



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, April 28, 2026

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 – 4:15

CONSENT AGENDA

4:15 – 4:20

Attachment A, page 3

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 Report
 - c. Statistics

REPORTS

4:20 – 4:50

5. **MPL Board Nominating Committee Meeting.** Committee Chair Matt Kowalski will present the proposed slate of officers for consideration at the May 26, 2026 meeting.
Attachment B, page 39
6. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** Committee Chair Michael Morgan will present action items from the April 28, 2026 meeting.
7. **Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Update.** President Michele Bria will present an update on the work of the ULC Executive Board.

NEW BUSINESS

4:50 – 5:00

8. **MPL 2025 Annual Report.** Melissa Howard, Communications and Community Engagement Director, will present the 2025 Annual Report. The report will be received and placed on file.

CLOSING REMARKS

5:00 – 5:10

9. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment.**

REMINDER: Next scheduled meetings are:

May 6, 2026 Services & Programs Committee – Virtual Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

May 7, 2026 Building & Development Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

May 26, 2026 Board Meeting – Central Library, 4:00 p.m.

Trustees

Michele Bria, *President*, Teresa Mercado, *Vice-President*, Michael Morgan, *Financial Secretary*, Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Darryl Jackson, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Venice Williams, 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 adacoordinator@milwaukee.gov.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

**Mitchell Street Branch
Community Room
906 W. Historic Mitchell Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204**

- PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Michael Morgan, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson
- EXCUSED:** Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Darryl Jackson, Teresa Mercado, Sup. Kathleen Vincent
- STAFF:** Tim Fluhr, Beth Henika, Melissa Howard, Ha Hoang, Tammy Mays Wilder, Amanda McGillivray, Tara Kron, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Amelia Osterud, Karli Pederson, Chris Schabel, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Jessica Wolf
- OTHER:** Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack
Campbell & Company: Jacquelyn Peters, Nate Groomwald
Changing Our World: Kevin Allan, Raissa Smorol
Mayor's Office: Claire Zautke
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation: Ryan Daniels

President Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:14 p.m. on March 24, 2026 with a quorum present. Trustee Williams attended virtually. Agenda items were taken out of order but are presented here in numerical sequence.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

1. **Mitchell Street Branch Introduction.** Library Services Manager Maria Burke presented a brief overview of Mitchell Street branch, highlighting the building's history, services, and culturally grounded programs. Mitchell Street opened in 2017, replacing the former Forest Home branch. It is located in an historic building and the library space incorporates many original architectural details along with a unique spiral book return slide. The Mitchell Street makerspace offers STEM programming and a recording studio. The Cargill Community Kitchen offers nutritional literacy programming and community meals with resident Chef Sharrie Agee. The Mitchell Street Alley space is used for various programs and has been updated with lighting, furniture, and planters. Ms. Burke thanked the MPL Foundation for providing funding for many programs and enhancements. Mitchell Street partners with several community groups and serves as an early voting location. The annual Unity in the Community event, held jointly with Bay View and Zablocki branches, has been very well attended. The presentation is attached at the end of these minutes. Informational item.

New Staff Introduction. Library Director Joan Johnson introduced Ha Hoang, Associate Library Director – Patron Experience & Strategy. Ms. Hoang shared a brief overview of her professional background, service philosophy, and her excitement to work at MPL. Informational item.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 27, 2026**
3. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee – January 27, 2026
 - b. Services & Programs Committee – March 4, 2026
 - c. 2026 Nominating Committee – March 11, 2026
4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, March 17, 2026.**
5. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director’s Reports
 - c. Statistics
6. **Updated MPL Board Committee Assignments.**

Chair Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda, presented as attachment A, pages 4-24 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

7. **State Annual Report – System Effectiveness Form.** MPL prepared and submitted the annual report, listed as Attachment B of the agenda, to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). President Bria viewed and approved the report and entertained a motion for the Board to ratify her approval. Trustee Pratt moved to approve the report and Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

8. **Fundraising Feasibility Study Proposals.** Chair Bria gave a brief summary of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the fundraising feasibility study. A committee comprised of Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, President Bria, Senior Policy Director Claire Zautke, and MPL Foundation Board President Ellen Sexton reviewed the proposals. The two finalists, Campbell & Company and Changing Our World, presented their proposal to the Board. Library Director Joan Johnson thanked Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns for her leadership on this project.

