Williams	1,044	455	129.45%	197	195	1.03%	863	1,027	-15.97%
Lied Bookmobile	606	721	-15.95%	431	509	-15.32%	69	249	-72.29%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	84,664	82,528	2.59%	61,885	64,795	-4.49%	56,204	58,608	-4.10%
Download/Stream Audio	7,559	6,557	15.28%	40,707	40,591	0.29%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	8,360	8,154	2.53%	25,615	26,549	-3.52%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,135	1,047	8.40%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	100,583	97,239	3.44%	129,342	132,982	-2.74%	56,204	58,608	-4.10%

Location	Program & Outreach		P&O Att - Youth Change	Program & Outreach		P&O Att - Adult Change	Computer Use		Computer Change
	Attendance - Youth	2025	2024	Attendance - Adult	2025	2024	2025	2024	
BMPL	396	185	114.05%	58	103	-43.69%	2,146	2,397	-10.47%
Anderson	266	356	-25.28%	0	0	0.00%	544	750	-27.47%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	0	16	-100.00%	266	269	-1.12%
Eiseley	231	102	126.47%	18	10	80.00%	1,199	1,317	-8.96%
Gere	1,157	519	122.93%	239	118	102.54%	1,215	1,130	7.52%
South	0	82	-100.00%	0	6	-100.00%	333	363	-8.26%
Walt	1,280	216	492.59%	287	470	-38.94%	1,215	1,018	19.35%
Williams	32	59	-45.76%	0	7	-100.00%	182	189	-3.70%
Lied Bookmobile	120	0	0.00%	59	58	1.72%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	390	365	6.85%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	3,482	1,519	129.23%	1,051	1,153	-8.85%	7,100	7,433	-4.48%

Location	Meeting Room Attendance		Meeting Room Att Change	Study Room Attendance		Study Room Att Change			
	2025	2024		2025	2024		2025	2024	
BMPL	112	106	5.66%	56	90	-37.78%			0.00%
Anderson	126	211	-40.28%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Eiseley	272	358	-24.02%	318	291	9.28%			0.00%
Gere	284	388	-26.80%	271	258	5.04%			0.00%
South	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Walt	244	370	-34.05%	337	299	12.71%			0.00%
Williams	3	15	-80.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
TOTAL	1,041	1,448	-28.11%	982	938	4.69%	0	0	0.00%

Lincoln City Libraries
December 2025 Use Report

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits			December 2025 Other Use						December 2024 Other Use						Change: Total Other Use
	Dec 2025	Dec 2024	Change	Dec 2025	Dec 2024	Change	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach	Meeting Room	Study Room	Total	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach	Meeting Room	Study Room	Total	Other Use		
							Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Other Use	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Other Use	Other Use		
Bennett Martin Public Library	12,594	14,167	-11.10%	8,904	9,924	-10.28%	2,146	454	112	56	2,768	2,397	288	106	90	2,881	-3.92%		
Anderson Branch Library	11,284	11,378	-0.83%	5,451	5,043	8.09%	544	266	126	0	936	750	356	211	0	1,317	-28.93%		
Bethany Branch Library	6,678	7,013	-4.78%	2,498	2,724	-8.30%	266	0	0	0	266	269	16	0	0	285	-6.67%		
Eiseley Branch Library	19,408	19,885	-2.40%	7,954	8,534	-6.80%	1,199	249	272	318	2,038	1,317	112	358	291	2,078	-1.92%		
Gere Branch Library	48,305	49,297	-2.01%	14,950	16,498	-9.38%	1,215	1,396	284	271	3,166	1,130	637	388	258	2,413	31.21%		
South Branch Library	9,002	8,350	7.81%	3,556	3,368	5.58%	333	0	0	0	333	363	88	0	0	451	-26.16%		
Walt Branch Library	37,000	35,353	4.66%	11,959	11,241	6.39%	1,215	1,567	244	337	3,363	1,018	686	370	299	2,373	41.72%		
Williams Branch Library	1,241	650	90.92%	863	1,027	-15.97%	182	32	3	0	217	189	66	15	0	270	-19.63%		
Lied Bookmobile	1,037	1,230	-15.69%	69	249	-72.29%	0	179	0	0	179	0	58	0	0	58	208.62%		
InterLibrary Loan	166	136	22.06%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%		
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	390	0	0	390	0	365	0	0	365	6.85%		
SUBTOTAL	146,715	147,459	-0.50%	56,204	58,608	-4.10%	7,100	4,533	1,041	982	13,656	7,433	2,672	1,448	938	12,491	9.33%		
DownloadStream Audio	48,266	47,148	2.37%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%		
Download/Stream eBooks	33,975	34,703	-2.10%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%		
Stream Video	1,135	1,047	8.40%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%		
Download SUBTOTAL	83,376	82,898	0.58%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%		
TOTAL	230,091	230,357	-0.12%	56,204	58,608	-4.10%	7,100	4,533	1,041	982	13,656	7,433	2,672	1,448	938	12,491	9.33%		

