



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, May 26, 2026
4:00 p.m.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

WELCOME & ROLL CALL

4:00 – 4:05

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:05 – 4:15

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

4:15 – 4:20

1. **Introduction of New Trustee.** President Bria will introduce new Trustee, MPS Board President Missy Zombor.

CONSENT AGENDA

4:20 – 4:25

Attachment A, page 3

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes, April 28, 2026.**
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee – April 28, 2026
 - b. Building & Development Committee – May 7, 2026
4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, May 5, 2026.**
5. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Report
 - c. Statistics

REPORTS

4:25 – 4:35

6. **Library Services & Programs Committee.** The Committee will present the action items from the May 6, 2026 meeting.

Attachment B, page 45

NEW BUSINESS

4:35 – 4:55

7. **Officer Election.** The election of MPL Board Officers for the 2026-2028 term will be held.

Attachment C, page 49

8. **Summer Reading Program.** Library Public Services Area Manager (Education & Outreach Services) Kelly Wochinske will share information about the 2026 Summer Reading Program.

CLOSING REMARKS

4:55 – 5:00

9. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment.**

REMINDER: Next scheduled meetings are:

June 4, 2026 Building & Development Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

June 10, 2026 Executive Committee – Virtual Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

June 11, 2026 Innovation & Strategy Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

June 23, 2026 Board Meeting – Washington Park Branch, 4:00 p.m.

Trustees

Michele Bria, *President*, Teresa Mercado, *Vice-President*, Michael Morgan, *Financial Secretary*, Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Venice Williams, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson, *Secretary*, Rebecca Schweisberger, *Secretary's Assistant* (414) 286-3021

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 may attend 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.

Reasonable accommodations provided upon request. Contact the ADA Coordinator at: 414-286-3475 or adaordinator@milwaukee.gov.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

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

PRESENT: Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Neil Albrecht, Darryl Jackson, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Ald. Milele Coggs

STAFF: Maria Burke, Tim Fluhr, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske

OTHER: Milwaukee Public Library Foundation: Sam McGovern-Rowen

President Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:06 p.m. on April 28, 2026 with a quorum present. Trustees Saffold, Vincent, and Williams attended virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was given by patron Rita Maniotis.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 24, 2026**
2. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Building & Development Committee – April 2, 2026
 - b. Innovation & Strategy Committee – April 9, 2026
3. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, April 7, 2026.**
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director’s Reports
 - c. Statistics

Chair Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda, presented as attachment A, pages 3-38 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

5. **MPL Board Nominating Committee Meeting.** Committee Chair Matt Kowalski reported on the March 11, 2026 meeting. The Committee reviewed the nomination process and recommended updating Article V, Section 2 of the MPL Board Bylaws for clarity. The proposed slate was reviewed and the Committee voted unanimously to present the slate at the April Board meeting for additional discussion before the final slate is voted on at the annual meeting in May. The Committee will consider additional nominations before the annual meeting. Nominations should be sent to Library Director Johnson. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting. Informational item.
6. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Committee Chair Michael Morgan presented action items from the April 28, 2026 meeting.

Financial Statements and Auditors' Review. Brandon Panka, of Reilly, Penner, and Benton reviewed the auditors' report. The auditors issued an unmodified opinion of the MPL Trust Fund financial statements and all fund balances continue to be positive. MPL is following all accounting procedures as required and Mr. Panka noted the excellent work of the Accounting team, led by Sarah Leszczynski.

Trustee Morgan moved to approve the independent auditors' report of the MPL trust fund for calendar year 2025 as presented. Trustee Albrecht seconded. Motion passed.

Contract Award – Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and Interlibrary Loan Service.

Library Business Manager Sarah Leszczynski presented two grant agreements from the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for approval. The grant agreements are for the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) and Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service and will fund the respective services for the next year, beginning July 1st. The WTBBL grant total is \$1,214,000 and the ILS grant total is \$234,600.

Trustee Morgan moved to approve the 2026-27 WTBBL and ILS grant agreements. Trustee Albrecht seconded. Motion passed.

7. **Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Update.** Trustee Michele Bria reported on the February 2026 board retreat. ULC is focused on the future of libraries while considering shifting societal expectations, philanthropic trends, and growing pressure on civic institutions. The ULC Board is exploring strategies to build a stronger culture of philanthropy. ULC received \$1.7M in funding from the Carnegie Foundation for Civic Makers Labs for Youth. Libraries can apply for mini grants through this fund. ULC has partnered with More Perfect to launch a pilot program called Libraries & Local News. The program is designed to connect public libraries with local newsrooms and puts community members at the center of local journalism. More Perfect donated \$350,000 for the initiative and mini-grants will be awarded to 6-8 libraries. The ULC Board discussed the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and best practices for AI training models for staff and patrons to remain competitive in the workforce. The ULC Board received a presentation about the current state of e-books and digital content and the option to promote perpetual licensing. ULC continues to support lobbying at the federal level to identify additional federal funding sources that could be allocated to libraries. Informational item.

NEW BUSINESS

8. **MPL 2025 Annual Report.** Melissa Howard, Communications and Community Engagement Director presented the 2025 MPL Annual Report, which is attached at the end of these minutes. The report

design took inspiration from the colors and design of the new Martin Luther King (MLK) Branch Library. The report will be shared publicly and on all MPL social media channels next week. Highlights include library data and statistics, opening of the MLK Branch Library, new early literacy programs, and use of the ULC Business Value Calculator to quantify the economic value of the library. Based on feedback from the Board, some data statistics will be clarified before the final report is released. Trustee Albrecht moved to accept the MPL 2025 Annual Impact Report and Trustee Jackson seconded. Motion passed.

9. **Closing Remarks.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared information about two upcoming events in May and invited all Trustees to attend and share with their networks:

May 20: MPL, in partnership with the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, & Letters, will host 'An Evening with Joy Harjo – In Poetry and Conversation'.

May 21: MPL, in partnership with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, will present 'The Power of Music – An Evening with MSO Principle Pops Conductor Byron Stripling'.

President Bria invited all Trustees to attend the Christian Yelich Home Plate Charity Concert on May 21. The MPL Foundation will be one of the recipients of this year's fundraiser.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of April 28, 2026 was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2025 Annual Impact Report



Access.
Literacy.
Community.
Free to All.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Joan Johnson
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

As I look back on 2025, I am struck by how much our community accomplished together. This was a year of new beginnings, meaningful partnerships, and deepened commitments to the people we serve. I am proud to share this report and grateful for everyone who made it possible.

The highlight of the year was September’s opening of our new Martin Luther King Jr. Branch. This project was a mixed use space nine years in the making and more than 1,300 community members showed up to celebrate. The community helped design it, and what they asked for is exactly what was built.

All of the work highlighted in this year’s report depends on the dedication of our staff and the support of our partners, City leadership, Board of Trustees, and private donors. Connecting Milwaukeeans to the resources they need to live empowered lives is a shared responsibility and joy.

We feel that commitment deeply at MPL and we are grateful to serve alongside so many who feel it too. 2026 holds exciting work ahead. We look forward to continue welcoming and serving our community. The library has a great deal to offer our residents and we’re just getting started.



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Cavalier Johnson
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

This past year, Milwaukee Public Libraries showed us how valuable they are to our city. The library team continued its mission, providing knowledge, expanding horizons, and preparing residents for greater opportunities. In neighborhoods all across the city, libraries add significantly to our quality of life.

Our libraries distinguish themselves by adapting and embracing change. Yes, books are a centerpiece of the offerings. At the same time, the variety of assets and programs demonstrates a commitment to provide meaningful and contemporary amenities. Just stop by one of the libraries’ makerspaces and you will be impressed. Creativity in our young people is blossoming with access to 3D printers and sound recording technology.

Everyone can take advantage of the robust digital access at all our branches where high speed access, Wi-Fi, and computers are all available. The work of our Milwaukee Public Libraries is not contained only within the building walls. Outreach efforts prepare preschoolers to read and connect resources with patrons who are unable to get to a library.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of 2025 was the opening of the Martin Luther King, Jr. branch, which reflects our commitment to keep our libraries modernized and relevant. That work will continue as the Milwaukee Public Libraries invest in our city’s future.

WHO WE ARE

Milwaukee Public Library is dedicated to finding new ways to inspire and connect with the people in our neighborhoods and throughout our community.



→ 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.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

→ 1,174,898

Patron Visits

→ 2,038,400

Total Circulation, Traditional and eCirculation

→ 259,059

Active Card Holders

→ 162,252

Public Computer Sessions

→ 195,313

Unique WI-FI Users

→ 260,329

Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Sessions

→ \$1,965,559

Economic Value to Milwaukee Businesses.
Source: ULC Business Value Calculator

→ 14,825

Meeting Room Use

→ 86,081

Program Attendance

→ 437,912

Social Media Followers



Literacy Is at the Heart of Everything We Do.

Across Milwaukee, families, schools, and community organizations are working together to build a stronger foundation for reading and Milwaukee Public Library is proud to be part of that effort. Literacy has always been central to who we are and what we offer, at every age and every stage.

In 2025, MPL deepened its literacy commitment across every stage of life: new programming for the youngest learners, a unified summer reading experience for the whole community, and a growing ecosystem of support for families navigating Milwaukee's reading crisis together.

