

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: November 14, 2025
TO: Library Board, Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney
FROM: Ryan Wieber, Library Director
SUBJECT: Library Board Meeting

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING: Tuesday, November 18, 2025
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 October 21, 2025 Minutes*
5. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Administration
 - b. Committee on Buildings & Grounds
 - c. Committee on Finance
 - i. Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for October 2025*
6. Special Committee Reports
 - a. Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries
7. New Business
 - a. Approval of Polley Annual Report*
 - b. Approval of Schedule of 2025 Board Meeting Dates and Locations*
8. President's Report
9. Assistant Library Director's Report
10. Director's Report
 - a. Central Library
11. Board Observations
12. Closed Session – Director's Annual Evaluation
13. 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, October 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

WALT BRANCH LIBRARY

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Present: Jackie Ostrowicki, Lisa Hale, Joe Shaw, Morgan Gerteisen, Marilyn Moore, Nichole Bogen. Absent: Patty Beutler

City of Lincoln Staff present: Ryan Wieber, Jennifer Hatfield, Amanda Calloway, Wyatt Packard, Vicki Clarke.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Ostrowicki called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and announced that the Open Meetings Law was 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. Gerteisen moved approval of the Agenda. Shaw seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore – AYE. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 MEETING MINUTES*

Hale moved approval of the September 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion passed 6-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

Director Wieber reported that the Committee met on October 3, 2025 and discussed Central Library funding status, potential Library partners, and the idea for an Advocacy committee.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Wieber reported that the Committee met on October 2, 2025 and heard a review of current library projects from Dan Miller, Facilities Superintendent, about some potential art at one of the branches, and the parking situation for the new bookmobiles. They also received a brief review of the Central Library project.

Committee on Finance

*Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for August 2025**

Treasurer Dunlap reported that the total Operational Expenditures for August was \$904,878.98. The total Expenditures from Other Funds was \$200,663.50, for Total Expenditures of \$1,105,542.48. Shaw moved

approval of the Expenditures. Moore seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion passed 6-0.

*Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for September 2025**

Treasurer Dunlap reported that the total Operational Expenditures for August was \$949,330.91. The total Expenditures from Other Funds was \$5,333,800.34, for Total Expenditures of \$6,283,131.25. Gerteisen moved approval of the Expenditures. Hale seconded. Discussion: Wieber noted that the large increase was due to the \$5.2 million from Capital Improvements for the purchase of the new building. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion passed 6-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

Tiffani Hill shared that the Foundation has raised \$7.45 million. They just received a \$100,000 donation last week. There is \$5.25 million out in requests. They'll find out about the \$250,000 request at the end of the month, and the \$5 million request at the end of December. The Foundation has reached out to five different foundations, and there's more to come.

The NLHA Spelling Bee occurred two weeks ago. Tickets were sold out. The Foundation received over \$500 in raffle tickets. There was great attendance and excitement. Hill shared that they're nearing the finish line on the new website, much of which is dedicated to the new Central Library project. The Foundation has reached out to Branch Managers to get ideas on what projects they'd like to have spotlighted. The Foundation Board meeting is this week, the first Capital Campaign committee met, with Carl Eskridge as Chair.

One Book One Lincoln

Gerteisen shared that a reception will be held for One Book One Lincoln winning author, Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai at the Asian Community and Cultural Center on Sunday evening. The author will give remarks, and possibly a short reading. There will be music and food, invitations will be sent tomorrow to the Board and other stakeholders. Her main talk will be held Monday night, November 3 at the Lincoln High School auditorium at 7:00 p.m. She will also give a presentation to Lincoln High students on Monday morning. She's set to arrive on October 31st and will stay all weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Observations

Ostrowicki shared a handout about Banned Books Week from the American Library Association (ALA). Seventy two percent of the past year's attempts to ban books have come from organizations, not individuals. Discussion followed. Wieber shared Lincoln City Libraries' process for working with book challenges. Walt Branch Library Manager, Wyatt Packard shared more details from ALA on the number of reported challenges, which have decreased slightly in the past year. He noted that most challenges go unreported. He shared that some states have enacted laws regulating what school libraries can purchase, often with vague and difficult to follow guidelines for library staff which can encourage self-censorship. Shaw shared that a local store, Ray Gun, offers many t-shirts and other products with pro-library messages. Bogen shared that she's recently read *The Fire We Carry: The Generations-Long Fight for Justice on Native Land*. By Rebecca Nagel who will be speaking at the Sheldon Museum of Art on October 28.

Approval of Contract for Services with Project Control, not to exceed \$570,600*

Wieber introduced Caleb Swanson from Project Control who has been working with the Central Library project. He noted that Project Control has a contract with the City for construction management services and invited Swanson to give a summary of what they'll be doing for the project.

Swanson noted that he's been working with this project since the Pershing site was the goal. Project Control's role is Owner's representative, to represent the Libraries and the Library Board. A number of different partners will be involved, with competing interests. Their goal is to make sure the libraries interests are at the forefront. They'll be assisting with procurement, working with design consultants, schedule and budget coordination among other tasks. He shared his excitement, and that Eiseley is his family's neighborhood branch. He'll be working with colleague Anthony Fitzgerald from Project Control, to create this transformative project. They're happy to continue reporting to the Board. Discussion followed.

Hale expressed appreciation that Project Control will be the Library's eyes and ears during the complex process. Shaw noted that he'd experienced a large renovation without an agent, and was grateful to have the assistance in this situation. Wieber noted that he's been extremely impressed with Project Control's work that's gone on thus far, and that there is a lot of excitement among the various entities because they realize how special this project is.

Hale moved approval of the contract. Shaw seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Dunlap, Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Contract for Library Van Delivery Service with Mail Management Services, not to exceed \$88,000*

Wieber informed the Board that this is the final year for renewals with this company. We've been pleased with their service providing inter-office delivery six days a week. There is no increase in price from last year. Hale motioned approval. Moore seconded. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Shaw, Moore, Gerteisen, Hale, Ostrowicki, Dunlap – AYE. Motion passed 6-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ostrowicki shared some poetry and book excerpts to remind the board of the importance of libraries and literature to readers. She gave some history on Banned Books Week. It's also the ALA National Friends of Libraries week – thank you to Tiffani! She gave some history about the Read to a Dog (and Cat) program.

Ostrowicki reminded board members to complete the online survey she emailed out. She also discussed the Library Board Field Trip scheduled on November 15 to tour the Columbus Library and have a conversation with the Columbus Library Director. Folks can park at Gere and carpool.

