

## MEETING NOTICE

DATE: February 13, 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, February 17, 2026  
Bennett Martin Public Library  
136 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508

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

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

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### AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Announcement of Open Meetings Law
2. Approval of Agenda\*
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items
4. Approval of January 20, 2026 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 January 2026\*
6. Special Committee Reports
  - a. Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries
  - b. Central Library Update
7. New Business
  - a. Approval of Custom Edges Inc. Contract for Lawn Care not to exceed \$50,520\*
8. President's Report
9. Assistant Library Director's Report
10. Director's Report
  - a. Presentation of FY 2024-2025 Annual Report
  - b. Strategic Plan Metrics for FY 2025-2026
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, JANUARY 20, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Jackie Ostrowicki, Lisa Hale, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler, Marilyn Moore.

Absent: Terri Dunlap

Arrived later: Nichole Bogen, Joe Shaw.

City of Lincoln Staff present: Libraries, Ryan Wieber, Jodene Glaesemann, LeeAnn Sergeant, Jennifer Hatfield, Ali Bousquet, Sarah Dale, Senior Atty for City Law Dept, Jocelyn Golden, Foundation for LCL Executive Director, Tiffani Hill; Eleanor Creative designer, Sean Flattery.

## 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. Moore moved approval of the Agenda. Gerteisen seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

## APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2025 MEETING MINUTES\*

Beutler moved to approve the December 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion passed 5-0.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Committee on Administration

Did not meet.

### Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Discussed City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), will report with Finance Committee discussion.

### Committee on Technology

Did not meet. Shaw arrived at this time.

### Committee on Finance

#### *Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures*

In Treasurer Dunlap's absence, VP Hale reported that the Operational Expenditures for December 2025 were \$901,806.66. The Total of Expenditures of Other Funds was \$284,918.12 for Total Expenditures of \$1,186,724.78. Hale motioned approval. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0. Bogen arrived at this time.

#### *Biennial budget Process for 2026-2028 and Capital Improvement Plan*

Director Wieber reviewed the CIP process and noted that for the next two years, the library has included multiple smaller deferred maintenance projects at branch locations this year. Brief discussion followed.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Executive Director Tiffani Hill shared that a \$5 million donation has raised locally sourced funds to the level where the Foundation can begin to widen its reach for donors. She shared that her new intern will be putting out the first new Foundation Newsletter. She introduced Sean Flattery of Eleanor Creative who was slated to report on the new website design later in the meeting. She noted that the Foundation is working on aligning budgets with library needs and working to increase fundraising targets.

### One Book One Lincoln (OBOL)

Gerteisen reported receiving 23 applications for new One Book One Lincoln Committee Members to fill five open spots. The chosen members are as follows: John Boehler, Jessie Hedrick, Josh Haws, Hanna Pinneo and Becca Henry. She noted that the t-shirts celebrating 25 years of OBOL will be available and a new promotional campaign via Patron Point is planned. Titles can be nominated through the end of January and the first committee meeting is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>. She shared a big thanks to Jackson's and Arcena's team for narrowing down the titles.

## NEW BUSINESS

### \*FLCL/Eleanor Creative Presentation of New FLCL Marketing & Website

Sean Flattery of Eleanor Creative provided a presentation of the upcoming brand refresh and website update for the Foundation. The site should go live this spring. Brief discussion followed.

### \*Consideration of 2026 FLCL Board Appointees

Wieber shared the list of new FLCL Board Appointees: Brian Bock, Angela Boule, Jessie Hedrick, Alicia Reisinger, and Alexis Wingert. She shared that there is one returning member, and four new faces with great energy and positivity, and a new diversity of background and specialty areas. Brief Discussion followed. Moore moved to approve the roster in full. Beutler seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 6-0.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ostrowicki shared the poem, "Elegy" by Jill Osier. She discussed the results of the Board Survey report and resulting action plan to (1) strengthen Board-Staff connections, (2) Improve information access – completed progress on which includes creating a shared drive for access to meeting documents, (3) Enhance advocacy and visibility – to aid in this, the Talking Points document has been located to the Board's shared drive, and finally (4) building closer ties to the Foundation – planned projects include quarterly meetings, a joint retreat and a review of the Foundation's Bylaws.

## ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glaesemann shared staffing updates. She also noted that the bookmobile delivery date has been bumped up to mid-February. The old vehicle will go through the City surplus process. The two new vehicles will have newly curated collections thanks to Ali Bousquet and will launch in April. A celebration will be planned.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wieber noted a continued flat or decreased circulation of physical items, while digital circulation is up. He shared that coordinators and managers are meeting later today to discuss metrics attached to the Strategic Plan, some of which will include planning ways to increase physical circulation. He also pointed to new patron counters which should be more accurate than the old ones, and how much the road construction around Gere impacted their circulation. He shared plans to seek Foundation support to increase digital collections and noted that attendance at events is up.

Wieber reported that the Central Library team is working with Sampson Construction to find solutions to keep prices in check with the budget, updates are expected in the next week which will be reported to the Board. The

surplus process on 1111 O St. continues, and since the value of what remains is low enough to discourage a bidding process, permission has been granted to offer the items to state and local organizations at no cost.

### **BOARD OBSERVATIONS**

Ostrowicki shared her daughter's positive experiences with volunteering at Gere – how all the staff are so personable and good at creating relationships with the volunteers, allowing them to really feel connected to the branch. She also shared hearing many positive comments on the new Central Library project. Beutler expressed gratitude for library staff who provided her with another copy of the book she'd unknowingly checked out with damage, and Gerteisen shared a friend's excellent experience attending the Taylor Swift birthday program with her daughter. She said her daughter was 'counting the days' until the event. Moore expressed her gratitude for seeing the stories in the Director's monthly report that bring depth and flavor to the statistics. Foundation Director Hill noted what a joy it has been for her to get to know staff at all the locations.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.



## **Memo to the Library Board February 2026**

**Please note:** this month's Board meeting on February 17 is at **Bennett Martin Library, at 8am.**

**FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET:** The actual percent of budget expended year to date is 39.25%, compared to the budgeted 41.67. Annual adjusted expenditures to date are 43.20%.

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2026 MINUTES**

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Committee on Administration**

The committee met on February 2 and discussed the strategic plan metrics, FLCL annual payout and the CLP.

##### **Committee on Buildings and Grounds**

This committee did not meet the past month.

##### **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.

The Committee met on January 28 to review the 2026-2028 Budget process, FLCL annual payout, and CLP updates.

\*Library Accountant Jennifer Hatfield will present a brief "Financial Minute" report, focusing on a YTD budget status looking back at the past three years. (see attached).

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

I'll present a current status update of the Central Library Project, and Caleb Swanson of Project Control will also be on hand.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Custom Edges Inc. Contract for Lawn Care not to exceed \$50,520\*  
I'm seeking a 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal of this contract. The library has been very pleased with their work and attention to detail. There is no increase in the contract price.

## 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 Strategic Plan annual measurements for 2025-26, or metrics; and I'll present the completed 2024-25 Annual Report.

## BOARD OBSERVATIONS

## PUBLIC COMMENT

## CONTRACTS FILED

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date Received</u>
Casey Hollingsworth dba "Banjo Player"	To present a program featuring his handmade musical instruments at the Polley Music Library inside Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th, on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at a cost not to exceed \$200.00.	1/30/2026
Lincoln Electric System	Annual agreement to collaborate with Lincoln City Libraries to support youth programming at no cost.	1/23/2026
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



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

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**RECAP OF EXPENDITURES - JANUARY 2026**

Library Operational Budget - FY 2025-26	\$ 904,644.10	
Library Enc/Reapp - From FY 2024-25	-	
Heritage Room Fund - FY 2025-26	2,947.05	
Polley Music Library - FY 2025-26	9,885.43	
	<hr/>	
<b>Total Operational Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ 917,476.58</b>
Grants	\$ 5,872.41	
Hompes Fund	-	
Keno	70,207.27	
Miscellaneous Library Donations Funds	17,736.28	
Capital Improvements	363,145.38	
	<hr/>	
<b>Total Expenditures - Other Funds</b>		<b>456,961.34</b>
		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$ 1,374,437.92</b>



LINCOLN  
City Libraries

## Director's Report for January 2026

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*

The **new bookmobiles** arrived on February 9, and they are stunning! Thanks to the team including Rebecca Hueske and Lisa Olivigni for their work over the years in planning for the new vehicles. For the next two months, they'll be stored at Eiseley's garage until we're fully ready for service. A Mayor's press conference is tentatively set for April 7 to announce them and promote their upcoming routes and activities.