ABC Academy: Where Letters Come to Life

Launched in summer 2025 at Central Library, ABC Academy is MPL's newest early literacy initiative. Built on the American Library Association's recommended practices of talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing for pre-reading development, the program gives young children a joyful, structured foundation for learning to read. Each week focuses on a new letter, with songs, games, and crafts designed around deliberate repetition. Parents participate alongside their children, building the home literacy habits that reinforce what happens in the library every week.

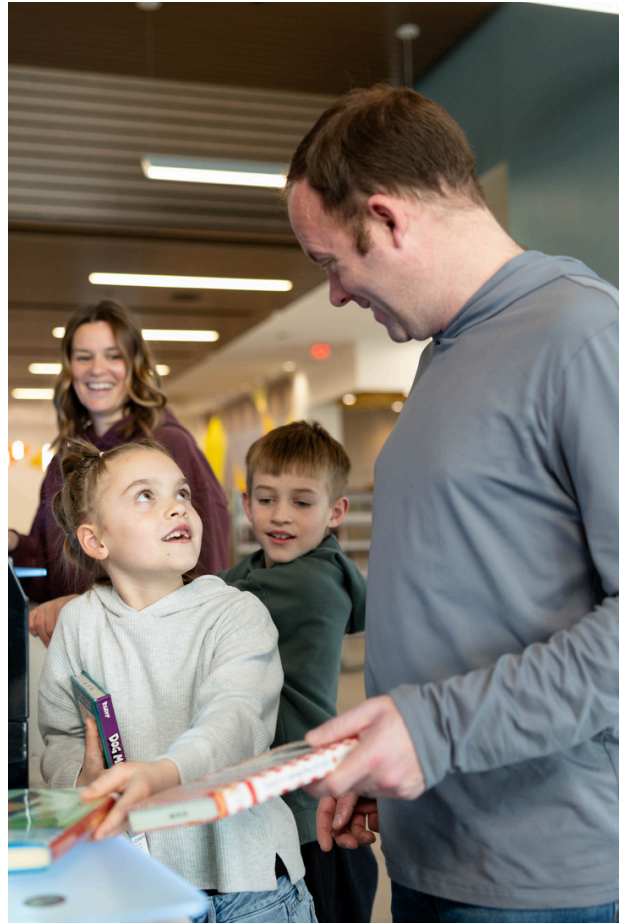


SUMMER WITH MPL: ONE COMMUNITY, ONE INVITATION

In 2025, Milwaukee Public Library unified its children's, teen, and adult summer reading programs under a single banner: Summer with MPL. Reading together has no age limit and neither did our summer reading program.

Every participant received a free book to build their home library, putting 22,859 books into the hands of Milwaukee readers over the course of the summer.

Summer reading no longer ages out. It belongs to families, neighbors, and the full range of Milwaukee's reading community.



Milwaukee hip-hop artist Wave Chapelle, a regular at MPL's Martin Luther King Branch with his son Sol, has become a vocal advocate of the importance of early literacy, using his platform to reach younger parents.



→ *"We want to encourage all the parents – not just the older parents, young parents too – to bring your kids, because this is a really beneficial program."*

A NEIGHBORHOOD'S NEW CHAPTER.



On September 6, 2025, more than 1,300 people came to the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Locust Street. They came for a library.

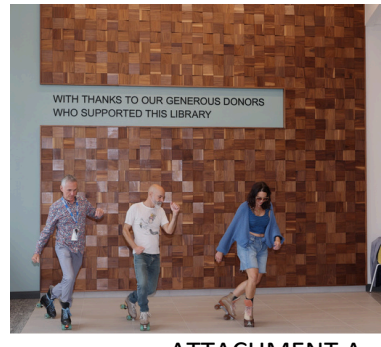
What started as a community vision nine years ago became the newly reimagined Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, a 17,400-square-foot, \$11 million investment in the Harambee neighborhood, supported by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the City's Housing Trust Fund, Tax increment financing (TIF) support, and private grants and loans.

Now the third largest branch in the MPL system, the new King Branch is also the greenest library in Southeast Wisconsin: geothermal heating and cooling, rooftop solar panels, and EV charging stations. Inside: the largest community meeting room in the MPL network, reservable study rooms, flexible modular spaces, and a new makerspace.

Branch Spotlight

The opening campaign centered community voices including a local influencer partnership that generated 5 million social media impressions and the largest opening-day turnout in MPL's recent history.

Branch Manager Tiffany Thornton's vision for the space is clear: "My goal is to have this branch become a hub, not just a space where there's books, but a community space where everyone can connect within the Harambee area."



NOURISHING MILWAUKEE

Food literacy, the knowledge and confidence to understand, prepare, and make choices about food, is one of the most practical skills a library can teach. In 2025, MPL’s food literacy program grew from one location into a three-location network.

The Cargill Community Kitchen at Mitchell Street Branch is the anchor in the MPL system with a full-scale community kitchen. Led by Sharrie Agee, a culinary educator with 20+ years of experience, it serves patrons from toddlers to seniors through weekly Snack Hack sessions, Community Meals, and special events that weave food with poetry, culture, and creativity.

In 2025, two mobile food preparation stations expanded the network. One launched as a signature feature of the new King Branch; a second was added at Washington Park Branch.

Food literacy now reaches three Milwaukee neighborhoods, meeting communities where they live in spaces they trust.



→ *“You’re not limited with food. There are so many possibilities. And even that is kind of an understatement.”*
- Chef Sharrie Agee



Making Things. Building Futures.

MPL's makerspaces give Milwaukee teens a place to make, build, and create with staff who take their ideas seriously. In 2025, we expanded to four makerspaces across the system, with programming designed to teach teens real, tangible skills.

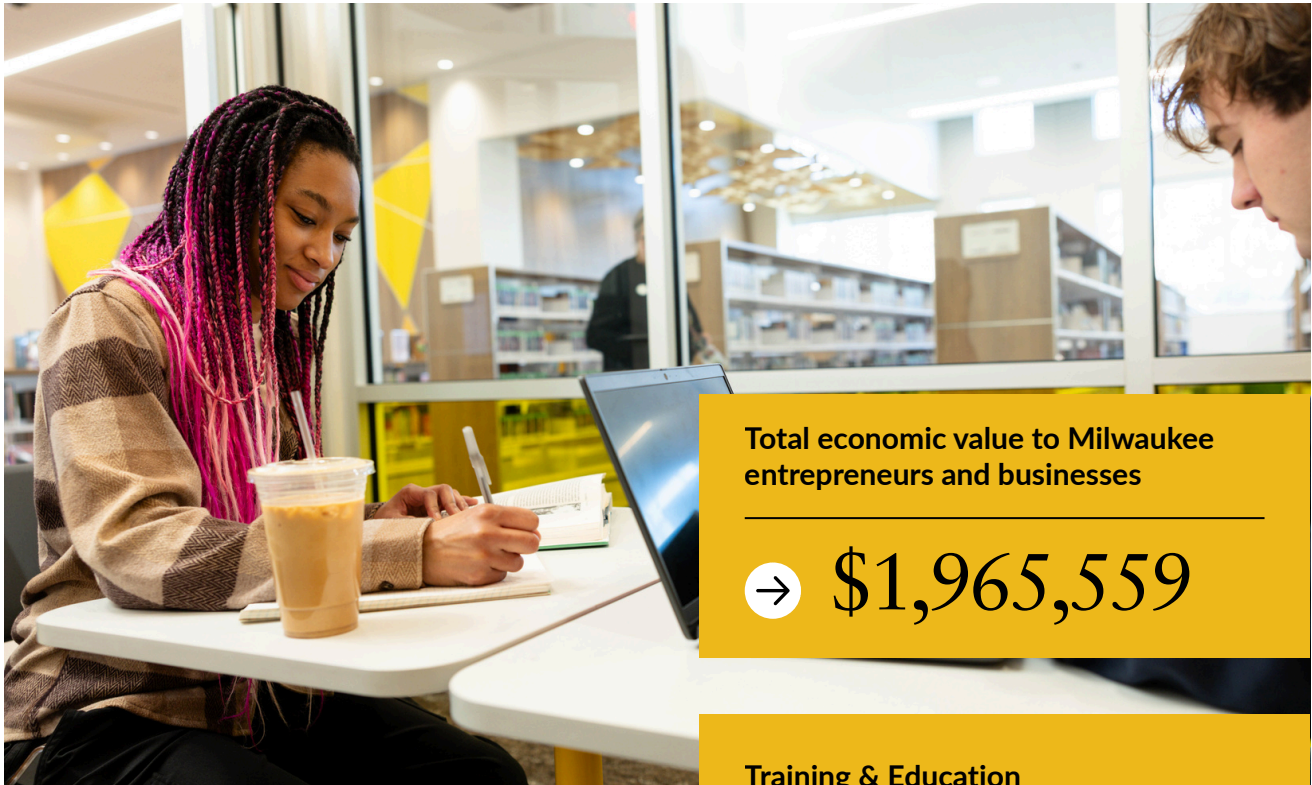
During fall programming, local creator Marie Carter of The Classic Shoppe, a Milwaukee streetwear brand rooted in hip-hop culture, led teens through the full arc of fashion design: concept, prototype, brand strategy, and production. The result was four original T-shirt designs, one per makerspace, printed locally and sold in the MPL Merch store.

This is 21st-century workforce development built inside a public library.



Four original designs. Four makerspaces. One clear signal: at MPL, teens aren't just learning about the creative economy. They are participating in it.

