



Vision

MPL is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee.

Mission

Inspiration starts here – we help people read, learn, and connect.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

4:00 p.m.

**Central Library
Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

WELCOME & ROLL CALL

4:00 – 4:05

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:05 – 4:10

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

4:10 – 4:20

1. **Trustee Remembrance.** Vice-President Michele Bria will present a resolution for MPL Board President Mark Sain.

Attachment A, page 4

BOARD EDUCATION

4:20 – 4:30

2. **Vocera Demonstration.** Karli Pederson, Associate Library Director - Library Information Technology and Technical Services, will present a demonstration of the Vocera communications tool.

CONSENT AGENDA

4:30 – 4:35

Attachment B, page 6

3. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2025**
4. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee – October 28, 2025
 - b. Building & Development Committee – November 6, 2025
5. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Report
 - c. Statistics
6. **Updated MPL Board Committee Assignments**

7. Revised 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

REPORTS

4:35 – 4:50

8. **MPL Foundation Report.** MPL Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels will present an update on fundraising and events.
9. **Services & Programs Committee Meeting.** Trustee Coggs will present action items from the November 5, 2025 meeting.

Attachment C, page 50

OLD BUSINESS

4:50 – 5:15

10. **Staffing Study Report.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns will introduce representatives from Moss Adams to present results from the 2025 staffing study.
11. **2026 Final Budget Update.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns will provide a status report regarding the Library's 2026 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

5:15 – 5:20

12. **2026 Proposed Library Hours.** The 2025 Schedule of Hours will be presented for approval.

Attachment D, page 51

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

5:20 – 5:25

13. **Holiday Book Exchange.**

CLOSING REMARKS

5:25 – 5:30

14. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment.**

REMINDER: Next scheduled meetings are:

January 8, 2026 Building & Development Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

January 15, 2026 Innovation & Strategy Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

January 27, 2026 Finance & Personnel Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:30 a.m.

January 27, 2026 Board Meeting – Central Library, 4:00 p.m.

Trustees

Vacant, *President*, Michele Bria, *Vice-President*, Teresa Mercado, *Financial Secretary*, Ald. Milele Coggs, Darryl Jackson, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Venice Williams, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, *Acting Secretary*, Rebecca Schweisberger, *Secretary's Assistant*

The Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees is an informed, dedicated group of citizens who represent a cross-section of the city of Milwaukee and are committed to supporting, developing, and advancing the library for the benefit of all residents of Milwaukee and others throughout Milwaukee County, the State of Wisconsin, and beyond. In their role as advocates and advisors, they serve the library's many patrons, its staff, the common good of the community, and this critical and enduring institution.

Persons engaged in lobbying as defined in s. 305-43-4 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances are required to register with the City Clerk's Office License Division. More information is available at www.milwaukee.gov/lobby or by calling (414) 286-2238.

Please be advised that members of the Milwaukee Common Council who are also members of this body will be in attendance at this meeting. In addition, Common Council members who are not members of this body may attend this meeting to participate or to gather information. A quorum of the Common Council or any of its standing committees may be present, but no formal Common Council action will be taken at this meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities. Make requests to the Library Director's Office at (414)286-3021, 286-2794 (FAX) or Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233 Attn: Accommodation Request.

WHEREAS,

The Milwaukee Public Library Board celebrates the life and legacy of dear colleague and friend, MPL Board President

Mark Sain

And, WHEREAS, Trustee Sain served faithfully on the MPL Board for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Sain first joined the Library Board in June 2011, during his tenure as MPS Board President, was then appointed as a citizen member by Mayor Barrett in May 2018, and reappointed by Mayor Johnson in 2024; and,

WHEREAS, Trustee Sain served in the role of Trustee, Committee Chair, and as an Officer in the position of Board President from 2022 - 2025; and,

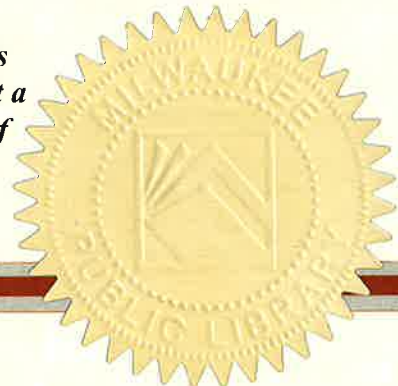
WHEREAS, during his service on the Building & Development Committee, Trustee Sain championed the transformation of MPL facilities, including redevelopment/renovation of Villard Square, East, Tippecanoe, Mitchell Street, Good Hope, and Martin Luther King branches, as well as additional renovations and updates within the historic Central Library; and,

WHEREAS, Trustee Sain's thoughtful leadership guided the library through many innovations and changes in library services, from the introduction of Wi-Fi, eBooks, and self-service check-out to sorting machines, maker spaces, and virtual programming; and,

WHEREAS, Trustee Sain was a devoted advocate for education and a steadfast champion for the Milwaukee Public Library, whose vision and generosity touched so many and will long be remembered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that members of the Board of Trustees of the Milwaukee Public Library express their deepest appreciation to Mark Sain for his many contributions to the staff and patrons of the Milwaukee Public Library; and,

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, suitably inscribed, be sent to the Sain family, and that a copy hereof be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held Tuesday, November 25, 2025.



Mark Anthony Sain
August 26, 1959 - November 2, 2025



Full obituary here:

[Mark Sain Obituary](#)

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Milwaukee Public Library in memory of Mark's dedicated and passionate leadership. Please direct gifts to the Mark Sain Memorial Fund, Milwaukee Public Library, Library Business Office, 814 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233

[Mark Sain Memorial Fund](#)

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Martin Luther King Branch
Community Room
2901 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212

- PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Ald. Milele Coggs, Darryl Jackson, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson
- EXCUSED:** Mark Sain, Teresa Mercado, Sup. Kathleen Vincent
- STAFF:** Maria Burke, Jenna Harte-Wisniewski, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Mary Lopez, Tammy Mays Wilder, Amanda McGillivray, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Tiffany Thornton, Emily Vieyra, Kelly Wochinske, Jessica Wolf
- OTHER:** Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack
Common Council: Ald. Mark Chambers, Ald. Sharlen Moore
Department of City Development: Lafayette Crump
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation: Antoine Carter

Acting Chair Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:08 p.m. on October 28, 2025. Trustees Coggs and Williams participated by phone/virtual conference. Agenda items were taken out of order but are presented here in numerical sequence.

Kelly Wochinske, Public Services Area Manager (EOS and CLCR) introduced Jenna Harte-Wisniewski, Library Services Manager – Education & Outreach Services (EOS). Ms. Harte-Wisniewski gave a brief overview of her professional experience.

BOARD AGENDA

1. **Martin Luther King Branch Introduction.** Library Services Manager Tiffany Thornton presented a brief introduction of the new Martin Luther King (MLK) branch. The presentation is attached at the end of these minutes. For over 50 years, the MLK branch has provided a space for learning, connections, and growth in the Harambee community. Artwork from the original MLK branch has been incorporated into the new space. Intentional color design is used throughout the new location to signify connection areas or reflection spaces and in honor of Dr. King's affiliation with the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Over 1,300 guests attended the grand opening celebration. The new branch has become a community hub with diverse community use and engagement. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 23, 2025**
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2025

ATTACHMENT B - P. 1 of 44
MPL CONSENT AGENDA

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 10/28/2025

4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics
5. **Updated MPL Board Committee Assignments.**
6. **Revised MPL Board Meeting Schedule.**

Chair Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-27 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

7. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Library Director Joan Johnson reported on the September 9, 2025 meeting.
 - Materials vendor Baker & Taylor has closed. MCFLS member libraries reported inconsistencies in service leading up to the closure. Libraries need to identify new vendors and sources for materials. MCFLS members are using a combination of alternate vendors to source materials to minimize the impact to the community. The closure has significantly impacted all member libraries and created a disruption in the MPL acquisitions department workflow. MPL Board Trustees will receive a report of MPL's Baker & Taylor expenditures in the last 5 years.
 - The MCFLS Board voted to approve the 2026 system budget. The budget is \$5.7M. MCFLS received a 4% increase in state aid. MPL receives 6% of the allocated state aid as compensation for serving as the Resource Library. In 2026, MPL will receive an increase of \$11,000 in 2026 for a total of \$278,000
 - The MCFLS Board approved the 2026 system plan, which outlines how the system will meet its statutory obligations to member libraries. This includes contracts and agreements, delivery services, technology services, continuing education, and collaborative initiatives with county partners.
 - Steve Hesser, MCFLS Executive Director, reported on the partnership with the Community Reintegration Center and the new Welcome Card pilot project.

Director Johnson asked for a volunteer to serve as the MPL Board liaison on the MCFLS Board. Trustee Jackson requested an informational meeting with Director Johnson and Director Hesser.

Informational item.

8. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Trustee Coggs presented the action items from the October 28, 2025 meeting. The July 22nd meeting minutes were accepted and approved. The quarterly review of fund investments and quarterly report of the internal control of the MPL Trust and Gift funds were received as informational items.
 - **The 2026 Library Trust & Gift Fund Expenditure Request.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented Library Administration's request to expend funds from the MPL investment fund in 2026. Trustees received a copy of the memo related to the request. Based on Board policy, MPL can request to withdraw 4-5% of the fund each year. Unrestricted funds will be used for

programming, marketing, and professional development. Restricted funds will be used for materials purchases. The 2026 request is \$327,000.

Trustee Spiker moved to approve the request to expend up to \$327,000 from the MPL Trust and Gift Funds for operational support in 2026. Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.

- **Gift Acceptance – Estate of Dorothy Finazzo.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared information about a gift to MPL from the estate of Dorothy Finazzo. MPL was notified earlier this year that it had been a beneficiary of Ms. Finazzo's estate. The library was bequeathed a generous gift of \$100,000, with no restriction to its use. The full amount was received in October and is currently being held in the Library's investment account.