Ostrowicki discussed the newly formed Advocacy Committee, made up of current and past Library and Foundation Board members along with others to advise and advocate for the library. They will meet monthly during the building process.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann shared staffing updates. There have been two Library Service Associate rehires, one at Gere, the other at Bennett Martin. A contingent offer has been made to a replacement for HR

Office Specialist Gewecke, and interviews have been completed for the Library Desk Sub position, the new position that's a stepping stone from the Library Aide position to the Library Service Associate position, and those new Desk Subs will be starting those folks on their new tasks shortly.

Glaesemann shared photos of the new bookmobiles with the awning, wheelchair lift, and wraps. Supply chain issues have moved the arrival date of the two vehicles, they're now expected around Thanksgiving. As the garage at Eiseley isn't quite large enough to hold both, the second bookmobile will be parked at Gere in a place highly visible to passersby for the present, but indoor storage is still being sought out.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber introduced Branch Manager, Wyatt Packard.

Walt Branch Manager Report:

Packard introduced Librarian, Vicki Clarke and Practicum Student, Holly from UNL. He shared some updates to Walt, including transforming the Computer Lab into the Collaborative Learning Lab, a flex space for programs, studying, board games and other activities. Vicki has led the effort to procure learning resources in the room for students. The entryway has been re-carpeted, and is seeing lots of use. Walt now has computers in all study rooms that include webcam monitors so folks can participate in meetings and interviews, which is a wonderful accessibility tool. He shared information about multiple successful programs at Walt for kids, adults and teens including the *Circle of Friends* program, *D&D Dice Guild*, and LEGO® sets folks can check out and build in the Learning Lab. Packard shared that Walt's circulation is up 7-8%, partially attributable to the road construction surrounding Gere. He shared that their overflowing storytimes are being addressed with storytellers coming from Bennett Martin to lead additional sessions.

Director Wieber shared the news that Omaha Public Library is ending their collaborative agreement with Lincoln City Libraries, effective December 31st. The high cost of digital materials is part of the concern, they are acting to keep limited digital items available for their own patrons.

Organizational Structure Overview

Per President Ostrowicki's request, Wieber reviewed the current organizational structure of the Library to give the Board a clearer picture.

Currently, LCL has 135 employees (+10-15 temps in the summer.) That translates to 108 Full Time Employees (FTE's). 1.5 of the FTE's are non-tax funded (the Heritage Room is funded by the Foundation, and Polley by its own endowment). The Library Director reports to the Board and Mayor. Reporting to the Director are: Buildings & Grounds Superintendent, Virtual Services Manager, Assistant Director, Accountant and Administrative Aide. Glaesemann supervises the Branch Managers and Coordinators. All positions are shown in the [City Budget](#). Please note, back in 2002 when Walt and Eiseley branches opened, we had an increased number of FTEs. Then in 2006-2007 it was reduced to 108 FTEs, and hasn't increased since.

Discussion: Shaw: Will more staff be needed at the new Central Library? Wieber posited that some efficiencies will be possible, but overall, more Public Service positions will be needed. The new rooftop auditorium alone will generate a lot of activity, and coordination of that space and services will be necessary. There's time to plan, but as an example, when Omaha Public Library opened their new facility, they had sixteen new positions. They planned for that increase over multiple years.

Hale: Do we have benchmarks for the number of staff hours needed to provide programming? Wieber: This is a time to look at peer libraries, and we already know that despite LCL staff managing a huge amount of programming services, our staffing numbers are quite low by comparison, which impacts all locations, not just downtown.

Wieber returned to the organizational structure, noting Library Aides (minimum wage), Library Service Associates (paraprofessionals), Library Service Supervisors (supervising the LSAs), Librarians (professionals). We're low on librarians on staff by comparison. Managers and Coordinators supervise the Librarians and Service Supervisors. Eighty-eight percent of our staff directly provide public services. Lincoln City Libraries is short in some areas, and have been for a number of years.

Peer library information from annual IMLS statistical reports shows us near the bottom in the number of professionally trained librarians we have on staff (e.g. 22 at LCL compared to 58 in Madison, WI.) Staff expenditures (payroll/benefits): At Howard County Maryland, there is \$21 million spent on staff vs. LCL at approximately \$9 million. LCL's operating expenses are quite low as well.

Biggest staffing needs: Facilities, additional Public Service staff at quadrant branches, Marketing (which is currently a department of one,) and the new Central Library. President Ostrowicki noted that while we're getting a lot of great work from relatively few people, the comparisons are a little depressing. She expressed excitement about making the situation better.

Central Library Update

Results for Construction Manager at Risk RFP are in. Next steps will be taken in November. The Coffee Shop RFP choice will be announced soon. All will go to the City Council for approval. Wieber reviewed the process on finding partners - KZUM is a strong contender, and the UNL is also in the mix, looking at a collaboration with our Local History room.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Gebhart, 6226 Mapleview Dr., gave public comment. He greatly appreciates the diversity of services offered and the knowledgeable and experienced Board members. He and his wife like Walt branch so much, they chose a home within walking distance when they moved to town.

Adjourned 7:44 p.m.



Memo to the Library Board November 2025

Please note: this month's Board meeting on October 21 is at **Bennett Martin Library, at 8am.**

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET: The actual percent of budget expended year to date is 18.01%, compared to the budgeted 16.67%. Annual adjusted expenditures to date are 18.17%. Please note that the actual and adjusted expenditures do not reflect August purchasing card expenses.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 MINUTES

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

The committee did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

The committee did not meet.

Committee on Technology

The committee did not meet.

Committee on Finance

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

Reports are attached. The Board will consider approval of October 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 and Patty Beutler will report on a recap of the One Book One Lincoln program. A full report on the OBOL 2025 season will be submitted in December 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Polley Music Library Annual Report
Librarian Scott Scholz will provide an overview of the activities of the Polley Library during the past year and the plan for the upcoming year. Lillian Polley's original directives for her trust required an annual process for the Polley Music Library including this report, which is to be approved by the Library Board, then forwarded to US Bank, where trust officers will forward it to the Polley Music Advisory Board. LCL receives funding from the trust to support the Polley staffing position.
- b. Approval of Schedule of Board Meeting Dates and Locations
We publish this on the website (and newspaper month to month). Changes can occur as needed, with notice.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I'll provide a Central Library Project update.

BOARD OBSERVATIONS

This section has moved away from "New Business."