WHAT A LIBRARY MAKES POSSIBLE



Total economic value to Milwaukee entrepreneurs and businesses

→ \$1,965,559

Training & Education

→ \$501,000

Research Services

→ \$1.1 M

The Business Value of MPL

Using the Urban Libraries Council’s Business Value Calculator, MPL documented its economic impact to Milwaukee’s entrepreneurs and small business owners between May 2024 and June 2025.

The total figure spans one-on-one business consultations, training & education, technology access, meeting and coworking spaces, device and Wi-Fi access, and expert staff support.

All free, all through the library.

→ *“Thank you for your commitment to supporting local organizations. It serves as an inspiring reminder of the role libraries play in empowering individuals and nonprofits alike.”*
- Patron feedback after a Book a Business Librarian session

BIRDING, BELONGING & THE OUTDOORS

In partnership with the BIPOC Birding Club of Wisconsin, MPL added Birding Backpack kits to every branch location in 2025, giving any patron the tools to explore the natural world for free. In March, MPL hosted Emmy-winning naturalist Christian Cooper at Central Library as part of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters’s statewide “Birds and Beyond” series. The evening ended with a standing ovation. The message: the outdoors belongs to everyone.



Adults in the Community

LEARNING. CONNECTING. EXPLORING.

In 2025, Milwaukee Public Library marked the year with three signature community celebrations across our branch clusters: Beat the Blues, Art & Soul, and Unity in the Community. Each event brought together patrons of all ages for music, artmaking, food, and culture, reflecting the full range of what Milwaukee's neighborhoods have to offer.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Milwaukee Public Library is governed by a Board of Trustees, a dedicated group of citizens committed to supporting and advancing the library for the benefit of all Milwaukee residents.



2025 Board of Trustees:

Mark Sain, President
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Teresa Mercado, Financial Secretary
Joan R. Johnson, Secretary, Library Director
Alderwoman Milele Coggs
Darryl Jackson

Matthew Kowalski
Michael Morgan
Felicia Saffold, Ed.D.
Alderman Scott Spiker
Alderwoman Larresa Taylor
Venice Williams
Supervisor Kathleen Vincent

In Memoriam

Mark Sain, Board President



In 2025, the Milwaukee Public Library lost one of its most steadfast advocates. Mark Sain served as President of the MPL Board of Trustees, bringing to that role a lifetime of commitment to literacy and public education, including prior service on the Milwaukee Public Schools Board of Education. He passed away while in service to this institution and to this community.

If you wish to donate to the Mark Sain Memorial Fund, gifts can be directed to the Milwaukee Public Library, Library Business Office, 814 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233.



2026: The Work Continues.

2025 proved what MPL has always known: when a community invests in its library, the library delivers. A new branch. A growing literacy movement. A food literacy network spanning three neighborhoods. Teens designing and selling their own work. A summer reading program that brought everyone to the same table.

2026 will ask more of us. And we are ready.

Thank you to our community and everyone who supports this essential work. We're proud to be a part of the Milwaukee community.



DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Milwaukee Public Library is grateful to the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation, the Friends of Milwaukee Public Library, and the many donors, partners, and community members whose generosity makes this work possible.

\$100,000+

Burke Foundation

\$50,000+

Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.
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\$500+

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Deidra Y. A. Edwards
Genyne Edwards
Charles Engberg
Emily Englert
Teresa Esser and Pehr Anderson
Mary and John Evans
Andrew Falk and Elizabeth Keuler
Carmen Fendt
Fidelity Charitable

- Barbara N. Fuldner Charitable Fund
- Kennedy Gift Fund
- Peterson Family Charitable Fund

\$250+ (cont.)

Fidelity Charitable

- Richard and Nina Edelman Family Fund for Arts and Education

Dean Fitzgerald
Barbara Franczyk
Anthony Franda
Thomas Gale
Gilbane Building Company
Stephen Glynn and Katie Walsh
Tiffany Goggins
Eloisa Gómez
Vivian Gonring
Christine Gould
Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Daniels Family
Pontem Charitable Fund
Nathaniel Haack
Dr. Eve Hall
Erin Hill
Lindsay Hochkammer
Linda Honold
Merri Snow Houdyshell
Indeed Brewing Company
Judith Jablonski and Robert Wait
Lynda Jackson Conyers
Carol Jackson
Chetla Jackson
Sharon Jackson
Annette Jacobson
Lisa Jansen
Alicia Jones
Aaron Justin-Szopinski
KCB Buildings, LLC
Lora Keller
Courtenay Kessler and Jack Miller
Marie Kingsbury and Leo Ries
Timothy Klos
Deborah Koconis and Mark Unak
Jeanne Kowalski
Alex Lancaster

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

\$250+

Mary and Robert Lerner
Laura and David Lewandowski
Mary Ann and David Lillich
Linda and James Lubner
Nancy Lucas
Mary Madigan
Jacqueline Margis
Catherine Markey
Mary McCormick
Kristen Mekemson
Ben Miller
Milwaukee World Festival, Inc.
Milwaukee Art Museum
Matt Moore
Morgan Stanley GIFT, Anonymous Fund
Brigitte Nash
Lois and William O'Brien
Sarah Osborn
Suzanne Osetek
Anna Patel
Hanna Paul
Mary Ann Pautz
Nancy and James Pomes
Chuck Pruitt
Nancy Puhl
Daniel Reeter
Viola Rembert
Kimberly Reyes and Mazio Barian
Annette Robertson
Emily and Mike Robertson
Nate Robertstad
Matthew Rochte
Charles Roedel
Mary Schnell
Robert Schweers
Janet Sekulski
Amy Siettmann
Donald and Susan Simon
Nancy Simuel

\$250+ (cont.)

Margaret and Gordon Skare
Jocklyn Smith
Monica Smith
W. Jeffrey Smoller
Jessica Snell
Joan Spector
Mary and William Stauber
Sandy Stirgus
Donna and Paul Tanzer
Gino Tassara
Andrea and Ethan Taxman
Opal Thompson
Ann Margaret Tylenda
Urban League of Greater Madison
Emily Van Dunk
Mary Beth and Harold Van Groll
Sofia Vela Hayes
Elizabeth Vokac and John Blanchard
Jayne Von der Linden
Sarah Wallisch
Judith Weitzman
Steven Whitson
Madonna and Jay Williams
Katherine Wilson and James Erlandsson
Linda Zaleski

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Michael Morgan, Neil Albrecht, Felicia Saffold, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Ald. Milele Coggs

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL: Tim Fluhr, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Sarah Leszczynski, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger
PFM Asset Management: Richard Romero, Wayne Sattler
Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP: Brandon Panka

Chair Michael Morgan called the meeting of the Board of Trustees Finance & Personnel Committee to order at 8:31 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. All Trustees and presenters participated by video or audio conference.

1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** The Committee reviewed the minutes from the January 27, 2026 meeting. Trustee Saffold moved to approve the minutes; Trustee Williams seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Financial Statements and Auditors' Report.** The Committee received the Milwaukee Public Library Trust Fund Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2025. Mr. Brandon Panka of Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP reviewed the auditors' report and management letter. The auditors issued an unmodified opinion of the MPL Trust Fund financial statements and all fund balances continue to be positive. MPL is following all accounting procedures as required and Mr. Panka noted the excellent work of the Accounting team, led by Sarah Leszczynski. Trustee Albrecht moved to approve the financial statements and independent auditors' report of the MPL trust fund for calendar year 2025 as presented. Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.
3. **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. Despite downturns at the end of March, U.S. markets have recovered and the economy is doing well considering current geopolitics. The account managers will review MPL's current investment policy and send recommended changes to MPL administration. The Committee unanimously accepted the report and placed it on file.
4. **Quarterly Library Report of the Internal Control of the MPL Trust and Gift Funds.** The Internal Controls Memo for first quarter 2026 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.
5. **Contract Awards – Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and Interlibrary Loan Service.** Library Business Manager Sarah Leszczynski presented two grant agreements from the State of

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The agreements will fund the respective services for the next year, beginning on July 1, 2026.

The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) provides audiobooks and Braille materials to nearly 7,000 Wisconsin residents who are unable to use regular print materials due to a temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation. The annual WTBBL program cost is approximately \$1.2M and the DPI agreement will cover 100% of the cost.

The Interlibrary Loan (ILL) program enables materials lending between MPL and other libraries throughout the state of Wisconsin and beyond. The program provides staff and equipment to fulfill nearly 6,000 annual requests. The annual ILL program cost is \$271,000. The DPI agreement will cover \$234,000 and the remaining \$36,000 is funded by Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) through a separate agreement.

Trustee Williams moved to authorize MPL to execute the 2026-2027 DPI Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and Interlibrary Loan agreements. Trustee Saffold seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting of the Library Board's Finance & Personnel Committee was adjourned at 9:19 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

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

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Michael Morgan, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Matt Kowalski, Teresa Mercado, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Joan Johnson

STAFF: Ha Hoang, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Karli Pederson, Chris Schabel, Rebecca Schweisberger, PJ Woboril

OTHERS: Budget and Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack
MPL Foundation: Ryan Daniels

Chair Michael Morgan called the MPL Board of Trustees Building and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. on May 7, 2026 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video or audio conference.