Trustee Spiker moved to approve the request to accept the gift of \$100,000 from the estate of Dorothy Finazzo. Trustee Taylor seconded. Motion passed.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

9. **2026 Budget.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented an update on the 2026 budget and presented a memo outlining Sunday hours options; the memo is attached at the end of these minutes. MPL managers have been applying new staffing models to better understand the impact on scheduling. MPL is working collaboratively with the Mayor's team and the Common Council's Finance & Personnel Committee to find a compromise on Sunday hours and locations. MPL is using new tools to identify innovative and creative scheduling models. The Board discussed various service models and the potential impacts to staff and community. The proposed 2026 operating hours will be presented for approval at the November 25th Board meeting. Informational item.
10. **MPL Foundation Funding Priorities.** Due to loss of quorum this item was held for the October 5, 2025 Services & Programs Committee meeting.
11. **Capitol Branch Redevelopment.** Library Director Joan Johnson introduced Lafayette Crump, Commissioner of City Development, to discuss a potential mixed-use development. The City has an opportunity to partner with a developer, Gorman and Company, and a property owner, AFS Milwaukee, LLC, in a mixed-use development project that could incorporate a new library to replace the Capitol branch. The development would include other City services onsite and space for early voting. The project would also offer opportunities for new housing construction. The location is about 1.5 miles east of the current Capitol branch, in the former Walmart building at Midtown. The Mayor has allocated \$200,000 in the proposed municipal budget for MPL to engage a consultant to assess the facility and location to ensure the site is suitable and can meet MPL specifications for a new library. The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM) has been in discussion with the developer and property owner; however, this will be a joint project among several City departments. The City could be gifted 50,000 sq. ft. for municipal uses, of which, 18-19,000 could be allocated for the library. This would allow the City to save approximately \$3.5M on the white box and a potential \$1M grant for build-out funds could be awarded. This location offers MPL more square footage than the current Capitol branch, ample parking, and high visibility. The project timeline for a mixed-use branch is accelerated as the building, parking lot, and utilities are already in place. In addition to being a hub for civic amenities and community events, the project would support the local economy with increased foot traffic and support city development in the area. The location meets several components of the last Request for Proposal (RFP) issued for the Capitol branch redevelopment. The property was purchased by a private development team that is working with a housing developer on options for entity leases with the City. The housing developer's

application for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits specifically mentioned a library; however, that should not have been included until the project was further vetted and confirmed. The housing developer's application for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits specifically mentioned a library; however, that should not have been included until the project was further vetted and confirmed. The next steps are community engagement/listening sessions and issuing RFPs. Interested Trustees are invited to tour the space. Informational item.

12. **Summer Reading Program Update.** Kelly Wochinske, Library Public Services Area Manager (EOS and CLCR), presented a report on the 2025 Summer Reading Program. The children, teen, and adult Summer Reading programs have been unified as Summer with MPL, which celebrates the theme of growing through reading and learning together. The programs have the same look and feel, with fewer print pieces and a focus on participating in summer reading whether in library buildings or in the community. MPL Marketing and Communications Coordinator Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs created all of the artwork for the marketing pieces. Summer with MPL had a total of 23,086 participants: 5,113 in the library and 17,973 at 205 outreach sites. MPL distributed over 21,000 books to the community. Programming was varied and included Black Cowboys and Buffalo Soldiers, Summer Skate Parties, Elements of Hip Hop with Chess from Your Move MKE, and bicycle tune-ups from the Wisconsin Bike Federation. Outreach focused on providing resources and building the capacities of partners by sharing materials, providing lesson plans, and deposit collections. MPL participated in many events, including National Nights Out, the UNCOM Walk for Wellness celebration, and various festivals. Story times were held at Betty Brinn Children's Museum, Westlawn, and Alice's Garden. MPL is now the 'rainy day' location for Alice's Garden story times. MPL held a Youth Bookmark Contest for children and teens. The winning bookmarks were printed and are being distributed at each MPL location. Ms. Wochinske thanked all MPL staff and MPL Foundation for making this a successful summer. Informational item.
13. **Closing Remarks.** Chair Bria reminded Trustees about the upcoming Board meeting and holiday gift exchange. Trustee Taylor presented the book '*Invisible Generals*' as a gift to MPL.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of October 28, 2025 was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

A photograph of the Milwaukee Public Library Martin Luther King Branch building. The building is a modern, multi-story structure with a mix of grey, white, and yellow panels. Large glass windows and doors are visible on the ground floor. A large crowd of people is gathered in front of the building, some standing and some walking. To the right, there is a large white event tent with white plastic chairs and tables underneath it. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text "MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY" and "MARTIN LUTHER KING BRANCH" is visible on the building's facade.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
MARTIN LUTHER KING BRANCH

Martin Luther King

2025



Celebrating 50+ Years of Community Impact

- Serving the neighborhood since 1971, the Branch has provided a welcoming space for learning, connection, and community growth for generations.
- Featured bent elevated roof, clerestory windows, brown brick exterior, 15,000 sq. ft., and a community room for 100.

ATTACHMENT B - P. 6 of 44
MPL CONSENT AGENDA

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 10/28/2025

P. 11

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Renamed Martin Luther King Library (1973)
- Third Street, adjacent to the library, was renamed Martin Luther King Drive in 1984
- Portrait of Dr. King displayed in the library
 - Artist: Nancy A. Izard (1989)
 - Location: Martin Luther King Branch





King Day

- Since 2008, library opens on King Day for performances, crafts, and activities.
- Celebration has become one of the library's most attended annual events

The New Martin Luther King Branch

- Designed by Moody Nolan Architects, the largest African American-owned architecture firm in the U.S.
- 17,400 sq. ft. facility
- Third largest branch in the MPL system
- Intentional color design throughout:
 - Yellow = areas for connection
 - Blue = areas for reflection
- Part of a mixed-use development including a 42-unit apartment complex
- Serves as an anchor for the King Drive and hub for the Harambee community



New Branch Opening : September 6, 2025

- More than 1,300 guests attended the Grand Opening
- Described as “a sea of happy, and at times emotional, faces.”





A Day of Celebration

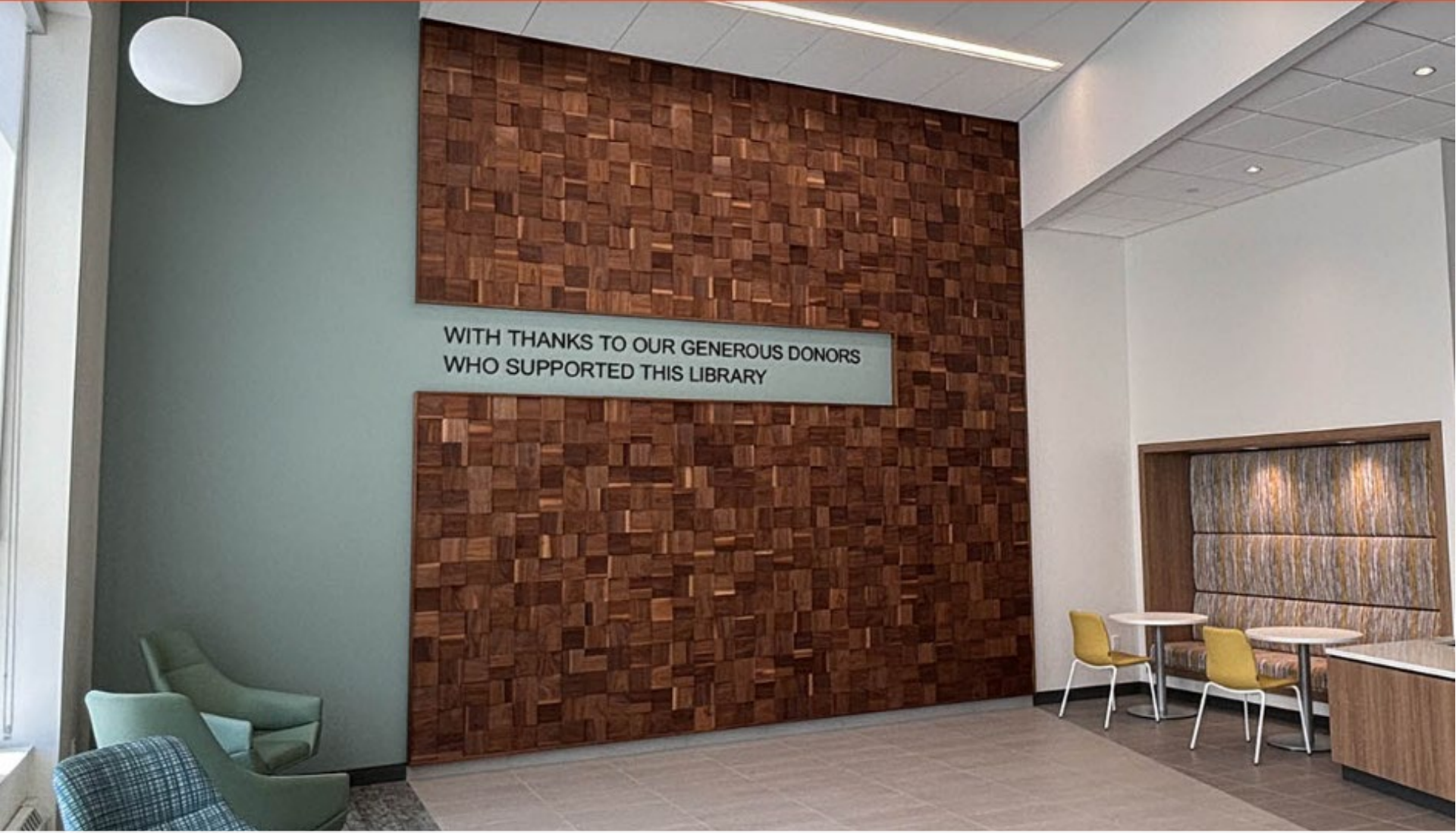
- Poetry by Poet Laureate Shelly Conley
- Storytelling, live music, dancing
- Food demo by Chef Sharrie
- Arts & crafts for all ages
- Pizza by Milwaukee Fire Department Pizza Kitchen
- Spin-the-Wheel giveaways: tote bags, earbuds, stickers, water bottles
- Festivities ran from 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ATTACHMENT B - P. 11 of 44