Every year, all public libraries in Nebraska submit an annual report of financial information and activity statistics to the Nebraska Library Commission. This data is compiled and then made available on their website at: <https://nlc.nebraska.gov/stats/statlist.aspx>. The site has past year's reports as well, and it's a great resource to identify trends and get a pulse on library service across the state. We comply in submitting the report on time in order to also receive our annual state aid payment, which for us is applied to purchase of library materials, technology, and staff attendance at conferences. The Library Board allocates that payout every summer preceding the new FY. Administrative Aide, Sarah Dale, does a very nice job of coordinating the compilation of data and meeting the filing deadline.

LinkedIn Learning will soon be available for patron use—most likely within the next couple months. We are thrilled to be able to offer it to patrons and know it will be a popular and well-used resource. It's the premier on-demand site for video learning. Patrons can create their own accounts and use the service for access to trainings on software and technology, certifications, business, and creative design courses.

We are excited to begin the Resource Care Worker partnership with CenterPointe, starting February 18 at Bennett Martin Library. A CenterPointe employee will be on hand for public service at Bennett Martin for 20 hours per week, providing resource help for patrons who may be in need of food, housing, mental health-related, etc). This position is funded by the Woods Foundation and CenterPointe.

Central Library Update: I'll provide a more substantial report at the February Board Meeting, however, here are some items of note:

- The surplus process at 1111 O Street is nearly complete, and unfortunately quite a number of items are still remaining. Other departments and local governments have been active in pulling items over the past 2 months, and will continue to rely on City Purchasing to guide next steps. Our goal is to distribute and recycle all remaining contents by the end of March.
- We've officially begun the design development phase recently and will be very busy over the next few months arriving at final plans by late May. There are many people involved with this including a staff team and our Board reps. Along the way, we'll identify the details for all spaces and functions. We've begun working with the Mill Coffee & Tea to plan out their process of designing their space, and we're still working with other potential space partners in an effort to establish a goal of opening-day readiness. I think we'll see more movement with our potential partners over the next few months.
- After some value engineering, we have decided to keep the "central core" opening in the future library similar to the current dimensions, and the rooftop auditorium has been slightly reduced in size, yet there's a good chance the interior program space will remain close to the 250 seats we've been planning on. As a result of the "core" staying the same size, we've recaptured more square footage on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors for library activities.

Examples of the Strategic Plan in action:

- Carrie K. (BMPL) said, "I was working at the front desk when a man approached and asked if I'd tell him why we had removed the display featuring books with deaf connections. I explained that we change those out every so often and asked if there was a book there he was looking for. He said he just wanted to let us know that he found a book there that changed his life, he's a "child of deaf adults" and grew up speaking and signing at the same time. He said he found so many books there he didn't know existed and wouldn't have known how to look for."
- Walker D. (BMPL) relayed that he "helped a patron with printing a document from her phone. When we got to the print preview step, I noticed that she was printing tax documents. I informed her that tax documents were free to print and did a staff override for her. She was effusively grateful for the printing and said that the libraries in this city need more funding because they contribute so much to the community."
- Cindy K. (BMPL) said, "A regular patron came and asked me if I would help him on the computer. He needed to scan and document and then asked if I would show him how to attach it to an email and

send it. I demonstrated how to locate the file after we scanned it. After he opened his email (which was not in English) I helped him locate where to find the paperclip to attach the file. I then showed him how he could view the attached file and make sure it was the correct one. As I was showing him, he made small notes and said now he would attempt to do it on his own and ask me if he had trouble. He was then able to repeat the steps on his own and thanked me on the way out for teaching him a new skill.”

- Kim J. (BMPL) said, “I helped a customer locate the grave of her great-grandmother using Ancestry, Find-a-Grave and windyprairie.com. I found the grave in the Fairbury Cemetery where the patron’s grandmother is buried. The great-grandfather was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Beatrice, so the family had tried to find her grave there. The family was very happy to finally resolve this mystery.”
- Karrie S. (NESU) shared, “In January we kicked off an Early Readers child-parent Bookgroup at Anderson Branch Library on Wednesday evenings. Kate H., the Read Aloud Librarian from Bennett Martin leads this group and each week she lets me know what books and supplies she needs. We have had a great response to this group with attendance of 24, 15, and 22 (61 total) over the three weeks they have met. I appreciate Kate’s willingness to come out to Anderson Branch and give up an evening to provide quality literary programming to our families.”
- With a lot of help from Michelle P. in Support Services, and a lot of scanning by numerous employees at NESU, all materials at Bethany Branch Library were inventoried during the months of December 2025 and January 2026. This project ensures that library holdings are accurately reflected in the LCL catalog, and it helps customers and staff locate materials quickly and easily.
- NESU Librarian Karrie S. shared this story: “There’s a teen on my advisory board that doesn’t show a lot of emotions. I am not sure if they enjoy volunteering, but they show up every month. We’ve known for a while now that the family is moving abroad for second semester. So, I was pretty shocked when the teen emailed to ask when I was working so they could come in to say goodbye. It meant a lot to me. While they were visiting, the dad pulled me aside and thanked me for accepting their child and giving them a place to thrive here at the library. It was a great reminder that what we do here is so important. In so many different ways.”
- Karrie S. shared, “Toward the end of the month (January 22nd), Norwood Park and Brownell Elementary Schools co-hosted a School Night at Anderson Branch Library. Ninety people came to enjoy the library, free pizza, crafts, a scavenger hunt, and free books to take home. “
- Andrea C. (Walt) wrote, “A patron called to learn how to suggest titles be added to the collection. After I explained how she could request titles, the patron shared that she wanted the library to add additional audiobooks so children like her son who has a disability would have access to books. She said she was disappointed about the number of books available at LPS and she was ready to go to the school board to advocate for greater access for children with disabilities. I explained she may want to apply for the Talking Books program for her son. I gave her their number and said NLC was eager to spread the word about Talking Books for children with educational plans.”
- Jessica S. (Walt) wrote, “A customer was looking for a DVD copy of the movie, *A Thomas Crown Affair*, either the 1968 or 1999 version. Our library system did not own a DVD of the title, but both movies were on our Hoopla App. She seemed genuinely shocked this was an option. I had shown her the flyer listing our favorite apps and she began perusing those as well and said, ‘Oh! Transparent Languages. You even have a language one!’ I let her know she could call us or bring her laptop in if she had any difficulties and we would walk her through the process. She left the desk

and appeared content with her option to watch the movie. I then heard her explaining Hoopla to her husband, who seemed equally surprised.”