CLOSED SESSION

This is for the purpose of my annual evaluation and discussion, covering the period FY 2024-2025. We'll return to open session for public comment and adjournment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONTRACTS FILED

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date Received</u>
The Little Play Company, LLC	The Little Play Company will provide play equipment for special events at Gere, Walt, and Bennett Martin libraries at the dates and times in the agreement, including setup and teardown, at a cost not to exceed \$750.75.	10/14/2025
Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, Author	This addendum to the agreement approved by Directorial Order #36136 between Lincoln City Libraries and Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve gives permission from the Author to film the event and use the footage for viewing online by the Lincoln Community.	10/15/2025
Francie and Finch Bookshop, LLC	To provide staff and copies of "Dust Child" for sale for the Author Reception and the "One Book One Lincoln Presents: An Evening with Nguyen Phan Que Mai, Author of Dust Child" event on the dates and times in the agreement.	10/15/2025
Dr. Kelly Stage	Dr. Stage will provide information about, and a demonstration of skills from the medieval and Renaissance periods as part of the Mini RenFaire at Walt Branch Library on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at no cost.	10/1/2025
Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, Author	Author will work with the Indian Center, Inc. to bring a discussion of her latest children's chapter book, Summer of the Bone Horses, and the transformative power of storytelling and the honoring of Indigenous voices to Eiseley Branch Library on 10/15/25 at a cost not to exceed \$250.	10/1/2025
What if Puppets, a 501(c)3 organization	To provide professional puppeteer(s) to present the program, "Ringo's Sing Along Road Trip" at Gere Branch Library on 1/17/26 for two shows at a cost not to exceed \$1,200.	10/7/2025
Que Thi Nguyen; Pen name Nguyen Phan Que Mai	Author will provide a program to Lincoln City Libraries and the public in the form of an author visit and associated activities detailed in the agreement that celebrate the 2025 winning book, Dust Child, for the annual One Book One Lincoln program, on Monday, November 3, 2025 for a cost of a \$12,000 honorarium plus agreed upon expenses.	10/1/2025
Foundry Community Foundation	For providing an intern who will obtain professional and practical experience in her concentration under the supervision and guidance of Lincoln City Libraries staff pursuant to the Internship Program description attached to the agreement. at a cost not to exceed \$3,600.00.	10/2/2025



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

MEMORANDUM

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

RECAP OF EXPENDITURES - OCTOBER 2025

Library Operational Budget - FY 2025-26	\$ 1,300,582.30	
Library Enc/Reapp - From FY 2024-25	-	
Heritage Room Fund - FY 2025-26	4,577.15	
Polley Music Library - FY 2025-26	12,908.87	
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Total Operational Expenditures		\$ 1,318,068.32
Grants	\$ 930.42	
Hompes Fund	27.04	
Keno	49,976.23	
Miscellaneous Library Donations Funds	13,920.93	
Capital Improvements	369,299.42	
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Total Expenditures - Other Funds		434,154.04
		<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 1,752,222.36



Director's Report for October 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*

Library staff continually work at connecting with residents to promote, encourage, and introduce library services. Indeed, our libraries are more than books and have the ability to connect patrons to a world of resources and learning in our buildings and at their fingertips. We offer a wealth of programming for all ages, and online resources that complement our physical collection and offer the convenience of access online and at home. Staff participate in outreach activities and front desk conversations to sign up new cardholders, and demonstrate through tours, hands-on demonstrations, and handouts the abundance of good things that happen every day at LCL.

The NLHA's Annual Spelling Bee took place last month and was a rousing success. FLCL's Tiffani Childress, Jennifer Waye and their committee did a great job to bring out attendees, and the crowd had a fun, competitive evening with emcee John Baylor keeping things light and loose!

A reminder that reciprocal borrowing will end between Omaha Public Library and Lincoln City Libraries on December 31. We'll deliver news to our patrons beginning December 1 via email and direct notifications to current OPL users of LCL resources. Our LCL patrons who use OPL have already received a notification from Omaha.

Central Library News

- Sampson Construction was awarded the CMaR work, and our team is working quickly to get them onboarded and up to date so they can begin their work soon. Part of the process will approving a contract with them at City Council in December.
- The Mill Coffee was awarded the coffee shop RFP, and next steps are to finalize the design-assist agreement (to be signed any day), and have them begin working with the architects; and then to finalize a lease agreement which will also come before this Board and City Council.

- We have initial cost estimates on 2nd floor partner spaces and will be working with our potential partners and architects to narrow costs and land on more specific layout and design needs, and then ultimately sign agreements there as well.
- Schematic Design documentation was just received (milestone delivery date was met, 11/14/25). Next phase is design development and working more closely with Sampson to begin creating everything necessary for bid packages. Design development is scheduled to wrap up by end of February 2026.
- The project is officially seeking two “Green Globes” as part of the plan to incorporate sustainability and energy efficiency into the design of the building. This is relatively equivalent to LEED silver status. As a reminder, Green Globes is another certification process often used by local governments as an alternative to the more costly LEED process.

Examples of the Library's Strategic Plan in Action

- Tami R. (Eiseley) reported on this year's Pumpkin and Print Program: We had 10 kids participate in Pumpkins in Print this year (half of what we had last year). What we lacked in participants this year, we made up for in votes with a whopping 215 votes (double from last year). We had some showstoppers. The age level of 6-11 ended in a tie, literally coming down to the last vote! Staff and patrons look forward to this program every year.
- A young patron came in to Eiseley Branch with her mom the evening before Halloween. Celeste W. was helping them. Celeste said to the young girl “You're Katniss!” The patron was so happy to be recognized! Her mother told Celeste that they had been to a couple other places that evening and the girl was disappointed that no one recognized who she was supposed to be. Her mother told her “Wait until we get to the library. They'll know who you are!” And she was right! Celeste made that young patron's day.
- During regular programming in September at Eiseley and Williams Branches, Pam C. reached 34 children at Project Future in Air Park. Celeste W. provided storytime for 52 children at Project Future in the Highlands. At Williams, Pam C. also provided Family Storytime to 37 patrons and Stay and Play to 43 patrons. Williams staff checked out resources to 73 Park & Rec Students during their biweekly visits. At Eiseley, Tami B. reached 57 children through pre-school storytime. Susan S. reached 140 toddlers through toddler storytime. Susan also provided storytime programming at Belmont Preschool for 40 children, and reached 73 patrons through evening preschool storytime at Eiseley. Stay and Play at Eiseley was attended by 368 children.
- Maddie O. provided interactive storytimes to 91 children during Wee Workout Sessions, and Celeste W. provided Baby Storytime to 41 participants.