MPL CONSENT AGENDA

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 10/28/2025

P. 16



New King Details



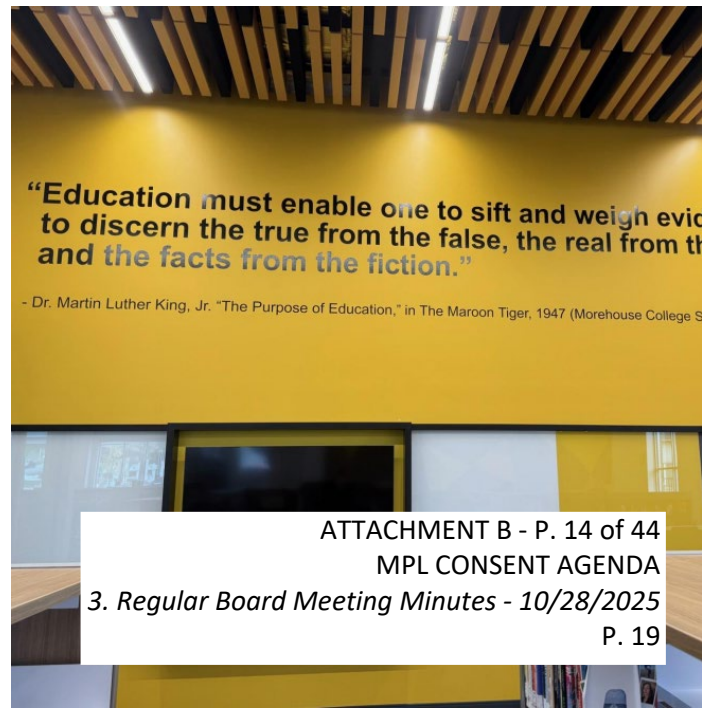
Children Space

Child-sized furniture,
6 dedicated computers, and
a boombox-inspired feature
wall with cozy reading
cubbies for kids and families.



Teen Space

A vibrant hangout area next to the Makerspace, offering cozy seating and a dedicated video gaming zone.



Amplifying Voices: The Makerspace

- Theme: 'Amplify'—honoring Dr. King's legacy through creativity and expression
- Features: recording booth, Canon DSLR, green screen, 3D printer, Apple & Dell devices, Adobe Creative Suite, Cricut, and STEAM kits





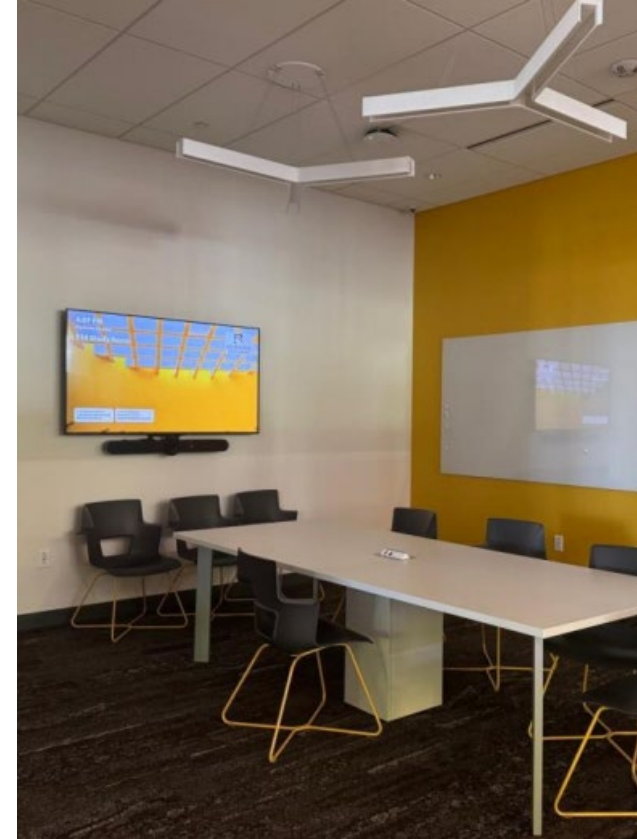
Community Room

1,800 sq ft (40x40)
the largest Community Room in
the system

Charlie Cart Features

- Mobile, hands-on learning kitchen for cooking and nutrition education
- Built-in cooking equipment
- Storage for ingredients, tools, and educational materials
- Interactive programming support for workshops, STEM, and wellness activities
- Encourages healthy eating, creativity, and community engagement





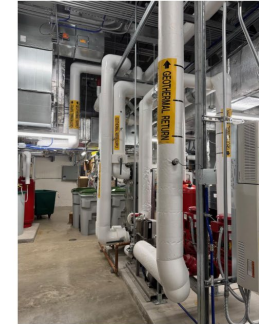
Meeting Study Rooms

3 study spaces

Moveable panel to make study room 115 & 117 into one
larger study room

Greenest library in Southeast Wisconsin

Geothermal Heating/Cooling System



Sustainable design:

- Geothermal heating/cooling, system
- Rooftop solar panels,
- Green roof
- EV charging infrastructure



ATTACHMENT B - P. 19 of 44
MPL CONSENT AGENDA

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 10/28/2025

P. 24



Community Engagement Snapshot

Library Programs & Spaces

- Strong demand for meeting and study spaces
- Wide variety of programs engaging the community

Top Activities

- Meetings & study groups
- Makerspace workshops
- Community and educational programs

Key Takeaways

- Broad and diverse community participation
- Recurring bookings highlight growing interest in library offerings

ATTACHMENT B - P. 20 of 44

MPL CONSENT AGENDA

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 10/28/2025

P. 25

Spotlighted Programs at King

- Makerspace Workshops
- Teen Zone
- Mastering LEGO
- Storytime and Playgroup
- You Build It
- Kingmakers - Fiber Arts Group



Thank You!



ATTACHMENT B - P. 22 of 44
MPL CONSENT AGENDA

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 10/28/2025
P. 27



Department of Administration
Budget and Management Division

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor

Preston Cole
Administration Director

Nik Kovac
Budget and Management Director

October 28, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Library Board of Trustees

From: Joan Johnson, Director of Milwaukee Public Library and Nathaniel Haack, Budget and Management Division

Subject: Sunday Hour Options

Dear Trustees,

The Milwaukee Public Library and the Budget and Management Division would like to provide you with cost estimates for a few different options being considered by the Milwaukee Common Council for maintaining and/or expanding Sunday hours at the Milwaukee Public Library. Below are the cost estimates and supporting information on operational impacts.

Option 1 – Status quo

Description: This reverses the 10 positions cut in the Mayor’s proposed budget and keeps Sunday hours open at Central, Tippecanoe, and Good Hope using the existing staffing model.

Amendment cost in 2026: \$755,088

Full Year cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years: \$800,000

Operational impacts: None

Option 2 – Status quo plus add Sunday hours at 2 more branches starting Mid-2026

Description: This reverses the 10 positions cut in the Mayor’s proposed budget and keeps Sunday hours open at Central, Tippecanoe, and Good Hope using the existing staffing model. This option anticipates opening 2 additional branches ~ July 1st, 2026 utilizing the existing staffing model.

Amendment cost in 2026: \$1,160,402

Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years: \$1.7 million

Operational impacts: Would require MPL to increase staffing quickly to ensure a seamless impact on patron services and would increase the usage of overtime, risking staff burnout.

ATTACHMENT B - P. 23 of 44

MPL CONSENT AGENDA

Option 3 – New staffing model at Central only, hopefully bring back Sunday hours at Good Hope and Tippecanoe mid-year

Description: Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This option would pilot this new model at Central and then, assuming the model is successful, expand Sunday hours to Good Hope and Tippecanoe mid-year 2026. The intention is to increase some staffing in 2027 and subsequent years instead of using AUX positions indefinitely.

Amendment cost in 2026: \$11,928

Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years: \$340,000

Operational impacts: This option allows MPL to experiment with staffing without a significant threat of library closures due to lack of staff availability using floating staff as the number of Sunday branches increases. If the model works and MPL is able to reopen Good Hope and Tippecanoe on Sunday, the department will likely need to use AUX employees, potentially exceeding the budgeted personnel cost adjustment and having salary overruns.

Option 4 – New staffing model at Central, Good Hope, and Tippecanoe

Description: Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This option would implement the new model at Central, Good Hope, and Tippecanoe effective January 1st.

Amendment cost in 2026: \$361,482

Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years: \$340,000

Operational impacts: Adding positions for this option helps to mitigate the potential strain on staffing levels and lowers the risk that locations may need to close due to high vacancies, PTO, staff illness, etc.

Option 5 – New staffing model plus add Sunday hours at 1 more branch starting Mid-2026

Description: Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This option would implement the new model at Central, Good Hope, and Tippecanoe effective January 1st. This option anticipates opening 1 additional branch ~ July 1st, 2026 utilizing the new staffing model.

Amendment cost in 2026: \$518,229

Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years: \$670,000

Operational impacts: Would require MPL to increase staffing quickly to ensure a seamless impact on patron services and would increase the usage of overtime, risking staff burnout. This option could strain staffing levels and presents a high level of risk that locations may need to close due to high vacancies, PTO, staff illness, etc. The additional positions help mitigate that risk as the number of Sunday branches increases.



Department of Administration
Budget and Management Division

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor

Preston Cole
Administration Director

Nik Kovac
Budget and Management Director

Option 6 – New staffing model plus add Sunday hours at 2 more branches starting Mid-2026

Description: Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This option would implement the new model at Central, Good Hope, and Tippecanoe effective January 1st. This option anticipates opening 2 additional branches ~ July 1st, 2026 utilizing the new staffing model.