- Meagan M. (Walt) shared, “A tween patron came in with her father and I overheard him encouraging her to come to the desk to ask for assistance. A bit reticent, she asked if I could help her find resources about anxiety, stress, and their effects on the human body. We chatted a bit as I was interviewing her for more info while I did some research and I found that she was also interested in learning about coping mechanisms. After finding her some likely titles, I directed her towards the youth and adult non-fiction sections, as she wanted to look on her own first. She set off and her father thanked me for my assistance before a bit sheepishly asking if I might help him find some resources, as well. I was able to direct him towards some parenting books on the same subjects, as well as about landscaping and lawn care. Both left with several resources in hand.”
- Lisa W. (Walt) reported, “The inaugural birthday storytime was a great success with 50 participants. Children with January birthdays received a round Happy Birthday sticker, wrote their names on stars, and placed them on the month poster. Since there was only one January birthday, I invited that child to place the flannel chocolate cake on the board. I distributed colored felt candles to all the children and called them up by color to add their candles to the cake. It was a bit chaotic, but it worked well! Birthday Storytime will continue on the Second Saturday of each month at Family Storytime when storytimes are in session.”
- Laurie J. (Walt) shared that six attended the 3D Printer Training. “The first half hour was a couple who had recently bought a 3D printer and had questions about using it and upkeep. Halfway through, a parent and three kids showed up and from there I did the usual introduction to 3D printing.”
- Jessica S. (Walt) reported, “A man came to the Adult Reference Desk with an elementary aged boy. He asked if they could look at the rock collection and one of our robots in the Collaborative Learning Lab. As we were walking into the lab, the man advised he was mentoring the young boy through Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and had looked into our Collaborative Learning Lab resources about two months prior while he was going through the mentorship application process. They stayed in the lab for about two hours looking at the rock collection and putting together the coding robot.”
- Kayla L. at Eiseley-Williams shared this: A very impressive group of crossworders showed up at Eiseley for Coffee and Crosswords on January 25. Working together, we were able to finish the NYT Sunday crossword in 38:29!! Everyone enjoyed themselves and was ready to bring more minds together for another chance to solve the puzzle it even faster! Thanks to Scooters for providing coffee for participants on a cold day.
- Susan S. (Eiseley-Williams) has a possible future librarian in her toddler storytime: I have a little girl who comes to Tuesday night storytime; her name is Lily and she's very quiet and shy but her parents tell me that when she gets home, she pretends she's Ms. Susan and does storytime. They told me she even comments on the end pages which is part of print awareness and how books function.
- Jackie S. (Eiseley-Williams) shared this: At Williams, one of our patrons who comes in regularly always chats with me about books while she picks up her holds. One day when she stopped in, she had some picture books on hold and she mentioned wanting to find more. I told her about some of my favorite authors and pulled some books for her. The next time I saw her, she told me she loved the books I pulled for her. She liked them so much that she convinced some friends, who have children, to get them to read to their kids.

- January 11 – Melody S. (Eiseley-Williams) held a Scrappy Pet Toys program at Eiseley. She used the leftover t-shirts from her previous quilt making program to demonstrate how to craft toys for your pets. Twenty-nine patrons participated.
- Gyoung K. (Eiseley-Williams) has been qualified by the City of Lincoln to provide customer service to patrons whose first language is Korean. I have worked at the circ desk when she helped patrons who speak Korean and it is wonderful to see how welcome they feel when they interact with her in their own language.
- January 22 – Susan S. (Eiseley-Williams) assisted with the training of LPS high school students interested in providing story times at LCL as part of the celebration of African American Month. There were 52 patrons who participated in this Equity Cadre Training.
- Toni Y. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: “A patron came to me at the front desk inquiring about the use of Gere’s meeting rooms. She was with the Lincoln Quilt Guild’s new quilters group and needed a space to meet. Together, I helped her look on our website to reserve the correct date and walked her through all of the many steps. I am glad she came up to us for help, as she had neglected to bring her library card in, and had forgotten her pin # - both of which are required to reserve the room. I got her her card number and helped to reset the pin and when she left she had reserved it successfully.”
- Yoel S-T (Gere-South) shared this interaction: “Patron called very concerned. After checking out books, she got an email saying her library account was charged over \$200! After some clarifying questions and de-escalation, it turns out the "AI" summary feature of her email client interpreted the portion of her checkout receipt that lists how much you saved, as how much she was charged for using her library account. We verified on Sirsi that there were indeed no charges on her account. Goes to show, a little bit of good ol' fashioned human brain power can provide a lot of much needed clarity!”
- Ronda H. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: “I had an elder couple approach me at the circ desk. The wife told me that they were having trouble renewing books online. I smiled and asked her if she felt adventurous and was willing to try something new. She smiled and said, ‘Yes!’ I explained our Library LNK app to her. She downloaded it and we got it up and running on her phone. Her husband decided to download it as well. They left excited to have a new way to renew their library books.”
- Nora M. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: “A person who was visiting his college student daughters was looking for “The Unauthorized Biography of Lincoln, Nebraska” – he had heard the author interviewed on a local radio show and wanted to see the photographs. He didn’t have a library account, but I was able to refer him to the Heritage Room to view their copy (and it happened to be Tuesday, so they were open that afternoon).”
- Cally O. and Chad S. were at schools this month for Lunch in the Library which featured Shrinky Dinks and beads so kids could make their own charm bracelets or keychains. Cally shared: “I always love seeing the creativity that comes out with this project, with many kids having a signature drawing they want turned into a charm. Lots of aliens, cartoon characters, and doodles. When we visited Lefler on the 15<sup>th</sup> they had an adjusted schedule for MAP testing, which gave the kids an extended lunch period. This worked out for us, as we had 80 kids come through the library to make charm bracelet or keychain. When Chad and I arrived at Lefler, we were greeted by an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who said ‘Look, my favorite people are here.’” At Standing Bear on the 22<sup>nd</sup> there were 20 students

that stopped at the table, and Cally did two preschool storytimes with 30 students. Culler's program scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> was postponed to February due to slick roads.

- Leanne D. and Yoel S-T (Gere-South) completed 75 hours of 3-D print time this month with over 41 requests. Some of the items printed included a coffee press, board game piece organizer, Nintendo controller stand, and tank feeder. Leanne said they get an average of 2 requests per day.
- Toni Y. (Gere-South) shared this customer interaction: "At South, I was able to spend time with a regular patron helping her to update her resume and applying for a janitorial job on Indeed. She had found one she liked, and I helped walk her through the steps of editing her resume and applying. Even if the job doesn't pan out, I could tell that helping her figure out how to use Indeed's AI resume creator helped to make her feel proud of herself. She said, 'They make me sound pretty good' as she submitted the application. She thanked me numerous times."
- The Polley Music Library Show on KZUM had five episodes in December, which featured a show with some examples of creative music released in 2025, a new book from composer and guitarist Elliott Sharp, a new biography of legendary country music guitarist and record exec Chet Atkins, a memoir by Roddy Bottum, keyboardist of influential 80s/90s band Faith No More, and a book about the early days of electronic music.

Ryan Wieber,  
Library Director  
2.13.26

**Lincoln City Libraries  
January 2026 Use Report**

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits			January 2026 Other Use					January 2025 Other Use					Change: Total Other Use
	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Change	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Change	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	Meeting Room Attendance	Study Room Attendance	Total Other Use	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	Meeting Room Attendance	Study Room Attendance	Total Other Use	
Bennett Martin Public Library	12,022	13,498	-10.93%	9,136	10,413	-12.26%	2,068	780	219	85	3,152	2,535	185	143	42	2,905	8.50%
Anderson Branch Library	12,017	12,222	-1.68%	5,964	5,313	12.25%	620	454	184	0	1,258	732	429	95	0	1,256	0.16%
Bethany Branch Library	8,237	8,305	-0.82%	2,866	3,032	-5.47%	276	218	0	0	494	192	190	0	0	382	29.32%
Eiseley Branch Library	21,176	21,916	-3.38%	8,474	9,405	-9.90%	1,208	1,031	233	314	2,786	1,387	1,035	320	307	3,049	-8.63%
Gere Branch Library	53,453	55,936	-4.44%	17,231	19,240	-10.44%	1,334	2,071	398	316	4,119	1,329	1,609	455	215	3,608	14.16%
South Branch Library	8,956	8,989	-0.37%	3,832	3,762	1.86%	368	222	0	0	590	374	196	0	0	570	3.51%
Walt Branch Library	39,506	40,051	-1.36%	13,191	13,067	0.95%	1,458	2,091	494	448	4,491	1,162	1,348	386	263	3,159	42.17%
Williams Branch Library	2,070	1,036	99.81%	1,190	1,215	-2.06%	241	171	9	0	421	216	178	2	0	396	6.31%
Lied Bookmobile	1,060	1,675	-36.72%	135	179	-24.58%	0	143	0	0	143	0	94	0	0	94	52.13%
InterLibrary Loan	149	180	-17.22%	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	87	0	0	87	0	23	0	0	23	278.26%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>158,646</b>	<b>163,808</b>	<b>-3.15%</b>	<b>62,019</b>	<b>65,626</b>	<b>-5.50%</b>	<b>7,573</b>	<b>7,268</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>17,541</b>	<b>7,927</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>15,442</b>	<b>13.59%</b>
DownloadStream Audio	53,091	52,495	1.14%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	38,041	39,454	-3.58%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	1,126	1,054	6.83%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Download SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>92,258</b>	<b>93,003</b>	<b>-0.80%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250,904</b>	<b>256,811</b>	<b>-2.30%</b>	<b>62,019</b>	<b>65,626</b>	<b>-5.50%</b>	<b>7,573</b>	<b>7,268</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>17,541</b>	<b>7,927</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>15,442</b>	<b>13.59%</b>