Following the presentations, Chair Bria stated her intention to convene in closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) “for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session”, for the purpose of discussing award of the fundraising feasibility study contract. Trustee Taylor made a motion to move to closed session and Trustee Morgan seconded. Library Director Joan Johnson, Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Senior Policy Director Claire Zautke, and Administrative Assistant IV Rebecca Schweisberger remained during closed session.

The Board reconvened in open session on a motion by Trustee Kowalski and seconded by Trustee Morgan. Chair Bria announced the Board’s decision to award the fundraising feasibility study contract to Changing Our World. Motion passed.

9. **MCFLS Lease Agreement.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns presented the updated lease agreement with Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS). The City Attorneys

Office recently reviewed citywide lease agreements and the MCFLS lease was updated to meet the City's legal standards. The annual lease amount was calculated using comparable rates for corporate space in downtown Milwaukee. The lease has been approved by the MCFLS Board. Trustee Pratt moved to approve the lease agreement as presented and Trustee Taylor seconded. Motion passed.

10. **Contract Awards – Library Books and Media.** Karli Pederson, Associate Library Director - Library Information Technology & Technical Services, and Beth Henika, Library Services Manager – Acquisitions & Serials, presented a contract award request for library materials vendors and referred to the memo listed as Attachment D of the agenda. Following the closure of Baker & Taylor, MPL released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a vendor to provide the library with its books, media, and other library materials. Five proposals were received. A committee made-up of library staff, including: librarian selectors, the Library Services Manager, and Technical Services Supervisor, reviewed the proposals and convened vendor demos when necessary. The committee recommended awarding the Library Books portion of the contract to Ingram Library Services LLC. It also recommended awarding the Library Media portion of the contract to Midwest Tape, LLC. Trustee Saffold moved to accept the award recommendations as presented. Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS

11. **MPL Foundation Report.** MPL Foundation Executive Director Ryan Daniels presented an update on fundraising and events. Director Daniels referred to a handout with information about total funds raised in 2025. In 2025, the MPLF raised \$1,742,798 and funded 103% of the pledged gift. Director Daniels recommended Trustees view MPLF's rating on GuideStar. MPLF was invited to apply for an Impact 100 grant and has progressed to the site visit phase. Upcoming events include:
 - The Friends Spring Literary Luncheon on April 23rd featuring author Christina Baker Kline
 - MPLF has been selected as one of the top three beneficiaries of Christian Yelich's family foundation fundraising event in May
 - The Ben Franklin Awards Ceremony will be held on September 22nd and the honorees will be Jackie Herd and Michael Barber and Baird Corporate

Chair Bria thanked MPLF for their ongoing support of library programs and services. Informational item.

12. **Building & Development Committee Meeting.** Committee Chair Michael Morgan presented the action item from the March 5, 2026 meeting. The Committee received presentations from three firms for the Midtown project architecture and engineering services contract. Each group had time for presentation and a Q&A session from the Committee. Proposals were received from: Engberg Anderson, EUA, and HGA. The presentations were made in open session and the Committee deliberated and reached a decision in closed session. Trustee Morgan moved to approve the selection of Engberg Anderson to provide engineering and architectural services as part of the feasibility study in the first phase of the Midtown development. Trustee Pratt seconded. Motion passed.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of March 24, 2026 was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.