Amendment cost in 2026: \$629,014

Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years: \$900,000

Operational impacts: Would require MPL to increase staffing quickly to ensure a seamless impact on patron services and would increase the usage of overtime, risking staff burnout. This option could strain staffing levels and presents a high level of risk that locations may need to close due to high vacancies, PTO, staff illness, etc. The additional positions help mitigate that risk as the number of Sunday branches increases.

Option 7 – New staffing model a Central and One Additional Branch

Description: Milwaukee Public Library is exploring utilizing a new staffing model which would allow for more flexibility and nimbleness by utilizing all patron-serving staff on a rotating basis at all Sunday locations. This option would implement the new model at Central effective January 1st and the MLK branch mid-year.

Amendment cost in 2026: \$223,333

Cost estimate in 2027 and subsequent years: \$200,000

Operational impacts: Would require MPL to increase staffing quickly to ensure a seamless impact on patron services and would increase the usage of overtime, risking staff burnout. This option could strain staffing levels and presents a high level of risk that locations may need to close due to high vacancies, PTO, staff illness, etc. The additional positions help mitigate that risk as the number of Sunday branches increases.

Thank you for your continued service to the Milwaukee Public Library and the patrons they serve.

NH

Budget\Common\LIBRARY\2026\Sunday Hours\Sunday Hour Options for Trustees.docx

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Video Conference Call by Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Milele Coggs, Felicia Saffold, Scott Spiker, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Teresa Mercado

STAFF: MPL: Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Sarah Leszczynski, Tammy Mays Wilder,
Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger

OTHERS

PRESENT: Budget and Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack
US Bank: Richard Romero, Wayne Sattler

Vice-Chair Milele Coggs called the meeting of the Board of Trustees Finance & Personnel Committee to order at 8:31 a.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference. Agenda items were taken out of order but are presented here in numerical sequence.

1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** The Committee reviewed the minutes from the July 22, 2025 meeting. Trustee Saffold moved to approve the minutes and Trustee Williams seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Quarterly Review of Fund Investments.** On behalf of U.S. Bank, Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager Richard Romero thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as the investment manager. Wayne Sattler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director with PFM Asset Management LLC (a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp Asset Management / U.S. Bank N.A.) presented an update on the quarterly investment reports. MPL's portfolio is arrayed for growth with a wide range of fund families and investments. There is no liquidity impairment with the portfolio and the earnings potential is satisfactory. There are no recommended changes to the investment policy or strategic allocation targets. Informational item.
3. **Quarterly Library Report of the Internal Control of the MPL Trust and Gift Funds.** The Internal Controls Memo for third quarter 2025 was listed as Attachment B of the agenda. Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns reported all internal control processes were followed and there were no accounting issues. Informational item.
4. **2026 Library Trust & Gift Fund Expenditure Request.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented Library Administration's request to expend funds from the MPL investment fund for operational support in 2026. Based on Board policy, MPL can request to withdraw 4-5% of the fund each year. Unrestricted funds will be used for programming, marketing, and professional development. Restricted funds will be used for materials purchases. The 2026 request is \$327,000, with \$15,000 restricted and \$312,000 unrestricted. Trustee Williams moved to approve the request to expend up to \$327,000 from the MPL Trust and Gift Funds for operational support in 2026. Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Gift Acceptance – Estate of Dorothy Finazzo.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared information about a gift to MPL from the estate of Dorothy Finazzo. MPL was notified earlier this year that it had been a beneficiary of Ms. Finazzo's estate. The library was bequeathed a generous gift of \$100,000, with no restriction to its use. The full amount was received in October and is currently

being held in the Library's investment account. Trustee Williams moved to approve the request to accept the gift of \$100,000 from the estate of Dorothy Finazzo. Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting of the Library Board's Finance & Personnel Committee was adjourned at 8:59 a.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

ATTACHMENT B - P. 28 of 44
MPL CONSENT AGENDA
*4b. Building & Development Committee
Meeting Minutes - 11/06/2025*
P. 33

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Michael Morgan, Matt Kowalski, Teresa Mercado, Larresa Taylor, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns

STAFF: MPL: Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, PJ Woboril

OTHERS: Budget and Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack

Chair Michael Morgan called the MPL Board of Trustees Building and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. on November 6, 2025 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

Chair Morgan acknowledged the passing of MPL Board President and Building & Development Committee member Mark Sain.

1. **Approval of the Minutes.** Chair Morgan entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the October 2, 2025 meeting. Trustee Taylor moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Capitol Branch Redevelopment.** Library Construction Projects Manager Yves LaPierre presented an update on the Midtown/Capitol branch project. The Mayor has included \$200,000 in the proposed municipal budget for a consultant to assess the property's suitability for library use. MPL has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to expedite the process for engaging a consultant. Award contract recommendations will be presented to the Building & Development Committee in early 2026. MPL is working with Commissioner Crump and the Department of City Development to identify dates in January 2026 for community listening sessions. Stakeholders have met onsite several times to further review the site and prepare for the assessment. The Committee noted the ThriveOn King redevelopment may be a good model for this project. Informational item.
3. **2026 Capital Projects.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns shared information about the projected capital projects for 2026. The largest project will be masonry repairs at Central Library, including repairs to the balustrades, dome, and decorative masonry infrastructure. MPL will use funding allocated by the Mayor for initial analysis, architectural services, and cost estimating on the Midtown/Capitol branch project. The City has continued its annual investment of \$75,000 for upgrades and maintenance of the library security system infrastructure. Informational item.
4. **Facilities Condition Assessment Update.** Library Facilities Manager PJ Woboril presented an overview of the facilities condition assessment draft report. The assessment was completed by representatives from Bureau Veritas (BV), a leader in laboratory testing, inspection and certification services. Architects and engineers reviewed each MPL location, from the roof to the parking lot, and provided recommendations based on their findings. Assessments and costs were calculated for the next three, five, and ten years. Barcodes were added to all mechanical equipment at each location. The barcodes are connected to MPL's work order system and will allow technicians to review and add information

related to the item. MPL will use the assessment to identify facilities needs, validate future capital requests, and inform the upcoming capital campaign for Central Library. Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Building & Development Committee was adjourned at 8:41 a.m. on November 6, 2025.

**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
October 31, 2025**

2025

2024

City Revenues

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
<i>Additional City Appropriation</i>	\$ 32,920,741	\$ 25,136,941	76.4%
<i>Fines</i>	\$ 94,000	\$ 64,595	68.7%
<i>Lost Materials, etc.</i>	\$ 50,000	\$ 45,404	90.8%
<i>MCFLS Contracts</i>	\$ 927,000	\$ 773,019	83.4%
Total City Appropriation	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 26,019,959	76.5%

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
	\$ 28,574,827	\$ 25,749,667	90.1%
	\$ 114,500	\$ 70,637	61.7%
	\$ 66,500	\$ 37,326	56.1%
	\$ 819,000	\$ 667,884	81.5%
	\$ 29,574,827	\$ 26,525,514	89.7%

City Expenses

Salaries & Benefits

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 18,849,425	\$ 15,350,240	81.4%
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 6,021,064	68.5%
Total	\$ 27,642,167	\$ 21,371,304	77.3%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 5,973,002	\$ 4,618,413	77.3%
	\$ 2,687,851	\$ 2,102,392	78.2%
	\$ 8,660,853	\$ 6,720,805	77.6%

Supplies & Services

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>General Office Expense</i>	\$ 115,700	\$ 79,884	69.0%
<i>Tools & Machinery Parts</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Construction Supplies</i>	\$ 18,000	\$ 14,845	82.5%
<i>Energy</i>	\$ 886,500	\$ 626,372	70.7%
<i>Other Operating Supplies</i>	\$ 278,956	\$ 158,930	57.0%
<i>Vehicle Rental</i>	\$ 9,200	\$ 4,229	46.0%
<i>Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental</i>	\$ 13,200	\$ 7,640	57.9%
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 86,600	\$ 74,241	85.7%
<i>Information Technology Services</i>	\$ 357,920	\$ 315,300	88.1%
<i>Property Services</i>	\$ 1,476,520	\$ 1,486,861	100.7%
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	\$ 121,000	\$ 100,634	83.2%
<i>Vehicle Repair Services</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Other Operating Services</i>	\$ 152,112	\$ 73,329	48.2%
<i>Reimburse Other Departments</i>	\$ 111,900	\$ 35,912	32.1%
Total	\$ 3,627,608	\$ 2,978,177	82.1%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 121,803	\$ 66,917	54.9%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 16,500	\$ 22,230	134.7%
	\$ 847,800	\$ 610,972	72.1%
	\$ 252,947	\$ 202,831	80.2%
	\$ 8,800	\$ 4,674	53.1%
	\$ 14,700	\$ 9,601	65.3%
	\$ 146,600	\$ 93,818	64.0%
	\$ 442,552	\$ 379,578	85.8%
	\$ 1,418,038	\$ 1,509,257	106.4%
	\$ 38,500	\$ 126,821	329.4%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 146,239	\$ 52,494	35.9%
	\$ 108,600	\$ 46,315	42.6%
	\$ 3,563,079	\$ 3,125,508	87.7%

Equipment

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Library Materials</i>	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 1,212,551	64.3%
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$ 220,824	\$ 72,794	33.0%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 337,042	\$ 167,966	49.8%
Total	\$ 2,443,366	\$ 1,453,311	59.5%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,827,000	\$ 1,594,364	87.3%
	\$ 522,032	\$ 197,755	37.9%
	\$ 86,563	\$ 35,196	40.7%
	\$ 2,435,595	\$ 1,827,315	75.0%