- Heritage Room Curator, Deb Arenz presented a program about the Heritage Room and Nebraska authors at The Landing Retirement Community on October 14 and 35 people attended.
- Library services were affected by two major tech incidents in October. On October 20, some of our most popular online resources, including Hoopla and Ancestry, were unavailable for several hours due to an Amazon Web Services outage, and on October 29, the Library website was down a total of 13 times in seven hours for periods ranging from less than a minute to almost two and a half hours, due to a widespread Microsoft Azure outage, but our Virtual Services team worked hard at attending to the outages and keeping staff (and patrons!) informed along the way.

Dear Susan Steider

Thank you for making me interested in some books. I enjoyed that you had a good sense of humor. I thought it was interesting that you got me into books because I don't really like books. My favorite book you talked about was Also In The Water. I am thankful I got the opportunity to hear you talk. Sincerely, Joshua

The Primary Pieces 2022

Thank you note delivered to staff at Eisely Branch.

- October is traditionally a busy month at the Northeast Service Unit, and this year proved no exception. Eight of NESU's 12 classified employees participated in a total of 7 outreach events – sharing information about Lincoln City Libraries with 3,041 individuals.
- Bethany BookTalks continued this month. Combined attendance at the 5 BookTalks sessions in October was 95. This is even higher than attendance at Bethany Branch Preschool Storytimes which had 92 attendees at 5 sessions. The highest BookTalks attendance of the month took place 10/03/2025. The ever-popular dynamic duo of Stephanie E. and Karrie S. presented to a crowd of 28!
- Marie' M. (NESU) reported 10/11/2025, "An older gentleman with an 'I love Brooklyn' shirt came into Bethany. He said he didn't want a library card but just wanted to read in-house, so he sat for awhile and read. Later, he brought up a cookbook and said that he *did* in fact want a library card because he wanted to check out the book. He told me it was perfect because he loves to cook with his grandchildren, which he described to me with much animation and tenderness. He said, "This will be *perfect* for me and my grandbabies," and he seemed so pleased. I am happy to think of him creating more happy memories with his grandkids by using our materials from Bethany Branch! It was a lovely interaction."

- Vicki C. (Walt) wrote, “A person had been reviewing current issues of the Lincoln Journal Star for articles related to a specific topic. I used the Lincoln Journal Star Image Edition from NewsBank in our online databases and was able to locate additional articles over a year old in a matter of minutes. We were both surprised, yet very encouraged that this information could be found so quickly and prints could be made so easily, just as they appeared in the newspaper.”
- Wyatt P. (Walt), Selena S. (Eiseley/Williams), and Yoel S. T. (Gere/South) completed the most recent round of Technology Basics workshops, teaching learners Videoconferencing Basics and Mobile Device Basics. 20 people attended. As part of this grant funded project, Wyatt is also providing Tech Time appointments at Walt and met with three learners in October.
- Jessica S. wrote, “The costumed character, Pete the Cat, visited Saturday Family Storytime on 10/25 with 125 attendees! Walt’s own Laurie J. volunteered to wear the costume and she did a great job with the kids, especially one overzealous child that was a self-proclaimed HUGE Pete the Cat fan. I taught a Pete the Cat themed storytime first, before Pete made his appearance at the end. At the end, we called out for Pete. Once he arrived in the storytime room, he did a meet and greet and took photos with the young attendees.”
- Due to constructive complaints from library customers that Walt’s storytime crowds are large, Kate H., the Read Aloud Librarian, began offering a new Music and Movement storytime on Monday mornings at 10:15am. 20 attended the first two sessions with no marketing, so we expect that this will become a popular offering, made possible only thanks to an additional staff person.



Memory Café program at Walt Branch.

- This month, Scott S. presented a Polley program called “Slide Rules,” in which he talked about the history of slide-based instruments in the last 150 years, and performed some representative examples of music. He brought in a variety of instruments (dobro, lap steel, weissenborn, mohan veena, and tanpura/swarmandal) to show/explain to attendees, along with a powerpoint presentation. Along with bass player Eric Aspengren, He played examples of Hawaiian, country, Americana, Bollywood, and Hindistanti-influenced music using each of the instruments. We had 7 attendees and some good questions!

Top Twenty Website Pages for October 2025:

Page title	Views
Home	45,362
Locations and Hours	11,427
Get a Library Card	1,113
Databases and Research	1,090
Storytimes	932
Due and Renew	808
Print, Scan and Copy	801
One Book One Lincoln	794
eBooks and Audiobooks	777
Kids	717
New Books and DVDs	650
Borrow and Learn	635
3D Printing Request	630
Our Apps	610

Ryan Wieber,
Library Director
11.14.25

Lincoln City Libraries
October 2025 Use Report

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits			October 2025 Other Use					October 2024 Other Use					Change: Total Other Use
	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	Change	Oct 2025	Oct 2024	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	12,906	12,886	0.16%	10,840	11,090	-2.25%	2,747	1,094	243	58	4,142	2,630	796	308	65	3,799	9.03%
Anderson Branch Library	12,545	12,100	3.68%	6,486	6,229	4.13%	765	3,521	203	0	4,489	900	3,105	288	0	4,293	4.57%
Bethany Branch Library	8,062	8,339	-3.32%	2,926	3,153	-7.20%	232	283	0	0	515	219	235	0	0	454	13.44%
Eiseley Branch Library	20,499	21,564	-4.94%	9,320	10,038	-7.15%	1,280	3,027	404	330	5,041	1,513	2,603	379	313	4,808	4.85%
Gere Branch Library	50,381	55,000	-8.40%	15,439	19,966	-22.67%	1,156	3,528	514	341	5,539	1,243	2,167	671	356	4,437	24.84%
South Branch Library	9,870	9,039	9.19%	4,297	4,180	2.80%	510	357	0	0	867	481	225	0	0	706	22.80%
Walt Branch Library	41,003	38,321	7.00%	14,157	13,358	5.98%	1,519	2,596	338	424	4,877	1,019	1,666	333	421	3,439	41.81%
Williams Branch Library	970	1,001	-3.10%	1,303	1,257	3.66%	303	380	1	0	684	224	580	0	0	804	-14.93%
Lied Bookmobile	1,843	1,781	3.48%	432	579	-25.39%	0	78	0	0	78	0	55	0	0	55	41.82%
InterLibrary Loan	169	191	-11.52%	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	516	0	0	516	0	445	0	0	445	15.96%
SUBTOTAL	158,248	160,222	-1.23%	65,200	69,850	-6.66%	8,512	15,380	1,703	1,153	26,748	8,229	11,877	1,979	1,155	23,240	15.09%
DownloadStream Audio	49,861	46,026	8.33%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	34,058	33,537	1.55%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	1,097	1,098	-0.09%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	85,016	80,661	5.40%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	243,264	240,883	0.99%	65,200	69,850	-6.66%	8,512	15,380	1,703	1,153	26,748	8,229	11,877	1,979	1,155	23,240	15.09%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2025	2024	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged	672	604	11.26%
Owned	341,701	306,813	74,104	32,508	755,126	Active			
Added	2,145	1,524	250	110	4,029	Resident	148,639	148,231	0.28%
Withdrawn	-2,046	-2,510	-803	-112	-5,471	Library OneCard	57,617	52,513	9.72%
Current	341,800	305,827	73,551	32,506	753,684	County	8,730	8,952	-2.48%
						NonResident	997	952	4.73%
						Reciprocal	493	490	0.61%
						Limited Use	10,740	9,861	8.91%
						Total Active	227,216	220,999	2.81%