1. **Approval of the Minutes.** Chair Morgan entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the April 2, 2026 meeting. Trustee Taylor moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Pratt seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Library Spaces Naming.** Library Director Joan Johnson introduced discussion about the naming of spaces within MPL buildings as a potential fundraising strategy. Spaces naming is one of multiple fundraising strategies that will be explored as part of the upcoming fundraising feasibility study. The study will also assess community receptiveness to incentives such as naming rights. MPL Foundation (MPLF) Executive Director Ryan Daniels shared examples of various spaces within MPL that could be named and outlined the Foundation's process for identifying potential sponsors. When Good Hope Branch Library opened in 2020, fundraising for naming of spaces was paused due to restrictions during the pandemic. This year, MPLF will begin seeking compatible donors for those spaces. Director Daniels requested specific parameters for spaces naming opportunities, which will be shared with potential donors. Library Director Johnson shared a list of currently named spaces and their associated donations. A draft of the revised spaces naming policy will be shared with the Committee at the June meeting. Informational item.
3. **Capital Projects Inventory.** Library Facilities Manager PJ Woboril reviewed the current inventory of building projects.
 - **C-Cure 9000 Upgrade** – Updating the badge access system that integrates with other facilities systems. The system has been upgraded at 6 branch libraries. Work at Central Library will begin when all branch libraries are completed.
 - **MPL Central Fire Alarm Upgrade** – Work began in November 2025 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.
 - **Washington Park Heat Pump Replacement** – Heat pumps in the geo-thermal system have reached end of life and replacement installation will begin in May 2026.
 - **Masonry Restoration RFP for Central Library (phased)** – Currently working with consultants to design a Request for Proposal for the project.

- Future projects include: Zablocki branch window replacement design; Central Library – Rotunda and Centennial Hall Paint Restoration; Central Library Terrace restoration.
4. **Systemwide Facilities Conditions Report.** Library Facilities Manager PJ Woboril presented the Executive Summary of the Facilities Conditions Assessment. Bureau Veritas (BV) completed an assessment of all MPL facilities in Q4 2025. The report shows the estimated replacement cost, building lifespans, and recommended replacement schedules for equipment at all locations. BV uses a work order software called Asset Essentials, which is used by MPL Facilities staff. As part of the assessment, BV tagged all mechanicals and facilities equipment and imported the data into Asset Essentials. This will allow staff to easily access product information and service records when performing maintenance. Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board’s Building & Development Committee was adjourned at 9:07 a.m. on May 7, 2026.

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2026

Updated 5/6/2026

Current Projects:

Project: MPL-C24-012 – (\$204,668) Central C-Cure 9000 Upgrade (Access Control)

Contractor: JCI

Project: MPL-C25-009 – (\$2,986,150)+(\$20,000)+(\$48,000)MPL Central Fire Alarm Upgrade

Contractor: Wil-Surge Elec, IBC Engineering, Concord Group

Project: MPL-C25-013 – (\$70,500) Washington Park Heat Pump Replacement

Contractor: JM Brennan

Project: MPL-TBD – (Est \$2,000,000) Masonry Restoration RFP for Central Library (phased)

Contractor: Engineer: GRAEF, Concord Group

Future:

Project: MPL Zablocki Library Window Replacement Design

Contractor: Requested 2027

Project: MPL Central Library – Rotunda and Centennial Hall Paint Restoration

Contractor: Requested 2027

Project: MPL Central Library Terrace Repair Design

Contractor: TBD

FACILITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT



prepared for

Milwaukee Public Library
814 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233



Milwaukee Public Libraries
814 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

PREPARED BY:

Bureau Veritas
6021 University Boulevard, Suite 200
Ellicott City, MD 21043
800.733.0660
www.bvna.com

BV CONTACT:

Travis White
Program Manager
800.733.0660 x7296298
Travis.White@bureauveritas.com

BV PROJECT #:

175954.25R000-001.354

DATE OF REPORT:

October 21, 2025

ON SITE DATE:

September 8, 2025

Bureau Veritas

6021 University Boulevard, Suite 200 | Ellicott City, MD 21043 | www.bvna.com | p 800.733.0660

1. Executive Summary

Portfolio Overview and Assessment Details

General Information	
Property Type	Libraries
Number of Buildings	13
Addresses	various
Sites Developed	1898-2025
Outside Occupants / Leased Spaces	None
Date(s) of Visit	September 8-12, 2025
Management Point of Contact	Milwaukee Public Library PJ Woboril, Facilities Manager (414) 708-3205 PhWobor@milwaukee.gov
On-site Point of Contact (POC)	Same as above
Assessment & Report Prepared By	Kamila Florczak and Allister Demas
Reviewed By	Travis White Program Manager 800.733.0660 xx7296298 Travis.White@bureauveritas.com
AssetCalc Link	Full dataset for this assessment can be found at: https://www.assetcalc.net/



Facility Condition Index (FCI)

One of the major goals of the FCA is to calculate the Facility Condition Index (FCI), which provides a theoretical objective indication of a facility's overall condition. The FCI is defined as the ratio of the cost of current needs divided by the current replacement value (CRV) of the facility. The chart below presents the industry standard ranges and cut-off points.

FCI Ranges and Description

0 – 5%	In new or well-maintained condition, with little visual evidence of wear or deficiencies.
5 – 10%	Subjected to wear but is still in a serviceable and functioning condition.
10 – 30%	Subjected to hard or long-term wear. Nearing the end of its useful or serviceable life.
30% and above	Has reached the end of its useful or serviceable life. Renewal is now necessary.

The deficiencies and lifecycle needs identified in this assessment provide the basis for a portfolio-wide capital improvement funding strategy. In addition to the current FCI, extended FCI's have been developed to provide owners the intelligence needed to plan and budget for the "keep-up costs" for their facilities. As such the 3-year, 5-year, and 10-year FCI's are calculated by dividing the anticipated needs of those respective time periods by current replacement value. As a final point, the FCI's ultimately provide more value when used to relatively compare facilities across a portfolio instead of being over-analyzed and scrutinized as stand-alone mathematical values. The table below presents the current, 3-year, 5-year, and 10-year FCI's for this facility:

Facility (year built)	Cost/SF	Total SF	Replacement Value	Current	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Alkinson (1961)	\$435	13,500	\$5,872,500	0.1%	0.2%	6.1%	22.9%
Bay View (1993)	\$435	16,500	\$7,177,500	0.0%	9.6%	15.2%	30.1%
Capitol (1964)	\$435	12,777	\$5,557,995	3.4%	10.1%	15.5%	25.7%
Center Street (1889)	\$435	16,150	\$7,025,250	0.0%	3.3%	14.9%	25.3%
Central (1898)	\$435	457,919	\$199,194,785	0.5%	6.8%	9.6%	26.9%
East (2014)	\$435	16,647	\$7,241,445	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	5.8%
Good Hope (2020)	\$435	18,400	\$8,004,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	5.3%
Marth Luther King (2020)	\$435	18,097	\$7,872,195	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	2.0%
Mitchell Street (2017)	\$435	20,500	\$8,917,500	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Tippecanoe (1960)	\$435	16,906	\$7,353,875	0.0%	3.4%	6.7%	12.9%
Villard Square (2011)	\$435	12,770	\$5,554,950	2.5%	2.8%	7.0%	10.1%
Washington Park (2003)	\$435	20,540	\$8,934,900	0.1%	0.3%	2.7%	14.8%
Zablecki (1963)	\$435	14,739	\$6,411,485	32.2%	40.8%	44.6%	61.0%

MCFLS Board Meeting Summary: May 5, 2026

The Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board of Trustees met in person at the North Shore Library on May 5, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Key Reports and Actions

- **Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC):** the Board approved the LDAC April 9 meeting report which highlighted the 2025 MCFLS Cataloguing Audit, possible changes to statewide delivery service, an electronic resources workgroup update, an update on LSTA funding and how MCFLS is using it for website updates related to accessibility, and announcement of an upcoming continuing education SEWI session on supporting children and communities with trauma-informed care.
- **Proposal to enter into a three-year subscription for Peterson’s Test and Career Prep:** The Board approved a system proposal to accept Gale’s quote and terms for \$31,495.50 beginning 5/1/26 and ending 4/30/27. This takes advantage of savings realized after dropping the subscription to Gale Courses.