Other Departmental Appropriation

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Villard Square Property Payment</i>	\$ 11,600	\$ 9,216	79.4%
<i>East Property Payment</i>	\$ 9,133	\$ 9,133	100.0%
<i>Mitchell Street Property Payment</i>	\$ 76,000	\$ 59,942	78.9%
<i>Good Hope Property Payment</i>	\$ 42,967	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Contingent Energy Financing</i>	\$ 138,900	\$ 138,876	100.0%
Total	\$ 278,600	\$ 217,167	77.9%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 9,800	\$ 8,802	89.8%
	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300	100.0%
	\$ 74,000	\$ 56,631	76.5%
	\$ 45,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 136,200	\$ 136,153	100.0%
	\$ 270,300	\$ 206,886	76.5%

ARPA Revenue Replacement

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
Total	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
Total City Expenses	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 26,019,959	76.5%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 14,645,000	\$ 14,645,000	100.0%
	\$ 14,645,000	\$ 14,645,000	100.0%
	\$ 29,574,827	\$ 26,525,514	89.7%

**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
October 31, 2025**

2025

2024

Additional Funding Sources

Grants

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>WTBBL Jul '25 - Jun '26</i>	\$ 1,178,700	\$ 333,924	28.3%
<i>ILL Jul '25 - Jun '26</i>	\$ 263,150	\$ 64,363	24.5%
Total	\$ 1,441,850	\$ 398,287	27.6%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,033,100	\$ 357,913	34.6%
	\$ 233,550	\$ 45,600	19.5%
	\$ 1,266,650	\$ 403,513	31.9%

Trust Funds

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 167,000	\$ 166,945	100.0%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 53,000	\$ 26,409	49.8%
<i>Training</i>	\$ 26,000	\$ 23,014	88.5%
<i>Marketing</i>	\$ 45,000	\$ 454	1.0%
<i>Contingency</i>	\$ 5,000	\$ 500	10.0%
<i>Board Development</i>	\$ 5,000	\$ 384	7.7%
<i>Strehlow 50+</i>	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,341	29.3%
<i>Staffing Study</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Hot Spots</i>	\$ 295,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>4T Renovation</i>	\$ 689,773	\$ -	0.0%
Total	\$ 1,293,773	\$ 220,047	17.0%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 134,000	\$ 134,000	100.0%
	\$ 42,000	\$ 22,325	53.2%
	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,048	95.2%
	\$ 35,000	\$ 33,391	95.4%
	\$ 4,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 4,000	\$ 384	9.6%
	\$ 29,756	\$ 6,876	23.1%
	\$ 28,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 296,756	\$ 216,024	72.8%

Foundation Contributions

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 281,497	\$ 23,828	8.5%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 1,692,109	\$ 1,208,986	71.4%
Total	\$ 1,973,606	\$ 1,232,814	62.5%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 273,242	\$ 29,985	11.0%
	\$ 1,730,334	\$ 512,468	29.6%
	\$ 2,003,576	\$ 542,453	27.1%

Investments

U.S. Bank National Assoc. Commercial Paper (rated A1) confirmation #327156500 dated 10/22/25 and maturing 11/21/25 at a rate of 1.55%...\$190,000

Director's Report

November 2025

Administration staff attended the Unity in the Community - Festival of Food and Culture program held at the Mitchell Street branch. The event included performance arts, culinary programming, hands-on arts and maker activities, a resource fair, and food and coffee trucks outdoors. The program had 685 attendees, an increase from last year's event.

The Deputy Library Director met with the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library to review changes to how the Bookseller will be staffed and improve communications and processing of Book Sale proceeds. MPL Business Office will receive the 2025 gift from the Friends at the end of the year, and that funding has already been allocated to user experience improvements across all locations, significant author and speaker events in 2025, and Signature programs like the Unity in the Community just mentioned. It was proposed that the Friends continue their commitment of \$30,000 gift for the 2026 Budget cycle.

The Common Council adopted a 2026 Budget Amendment that will impact staffing and Sunday hours at the library. MPL is carefully planning for many personnel changes and a seismic overhaul of the way Sundays are scheduled. More details will be forthcoming as we test and implement the changes. We are confident these changes will set up MPL public services to meet evolving community needs and align our staffing and resources for the future.

MPL received the Collective Impact Award from Goodwill Greater Milwaukee and Chicago. Dr. Tammy Mays Wilder accepted the award on behalf of Library Director Joan Johnson and all of MPL. The event included former MPL Business Services Manager, who spearheaded what are now regular and successful job fairs at multiple MPL locations – the spirit being carried on by Dr. Mays and Business-Periodicals Manager Kristina Gomez. 2025 job fairs saw high attendance numbers: Central (375 attendees), Atkinson (140 attendees), Zablocki (85 attendees).

We also expanded the partnership with the City of Milwaukee's Department of Employee Relations to host City job fairs across most of our locations, starting in Fall of 2025 and expanding into early 2026.

School is back in session and our team is supporting young readers through visiting first grade classes to celebrate students becoming independent readers and introducing them to the library. The team is also connecting with Library Now partner schools to train staff on resources and tools that support student success. A cohort of 13 new teen interns are supporting out of school learning in four Maker Spaces.

Renovations to 4T are complete. Wisconsin Talking Book & Braille Library and Education & Outreach Services staff have begun moving into the new space. MPL has received draft Facility Condition Assessment reports for all locations, including Central. The information will inform future City Capital Improvement planning and for Central, a Capital Campaign to restore and revitalize this historic gem.

The meeting room policy enacted last year is already reaping fiscal rewards – Oct was our strongest month yet, over \$3,000 collected. The funding will go toward improving spaces.

MPL's social media presence continues to be a hit. The American Library Association's Public Programs Office visited Central to see the team in action for a feature on their Programming Librarian website, which will help other library workers who are looking to get started with social media.

Milwaukee Public Library staff are rounding out the year with the successful launch of a partnership with Street Angels Milwaukee Outreach. Tippecanoe Branch and Central Library hosted Showers of Hope, a mobile trailer with 3 shower stalls and space for additional resources like clean clothes and bagged lunches. We are looking forward to expanding this relationship in 2026 with systemwide service to support the dignity of our community members.

MPL created a fund to accept memorial donations for MPL Board President Mark Sain and several staff from Administration attended the visitation.

Summary of **VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON PROGRAMS:**

MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ

Banned Books Trivia. Patrons at East Branch Library kicked off Banned Books Week with a trivia contest for the chance to win a prize. This program celebrated intellectual freedom, access to information, and a love of all things books and reading. Attendance: 11

Seventh Generation Earth Ethics with Author Patty Loew. MPL celebrates Indigenous Heritage Month with an exciting Wisconsin Historical Society Press paperback book launch event featuring Dr. Patty Loew, author of *Seventh Generation Earth Ethics: Native Voices of Wisconsin*. This event was co-sponsored by Boswell Book Company, with book sales and signing following the author conversation. Attendance: 40

Starms Discovery Learning Center Reading Fair: On October 28th MPL staff members visited five classrooms at Starms Discovery Learning Center (MPS K-8). Visits included read-alouds featuring stuffed animals to coincide with the theme of the Reading Fair. Children brought their stuffed animals to school for story time, and shared stories of their own about how they acquired their beloved fuzzy friends. Attendance: 94

MPL HELPS PEOPLE LEARN

Beyond Books. On October 20, the Special Collections Department hosted a "spooky" open house session of their Beyond Books series focused on "Milwaukee True Crime & Paranormal Stories". Patrons were able to browse special collections materials relating to spooky places and notorious events in Milwaukee, such as the assassination attempt of Theodore Roosevelt, the re-interments of Fairview Mausoleum, and the story of Klas Linderfelt, MPL director from 1880-1892, who was convicted of embezzling library funds. Attendance: 55

Snack Hack: 2.0. Snack Hack: 2.0 is a food and nutrition adult literacy program offered as weekly sessions designed to teach all aspects of food: nutritional elements, food groups, cooking principles, history of food, how food is grown, cultural connections to what we eat, how food works in our bodies and methods on how to prepare meals at home. Sessions include a cooking demonstration and a snack for attendees. October falls in Block 4 - the last section of the 4-block system used to structure the program's curriculum. Week 1 continued the 'Cooking Principles' miniseries. Attendees learned the braise technique using kale, a leafy green superfood. They were surprised to learn that vegetables, not only meat proteins, can use the braising method. Week 2 demonstrated the grill technique. A cast iron grooved griddle was used to demonstrate how to grill meat and fruit when outdoor grilling is not an option. Week 3 began the 'World Cuisines' miniseries: recipes, customs and cultures featured from around the world. Attendees were provided a novelty passport to track their travels. Each session they write pertinent details about the cuisine taught from that region. The first cuisine spotlighted was Native American from the U.S.A. The origin of the recipe explained how the three main ingredients: corn,

squash and beans, were strategically grown together and therefore harvested together to use in many dishes. Week 4 spotlighted washoku cuisine from Japan. Attendees learned about the different types of ramen and how they are classified. Total attendance for 4 sessions: 44

The Frightening Legacy of BUIs with Milwaukee Water Commons: The Milwaukee Water Commons expanded the scope of its programming with Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to include youth with a program at the Martin Luther King Branch Makerspace. Milwaukee Water Commons and MPL staff partnered for a great example of using creative design in learning while featuring the makerspace 3d printer to engage youth. Participants placed 3d printed hazards that are threats to Milwaukee watershed's health (eg: pollution, invasive animals and plants) on a mosaic of the watershed. Participants learned about Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) and how they harm the water. While learning they were also using airdry clay to sculpt how they like to enjoy Milwaukee's watershed. Attendance: 27