	2025	2024	Change
WiFi Sessions	145,456	137,856	5.51%
WiFi Users	9,492	9,833	-3.47%
Website Users	80,412	88,755	-9.40%
Website Sessions	127,989	122,339	4.62%
Database Use	8,570	6,830	25.48%

October 2025 Use Compared to October 2024
Lincoln City Libraries

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Loan Change	2025	2024	Change
BMPL	10,317	10,445	-1.23%	2,589	2,441	6.06%	12,906	12,886	0.16%
Anderson	10,660	9,719	9.68%	1,885	2,381	-20.83%	12,545	12,100	3.68%
Bethany	7,169	7,467	-3.99%	893	872	2.41%	8,062	8,339	-3.32%
Eiseley	18,075	19,253	-6.12%	2,424	2,311	4.89%	20,499	21,564	-4.94%
Gere	44,676	48,426	-7.74%	5,705	6,574	-13.22%	50,381	55,000	-8.40%
South	8,476	7,916	7.07%	1,394	1,123	24.13%	9,870	9,039	9.19%
Walt	36,260	34,097	6.34%	4,743	4,224	12.29%	41,003	38,321	7.00%
Williams	799	792	0.88%	171	209	-18.18%	970	1,001	-3.10%
Lied Bookmobile	1,724	1,628	5.90%	119	153	-22.22%	1,843	1,781	3.48%
InterLibrary Loan	169	191	-11.52%	0	0	0.00%	169	191	-11.52%
Subtotal Checkouts	138,325	139,934	-1.15%	19,923	20,288	-1.80%	158,248	160,222	-1.23%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	49,861	46,026	8.33%	49,861	46,026	8.33%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	34,058	33,537	1.55%	34,058	33,537	1.55%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,097	1,098	-0.09%	1,097	1,098	-0.09%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	138,325	139,934	-1.15%	104,939	100,949	3.95%	243,264	240,883	0.99%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change
BMPL	5,016	4,282	17.14%	7,890	8,604	-8.30%	10,840	11,090	-2.25%
Anderson	6,844	6,034	13.42%	5,701	6,066	-6.02%	6,486	6,229	4.13%
Bethany	5,032	5,157	-2.42%	3,030	3,182	-4.78%	2,926	3,153	-7.20%
Eiseley	13,298	14,440	-7.91%	7,201	7,124	1.08%	9,320	10,038	-7.15%
Gere	29,801	31,640	-5.81%	20,580	23,360	-11.90%	15,439	19,966	-22.67%
South	5,703	5,168	10.35%	4,167	3,871	7.65%	4,297	4,180	2.80%
Walt	27,932	26,288	6.25%	13,071	12,033	8.63%	14,157	13,358	5.98%
Williams	713	746	-4.42%	257	255	0.78%	1,303	1,257	3.66%
Lied Bookmobile	1,221	1,178	3.65%	622	603	3.15%	432	579	-25.39%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	169	191	-11.52%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	95,560	94,933	0.66%	62,688	65,289	-3.98%	65,200	69,850	-6.66%
Download/Stream Audio	7,532	6,964	8.16%	42,329	39,062	8.36%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	8,261	8,300	-0.47%	25,797	25,237	2.22%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,097	1,098	-0.09%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	111,353	110,197	1.05%	131,911	130,686	0.94%	65,200	69,850	-6.66%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change
BMPL	929	138	573.19%	165	658	-74.92%	2,747	2,630	4.45%
Anderson	3,498	3,093	13.09%	23	12	91.67%	765	900	-15.00%
Bethany	188	187	0.53%	95	48	97.92%	232	219	5.94%
Eiseley	2,965	2,584	14.74%	62	19	226.32%	1,280	1,513	-15.40%
Gere	3,241	2,003	61.81%	287	164	75.00%	1,156	1,243	-7.00%
South	344	215	60.00%	13	10	30.00%	510	481	6.03%
Walt	2,265	1,425	58.95%	331	241	37.34%	1,519	1,019	49.07%
Williams	380	571	-33.45%	0	9	-100.00%	303	224	35.27%
Lied Bookmobile	30	0	0.00%	48	55	-12.73%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	16	0	0.00%	500	445	12.36%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	13,856	10,216	35.63%	1,524	1,661	-8.25%	8,512	8,229	3.44%

Location	Meeting Room Attendance		Meeting Room Att Change	Study Room Attendance		Study Room Att Change	2025	2024	
	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change			
BMPL	243	308	-21.10%	58	65	-10.77%			0.00%
Anderson	203	288	-29.51%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Eiseley	404	379	6.60%	330	313	5.43%			0.00%
Gere	514	671	-23.40%	341	356	-4.21%			0.00%
South	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Walt	338	333	1.50%	424	421	0.71%			0.00%
Williams	1	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
TOTAL	1,703	1,979	-13.95%	1,153	1,155	-0.17%	0	0	0.00%

Lincoln City Libraries
October 2025 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	25,053	25,454	-1.58%	21,090	25,344	-16.79%
Anderson Branch	25,070	23,935	4.74%	12,672	11,918	6.33%
Bethany Branch	15,636	15,383	1.64%	5,621	5,917	-5.00%
Eiseley Branch	40,773	43,379	-6.01%	18,317	19,549	-6.30%
Gere Branch	102,213	107,836	-5.21%	31,117	38,670	-19.53%
South Branch	19,169	17,609	8.86%	8,316	8,032	3.54%
Walt Branch	81,461	76,010	7.17%	27,274	25,639	6.38%
Williams Branch	1,935	1,973	-1.93%	2,822	2,268	24.43%
Lied Bookmobile	3,267	3,238	0.90%	667	878	-24.03%
InterLibrary Loan	333	387	-13.95%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	314,910	315,204	-0.09%	127,896	138,215	-7.47%
DownloadStream Audio	99,042	89,794	10.30%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	68,208	63,626	7.20%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	2,170	2,109	2.89%	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	169,420	155,529	8.93%	0	0	0.00%
Total	484,330	470,733	2.89%	127,896	138,215	-7.47%