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS			2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change	
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged	29,151	587	4866.10%	WiFi Sessions	115,718	110,827	4.41%		
	Owned	341,745	306,021	73,118		32,608	753,492	Active	Resident	148,393	148,231	0.11%			
Added	1,443	2,491	361	111	4,406			Library OneCard	57,834	52,785	9.57%	WiFi Users	8,109	8,366	-3.07%
Withdrawn	-3,374	-4,032	-346	-614	-8,366			County	8,682	8,910	-2.56%	Website Users	69,179	81,899	-15.53%
Current	339,814	304,480	73,153	32,105	749,532			NonResident	1,000	953	4.93%	Website Sessions	117,828	113,761	3.58%
								Reciprocal	479	486	-1.44%	Database Use	17,843	7,500	137.91%
								Limited Use	10,806	10,047	7.55%				
								Total Active	227,194	221,412	2.61%				

Notes for Month: 1. Nebraska Authors database # is unusually high again. Most of the users are from China. Deb is looking into what might causing this. 2. Purged # is high due to child accounts/fee removals from seven years ago.

Lincoln City Libraries
December 2025 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits		
	Loans/ Circulation		Visits		Visits FY 25-26 YTD	Visits FY 24-25 YTD
	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD		
Bennett Martin Public Library	48,591	53,106	-8.50%	38,599	45,068	-14.35%
Anderson Branch	47,381	47,080	0.64%	23,292	22,507	3.49%
Bethany Branch	29,110	30,012	-3.01%	10,371	11,233	-7.67%
Eiseley Branch	78,958	84,758	-6.84%	34,148	37,933	-9.98%
Gere Branch	198,244	209,968	-5.58%	60,199	73,487	-18.08%
South Branch	36,848	35,212	4.65%	15,534	14,951	3.90%
Walt Branch	154,223	147,198	4.77%	50,896	49,291	3.26%
Williams Branch	4,608	3,493	31.92%	4,775	4,834	-1.22%
Lied Bookmobile	5,427	5,871	-7.56%	942	1,524	-38.19%
InterLibrary Loan	654	661	-1.06%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	604,044	617,359	-2.16%	238,756	260,828	-8.46%
DownloadStream Audio	195,524	183,173	6.74%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	135,624	131,494	3.14%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	4,353	4,159	4.66%	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	335,501	318,826	5.23%	0	0	0.00%
Total	939,545	936,185	0.36%	238,756	260,828	-8.46%

	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registration	439	356	23.31%
Overall Registration	3,928	3,805	3.23%

	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
WiFi Sessions	509,404	488,595	4.26%
WiFi Users	34,755	36,657	-5.19%
Website Users	291,566	337,551	-13.62%
Website Sessions	484,459	466,197	3.92%
Database Use	47,488	28,755	65.15%

Location	Holdings Report			NON PRINT			Total
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth			
	Owned 9/1/2025		Withdrawn YTD				
DownloadStream Audio	341,902	307,684	74,444	32,485			756,515
Download/Stream eBooks	7,479	6,979	1,040	573			16,071
Stream Video	-9,570	-10,183	-2,351	-953			-23,057
Download SUBTOTAL	339,811	304,480	73,133	32,105			749,529
Total	939,545	936,185	0.36%	238,756	260,828	-8.46%	