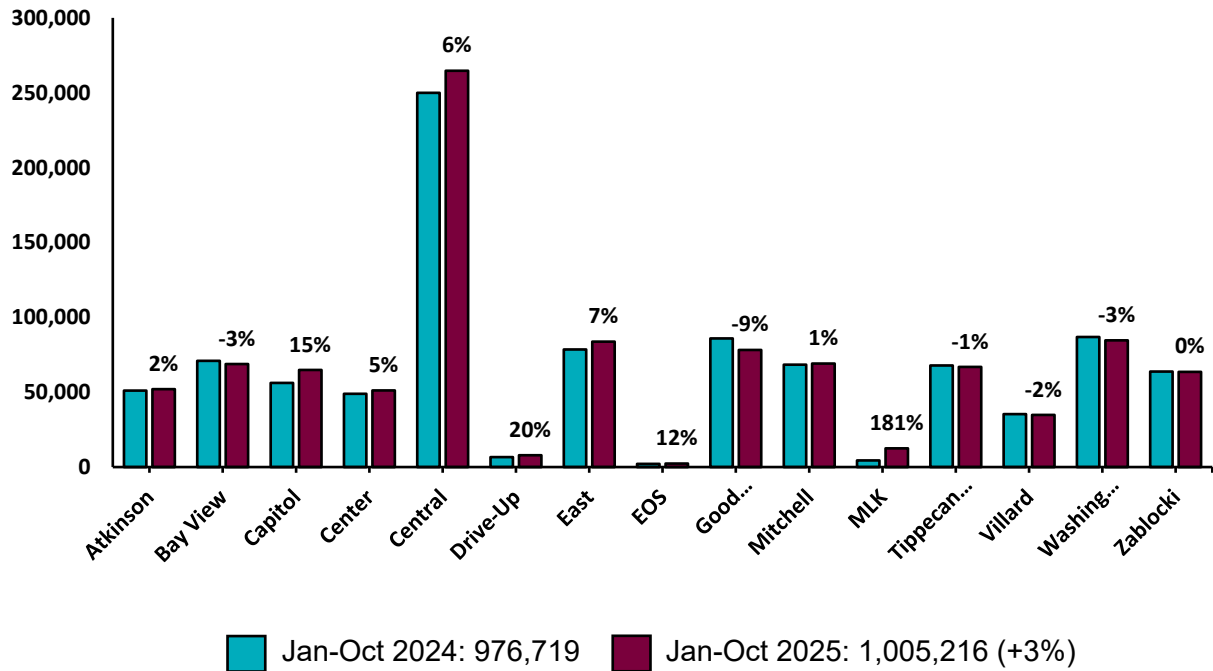
MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT

QWERTYFest. Central Library hosted QWERTYFEST MKE for its third annual event, with Saturday, October 4 hosted in our historic meeting spaces. Library staff worked with organizers to support event presentations with library-specific programs. The most notable of these was "Discovering Archives @ MPL," which was held in the Rare Books Room. Attendees were engaged in an overview of our Special Collections and Archives, plus got to see some fun pop culture items up close in the open house portion of the program. Attendance: 30

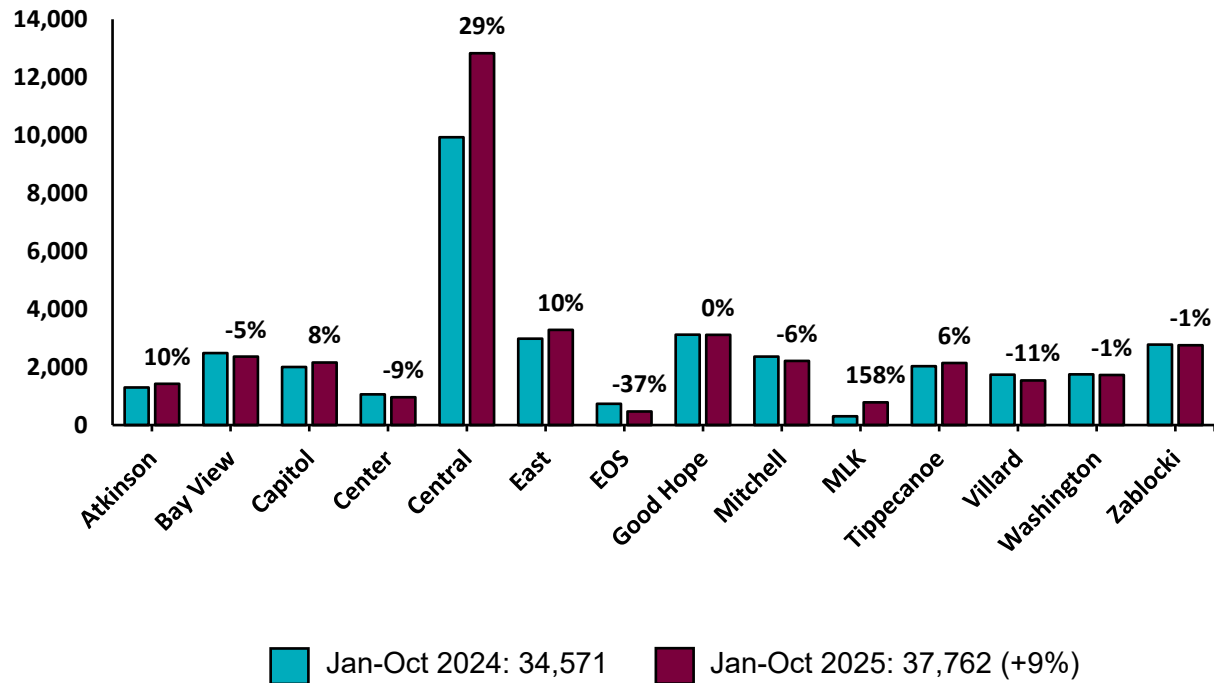
Bad Art Night. The MPL East Branch hosted its second Bad Art Night of 2025, inviting patrons to use odd and leftover craft supplies in the hopes of being crowned "the worst artist at the library." All library patrons and staff were invited to vote on the hilarious creations, leading to one top prize and a tie for second. Attendance: 28

Ofrenda Programming in October: The Mitchell Street branch hosted 6 culturally enriching programs throughout October. Some of the programs were crafts-based and open to all ages. We had a game night featuring Mexican-style bingo, Loteria, with a piñata, and the movie Coco. It was well received, and our Ofrenda was fully decorated by the end of the month, thanks to photo contributions from community members. Programs: 6; Attendance: 190