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2026	2025	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth					
<b>Owned</b>	339,814	304,480	73,133	32,105	749,532	Purged	19,707	537	3569.83%
<b>Added</b>	1,885	2,294	147	100	4,426	<b>Active</b>			
<b>Withdrawn</b>	-6,359	-6,519	-2,901	-2,106	-17,885	Resident	119,350	148,447	-19.60%
<b>Current</b>	335,340	300,255	70,379	30,099	736,073	Library OneCard	42,873	52,983	-19.08%
						County	7,078	8,910	-20.56%
						NonResident	849	958	-11.38%
						Reciprocal	389	492	-20.93%
						Limited Use	8,981	10,157	-11.58%
						<b>Total Active</b>	<b>179,520</b>	<b>221,947</b>	<b>-19.12%</b>

Notes: Database for Heritage Room - 12,000 hits from China, only counting 2,000 from US.  
Purged # High - Removed Connect Ed/Library One Card users that no longer attend LPS as well as "no activity users" (seven + years) that have holds, charges and credits.

	2026	2025	Change
<b>WiFi Sessions</b>	110,741	112,832	-1.85%
<b>WiFi Users</b>	8,376	8,949	-6.40%
<b>Website Users</b>	91,800	95,454	-3.83%
<b>Website Sessions</b>	148,472	132,729	11.86%
<b>Database Use</b>	7,646	8,587	-10.96%

**January 2026 Use Compared to January 2025  
Lincoln City Libraries**

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2026	2025	Change	2026	2025	Loan Change	2026	2025	Change
BMPL	9,564	10,658	-10.26%	2,458	2,840	-13.45%	12,022	13,498	-10.93%
Anderson	10,052	10,008	0.44%	1,965	2,214	-11.25%	12,017	12,222	-1.68%
Bethany	7,205	7,518	-4.16%	1,032	787	31.13%	8,237	8,305	-0.82%
Eiseley	18,763	19,279	-2.68%	2,413	2,637	-8.49%	21,176	21,916	-3.38%
Gere	47,269	49,082	-3.69%	6,184	6,854	-9.78%	53,453	55,936	-4.44%
South	7,699	7,862	-2.07%	1,257	1,127	11.54%	8,956	8,989	-0.37%
Walt	35,288	35,313	-0.07%	4,218	4,738	-10.98%	39,506	40,051	-1.36%
Williams	1,937	866	123.67%	133	170	-21.76%	2,070	1,036	99.81%
Lied Bookmobile	1,009	1,580	-36.14%	51	95	-46.32%	1,060	1,675	-36.72%
InterLibrary Loan	149	180	-17.22%	0	0	0.00%	149	180	-17.22%
<b>Subtotal Checkouts</b>	<b>138,935</b>	<b>142,346</b>	<b>-2.40%</b>	<b>19,711</b>	<b>21,462</b>	<b>-8.16%</b>	<b>158,646</b>	<b>163,808</b>	<b>-3.15%</b>
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	53,091	52,495	1.14%	53,091	52,495	1.14%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	38,041	39,454	-3.58%	38,041	39,454	-3.58%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,126	1,054	6.83%	1,126	1,054	6.83%
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>138,935</b>	<b>142,346</b>	<b>-2.40%</b>	<b>111,969</b>	<b>114,465</b>	<b>-2.18%</b>	<b>250,904</b>	<b>256,811</b>	<b>-2.30%</b>

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2026	2025	Change	2026	2025	Change	2026	2025	Change
BMPL	4,013	4,800	-16.40%	8,009	8,698	-7.92%	9,136	10,413	-12.26%
Anderson	6,457	6,068	6.41%	5,560	6,154	-9.65%	5,964	5,313	12.25%
Bethany	4,751	4,917	-3.38%	3,486	3,388	2.89%	2,866	3,032	-5.47%
Eiseley	13,454	13,827	-2.70%	7,722	8,089	-4.54%	8,474	9,405	-9.90%
Gere	30,252	30,851	-1.94%	23,201	25,085	-7.51%	17,231	19,240	-10.44%
South	4,786	5,022	-4.70%	4,170	3,967	5.12%	3,832	3,762	1.86%
Walt	26,657	26,277	1.45%	12,849	13,774	-6.72%	13,191	13,067	0.95%
Williams	1,825	761	139.82%	245	275	-10.91%	1,190	1,215	-2.06%
Lied Bookmobile	611	1,070	-42.90%	449	605	-25.79%	135	179	-24.58%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	149	180	-17.22%	0	0	0.00%
<b>Subtotal Checkouts</b>	<b>92,806</b>	<b>93,593</b>	<b>-0.84%</b>	<b>65,840</b>	<b>70,215</b>	<b>-6.23%</b>	<b>62,019</b>	<b>65,626</b>	<b>-5.50%</b>
Download/Stream Audio	7,959	7,212	10.36%	45,132	45,283	-0.33%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	9,301	9,445	-1.52%	28,740	30,009	-4.23%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,126	1,054	6.83%	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>110,066</b>	<b>110,250</b>	<b>-0.17%</b>	<b>140,838</b>	<b>146,561</b>	<b>-3.90%</b>	<b>62,019</b>	<b>65,626</b>	<b>-5.50%</b>

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2026	2025	Change	2026	2025	Change	2026	2025	Change
BMPL	589	109	440.37%	191	76	151.32%	2,068	2,535	-18.42%
Anderson	441	414	6.52%	13	15	-13.33%	620	732	-15.30%
Bethany	174	133	30.83%	44	57	-22.81%	276	192	43.75%
Eiseley	963	912	5.59%	68	123	-44.72%	1,208	1,387	-12.91%
Gere	1,836	1,416	29.66%	235	193	21.76%	1,334	1,329	0.38%
South	209	188	11.17%	13	8	62.50%	368	374	-1.60%
Walt	1,777	1,157	53.59%	314	191	64.40%	1,458	1,162	25.47%
Williams	171	166	3.01%	0	12	-100.00%	241	216	11.57%
Lied Bookmobile	90	35	157.14%	53	59	-10.17%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	87	23	278.26%	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>4,530</b>	<b>37.97%</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>34.48%</b>	<b>7,573</b>	<b>7,927</b>	<b>-4.47%</b>

Location	Meeting Room Attendance		Meeting Room Att	Study Room Attendance		Study Room Att	2026	2025	Change
	2026	2025	Change	2026	2025	Change			
BMPL	219	143	53.15%	85	42	102.38%			0.00%
Anderson	184	95	93.68%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Eiseley	233	320	-27.19%	314	307	2.28%			0.00%
Gere	398	455	-12.53%	316	215	46.98%			0.00%
South	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Walt	494	386	27.98%	448	263	70.34%			0.00%
Williams	9	2	350.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>9.71%</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>40.63%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**Lincoln City Libraries  
January 2026 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report**

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits		
	Loans/ Circulation	Loans/ Circulation	YTD Change	Visits	Visits	YTD Change
	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD		FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	
Bennett Martin Public Library	60,613	66,604	-8.99%	47,735	55,481	-13.96%
Anderson Branch	59,398	59,302	0.16%	29,256	27,820	5.16%
Bethany Branch	37,347	38,317	-2.53%	13,237	14,265	-7.21%
Eiseley Branch	100,134	106,674	-6.13%	42,622	47,338	-9.96%
Gere Branch	251,697	265,904	-5.34%	77,430	92,727	-16.50%
South Branch	45,804	44,201	3.63%	19,366	18,713	3.49%
Walt Branch	193,729	187,249	3.46%	64,087	62,358	2.77%
Williams Branch	6,678	4,529	47.45%	5,965	6,049	-1.39%
Lied Bookmobile	6,487	7,546	-14.03%	1,077	1,703	-36.76%
InterLibrary Loan	803	841	-4.52%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>762,690</b>	<b>781,167</b>	<b>-2.37%</b>	<b>300,775</b>	<b>326,454</b>	<b>-7.87%</b>
DownloadStream Audio	248,615	209,346	18.76%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	173,665	167,919	3.42%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	5,479	4,362	25.61%	0	0	0.00%
<b>Download SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>427,759</b>	<b>381,627</b>	<b>12.09%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,190,449</b>	<b>1,162,794</b>	<b>2.38%</b>	<b>300,775</b>	<b>326,454</b>	<b>-7.87%</b>