Mitchell Street Branch

← 1898 Central



1964 Capitol



1969 Tippecanoe
(renovated 2016)



2003 Washington Park



2020 Good Hope



2011 Villard
Square



2025 King

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

1963 Zablocki



1966 Forest Home



1993 Bay View



2017 Mitchell St



1961 Atkinson



1989 Center St



2014 East



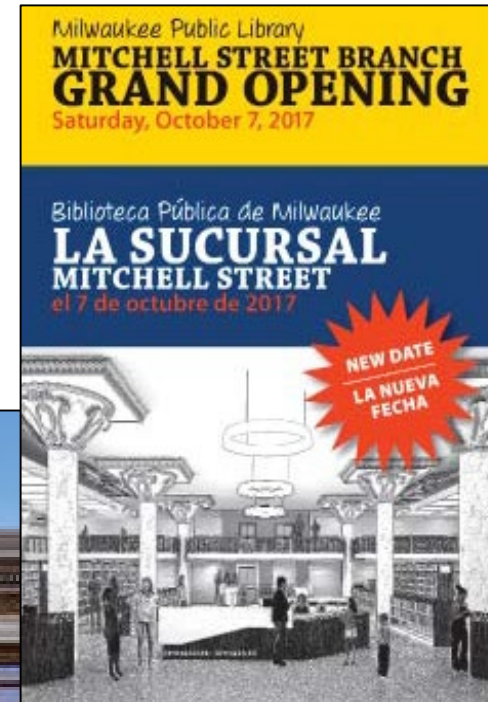


Forest Home

Opened 1966
14,500 sq.ft.

Mitchell Street

Opened 2017
23,000 sq. ft.



Culturally Rich Neighborhood

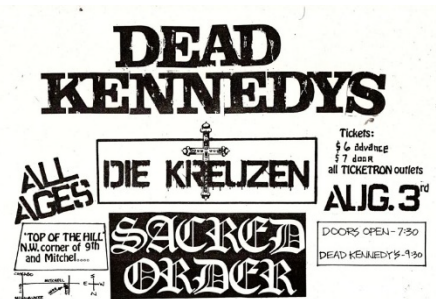
- "The Downtown of Milwaukee's South Side"
- 50+ ethnic groups
 - Polish and Mexican Americans have been joined by Southeast Asians (especially Hmong, Burmese and Vietnamese refugees) and African Americans, Arabs, and North American Indians
- Largest Spanish-language collection in the county; most bilingual staff at MPL
 - Bi-lingual and Spanish programming aimed at helping native-Spanish speakers feel more connected with the community