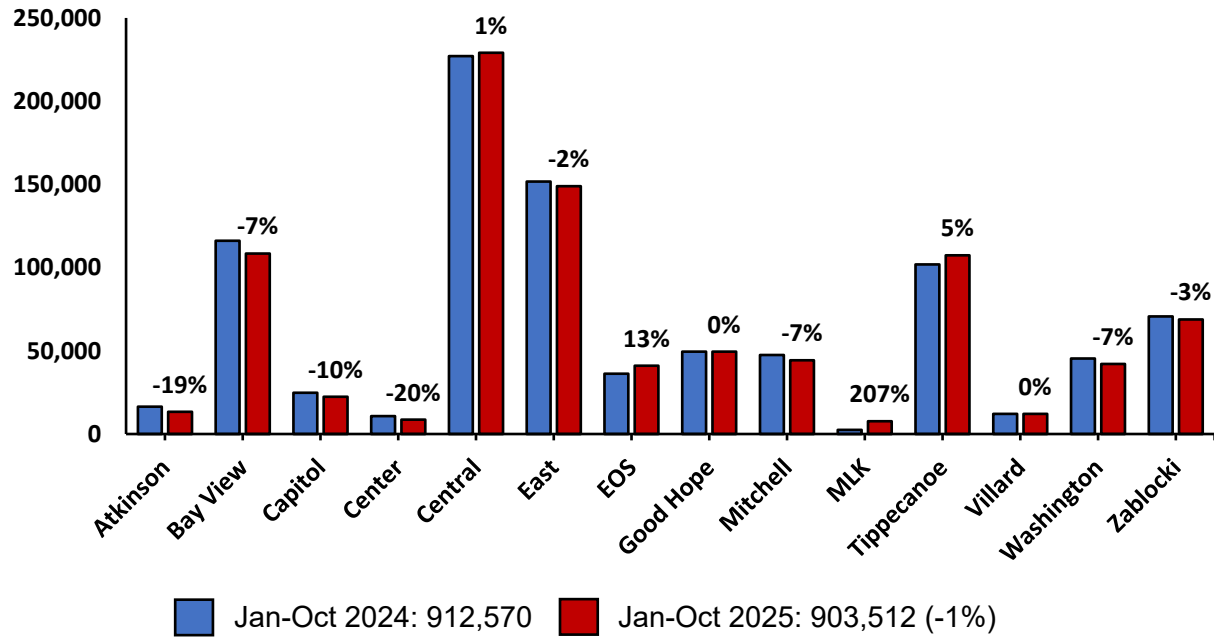
Patron Visits



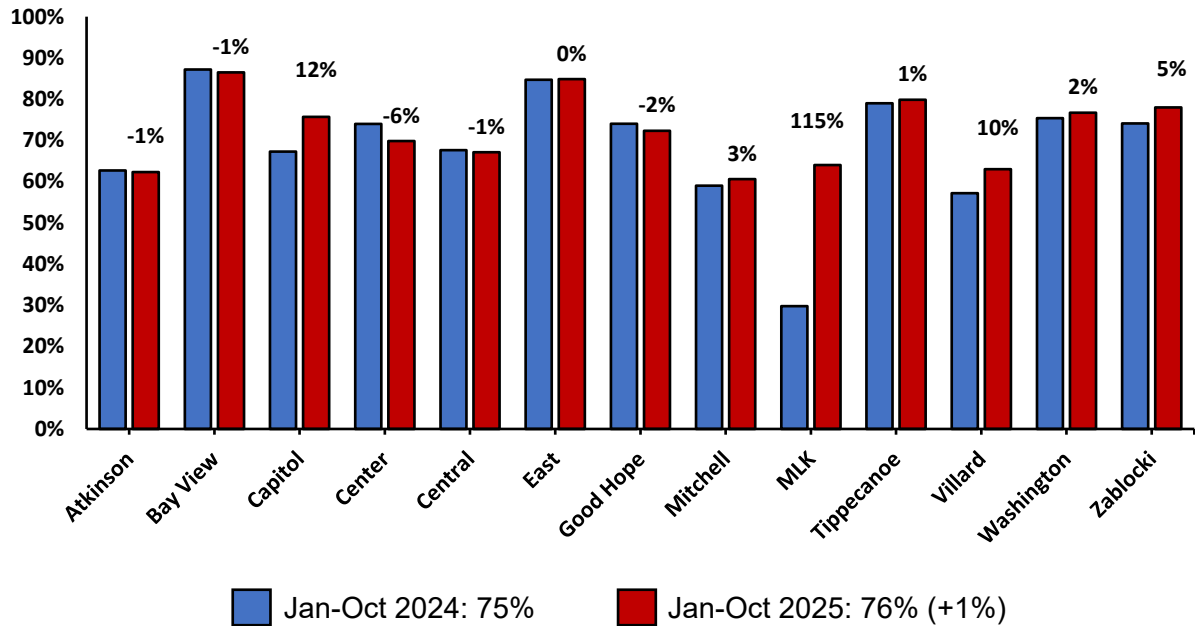
Registration



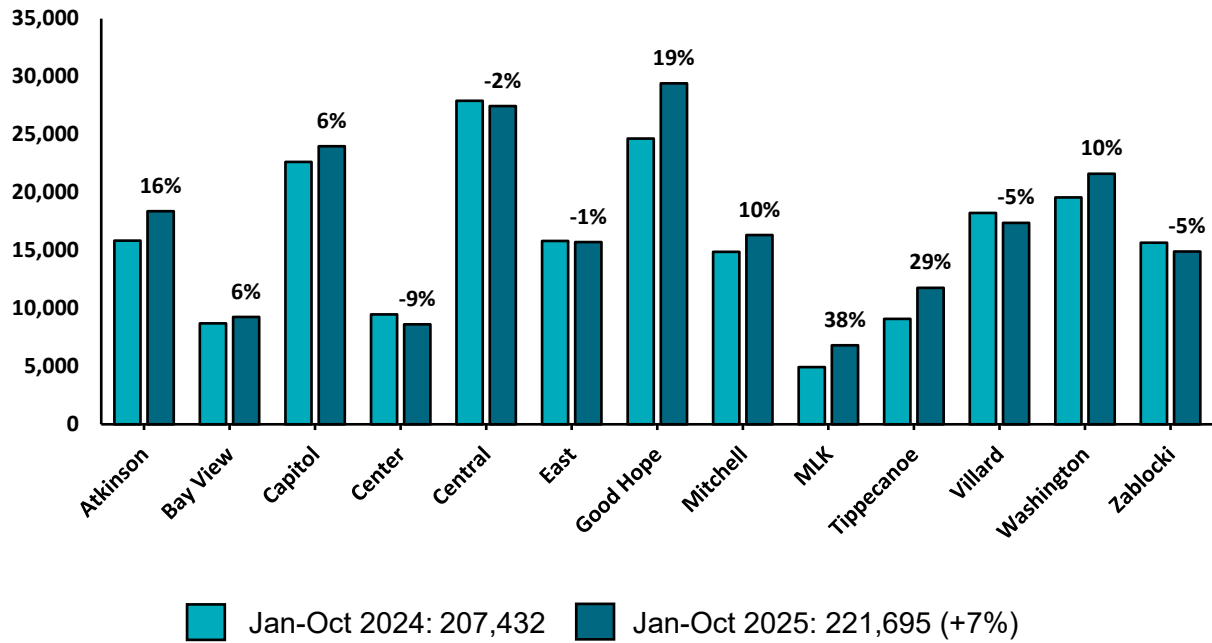
Traditional Circulation



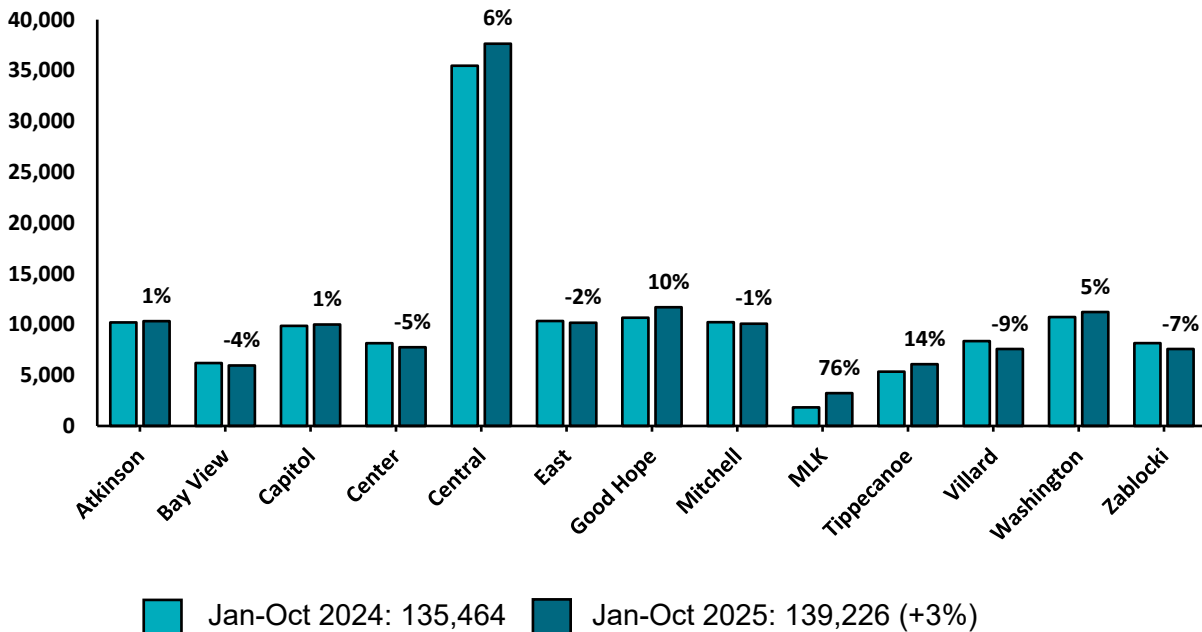
Self-Checkout



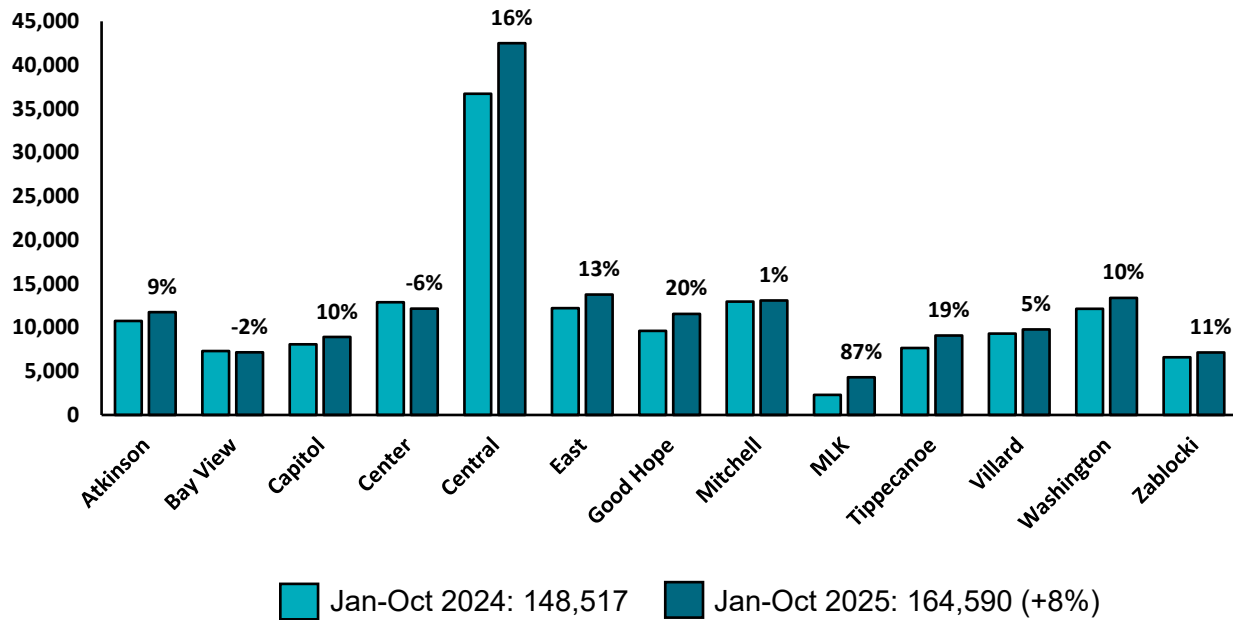
Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Jobs