	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registration	596	546	9.16%
Overall Registration	4,079	4,975	-18.01%

	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
WiFi Sessions	620,145	601,427	3.11%
WiFi Users	43,131	45,606	-5.43%
Website Users	383,366	433,005	-11.46%
Website Sessions	632,931	598,926	5.68%
Database Use	55,134	37,342	47.65%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth	
Owned 9/1/2025	341,902	307,684	74,444	32,485	756,515
Added YTD	9,364	9,273	1,187	673	20,497
Withdrawn YTD	-15,929	-16,702	-5,252	-3,059	-40,942
Current - 1/31/2026	335,337	300,255	70,379	30,099	736,070

Location	Computer Reservations	Computer Reservations	YTD Change	Program & Outreach Attendance	Program & Outreach Attendance	YTD Change	Meeting Room Attendance	Meeting Room Attendance	YTD Change	Study Room Attendance	Study Room Attendance	YTD Change	Total Other Use FY 25-26 YTD	Total Other Use FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD		FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD		FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD		FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD		FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	
Bennett Martin Public Library	12,315	12,195	0.98%	3,870	2,936	31.81%	1,055	839	25.74%	323	311	3.86%	17,563	16,281	7.87%
Anderson Branch	3,336	3,985	-16.29%	5,681	4,577	24.12%	713	938	-23.99%	211	0	0.00%	9,941	9,500	4.64%
Bethany Branch	1,159	1,120	3.48%	936	806	16.13%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	2,095	1,926	8.77%
Eiseley Branch	6,290	6,933	-9.27%	6,464	6,992	-7.55%	1,526	1,603	-4.80%	1,626	1,468	10.76%	15,906	16,996	-6.41%
Gere Branch	5,972	5,797	3.02%	11,085	7,409	49.62%	2,118	2,553	-17.04%	1,510	1,486	1.62%	20,685	17,245	19.95%
South Branch	2,061	2,158	-4.49%	1,093	964	13.38%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	3,154	3,122	1.02%
Walt Branch	6,409	5,252	22.03%	9,807	6,378	53.76%	1,986	1,740	14.14%	1,936	1,683	15.03%	20,138	15,053	33.78%
Williams Branch	1,306	989	32.05%	1,158	1,187	-2.44%	13	20	-35.00%	0	0	0.00%	2,477	2,196	12.80%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	562	317	77.29%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	562	317	77.29%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	1,925	973	97.84%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,925	973	97.84%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,848</b>	<b>38,429</b>	<b>1.09%</b>	<b>42,581</b>	<b>32,539</b>	<b>30.86%</b>	<b>7,411</b>	<b>7,693</b>	<b>-3.67%</b>	<b>5,606</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>13.30%</b>	<b>94,446</b>	<b>83,609</b>	<b>12.96%</b>

\*Study Room Attendance tracking began 9/1/2024

# LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

## Monthly Categorical Report

January 31, 2026

	Budget Amount	Budgeted Year-to-Date	Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
<b>Administration-Div. 1</b>					
Personnel	\$ 1,039,673.00	\$ 433,197.08	\$ 397,936.60	\$ 641,736.40	\$ 73,769.48
Supplies	33,000.00	13,750.00	3,922.75	29,077.25	830.43
Services & Charges	176,549.00	73,562.08	141,656.50	34,892.50	3,190.32
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,249,222.00</b>	<b>\$ 520,509.17</b>	<b>\$ 543,515.85</b>	<b>\$ 705,706.15</b>	<b>\$ 77,790.23</b>
<b>Percent Expended</b>		<b>41.67%</b>	<b>43.51%</b>		
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds-Div. 2</b>					
Personnel	\$ 141,745.00	\$ 59,060.42	\$ 59,327.48	\$ 82,417.52	\$ 11,165.01
Supplies	27,000.00	11,250.00	44,149.91	(17,149.91)	3,528.81
Services & Charges	1,211,499.00	504,791.25	529,491.17	682,007.83	78,816.12
Other	163,396.00	68,081.67	45,415.82	117,980.18	45,415.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,543,640.00</b>	<b>\$ 643,183.33</b>	<b>\$ 678,384.38</b>	<b>\$ 865,255.62</b>	<b>\$ 138,925.76</b>
<b>Percent Expended</b>		<b>41.67%</b>	<b>43.95%</b>		
<b>Public Service-Div. 3</b>					
Personnel	\$ 6,608,087.00	\$ 2,753,369.58	\$ 2,588,655.28	\$ 4,019,431.72	\$ 482,350.42
Supplies	90,250.00	37,604.17	21,771.81	68,478.19	10,574.46
Services & Charges	61,700.00	25,708.33	24,963.57	36,736.43	(8,614.96)
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,760,037.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,816,682.08</b>	<b>\$ 2,635,390.66</b>	<b>\$ 4,124,646.34</b>	<b>\$ 484,309.92</b>
<b>Percent Expended</b>		<b>41.67%</b>	<b>38.98%</b>		
<b>Support Services-Div. 4</b>					
Personnel	\$ 1,365,832.00	\$ 569,096.67	\$ 500,843.59	\$ 864,988.41	\$ 94,981.72
Supplies	62,000.00	25,833.33	38,391.89	23,608.11	8,977.96
Services & Charges	452,923.00	188,717.92	125,152.21	327,770.79	8,984.24
Other	992,472.00	413,530.00	355,838.67	636,633.33	90,674.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,873,227.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,197,177.92</b>	<b>\$ 1,020,226.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,853,000.64</b>	<b>\$ 203,618.19</b>
<b>Percent Expended</b>		<b>41.67%</b>	<b>35.51%</b>		
<b>Total Library Operational</b>					
Personnel	\$ 9,155,337.00	\$ 3,814,723.75	\$ 3,546,762.95	\$ 5,608,574.05	\$ 662,266.63
Supplies	212,250.00	88,437.50	108,236.36	104,013.64	23,911.66
Services & Charges	1,902,671.00	792,779.58	821,263.45	1,081,407.55	82,375.72
Other	1,155,868.00	481,611.67	401,254.49	754,613.51	136,090.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,426,126.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,177,552.50</b>	<b>\$ 4,877,517.25</b>	<b>\$ 7,548,608.75</b>	<b>\$ 904,644.10</b>
<b>Percent Expended</b>		<b>41.67%</b>	<b>39.25%</b>		
<b>Other Library Fund Appropriations</b>					
	<b>Amount Appropriated</b>		<b>Expended Year-to-Date</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Current Month Expended</b>
FY 2024-25 Reappropriated	\$ 301,992.00		\$ 83,761.22	\$ 218,230.78	\$ 114,372.91

**LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES - FUND BALANCES**  
**January 2026**

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expended	Ending Balance
<b><u>GRANT FUNDS</u></b>				
Net Lender Fund	\$ 2,293.66	\$ -	\$ -	2,293.66
NLC Misc Grants	\$ 7,534.27	\$ -	\$ -	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	-	5,872.41	33,434.91
State Aid 2025	53,224.71	-	-	53,224.71

**DONATED FUNDS**

Heritage Room	\$ 179,044.45	\$ 930.17	\$ 2,947.05	177,027.57
Polley Music Library	221,099.94	98,790.42	9,885.43	310,004.93
Joseph J. Hompes	170,574.83	9,469.42	-	180,044.25
Misc. Library Donations	787,847.66	4,175.78	17,736.28	774,287.16
Alice Nielsen	90,098.03	460.42	-	90,558.45
Dorothy Holland	129,601.81	662.29	-	130,264.10
Glennis Leapley	7,454.56	38.09	-	7,492.65
Lincoln Cares	33,038.19	495.03	-	33,533.22

**APPROPRIATED FUNDS**

	Budget	Expended		Balance
		Jan 2026	Exp-to-Date	
Heritage Room FY 2025-26	\$ 38,438.00	\$ 2,947.05	\$ 16,319.13	22,118.87
Polley Music Library FY 2025-26	128,527.00	9,885.43	51,322.98	77,204.02
Keno FY 2024-25	924,000.00	70,207.27	318,720.91	605,279.09
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>				
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	363,145.38	6,308,662.90	23,193,479.45



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



City of Lincoln  
LIBRARIES



# A Note from the Director

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) Annual Report, where we provide a glimpse into activities and highlights, statistics, and financials in order to best summarize the year.