	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registration	235	123	91.06%
Overall Registrations	2,540	2,137	18.86%

	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
WiFi Sessions	280,159	261,990	6.93%
WiFi Users	18,429	19,158	-3.81%
Website Users	150,694	175,259	-14.02%
Website Sessions	251,795	240,196	4.83%
Database Use	17,711	13,856	27.82%

Year-to-Date 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	4,380	2,673	475	269	7,797
Withdrawn YTD	-4,485	-4,530	-1,368	-248	-10,631
Current - 10/31/2024	341,797	305,827	73,551	32,506	753,681

Location	Other Use														
	Computer Reservations FY 25-26 YTD	Computer Reservations FY 24-25	YTD Change	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 25-26 YTD	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change	Meeting Room Attendance FY 25-26 YTD	Meeting Room Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change	Study Room Attendance FY 25-26 YTD	Study Room Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change	Total Other Use FY 25-26	Total Other Use FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
Bennett Martin Public Library	5,435	5,221	4.10%	1,843	1,900	-3.00%	527	498	5.82%	126	116	8.62%	7,931	7,735	2.53%
Anderson Branch	1,480	1,778	-16.76%	4,150	3,417	21.45%	299	468	-36.11%	0	0	0.00%	5,929	5,663	4.70%
Bethany Branch	500	421	18.76%	527	433	21.71%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,027	854	20.26%
Eiseley Branch	2,583	3,092	-16.46%	3,973	3,898	1.92%	683	644	6.06%	716	600	19.33%	7,955	8,234	-3.39%
Gere Branch	2,346	2,245	4.50%	5,732	3,605	59.00%	983	1,213	-18.96%	635	696	-8.76%	9,696	7,759	24.96%
South Branch	980	1,014	-3.35%	641	442	45.02%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,621	1,456	11.33%
Walt Branch	2,782	1,962	41.79%	4,530	3,065	47.80%	812	727	11.69%	820	767	6.91%	8,944	6,521	37.16%
Williams Branch	694	399	73.93%	559	767	-27.12%	1	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,254	1,166	7.55%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	171	110	55.45%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	171	110	55.45%
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%	1,403	445	215.28%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,403	445	215.28%
Total	16,800	16,132	4.14%	23,529	18,082	30.12%	3,305	3,550	-6.90%	2297	2,179	5.42%	45,931	39,943	14.99%

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

Monthly Categorical Report

October 31, 2025

	Budget Amount	Budgeted Year-to-Date	Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
Administration-Div. 1					
Personnel	\$ 1,039,673.00	\$ 173,278.83	\$ 182,927.17	\$ 856,745.83	\$ 108,934.51
Supplies	33,000.00	5,500.00	1,014.13	31,985.87	333.71
Services & Charges	176,549.00	29,424.83	135,853.28	40,695.72	128,246.46
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,249,222.00	\$ 208,203.67	\$ 319,794.58	\$ 929,427.42	\$ 237,514.68
Percent Expended		16.67%	25.60%		
Buildings & Grounds-Div. 2					
Personnel	\$ 141,745.00	\$ 23,624.17	\$ 26,109.07	\$ 115,635.93	\$ 15,352.36
Supplies	27,000.00	4,500.00	23,866.39	3,133.61	8,197.78
Services & Charges	1,211,499.00	201,916.50	244,328.51	967,170.49	107,814.37
Other	163,396.00	27,232.67	-	163,396.00	-
Total	\$ 1,543,640.00	\$ 257,273.33	\$ 294,303.97	\$ 1,249,336.03	\$ 131,364.51
Percent Expended		16.67%	19.07%		
Public Service-Div. 3					
Personnel	\$ 6,608,087.00	\$ 1,101,347.83	\$ 1,148,147.94	\$ 5,459,939.06	\$ 677,640.93
Supplies	90,250.00	15,041.67	4,007.86	86,242.14	2,923.13
Services & Charges	61,700.00	10,283.33	13,091.78	48,608.22	6,708.38
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 6,760,037.00	\$ 1,126,672.83	\$ 1,165,247.58	\$ 5,594,789.42	\$ 687,272.44
Percent Expended		16.67%	17.24%		
Support Services-Div. 4					
Personnel	\$ 1,365,832.00	\$ 227,638.67	\$ 220,305.00	\$ 1,145,527.00	\$ 128,589.53
Supplies	62,000.00	10,333.33	13,831.72	48,168.28	8,174.05
Services & Charges	452,923.00	75,487.17	70,344.94	382,578.06	19,061.19
Other	992,472.00	165,412.00	153,524.72	838,947.28	88,605.90
Total	\$ 2,873,227.00	\$ 478,871.17	\$ 458,006.38	\$ 2,415,220.62	\$ 244,430.67
Percent Expended		16.67%	15.94%		
Total Library Operational					
Personnel	\$ 9,155,337.00	\$ 1,525,889.50	\$ 1,577,489.18	\$ 7,577,847.82	\$ 930,517.33
Supplies	212,250.00	35,375.00	42,720.10	169,529.90	19,628.67
Services & Charges	1,902,671.00	317,111.83	463,618.51	1,439,052.49	261,830.40
Other	1,155,868.00	192,644.67	153,524.72	1,002,343.28	88,605.90
Total	\$ 12,426,126.00	\$ 2,071,021.00	\$ 2,237,352.51	\$ 10,188,773.49	\$ 1,300,582.30
Percent Expended		16.67%	18.01%		
Other Library Fund Appropriations	Amount Appropriated		Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
FY 2024-25 Reappropriated	\$ 301,992.00		\$ 57,961.41	\$ 244,030.59	\$ -

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES - FUND BALANCES

October 2025

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expended	Ending Balance
<u>GRANT FUNDS</u>				
Net Lender Fund	\$ 2,122.11	\$ -	\$ -	2,122.11
NLC Misc Grants	\$ 7,437.29	\$ -	\$ (45.65)	7,482.94
NLC Youth Grant 2024	1,323.29	-	-	1,323.29
NLC NE eReads Grant 2025	55,020.00	-	-	55,020.00
State Aid 2024	40,284.68	350.00	976.07	39,658.61
State Aid 2025	53,144.00	-	-	53,144.00