Public Computer Sessions



Wi-Fi Unique Users



Ready Reference



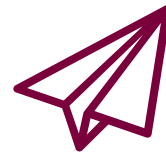
31,583

Call Sessions
Last Year: 35,583



1,459

Chat Sessions
Last Year: 1,353



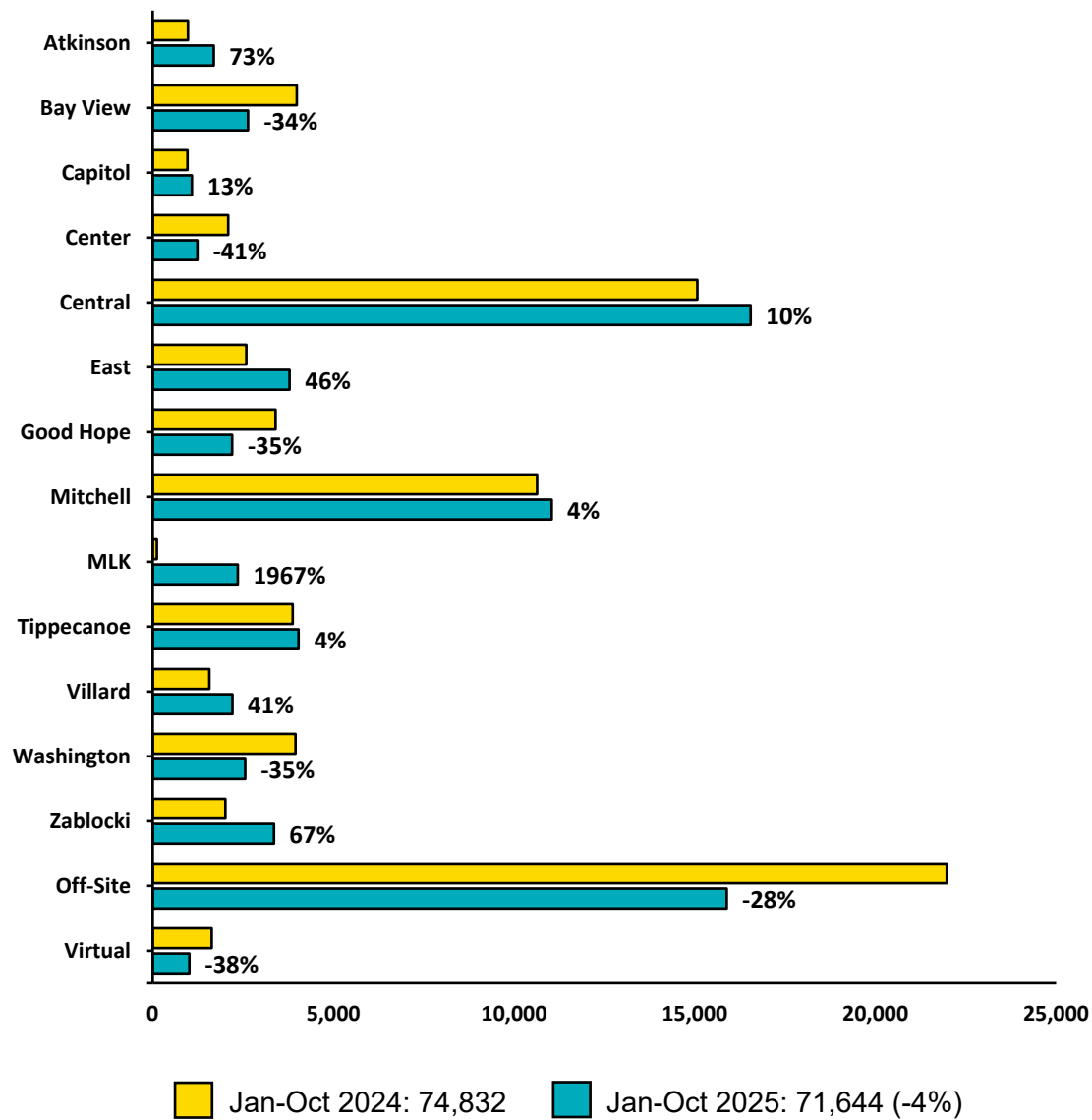
203

Email Sessions
Last Year: 1,062

eCirculation

Platform	Jan-Oct 2024	Jan-Oct 2025	Change
Freemal Music	102,037	226,543	+122%
Hoopla Digital	67,760	54,423	-20%
Kanopy	22,078	31,481	+43%
OverDrive	377,194	430,188	+14%
Total	569,069	742,635	+31%

Program Attendance





BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES 2024-2026

(Updated 11/21/25)

LIBRARY BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Michael Morgan, Chair
Matt Kowalski
Larresa Taylor
Teresa Mercado
VACANT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VACANT, President
Michele Bria, Vice-President
Teresa Mercado, Financial Secretary
VACANT, Past President

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Teresa Mercado, Chair
Milele Coggs, Vice-Chair
Felicia Saffold
Scott Spiker
Venice Williams

INNOVATION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Matt Kowalski, Chair
Darryl Jackson
Scott Spiker
Larresa Taylor
Venice Williams

LIBRARY SERVICES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Milele Coggs, Chair
Kathleen Vincent, Vice-Chair
Darryl Jackson
Michael Morgan
Felicia Saffold

AUXILIARY COMMITTEES

Urban Libraries Council Executive Board - Michele Bria
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation Board - Michele Bria
Milwaukee County Federated Library System Board – VACANT



Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
2026 Schedule of Meetings (by Committee)
(updated 10/30/2025)

RECESS: February, August, December

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD

4th Tuesday of the month, except recess months

Date	Day	Time	Location
January 27, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
March 24, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Street Branch Community Room
April 28, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
May 26, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
June 23, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Washington Park Branch Community Room
July 28, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
September 22, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
October 27, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Tippecanoe Community Room
November 24, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

LIBRARY BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1st Thursday of the month, except January (New Year holiday) and recess months

Date	Day	Time	Location
January 8, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
March 5, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 2, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 7, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 4, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 2, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
September 3, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 1, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 5, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday of the month in June and November

Date	Day	Time	Location
June 10, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 18, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting

**Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
2026 Schedule of Meetings (by Committee)**

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Quarterly – 4th Tuesday of the month in January, April, July, and October

Date	Day	Time	Location
January 27, 2026	Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 28, 2026	Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 28, 2026	Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 27, 2026	Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting

INNOVATION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Quarterly – 2nd Thursday of the month, except January (due to conflict with B&D Committee), April, June, October

Date	Day	Time	Location
January 15, 2026	Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 9, 2026	Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 11, 2026	Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 8, 2026	Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting

LIBRARY SERVICES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Quarterly – 1st Wednesday of the month March, May, July, November

Date	Day	Time	Location
March 4, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 6, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 1, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 4, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting

**Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
2026 Schedule of Meetings (by date)**

January 2026			
January 8	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
January 15	Innovation & Strategy Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
January 27	Finance & Personnel Committee	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
January 27	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

March 2026			
March 4	Library Services & Programs Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
March 5	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
March 24	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Street Branch Community Room

April 2026			
April 2	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 9	Innovation & Strategy Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 28	Finance & Personnel Committee	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 28	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

May 2026			
May 6	Library Services & Programs Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 7	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 26	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

June 2026			
June 4	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 10	Executive Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 11	Innovation & Strategy Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 23	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Washington Park Branch Community Room

**Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
2026 Schedule of Meetings (by date)**

July 2026			
July 1	Library Services & Programs Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 2	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 28	Finance & Personnel Committee	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 28	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

September 2026			
September 3	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
September 22	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

October 2026			
October 1	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 8	Innovation & Strategy Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 27	Finance & Personnel Committee	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 27	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Tippecanoe Branch Community Room

November 2026			
November 4	Library Services & Programs Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 5	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 18	Executive Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 24	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SERVICES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Milele Coggs, Felicia Saffold, Kathleen Vincent, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns

EXCUSED: Darryl Jackson, Michael Morgan, Joan Johnson

STAFF: MPL: Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Carlos Lopez, Tammy Mays Wilder, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Emily Vieyra

Chair Coggs called the MPL Board of Trustees Services and Programs Committee meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference. Agenda items were taken out of order but are presented here in numerical sequence.

1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** Chair Coggs entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the July 9, 2025 meeting, listed as Attachment A of the agenda. Trustee Vincent moved to approve the minutes. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
2. **Safety Report.** Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez reported on security incidents in quarter 3 of 2025. Overall, incidents have decreased by 18% over the same time period in 2024. The majority of increased incidents were related to alcohol/drugs, loitering, verbal altercations, trespassing and miscellaneous disruptions. The majority incidents occur between noon and 6:00 p.m. Mr. Lopez noted the incidents listed between midnight and 7:00 a.m. were due to data entry error. End of year reports will include security incidents by age group. Informational item.
3. **Revised Banning Guidelines.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns presented revised banning guidelines, listed as Attachment C of the agenda. In response to an increase in the severity of security incidents, Library Administration recommends updating violation descriptions, additional classifications for reporting, and increased banning lengths. To prepare this recommendation, staff reviewed annual security data and the banning guidelines of peer institutions. MPL has strong partnerships with community partners who are often onsite in the library and can help connect patrons with necessary resources. Trustee Vincent moved to approve the recommended changes to the banning guidelines as presented. Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.
4. **Foundation Funding Priorities.** On behalf of Library Director Joan Johnson, Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns presented the library's 2026 priorities for MPL Foundation (MPLF) fundraising, as outlined in the memo listed as Attachment D of the agenda. As part of the request, programming categories will be expanded to allow greater flexibility to expend funds after transfer. Trustee Vincent moved to authorize Library Director Joan Johnson to present the fundraising priorities to the MPLF Board as presented. Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Services & Programs Committee was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. on November 5, 2025.



2026 Proposed Public Service Hours

Central Library

Frank P. Zeidler Humanities Room¹

Monday	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.		Monday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.		Tuesday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.		Wednesday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.		Thursday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.		Friday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.		Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.		Sunday	Closed

54 hrs/wk

38 hrs/wk

Drive-Up at Central Library

Monday	7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday	7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday	7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday	7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday	7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

60.5 hrs/wk

Branch Libraries – 01/01/2026 – 05/31/2026

Monday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday Good Hope and Tippecanoe	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

48 hrs/wk and 52 hrs/wk (for 2 branches)

Sunday Hours: Central: (Year-round) 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Good Hope and Tippecanoe: (Year-round) 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

¹ Formerly included the Art, Music & Recreation Room, which will be available by appointment only.



Branch Libraries – 06/01/2026 – 12/31/2026

Monday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday Good Hope, Martin Luther King, Mitchell Street, and Tippecanoe	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

48 hrs/wk and 52 hrs/wk (for 4 branches)

Sunday Hours: Central: (Year-round) 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Good Hope, Martin Luther King, Mitchell Street, and Tippecanoe: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.