We're fast approaching the library's 150th birthday in 2027 and annual reports have been produced for many of those years. Versions from long ago focused on telling the library story by way of figures: annual checkout totals, visits, and the number of books added each year. It is always important to measure activity levels and document patron usage—especially as a tax-funded agency providing for

residents of the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County—however, today's library story can also be told by the value it brings to local residents, and how the library offers opportunities to enrich and improve lives.

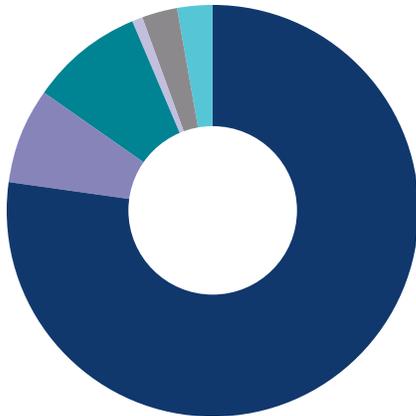
*LCL's mission is to provide access to information, ideas, books and lifelong learning opportunities that inform, enrich and empower every individual in our diverse community. We strive to accomplish that by understanding our community and its needs, and by planning and partnering with many other organizations, schools and cultural organizations, and you! Thanks to YOU for being our number one partner!*

-Ryan Wieber

Number of new cardholders FY24-25:  
**14,955**

## Financials

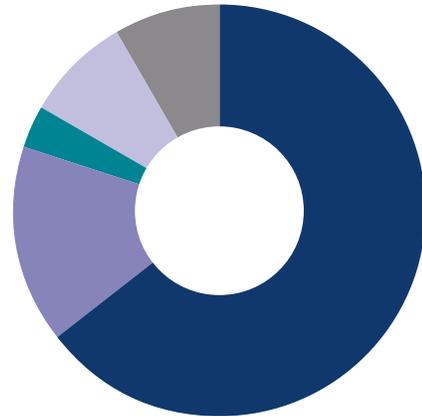
2024-25



### Revenues

City of Lincoln Property Taxes	\$10,721,821
Lancaster County	\$1,061,827
Keno	\$1,231,299
State Aid and Grants	\$131,560
Donations	\$370,676
Other	\$362,119

**Total Operating Revenue ..... \$13,879,302**



### Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$8,240,789
Collections	\$1,935,049
Technology	\$843,966
Facilities	\$1,002,184
Other	\$1,034,583

**Total Operating Expenditures.....\$13,056,571**

# A New Central Library

After many years of studying and planning for a new central Library, the City revealed plans in May 2025 for a modern central library on the site of the former Centrum Mall and Southeast Community College Education Square at 1111 O Street in downtown Lincoln.

The 80,000 square foot facility will incorporate design elements popular in urban libraries today including better accessibility and visual sightlines, flexibility of its spaces, community partner areas, and utilizing the latest in materials and designs for energy efficiency to save long term costs and reduce its carbon footprint.

Repurposing 1111 O Street and transforming it into a world class public library saves residents money from the earlier-planned general obligation tax-funded library at the former Pershing Auditorium site. It also offers better parking at the adjacent Center Park city

garage, keeps the Central Library in the heart of downtown and within the most-densely populated area of the City and provides a place for community connection, engagement, and lifelong learning.

The new library will have approximately 10,000 square feet of partner space, 8-10 study and conference rooms, a dynamic and engaging children's section,

teaching kitchen, makerspace area, attached retail coffee shop, and a rooftop auditorium for library and community use.

Utilizing a mixture of public and private funding, construction will begin by fall 2026 with a grand opening expected in 2028. For new library plans and latest updates visit the library's website at [www.lincolnlibraries.org](http://www.lincolnlibraries.org).



Central Library open house at SCC





## FY 24-25 Statistics

### Library Locations

#### CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS

##### Bennett Martin Public Library

136 S. 14th Street

Circulation	164,011
Visits	134,271
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

#### SOUTHWEST LINCOLN

##### Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library

6701 S. 14th Street

Circulation	496,751
Visits	169,287
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

#### NORTHWEST LINCOLN

##### Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library

1530 Superior Street

Circulation	270,998
Visits	119,045
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

##### Dan A. Williams Branch Library

4900 Mike Scholl Street

Circulation	12,848
Visits	15,147
Public Service Hrs/Week	31

#### NORTHEAST LINCOLN

##### Victor E. Anderson Branch Library

3635 Touzalin Avenue

Circulation	154,047
Visits	74,981
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

##### Bethany Branch Library

1810 N. Cotner Boulevard

Circulation	99,537
Visits	35,982
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

#### SOUTHEAST/CENTRAL LINCOLN

##### Charles H. Gere Branch Library

2400 S. 56th Street

Circulation	682,264
Visits	227,288
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

##### South Branch Library

2675 South Street

Circulation	111,440
Visits	48,811
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

#### MOBILE OUTREACH

##### Lied Bookmobile

Circulation	17,349
Visits	3,737
Public Service Hrs/Week	20

#### ELECTRONIC MATERIALS

##### Ebooks, Audiobooks and Movies via Overdrive and Hoopla

Circulation	1,014,628
Website Visits	1,506,520
Public Service Hrs/Week	24/7

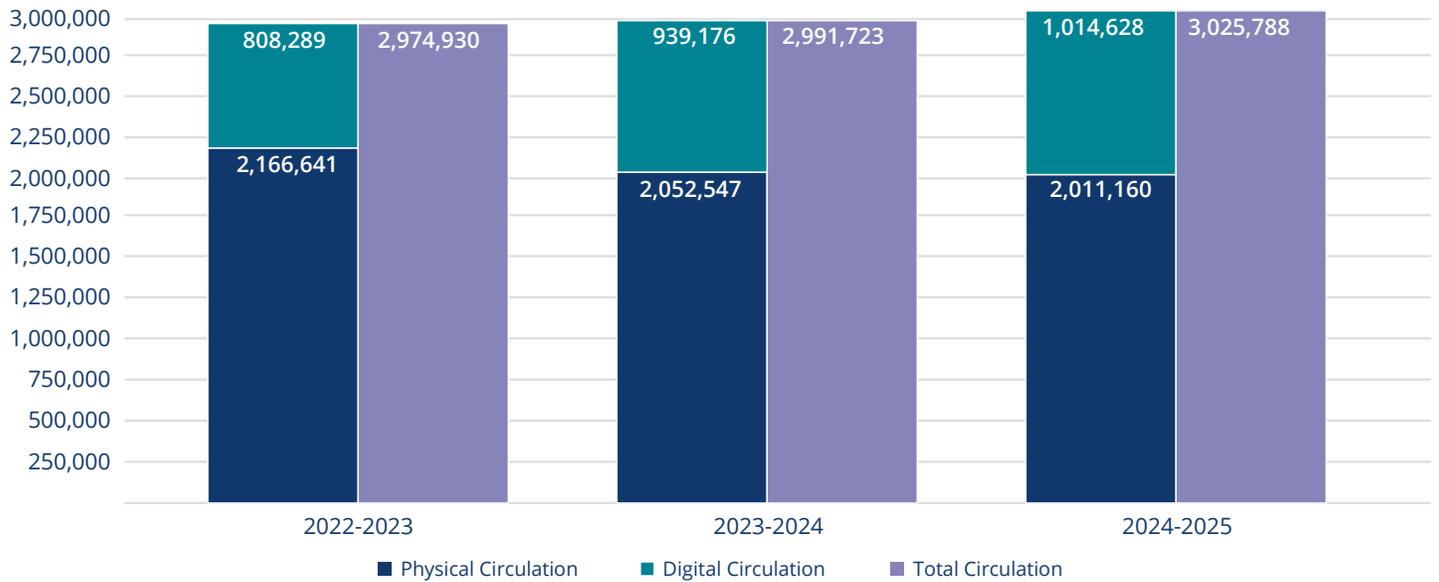
### LIBRARY SERVICES

Annual Library Visits	828,549
Number of Registered Borrowers	169,545
Library OneCard (LPS Student Accounts)	41,847
Circulation of Adult Materials	1,601,553
Circulation of Children's Materials	1,429,971
Total Physical Circulation	2,011,160
Total Electronic Circulation	1,014,628
Total Physical + Electronic Circulation	3,025,788
Number of Public Internet Computers	164
Internet Computer Reservations	91,562
Program Attendance Children & Teens	79,917
Attendance in Meeting Rooms	18,744
Attendance in Study Rooms	11,682
Total Employees (FTEs)	108.5
Total Number of Volunteers	180
Total Number of Volunteer Hours	8,789