Location	Other Use FYTD						Total Other Use FY 24-25 YTD	
	Meeting Room		Study Room		Total Other Use FY 25-26 YTD			
	Attendance FY 25-26 YTD	Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	Attendance FY 25-26 YTD	Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change			
Bennett Martin Public Library	836	696	20.11%	238	269	-11.52%	13,944	
Anderson Branch	529	843	-37.25%	211	0	0.00%	8,571	
Bethany Branch	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,685	
Eiseley Branch	1,293	1,283	0.78%	1,312	1,161	13.01%	12,941	
Gere Branch	1,720	2,098	-18.02%	1,194	1,271	-6.06%	16,571	
South Branch	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	2,558	
Walt Branch	1,492	1,354	10.19%	1,488	1,420	4.79%	15,943	
Williams Branch	4	18	-77.78%	0	0	0.00%	2,081	
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	419	
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,838	
Total	30,921	30,502	1.37%	35,313	27,252	29.58%	76,551	

*Study Room Attendance tracking begin 9/1/2024

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

Monthly Categorical Report

December 31, 2025

	Budget Amount	Budgeted Year-to-Date	Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
Administration-Div. 1					
Personnel	\$ 1,039,673.00	\$ 346,557.67	\$ 324,167.12	\$ 715,505.88	\$ 74,447.04
Supplies	33,000.00	11,000.00	3,092.32	29,907.68	971.87
Services & Charges	176,549.00	58,849.67	138,466.18	38,082.82	4,306.63
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,249,222.00	\$ 416,407.33	\$ 465,725.62	\$ 783,496.38	\$ 79,725.54
Percent Expended		33.33%	37.28%		
Buildings & Grounds-Div. 2					
Personnel	\$ 141,745.00	\$ 47,248.33	\$ 48,162.47	\$ 93,582.53	\$ 11,026.70
Supplies	27,000.00	9,000.00	40,621.10	(13,621.10)	8,227.55
Services & Charges	1,211,499.00	403,833.00	450,675.05	760,823.95	126,697.64
Other	163,396.00	54,465.33	-	163,396.00	-
Total	\$ 1,543,640.00	\$ 514,546.67	\$ 539,458.62	\$ 1,004,181.38	\$ 145,951.89
Percent Expended		33.33%	34.95%		
Public Service-Div. 3					
Personnel	\$ 6,608,087.00	\$ 2,202,695.67	\$ 2,106,304.86	\$ 4,501,782.14	\$ 478,633.55
Supplies	90,250.00	30,083.33	11,197.35	79,052.65	6,165.73
Services & Charges	61,700.00	20,566.67	33,578.53	28,121.47	7,319.76
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 6,760,037.00	\$ 2,253,345.67	\$ 2,151,080.74	\$ 4,608,956.26	\$ 492,119.04
Percent Expended		33.33%	31.82%		
Support Services-Div. 4					
Personnel	\$ 1,365,832.00	\$ 455,277.33	\$ 405,861.87	\$ 959,970.13	\$ 93,234.95
Supplies	62,000.00	20,666.67	29,413.93	32,586.07	5,813.49
Services & Charges	452,923.00	150,974.33	116,167.97	336,755.03	9,368.05
Other	992,472.00	330,824.00	265,164.40	727,307.60	62,547.41
Total	\$ 2,873,227.00	\$ 957,742.33	\$ 816,608.17	\$ 2,056,618.83	\$ 170,963.90
Percent Expended		33.33%	28.42%		
Total Library Operational					
Personnel	\$ 9,155,337.00	\$ 3,051,779.00	\$ 2,884,496.32	\$ 6,270,840.68	\$ 657,342.24
Supplies	212,250.00	70,750.00	84,324.70	127,925.30	21,178.64
Services & Charges	1,902,671.00	634,223.67	738,887.73	1,163,783.27	147,692.08
Other	1,155,868.00	385,289.33	265,164.40	890,703.60	62,547.41
Total	\$ 12,426,126.00	\$ 4,142,042.00	\$ 3,972,873.15	\$ 8,453,252.85	\$ 888,760.37
Percent Expended		33.33%	31.97%		
Other Library Fund Appropriations		Amount Appropriated	Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
FY 2024-25 Reappropriated	\$ 301,992.00		\$ 83,761.22	\$ 218,230.78	\$ -