Administrative and Staffing Updates

- **Personnel Changes:** MCFLS’s newest staff member Dillon Gouff, Network Administrator, was introduced.
 - **2025 LSTA Grants:** Director Hesel reported that a letter from DPI confirming the second 2026 system payment of \$1,115,030.75 was received.
-

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
April 30, 2026**

2026

2025

City Revenues

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
<i>Additional City Appropriation</i>	\$ 32,698,143	\$ 11,451,942	35.0%
<i>Fines</i>	\$ 92,000	\$ 26,645	29.0%
<i>Lost Materials, etc.</i>	\$ 46,000	\$ 16,455	35.8%
<i>MCFLS Contracts</i>	\$ 1,028,000	\$ 309,485	30.1%
Total City Appropriation	\$ 33,864,143	\$ 11,804,527	34.9%

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
	\$ 32,920,741	\$ 11,006,652	33.4%
	\$ 94,000	\$ 22,287	23.7%
	\$ 50,000	\$ 24,946	49.9%
	\$ 927,000	\$ 19,396	2.1%
Total	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 11,073,281	32.6%

City Expenses

Salaries & Benefits

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 19,412,775	\$ 6,721,370	34.6%
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ 8,735,750	\$ 2,849,902	32.6%
Total	\$ 28,148,525	\$ 9,571,272	34.0%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 19,539,425	\$ 6,378,722	32.6%
	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 2,417,361	27.5%
Total	\$ 28,332,167	\$ 8,796,083	31.0%

Supplies & Services

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>General Office Expense</i>	\$ 116,550	\$ 24,430	21.0%
<i>Construction Supplies</i>	\$ 27,133	\$ 11,007	40.6%
<i>Energy</i>	\$ 913,744	\$ 358,114	39.2%
<i>Other Operating Supplies</i>	\$ 348,084	\$ 125,616	36.1%
<i>Vehicle Rental</i>	\$ 9,530	\$ 4,317	45.3%
<i>Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental</i>	\$ 13,200	\$ 2,837	21.5%
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 119,342	\$ 31,222	26.2%
<i>Information Technology Services</i>	\$ 394,200	\$ 308,300	78.2%
<i>Property Services</i>	\$ 688,500	\$ 385,985	56.1%
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	\$ 125,000	\$ 146,491	117.2%
<i>Other Operating Services</i>	\$ 151,874	\$ 55,931	36.8%
<i>Reimburse Other Departments</i>	\$ 120,916	\$ 11,999	9.9%
Total	\$ 3,028,073	\$ 1,466,249	48.4%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 115,700	\$ 25,186	21.8%
	\$ 18,000	\$ 6,105	33.9%
	\$ 886,500	\$ 237,720	26.8%
	\$ 278,956	\$ 76,059	27.3%
	\$ 9,200	\$ 1,617	17.6%
	\$ 13,200	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 86,600	\$ 55,629	64.2%
	\$ 357,920	\$ 248,187	69.3%
	\$ 861,520	\$ 640,411	74.3%
	\$ 46,000	\$ 100,634	218.8%
	\$ 152,112	\$ 27,780	18.3%
	\$ 111,900	\$ (384)	-0.3%
Total	\$ 2,937,608	\$ 1,418,944	48.3%

Equipment

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Library Materials</i>	\$ 1,946,000	\$ 627,101	32.2%
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$ 359,534	\$ 36,530	10.2%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 148,311	\$ 23,464	15.8%
Total	\$ 2,453,845	\$ 687,095	28.0%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 612,143	32.5%
	\$ 220,824	\$ 33,686	15.3%
	\$ 337,042	\$ 120,354	35.7%
Total	\$ 2,443,366	\$ 766,183	31.4%

Other Departmental Appropriation

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Villard Square Property Payment</i>	\$ 12,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>East Property Payment</i>	\$ 11,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Mitchell Street Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>MLK Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ 9,084	39.5%
<i>Good Hope Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Contingent Energy Financing</i>	\$ 141,700	\$ 70,827	50.0%
Total	\$ 233,700	\$ 79,911	34.2%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 11,600	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 9,133	\$ 9,133	0.0%
	\$ 76,000	\$ 13,500	17.8%
	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 42,967	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 138,900	\$ 69,438	50.0%
Total	\$ 278,600	\$ 92,071	33.0%

Total City Expenses	\$ 33,864,143	\$ 11,804,527	34.9%
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Total	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 11,073,281	32.6%
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**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
April 30, 2026**

2026

2025

Additional Funding Sources

Grants

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>WTBBL Jul '25 - Jun '26</i>	\$ 1,178,700	\$ 896,122	76.0%
<i>ILL Jul '25 - Jun '26</i>	\$ 263,150	\$ 202,019	76.8%
Total	\$ 1,441,850	\$ 1,098,141	76.2%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,033,100	\$ 856,521	82.9%
	\$ 233,550	\$ 135,741	58.1%
	\$ 1,266,650	\$ 992,262	78.3%

Trust Funds

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 172,000	\$ 63,971	37.2%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 75,000	\$ 12,385	16.5%
<i>Training</i>	\$ 27,000	\$ 4,248	15.7%
<i>Marketing*</i>	\$ 91,000	\$ 6,538	7.2%
<i>Contingency</i>	\$ 4,000	\$ 37	0.9%
<i>Board Development</i>	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Strehlow 50+</i>	\$ 8,000	\$ 370	4.6%
<i>Fundraising Feasibility Study</i>	\$ 86,000	\$ -	0.0%
Total	\$ 466,000	\$ 87,549	18.8%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 167,000	\$ 102,604	61.4%
	\$ 53,000	\$ 7,936	15.0%
	\$ 26,000	\$ 7,493	28.8%
	\$ 45,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 5,000	\$ 384	7.7%
	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,024	12.8%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 309,000	\$ 119,441	38.7%

*2026 Trust - Marketing budget includes \$45,000 in carryover

Foundation Contributions

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 358,716	\$ 5,681	1.6%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 1,216,049	\$ 163,044	13.4%
Total	\$ 1,574,765	\$ 168,725	10.7%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 281,497	\$ 11,029	3.9%
	\$ 1,660,809	\$ 303,996	18.3%
	\$ 1,942,306	\$ 315,025	16.2%

Investments

U.S. Bank National Assoc. Commercial Paper (rated A1) confirmation #795035767 dated 04/29/26 and maturing 05/29/26 at a rate of 1.40%...\$275,000

Director's Report May 2026

Johnson participated in several programs and welcomed scores of attendees to events featuring MSO's Principal Pops Conductor Byron Stripling and fellow musicians, the 23rd U.S. Poet Laureate and author Joy Harjo, along with fellow poet Sherman Funmaker. Both are examples of the many collaborative initiatives the library does to reach broader audiences, cultivate relationships and deliver what the community wants and needs. Partners help share the costs and the MPL portion is often funded thanks to the ongoing support of the Friends of the MPL and the MPL Foundation.

Johnson showed her support for awardee Procurement and Compliance Manager Ano Vang Schacherer who was honored as one of the earliest City of Milwaukee employees of AAPI heritage to lead in a managerial capacity at the first ever Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Kickoff Celebration Event at City Hall. MPL's Martin Luther King Branch Library building project received recognition from Mayor Johnson for the 2026 Mayor's Design Award. Since 1997, this award has recognized design excellence throughout the City of Milwaukee.

In organizational development work, Johnson and Deputy Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns kicked off the fundraising feasibility study in a first meeting with principals of MPL's Board approved consultant Changing Our World. The team will work closely with Trustees, Foundation staff and Directors to complete the study by the end of the year. Johnson's and Communications Director Melissa Howard's leadership of the OneMPL Governance Committee continues. Their work on the development of the OneMPL Service Philosophy framework has intensified in advance of launching a pilot at three branches this summer.

In community partnership work, Johnson and team met with Milwaukee Art Museum Executive Director Kim Sajet and others to learn about MAM's goals and explore how they might overlap with MPL's. There are a few areas of potential collaboration that could benefit both organizations and the shared clientele being served. Johnson and team met with her Milwaukee Health Department peer and other potential partners to collaborate on how best to incorporate the services of a social worker to support staff at Central and other branches.

Johnson's engagement with community stakeholders is ongoing and she attended the MCFLS, Westown, Friends of the MPL and Rotary board meetings. In support of the outgoing director of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, Johnson attended the Milwaukee Press Club's annual Gridiron Awards dinner where she was being honored. She also attended the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition virtual member meetings, and the Urban Libraries Council's virtual meetings of the ULC Executive Directors.

April 2026

Summary of VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON PROGRAMS :

MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ

Verses and Vibes. Milwaukee's poet laureate, Shelly Conley, former poet laureate, Mario "The Poet" Willis along with Maria Cunningham and Justin McCulla shared poetry. Both Maria and Justin displayed their artwork. Nefatari African Dance Company inspired patrons with their dance vibes. Patrons took fruit as they left. Everyone seemed to enjoy the program on the floor of the library. Attendance: 49
Hidden Chapter Book Club. Celebrate Earth Month by attending Hidden Chapter Book Club! The April meeting discussed *Better Living Through Birding* by Christian Cooper, and took a field trip to discover ornithology treasures from the Rare Books Librarian. Attendance: 7

MPL HELPS PEOPLE LEARN

Growing a Bountiful Harvest - Even When Your Time, Space & Budget are Limited. [Virtual] Presented by horticulture expert Melinda Myers. Learn some tips and strategies that will help you to maximize your harvest in any available space. Whether you have a dedicated garden, grow in containers or squeeze fruits, vegetables, and herbs into your other garden beds, we will help you grow lots of produce no matter what your limitations. We will discuss plant varieties as well as planting and harvesting techniques to help increase your vegetable gardening success! Attendance: 310

Small Space, Small Budget Vegetable Gardening. Small Space, Small Budget Vegetable Gardening will teach you strategies to maximize your yield while gardening in smaller spaces. Some of the techniques we discuss include, succession planting, square foot gardening, raised beds, and container gardening. Join Master Gardener Kim Torbett for this presentation and leave with a few vegetable starts of your own to launch your own gardening season. Attendance: 8

Great Milwaukee Blitz Kickoff - with Victory Garden Initiative. Attendees got a quick introduction to the Great Milwaukee Blitz program and learned how to get a garden bed installed at their home. The session featured a "crash course" on gardening basics at this fun and interactive workshop. Victory Garden Initiative (VGI) was founded in 2009, sparked by a simple but powerful belief: everyone deserves access to fresh, healthy food. What began as a small group of passionate neighbors has grown into a citywide movement to transform Milwaukee's food system—one garden at a time. Attendance: 10

MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT

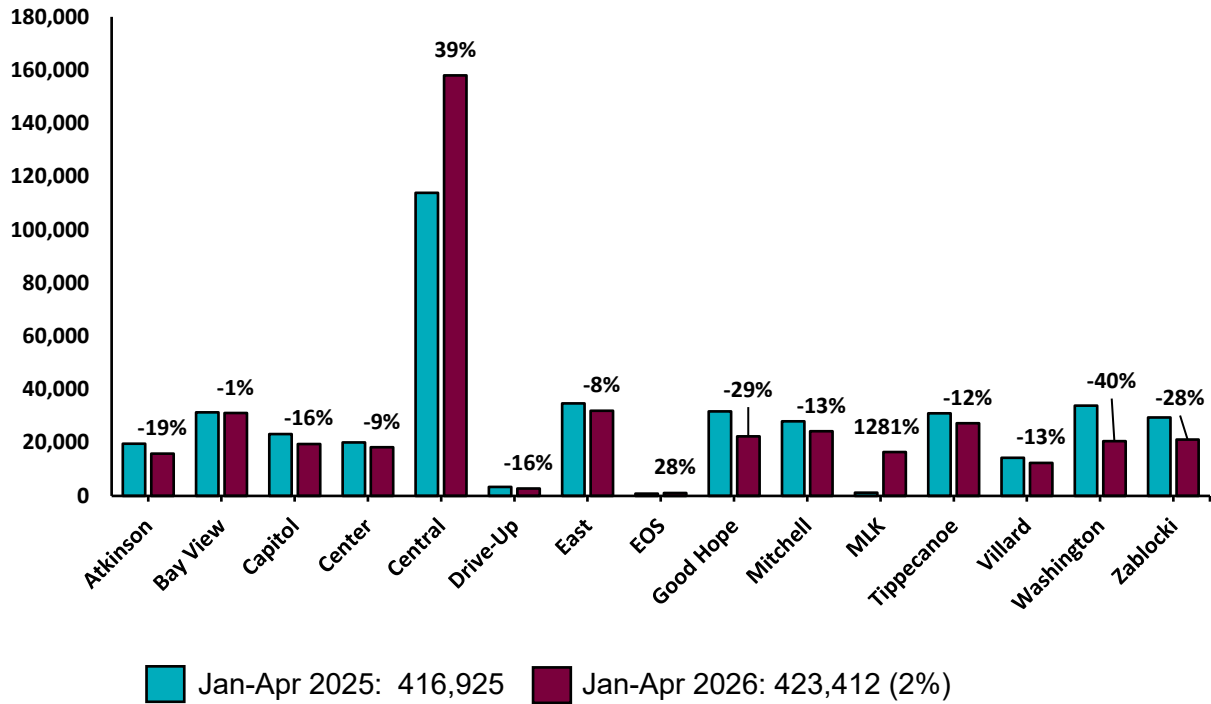
Milwaukee Zine Fest. Founded in 2008, MZF is an annual explosion of zine-focused wonder in the form of a boisterous festival featuring 124 vendors from across the country. It's always free to attend, and always super fun for all ages. The single day event is held at the Milwaukee Central Library, and packed with opportunities to explore and purchase various forms of DIY and independent publishing presented by diverse artists, writers, illustrators, photographers, poets--and more! The festival also features hands on experiences and workshops throughout the day for attendees of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Attendance: 5,027

Adaptive Yoga. The Library has offered accessible public yoga programming for years, and it continues to be a popular draw across the system. This session took place at Central Library, and participants were able to enjoy the benefits of yoga while practicing safely and at their own pace, learning from an experienced and knowledgeable instructor. Attendance: 10

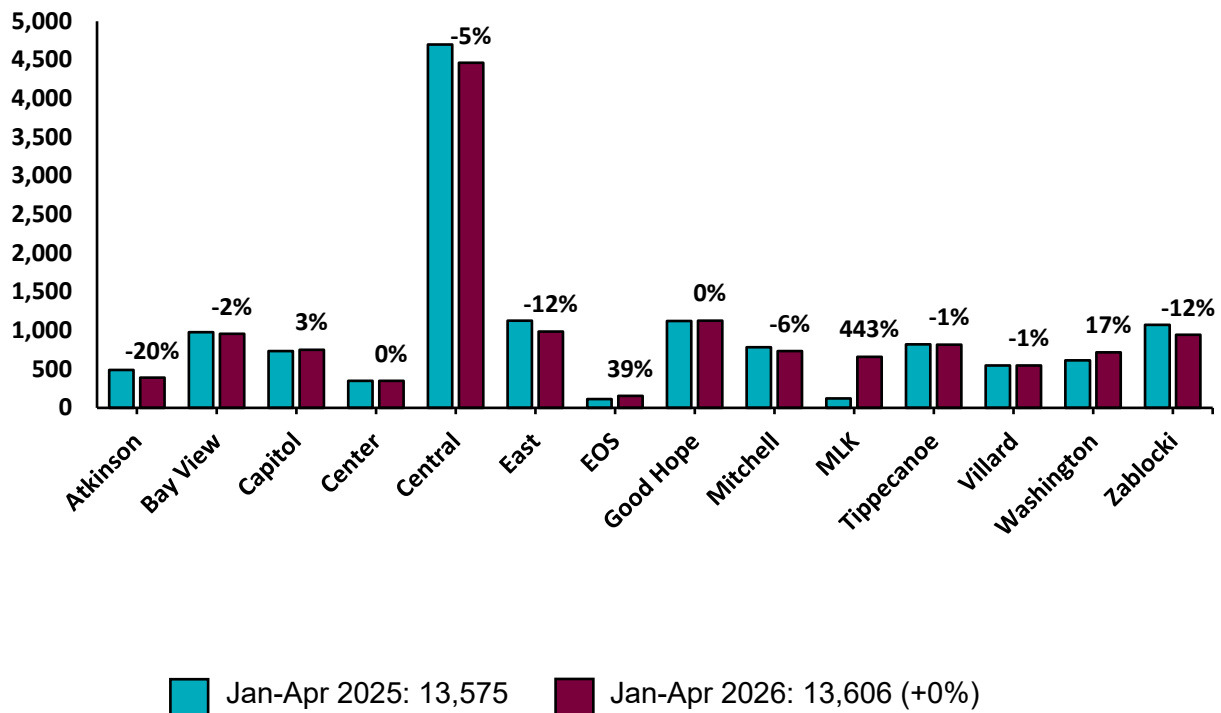
Snack Hack: 2.0. April is Poetry Month, and our weekly Snack Hack series enjoyed a special appearance from Poet Laureate Shelly Conley. Attendees learn how food is grown, the cultural connections to what we eat, how food works in our bodies, and how to prepare meals at home, as well as the differences between vitamins and minerals, braising and sautéing, and fiber and protein. Snack Hack also reveals the culinary world through library resources. Attendees have the opportunity to enjoy eating snacks created each week. Attendance: 16