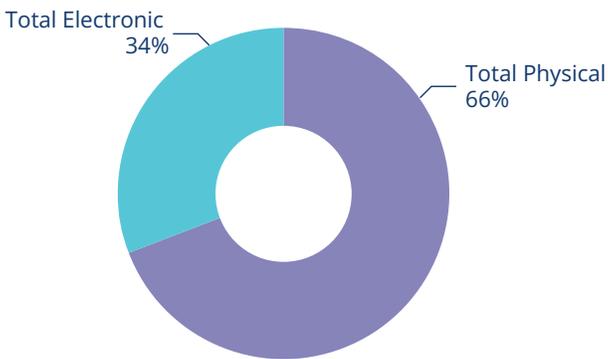
### LIBRARY MATERIAL HOLDINGS

Adult Print	341,902
Adult Non-Print	307,684
Youth Print	74,444
Youth Non-Print	32,485
Total Owned	756,515

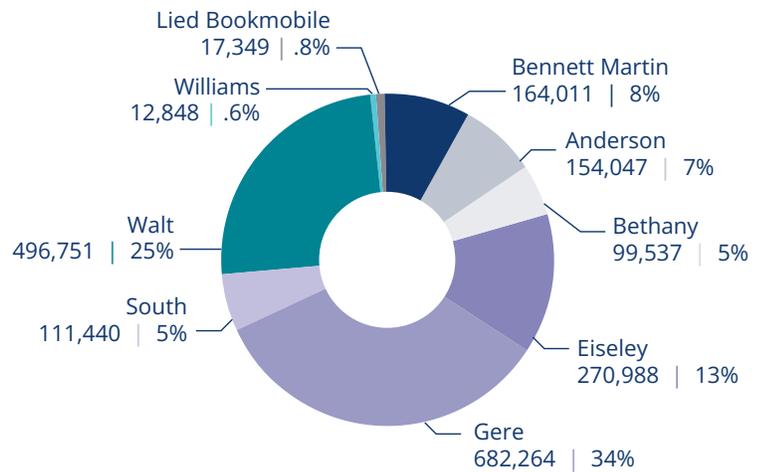
# Circulation 3-year Comparison



## Physical & Digital Circulation FY 24-25



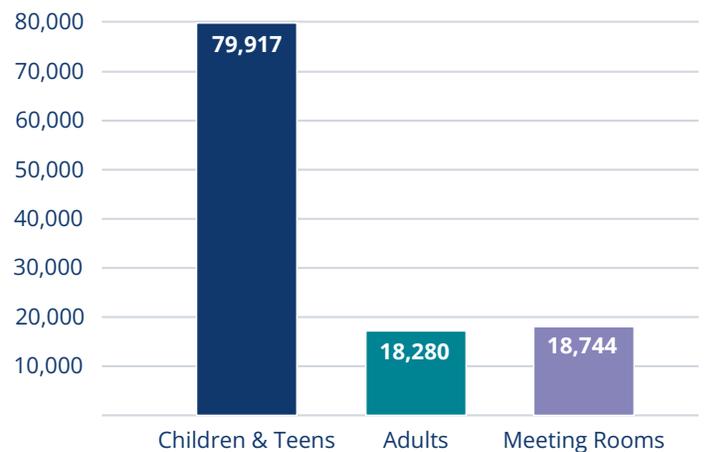
## Circulation by Branch



## Annual Visits 3-year Comparison



## Event Attendance/ Meeting Room Use FY 24-25



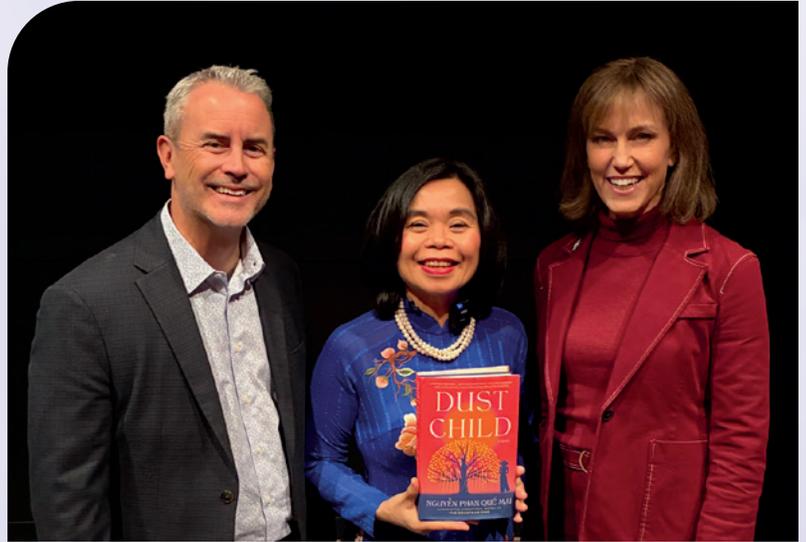
# One Book One Lincoln 2025: Dust Child

One Book One Lincoln has been uniting the readers of Lincoln and Lancaster County since 2002. Community members nominate titles which are submitted to the Selection Committee composed of community volunteers. The Committee members spend two months reading, discussing and narrowing the list down to a Top Ten before voting on three finalists to present to the public on Memorial Day.

Dust Child by Vietnamese author Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai ultimately won the most community votes. The book's universal themes of love, loss, forgiveness, resilience, and identity resonated with readers as reflected in this comment from a voter, "This book was healing to me and to many Americans who served in the Vietnam War. It allows you to get a glimpse of the war from another perspective but more importantly it gives humanity to the ghosts of any war!"

Through the generous support of the Lincoln City Libraries Foundation, Quế Mai was brought to Lincoln and was able to spend time with Selection Committee and Library Board members, but also with local members of the Asian Community and Cultural Center who hosted a welcome reception for Que Mai that included Vietnamese food and dancers. The Lincoln High School Auditorium was again the venue for the public event and a special presentation during the day to approximately 90 Lincoln High students. More than 250 people attended the evening program to hear Que Mai speak about her writing journey and enjoy her performances of a poem, a song and a Vietnamese language lesson.

We are excited to celebrate our 25th One Book One Lincoln season in 2026 and look forward to continuing to the tradition of reading and discussion in our community!