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES - FUND BALANCES
December 2025

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expended	Ending Balance
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GRANT FUNDS

Net Lender Fund	\$ 2,095.11	\$ 198.55	\$ -	2,293.66
NLC Misc Grants	\$ 7,482.94	\$ 51.33	\$ -	7,534.27
NLC Youth Grant 2024	1,323.29		-	1,323.29
NLC NE eReads Grant 2025	55,020.00	-	-	55,020.00
State Aid 2024	39,307.32	-	-	39,307.32
State Aid 2025	53,177.91	40.00	(6.80)	53,224.71

DONATED FUNDS

Heritage Room	\$ 181,545.40	\$ 446.11	\$ 2,947.06	179,044.45
Polley Music Library	230,682.25	516.92	10,099.23	221,099.94
Joseph J. Hompes	160,397.13	10,177.70	-	170,574.83
Misc. Library Donations	808,851.97	2,025.99	23,030.30	787,847.66
Alice Nielsen	89,881.36	216.67	-	90,098.03
Dorothy Holland	129,290.14	311.67	-	129,601.81
Glennis Leapley	7,373.11	81.45	-	7,454.56
Lincoln Cares	36,133.12	410.05	3,504.98	33,038.19

APPROPRIATED FUNDS

	Budget	Expended			Balance
		Dec 2025	Exp-to-Date		
Heritage Room FY 2025-26	\$ 38,438.00	\$ 2,947.04	\$ 13,372.08		25,065.92
Polley Music Library FY 2025-26	128,527.00	10,099.23	41,437.55		87,089.45
Keno FY 2024-25	924,000.00	70,972.44	248,513.64		675,486.36
Capital Improvement Projects					
FY 2021-22 Bookmobile	587,148.76	-	-		587,148.76
FY 2022-23 Bennett Martin Elevator 1-4	179,359.15	-	-		179,359.15
FY 2024-25 Bennett Martin Improvements	250,000.00	-	-		250,000.00
FY 2025-26 BMPL Building Upgrades	250,000.00				250,000.00
FY 2025-26 New Central Library	29,502,142.35	190,922.18	5,945,517.52		23,556,624.83

Lincoln City Libraries Board Action Plan

Based on the 2025 Board Member Survey

As we begin a new year of service together, I want to thank each of you for taking the time to complete the recent Board Member Survey. Your thoughtful feedback provides valuable insight into what's working well and where we can strengthen our collective impact. Below is a summary of five key areas for action, drawn directly from your responses.

1. Strengthen Board–Staff Connections

Board members expressed interest in learning more about the day-to-day operations of Lincoln City Libraries and deepening relationships with staff. **Next steps:**

- Provide opportunities to highlight branches, programs and staff in board meetings.

2. Improve Information Access and Pre-Meeting Preparation

While members generally feel well-informed, several suggested easier access to materials and earlier distribution. **Next steps:**

- Create a secure *Board Portal or shared drive* for all meeting materials.

3. Enhance Advocacy and Visibility Efforts

Board members identified advocacy, ambassadorship, and partnerships as areas for growth. **Next steps:**

- Provide concise *advocacy talking points* for use in community and civic settings.

4. Build Closer Ties with the Library Foundation

Several responses pointed to a desire for better understanding and coordination between the Board and Foundation. **Next steps:**

- Start a quarterly meeting between Library and Foundation Board leadership.
- Explore a *joint retreat or meeting* to discuss shared priorities and collaboration.
- Review Foundation bylaws at an upcoming Board meeting.

These actions will guide our work for the year ahead, ensuring we build on our strengths—collaboration, engagement, and mission focus—while continuing to grow together as advocates for Lincoln City Libraries and our community.

With appreciation,

Jackie Ostrowicki
President, Lincoln City Libraries Board of Trustees