DONATED FUNDS

Heritage Room	\$ 187,520.33	\$ -	\$ 4,577.15	182,943.18
Polley Music Library	251,846.72	-	12,908.87	238,937.85
Joseph J. Hompes	159,911.18	-	27.04	159,884.14
Misc. Library Donations	821,869.96	-	13,920.93	807,949.03
Alice Nielsen	89,150.71	-	-	89,150.71
Dorothy Holland	128,239.13	-	-	128,239.13
Glennis Leapley	7,345.97	-	-	7,345.97
Lincoln Cares	35,359.74	333.60	-	35,693.34

APPROPRIATED FUNDS

	Budget	Expended Oct 2025	Exp-to-Date	Balance
Heritage Room FY 2025-26	\$ 36,153.00	\$ 4,577.15	\$ 7,478.00	28,675.00
Polley Music Library FY 2025-26	124,459.00	12,908.87	22,299.29	102,159.71
Keno FY 2024-25	924,000.00	49,976.23	130,854.49	793,145.51
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 New Central Library	5,200,000.00	369,299.42	5,204,554.26	(4,554.26)

Library Board Meetings 2026

Every 3rd Tuesday

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Tuesday, January 20, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Martin Public Library
Tuesday, February 17, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Martin Public Library
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Martin Public Library
Tuesday, April 21, 2026	6:00 p.m.	Eiseley Branch Library
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Martin Public Library
Tuesday, June 16, 2026	6:00 p.m.	Anderson Branch Library
Tuesday, July 21, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Martin Public Library
Tuesday, August 18, 2026	6:00 p.m.	Gere Branch Library
Tuesday, September 15, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Martin Public Library
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	6:00 p.m.	Walt Branch Library
Tuesday, November 17, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Martin Public Library
Tuesday, December 15, 2026	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Martin Public Library

Lincoln City Libraries
Polley Music Library Annual Report 2025
Submitted by Scott Scholz, Polley Music Librarian

The Polley Music Library completed 43 years of service to the public in September 2025. This document will highlight services provided in 2025, and describe plans for services in 2026. We enjoyed a great year with continued expansion of the diversity and quantity of Polley programming.

Highlights FY 2024-25 (September 2024-August 2025)

Public Service/Staffing

The Polley Music Library catalogued music collection remained available to the public throughout the 2024-25 year, with direct access to the shelves any time Bennett Martin Public Library (BMPL) was open. As in previous years, Polley offered twenty hours of public service per week provided by the Polley Music Librarian, but I assisted the public as needed during any other hours I was in the library. In addition to visitors to Polley, many patrons continued to request materials by telephone, email, social media, and through the Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) website, habits that are likely to continue. Similar to other years, many holds were delivered to other branches for more convenient pickup.

Collections

I ordered just under 300 new books this year. Our periodical subscriptions remained the same. The Music Online databases provided by Polley continue to see some steady usage as well.

Guitars and ukuleles continue to be very popular circulation items. I continue to do basic repairs to instruments as needed, and they're all holding up well. The main problem with guitar circulation has proven to be guitars simply not being returned, however, and I did order 10 new guitars this year to keep circulation steady. This time, I went with Orangewood guitars, an online company that makes instruments that play well above their budget costs, and response to those has been very positive.

Donations to Polley stayed at about the same levels as last year. As usual, most were passed through for eventual use at book sales. However, we added a few more donations than most years to our collection, as we received some high-quality donations from music students/professors this year.

We completed a weeding of the Polley collection this year, the first since I started in 2019. As part of this, we also reorganized parts of the Polley area to be more visually appealing and less overwhelming. Special thanks to BMPL Librarian Jen Jackson for her help on this—in particular, she had a fantastic idea to use old records as our shelf location markers going forward, which adds a cool “record store vibe,” and also makes it easy to shift items and simply move the records to the new location without the hassles of labels attached to shelving units. Local record stores contributed most of the records we used for this.

Outreach/Collaboration

Collaborations between Polley and other organizations continued to make a difference this year. We partnered again with the newly-reformed Lincoln Arts Council, and were able to bring Music Studio LNK to the library for a series of summer events for kids. One Polley event involved hosting an all-district LPS

ensemble. Our relationship with KZUM has continued to expand: in addition to the Polley program, LCL is producing some other programming and promotions through the station.

I'm especially excited about the work done by the Music District Advisory Council this year, which included completion of 2 major projects related to the group. The first was the Music Box (MBX) facility, which had a ribbon-cutting in April, but more formally opened to the public in September (more on that in next year's report). In July, the work of the Council and the Downtown Lincoln Association led to the Honorary renaming of 14th Street from N to P as "Boehmer Street," after the long-time owner of the Zoo Bar. This project also included a website, <https://boehmerstreet.com/>.

Like last year, we featured a February display in the Polley area in collaboration with the Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society, an organization from New Jersey that organized an international call for having displays about the history of black music, drawing from a shared curation list.

I gave a Bethany Book Talk in March, where I focused on 10 of the most interesting music-related books from the last year. We had 8 attendees.

I continued producing the weekly Polley Music Library show, which airs twice each weekend on 89.3 FM KZUM and is archived on Mixcloud: https://www.mixcloud.com/Polley_Music_Library/. I focused mostly on booktalk show formats this year, featuring books from the Polley collection about a diverse range of musical styles and backgrounds, followed by relevant listening examples. We passed the 300 program mark this year. For now, the show also remains available for public/community radio syndication through the Public Radio Exchange (PRX) platform, but with the defunding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the future of PRX is uncertain.

Through the end of 2024, I produced one or two e-newsletters each month, highlighting new radio and programming, upcoming Polley events, our songwriting club and guitar lending programs, and new book arrivals. Sadly, the Booksite/Bookletters service we used to produce these ceased operations at the end of 2024. At the moment, we don't have a viable replacement for this service.

In October, I was part of a panel of a podcasting/radio production panel at the Nebraska Library Association annual conference in Kearney.

In July, I was a guest on the local "Scratch the Vinyl" music podcast, where we primarily talked about the music library.

As mentioned in previous years, I continue to feel slightly hamstrung with the city's 2022 Social Media Policy that eliminated the Polley Facebook and Twitter pages. Now that Polley is hosting so many events, it's especially important to get the word out through as many media formats as possible. The monthly newsletter might help a little, but I suspect that the main demographic for Polley events tends to get information through social media.