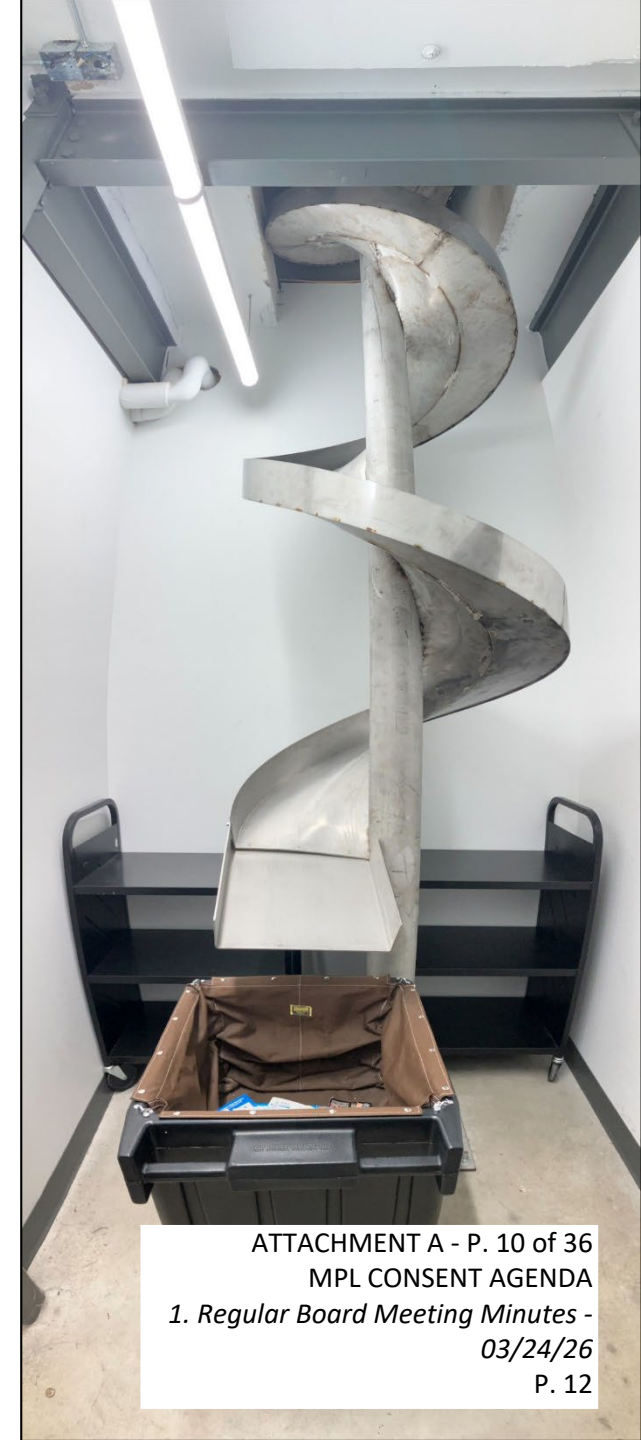


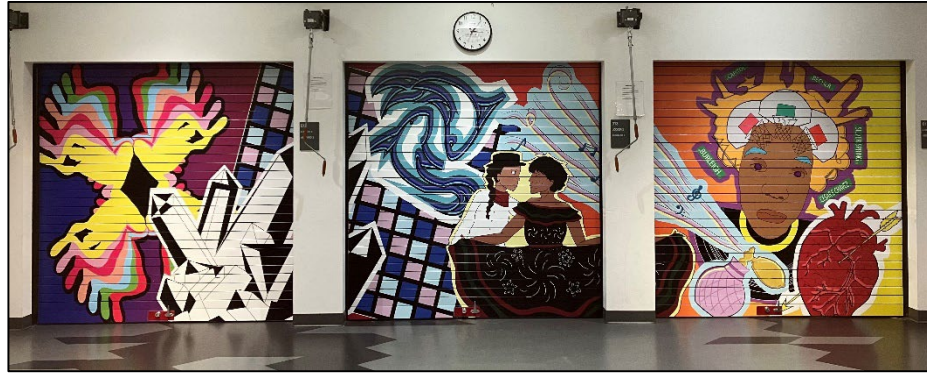
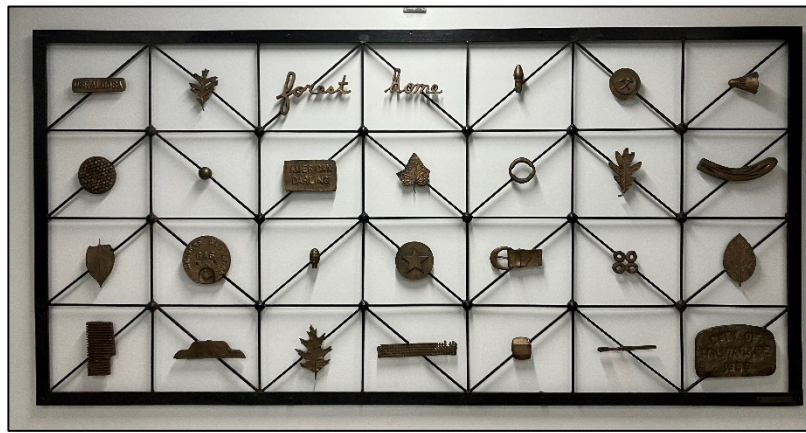
Lion Store, Mitchell St. and 4th Ave., Milwaukee.

- 1919-1929 **Lion Store**
- 1929-1963 **Hill's Department Store**
- 1966-1973 Allen D. Everitt Knitting Co.
- 1965-1968 John's Bargain Stores
- 1972-1986 National Hardware
- 1965-1974 Empire Television & Appliance Store
- 1969-1975 Big Bend Self Service Shoe Store
- 1975-1977 Wedding & Banquet Services, Ltd.
- 1980-1983 Top of the Hills
- 1981-1986 SER Jobs for Progress
- 1999-2001 El Sol (candy, nuts & confectionery)
- 2002-2009 UMOs Robles Center