Total attendance for 87 programs: 6,111

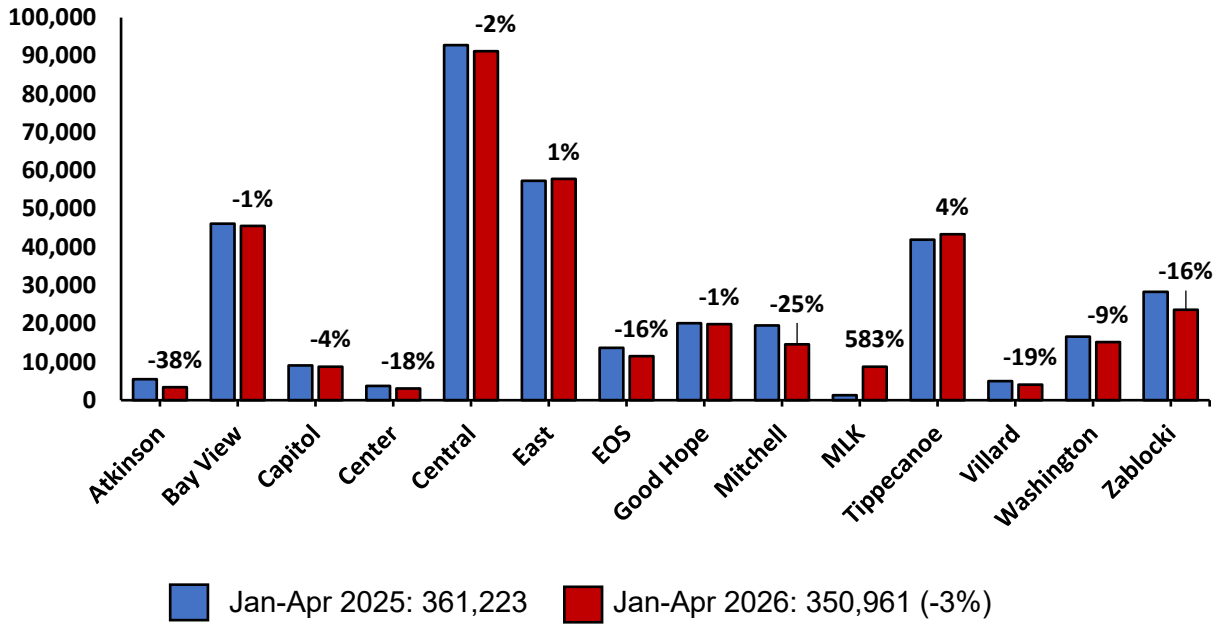
Patron Visits



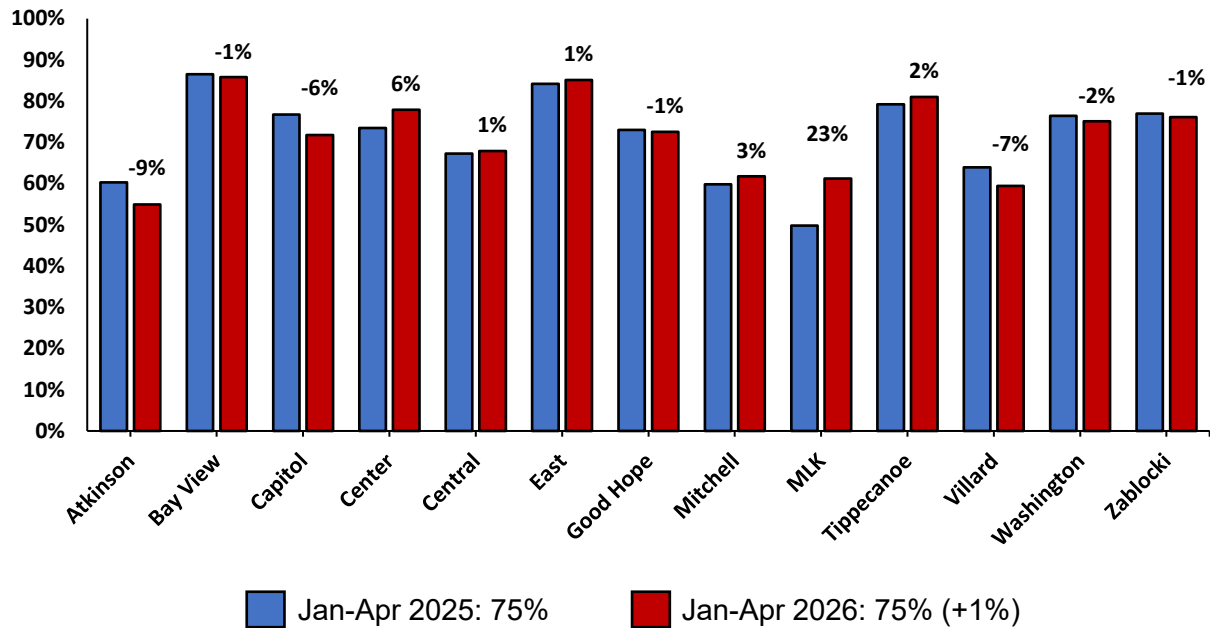
Registration



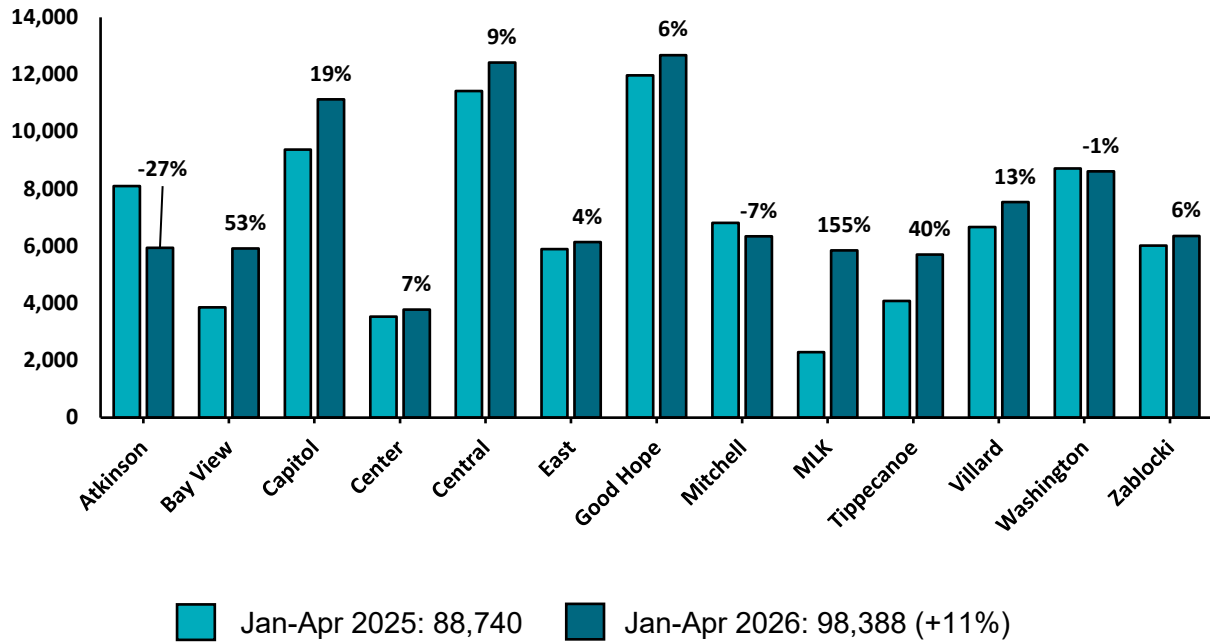
Traditional Circulation



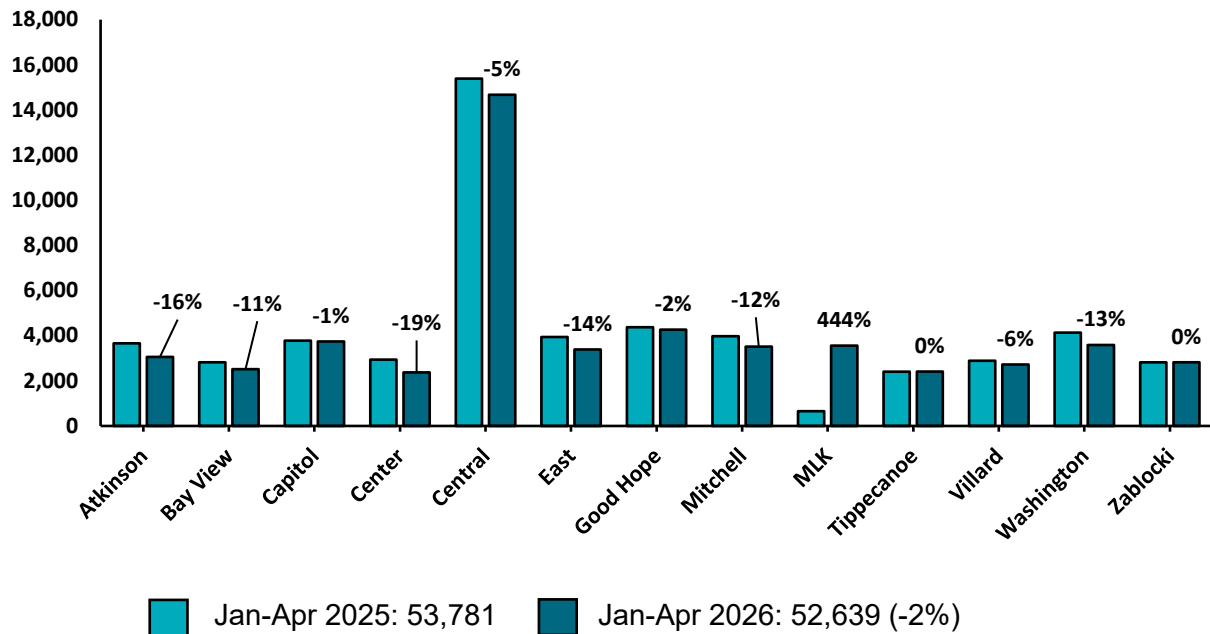
Self-Checkout



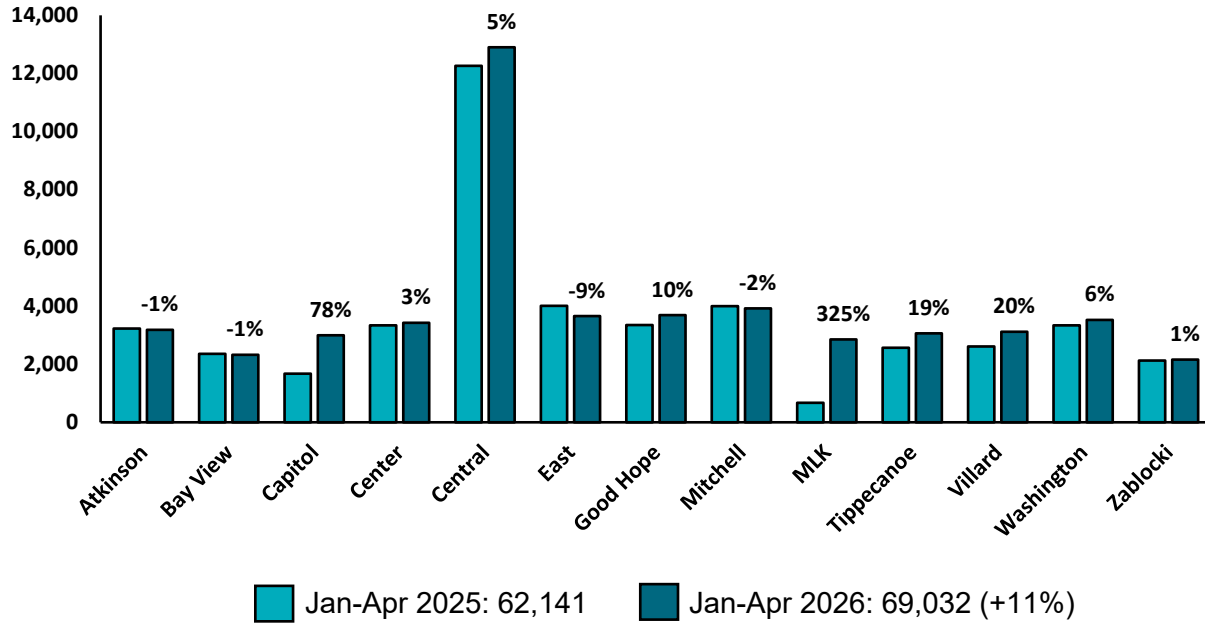
Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Jobs