Programming/Events

We had another diverse year of events at Polley. Not counting the monthly songwriting club, we had 16 events this year, just under the peak of 19 last year. While my general goal is to host around one event per month on average, we were able to work with partners to add additional programs at minimal expense. I continued to try to mix performances with more training/educational-oriented and

participatory events, as well as including some programming aimed at younger audiences, which we started last year.

In September, we had our second Surrealist Games event, and I ramped up the musical elements of the games by bringing in a selection of unusual new electronic instruments for people to try. We only had 3 attendees, but they were very interactive and enjoyed the event.

In October, we had an event aimed at kids featuring world-renowned Lincoln instrument inventor Jay Kreimer. The original plan was to let the little ones play a range of the instruments Jay uses in his own work, and then show them how to think about sound and make their own simple experimental instruments. As it turned out, all of the kids (and many of their parents!) were so excited to play with the instruments that we decided to let them have an hour of self-discovery, and they played together and alone, learning about music and the nature of sound independently. In particular, I was struck by how inventive everyone was using Jay's "sound table" device, which amplifies very quiet objects placed onto its surface. There were about 20 attendees.

We had 2 events in November. Lincoln Public Schools all-district mariachi band, Los Mariachis de la Ciudad Estrella, performed on 1st floor of BMPL, and there were around 70 attendees altogether. Later in the month, we had Lincoln's own Bolzen Beer Band, a punk-polka trio that has performed around the world, including Oktoberfest celebrations in Germany, perform on 2nd floor (after an invigorating walk around the library playing to encourage folks to join them upstairs). They had 30 attendees.

In December, we had a fascinating book talk with Omaha author Caitlin Cass. She discussed her latest book, "Suffrage Song," which details the long history of the suffrage movement in the United States (which also included a lot of music in its early days). She prepared a fantastic PowerPoint to accompany her talk, which covered both the book and her process for creating graphic novels. The audience of 8 had some great questions, and Cass was very inspiring to young authors and writers.

Composer Gary Bragg visited Polley from Colorado in January, and spoke about his experiences writing musicals, detailing the complexities of getting them staged. He also played a couple of tunes from his latest record, on which I accompanied him on lap steel. We had 14 attendees.

Long-time Lincolnite Marc Myers performed under his multimedia Abcess Grenk moniker in February, under which he recently released an album on a label from North Carolina. He talked about the project, which has been ongoing for decades, and his performance included a combination of synthesizers, guitars, and effects. 9 people attended.

I hosted our March event, which was called "Pedal Power." It was designed to explain and demonstrate the complicated world of effects pedals used by guitarists (and they can be used for many other instruments and in recording studio environments, too). I brought in 4 of my own pedalboard setups to demonstrate, along with a guitar, a bass ukulele, an electrified kalimba (thumb piano), and a drum machine, so I could show how to approach building sounds using different kinds of instruments with different considerations. Unfortunately, we only had 2 attendees, but I got several messages from people who had other commitments. I'll likely try this again and hope for fewer competing events, as questions about effects pedals have been among the most common questions asked of me.

In May, we had a fascinating event about the history of fakebooks, featuring the Evan LeBouef Quartet. This idea first came to me as the result of a donation that included a number of "Tune-Dex" cards, which

were the precursor to fakebooks used by jazz musicians to play current pop hits from the 1940s to the 60s. Evan and his bandmates played some familiar and obscure selections from Tune-Dex cards, explained how these grew into fakebooks and the famous “Real Book” made by Berklee¹ students in the late 1970s, which has been used by jazz musicians worldwide ever since. They made a number of insightful points, too, such as how some tunes only exist now as obscure 45 RPM singles and even rarer Tune-Dex cards, that errors in fakebooks over time have changed how some songs have been played for generations, and how selecting tunes for fakebooks has contributed to creating the jazz canon, for better or worse (sometimes worse, when great songs are left out). We had 5 attendees.

In June and July, we had a pair of improvising duos perform. Guitarist Cole Kempcke and drummer Kendall Wooden came to us from Omaha in June, and played some fantastic free improvisations that got very adventurous, but always remained anchored by great drum grooves. There were 10 attendees. Smith & Jessen were featured in July, a sax/drums free jazz duo from Omaha who have gotten national attention in recent years. They played several long improvised pieces, followed by a lively discussion with the audience of 18.

We also had Music Studio LNK back for 5 music exploration events after stroller stories in June and July, as we did last year. Altogether, they put on 5 programs with a total of 183 attendees.

The Polley songwriting/composing club continues to meet monthly, with typically 4-5 attendees (though there are around 10 different people that come occasionally as well).

Technology/Facilities

Early in this fiscal year, we explored the possibility of converting the 2nd floor training lab between Polley and the biographies area into a recording studio. I provided a basic description of what would need to be done and some equipment estimates to administration. However, when the new Central Library project became a reality, that was set aside, and instead I’m focusing on finding the right balance of amenities to offer in the new library.

Although there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Music Box (MBX) facility across the street in April, the space wasn’t fully ready for public use until September of this year, and I’ll detail the beginnings of that process in next year’s report. I started working with the 2 people chosen as staff for MBX in June, scheduling some Polley events to start there in September. Because the space is so music-specific, it only makes sense to do some Polley programming there, as it’s another city asset, and it’s just across the street, at least for now.

Plans for FY 2024-25

I plan to continue with performance and training-oriented Polley events in the next year, and I’ll probably be doing a mixture of events in BMPL and MBX, depending on the technical parameters of the events and anticipated attendance. Although this is outside of the scope of this year’s report, I’ve started getting some technical questions related to the space from the new users (“members”) who have started using it since September ’25, and it’s likely that I’ll assume a bit of an immediate tech support role for the space when asked, since I have a background in audio gear/recording, and I’m just

¹ Berklee Online, a Professional and Continuing Education Association based in Boston, MA. Website: online.berklee.edu

across the street. I think having MBX open for at least a couple of years before Polley relocates to the new central library will be beneficial for both places, as I'll be able to let some new audiences know about Polley's resources, while also taking advantage of the upscale amenities in MBX for our own programming.

Most of my longer-range thinking in the coming year will be focused on Polley's footprint in the new Central Library, of course. I want to make sure that we have a good balance of amenities to offer patrons as well, while also balancing those needs with new resources like MBX and the new UNL music building. Potential tenant partners in the new library space may also have an impact on this planning, and I'm excited about those possibilities! We're going to create a new space that will be a hub of support, resources, and inspiration for current and future generations of Lincoln musicians.