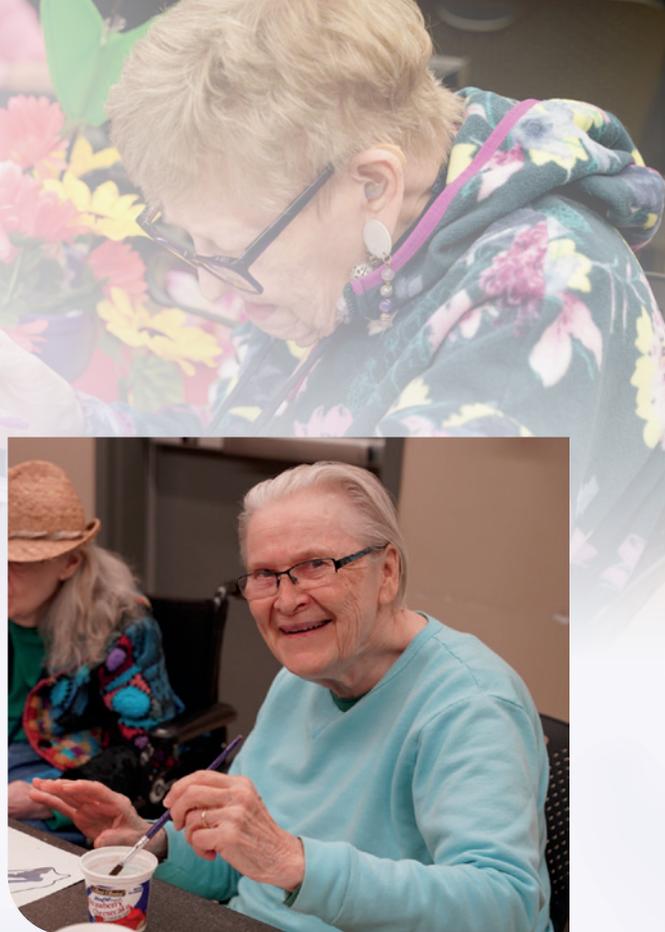


# Memory Café

## A GATHERING OF HEARTS AND MINDS AT WALT BRANCH LIBRARY

Every month, Walt Branch Library transforms into a place where connection takes center stage. Memory Café, a program designed for adults experiencing changes in memory or memory loss, offers a welcoming space not just for participants but also for the friends, family members, and caregivers who walk alongside them. It's a simple gathering — refreshments, a guided activity, and plenty of time to socialize — yet it has become one of the most heartfelt programs hosted at Walt Branch.

The activities vary from month to month: creative projects, gentle games, music, or themed conversations that spark memories and invite everyone to participate. Volunteers and staff help guide the experience. For caregivers, Memory Café offers a moment of respite and camaraderie — a reminder that they are not alone. For participants, it provides a chance to engage, have fun, and feel part of a supportive community. And for everyone in the room, it's an uplifting reminder of how meaningful human connection can be.



# Public Art at Lincoln City Libraries

## PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS AT LIBRARY BRANCHES WAS A MAJOR FOCUS IN 2024-2025



*If you've driven eastbound on South Street at 27th, it's likely you've seen the beautiful mural by artist and children's book illustrator, Chloe Burgett gracing the wall of South Branch Library.*



*Put Eiseley Branch Library near 14th and Superior on your destination list to visit "Heritage" by Eddie Dominguez, on loan from the Museum of Nebraska Art.*



*At Gere Branch Library, see the maquette of Willa Cather, donated by Jeff Kirkpatrick and Glenda Pierce. The original sculpture by Littleton Alston stands in the National Statuary Hall Collection in Washington D.C.*

# 2025 Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual tradition at Lincoln City Libraries and 2025 was a record-setting year. Lincoln City Libraries encourages patrons to sign up for the challenge in order to keep their brains active and strong over the busy summer months. To complete the challenge, registered patrons need to read 10 hours, visit a Lincoln City Libraries location four times and participate in a few simple activities during the months of June and July.

2025 was a record year with over 19,000 registrants, and we also saw the highest completion rate for the Summer Reading Challenge since 2019, with over 40% of registrants finishing the challenge.

Lincoln City Libraries staff led 300 storytimes in the months of June and July, with over 9,000 attendees. Early literacy-focused storytimes are a core service at Lincoln City Libraries but building healthy brains isn't all we do! We host and lead events for all ages and interest levels. In addition to storytimes, Lincoln City Libraries staff hosted 320 events with over 12,000 attendees in the months of June and July. That's a lot of people using their library and engaging in fun, free, and educational events!



## Library Board Information

**Jackie Ostrowicki** PRESIDENT  
*Assistant VP for External Relations  
University of Nebraska*  
TERM: 2020-2027

**Lisa Hale** VICE PRESIDENT  
*Vice-President, Customer Services  
Lincoln Electric System*  
TERM: 2021-2028

**Terri Dunlap** TREASURER  
*Retired*  
TERM: 2024-2031

**Joe Shaw** PAST PRESIDENT  
*Executive Director  
Lux Center for the Arts*  
TERM: 2019-2029

**Morgan Gerteisen**  
*Director, Talent Operations  
LI-COR Biosciences*  
TERM: 2023-2029

**Patty Beutler**  
*Freelance Writer and Editor*  
TERM: 2023-2030

**Marilyn Moore**  
*Retired President at  
Bryan College of Health Sciences*  
TERM: 2025-2032

**Nichole Bogen** COUNTY LIASON  
*Assistant Attorney General  
State of Nebraska*  
TERM: 2020-2027



City of Lincoln  
**LIBRARIES**

Priority	Metric	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Target	2025-26 YTD	Current status	YTD +/- (%)
<b>Maximize Access</b>	<i>materials circulation</i>					
	2% increase in physical circulation	2,011,160	2,051,383	604,044	at risk	-2.2
	10% increase in digital circulation	1,014,628	1,116,090	335,501	at risk	6.7
	5% increase in overall circulation	3,025,788	3,177,077	939,545	at risk	0.4
	10% increase in OneCard usage	10,837	11,921	3,101	on track	35.0
	5% increase in One Book One Lincoln circulation	6,527	6,853	0		
<i>new cardholders</i>	5% increase in online card registrations	1,529	1,605	439	on track	23.0
	5% increase in total new card registrations	14,955	15,703	3,928	at risk	3.2
<i>attendance and participation</i>	5% increase in patron visits	828,549	869,976	238,756	at risk	-8.5
	5% increase in meeting and study room usage	30,426	31,947	10,317	on track	7.8
	10% increase in adult program attendance	21,261	23,387	5,271	on track	74.0
	5% increase in children and teen program attendance	72,398	76,018	26,333	on track	31.4
	Maintain Summer Reading Challenge registrations	19,618	19,618			
	Maintain Childrens SRC completions level	8,951	8,951			
	Maintain Teen SRC registrations level	1,448	1,448			
	5% increase- Winter Reading Challenge participation	1,272	1,336	1,208	at risk	-5.0
	<i>outreach</i>	10% increase in bookmobile circulation	17,349	19,084	5,427	at risk
	10% increase in bookmobile attendance	3,737	4,111	942	at risk	-38.1
<i>computers, databases</i>	5% increase in overall database usage	94,519	99,245	47,488	on track	65.2
	5% increase in website visits	1,506,520	1,581,846	484,459	at risk	3.9
	5% increase in wi-fi usage	1,472,619	1,546,250	509,404	at risk	4.3
	2% increase in computer sessions	91,562	93,393	30,921	at risk	1.4
<i>Internal activity</i>	Improve to 85% same day check-in time for materials					

LCL Metrics 2025-2026

Priority	Metric	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Target	2025-26 YTD	Current status
<b>Communicate our Offerings</b> <i>Activities to enhance marketing effectiveness</i>	Assign a marketing budget (Y/N)				completed
	Implement new calendar software (Y/N)				completed
	Implement new patron engagement software (Y/N)				on track
	Yearly report/visits to neighborhood associations (Y/N)				at risk
	Distribute monthly calendars to cultural centers (Y/N)				on track
	Welcome flyer & card signup available in five languages				on track
	Complete website ADA audit (Y/N)				at risk
	Establish website review process (Y/N)				on track
	Conduct a broad, public survey every 2-3 years (Y/N)				on track
<b>Strengthen our Potential</b> <i>Inward activities that increase transparency, awareness and belonging.</i>	Establish biweekly staff bulletin (Y/N)				completed
	Update new employee onboarding checklist (Y/N)				at risk
	Re-institute the staff quarterly training calendar (Y/N)				completed
	All staff attend 2 Training Calendar events yearly				
	Library professional staff participate in a prof. activity				
	Conduct an employee engagement survey (Y/N)				
<b>Grow our Support</b> <i>More budget to supplement operational tax.</i>	Create a data dashboard for public accountability (Y/N)				at risk
	Each service unit holds an annual patron education opp				at risk
	Create a grants administration process (Y/N)				completed
	25% increase to grant funding/revenue	\$37,474	\$46,843	\$41,025	on track
	10% increase in annual Foundation funding	\$219,199	\$241,119	\$117,817	at risk
	Each board member to earn 2 CEUs annually (Y/N)				at risk