Public Computer Sessions



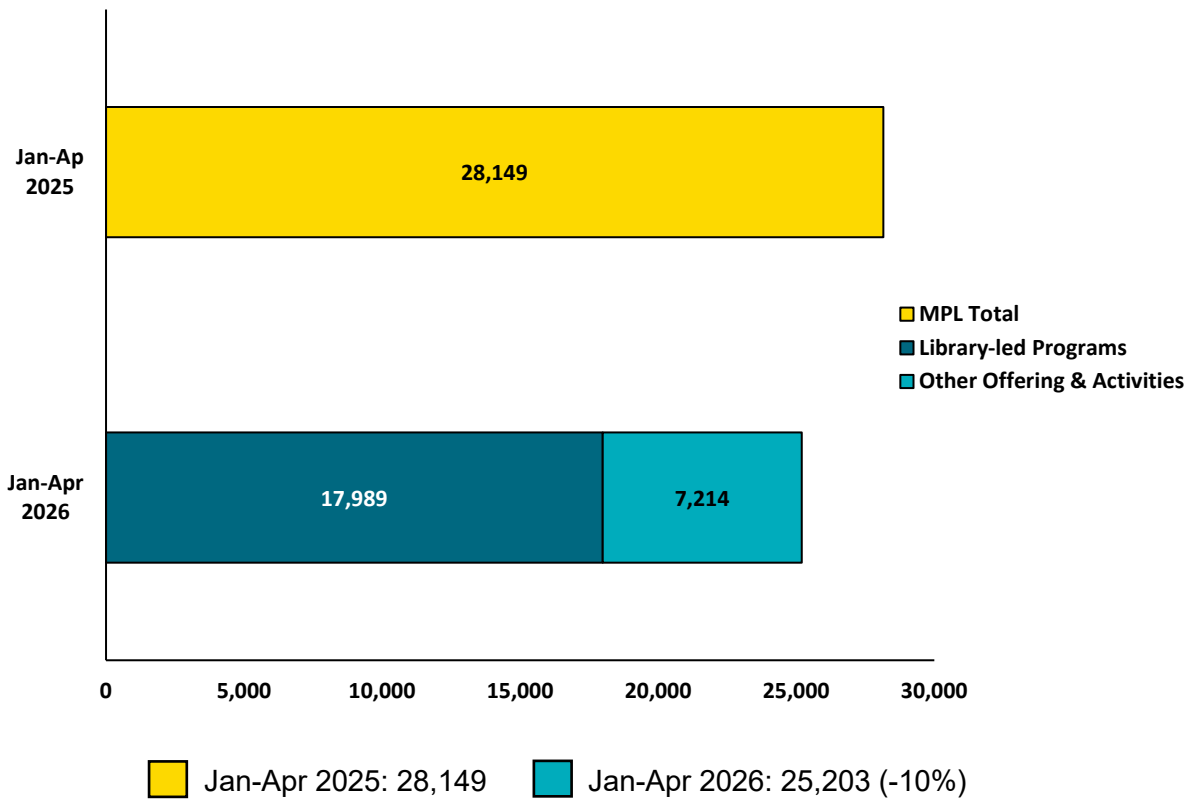
Wi-Fi Unique Users



eCirculation

Platform	Jan-Apr 2025	Jan-Apr 2026	Change
Freegal Music	53,799	271,515	+405%
Hoopla Digital	22,714	22,126	-2%
Kanopy	12,523	14,395	+15%
OverDrive	170,735	190,839	+12%
Total	259,771	498,875	+92%

Program Attendance*



*On January 1st, 2026, MPL changed how programs are reported and counted to closer match definitions provided by the WI Department of Public Instruction. Due to this change, comparative statistics will be different as we continue to collect updated and accurate statistics throughout the remainder of the year.

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

ATTACHMENT B - P. 1 of 4
6. Library Services & Programs
Committee Meeting - 05/06/26
P. 45

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Ald. Milele Coggs, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Felicia Saffold, Venice Williams, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson

STAFF: MPL: Kelly Bolter, Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Carlos Lopez, Tammy Mays Wilder, Joey McMahon, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Jessica Wolf
Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack
Patron: Ivan Kruslin

Acting Chair Venice Williams called the MPL Board of Trustees Services and Programs Committee meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. All Trustees and presenters participated by video or audio conference. Agenda items were taken out of order but are presented here in numerical sequence.

1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** Acting Chair Williams entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the March 4, 2026 meeting. Trustee Saffold moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Coggs seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Safety Report.** Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez reported on security incidents in quarter 1 of 2026. Overall, incidents have increased by 63% over the same time period in 2025. The majority of security incidents were related to alcohol/drugs, loitering, theft, trespassing, and miscellaneous disruptions. A portion of the increase may be attributed to enhanced security guard expectations and improved reporting protocols. Incidents involving computer usage violations and physical altercations decreased. Informational item.
3. **Expansion of Sunday Service.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented a request to modify the expansion of Sunday service at two additional branches; the memo was listed as Attachment B of the agenda. The 2026 hours of operation were approved by the MPL Board at the November 2025 meeting and an updated version was approved at the January 2026 meeting. The hours included increasing the number of locations offering Sunday hours from three to five, beginning in July. A new staffing software and scheduling model have been implemented and the Library Human Resources team has been collecting weekly feedback surveys from staff assigned to Sunday shifts. Based on this feedback and in consideration of increased staffing needs and operational demands during summer, Director Johnson requested authorization to use a phased approach to open the remaining branches. Under the phased schedule, Martin Luther King Branch Library would open on July 12th and Mitchell Street Branch Library would open on September 13th. Trustee Williams moved to approve using a phased approach as described to add Sunday hours at the two additional branches. Trustee Vincent seconded. Motion passed.
4. **Patron Ban Appeal Hearings.** Under Wisconsin State Statutes 43.52(2) and Article XI Section 2 of the MPL Board of Trustees Bylaws, the Committee held appeal hearings in the matters of the library banning of Ivan Kruslin and Donell Parker, respectively.

Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez, Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, and patron Ivan Kruslin introduced themselves. All witnesses swore an oath that the testimony they gave in this matter was the truth.

Mr. Lopez stated the allegations against Mr. Kruslin and detailed the events that led to the ban. Mr. Kruslin was permitted an opportunity to ask questions and address the allegations. Mr. Kruslin presented his position and stated reasons as to why he believes the ban should be lifted.

Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez stated the allegations against Mr. Parker. Mr. Parker was not in attendance.

The Committee moved into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(a) to deliberate concerning the quasi-judicial hearing in the cases of Ivan Kruslin and Donell Parker. Roll was called and unanimously passed. After discussion, the Committee convened in open session. The Committee's recommendation will be presented to the full Board at the May 26, 2026 meeting.

5. **Welcome Card Pilot Update.** Associate Library Director Karli Pederson presented an update on the Welcome Card initiative. MPL and Wauwatosa Library are working with Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) to offer a card with modified access to library services for patrons who are not able to provide information required for a full-access library card. The program goal is to reduce barriers required for library card access and provide county residents the opportunity to use library services, including computer use and access to MPL and Wauwatosa materials. The pilot ran November 2025 through April 2026 and 125 patrons participated in the program. Currently, approximately 81% of participants still have active cards, 6% are inactive due to registration issues, and 10% have exceeded the fine threshold. An update on the pilot will be presented at the Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC). The pilot will be extended and other MCFLS member libraries will be invited to participate. Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Services & Programs Committee was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. on May 6, 2026.



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

2026 Proposed Public Service Hours
(Revised 05/01/26)

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	10 a.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 – 07/11/2026

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	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

Sunday Hours: Central: (Year-round) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Good Hope and Tippecanoe: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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



Branch Libraries – 07/12/2026 – 09/12/2026

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 , and Tippecanoe	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

48 hrs/wk and 52 hrs/wk (for 3 branches)

Sunday Hours: Central: (Year-round) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Good Hope, Martin Luther King, and Tippecanoe: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Branch Libraries – 09/13/2026 – 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	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

Sunday Hours: Central: (Year-round) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Good Hope, Martin Luther King, Mitchell Street, and Tippecanoe: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Proposed Slate of Officers for MPL Board

May 2026 – May 2028

President: Michele Bria

Vice-President: Teresa Mercado

Financial Secretary: Michael Morgan

Past President: Vacant