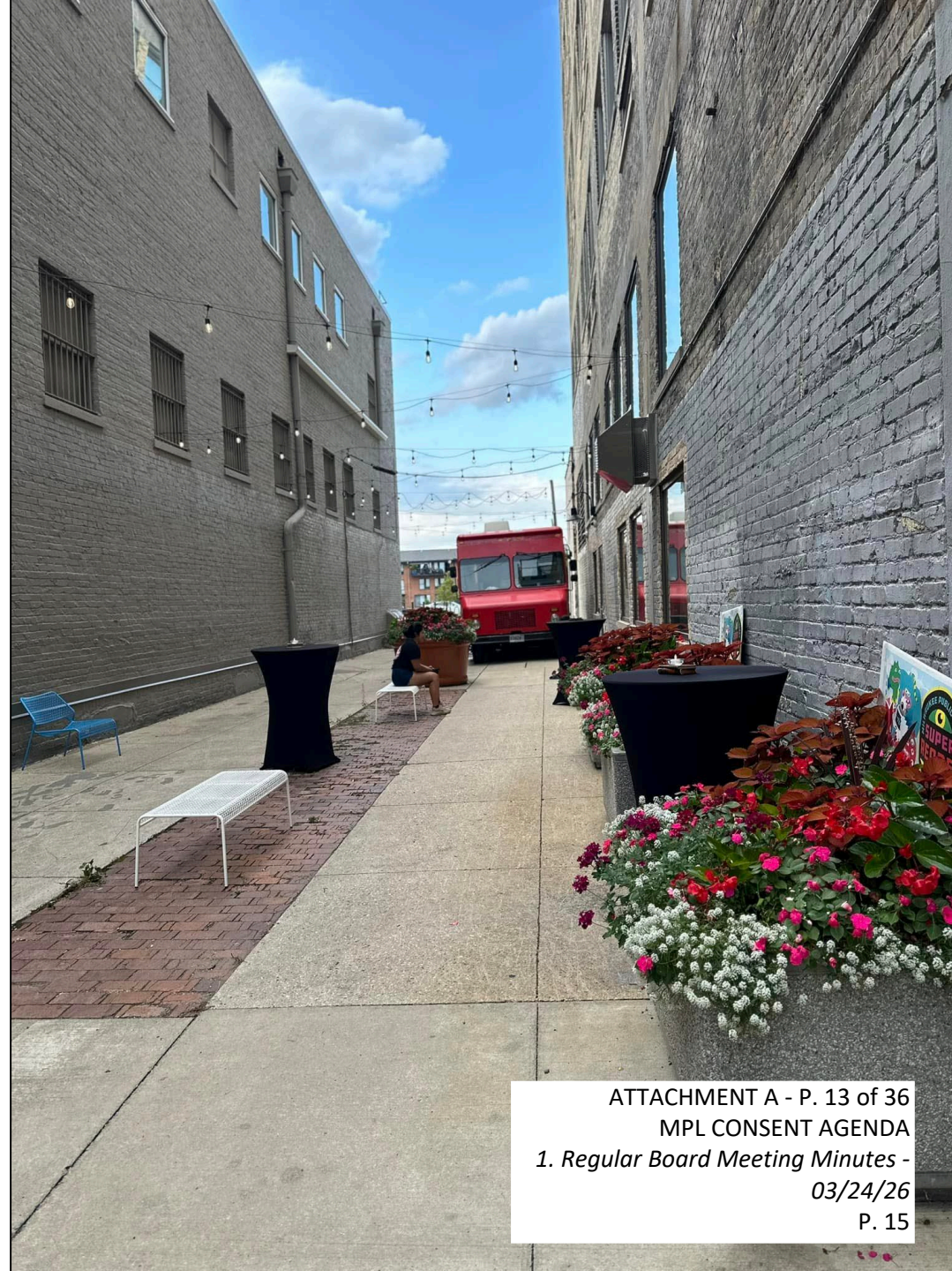


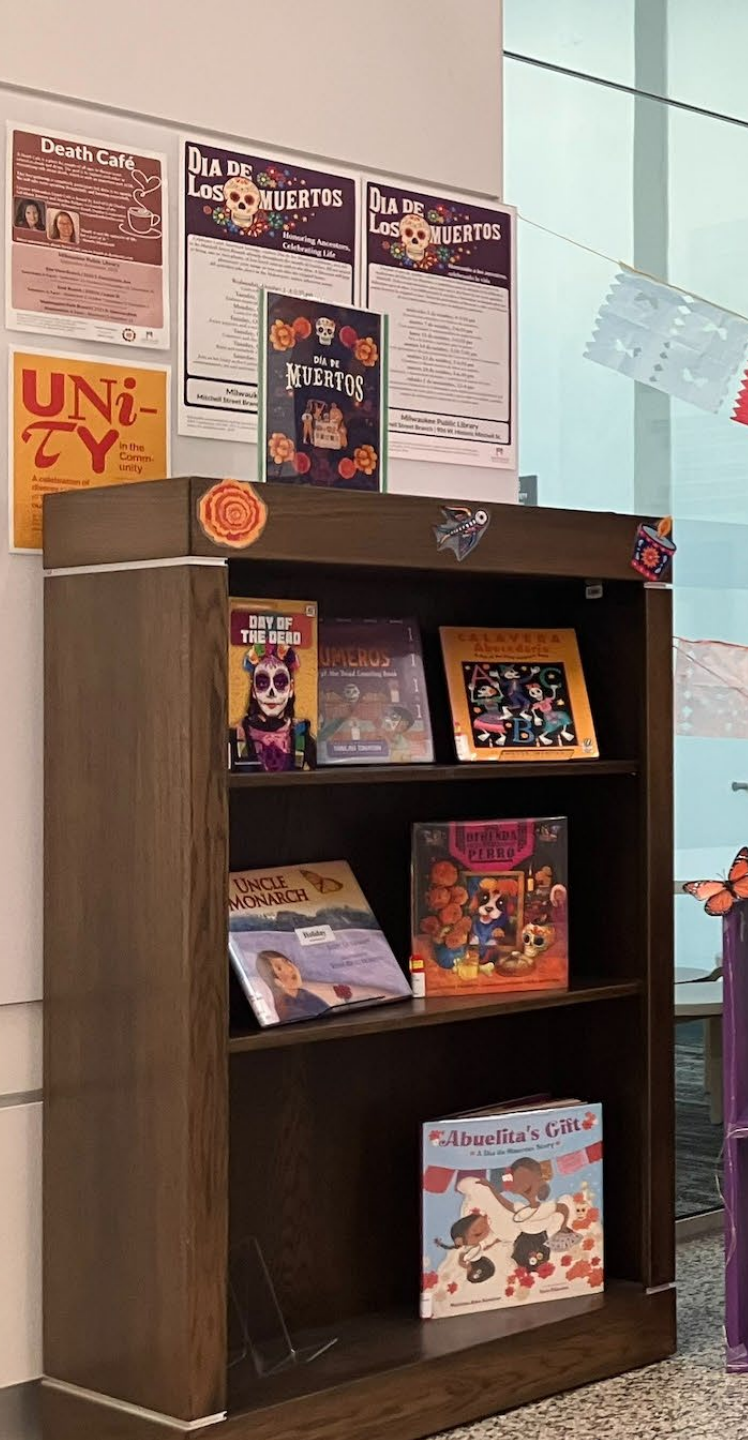




ATTACHMENT A - P. 11 of 36
MPL CONSENT AGENDA
1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes -
03/24/26
P. 13







Día

Children's Day/
Book Day

Each Story
MATTERS
Every Child
COUNTS



Tuesday, April 7, 5:30-6:30 pm & Saturday, April 18, 11-11:45 am: Tea & Tales
Visit the library for a tea party with stories from around the world.

Thursday, April 9, 4-5:30 pm: Día Totes
Design a custom tote bag using a Circuit die-cutting machine.

Saturday, April 11, ALL DAY: Library at Play!
Enjoy National Board Game Day and Día de los Niños with a classic board game.

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30-7 pm: Milwaukee Day Decoupage
Use recycled books, watercolors, and Milwaukee Day graphics to make coasters, buttons and more.

Tuesday, April 21, 5:30-7 pm: Bookish Birdhouses
Decorate a birdhouse and add your favorite bookish elements using polymer clay.

Saturday, April 25, 2-3 pm: Piñata Workshop
Join us for a story and learn piñata-making with the experts from Piñatas Papatot!

Tuesday, April 28, 6-7:30 pm: Family Movie Night
Celebrate the holiday with a movie night featuring *The Wild Robot* (2024).

Thursday, April 30, 4-5:30 pm: Book Bingo
Cap off Día de los Libros with an engaging game of book bingo! Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

- Plus:**
- Create one-of-a-kind flowers to add to our window display or take home to keep
 - Stop by the selfie station in our young adult reading room all month long
 - Visit Snack Hack every Tuesday to sample book-themed treats in the Cargill Community Kitchen:
 - April 7: Spiced peaches, inspired by *James and the Giant Peach* (Roald Dahl)
 - April 4: Mini buttermilk pancakes, inspired by *Pancakes! Pancakes!* (Eric Carle)
 - April 1: Fresh guacamole, inspired by *Avocado Baby* (John Burningham)
 - April 8: Assorted jams and marmalades, inspired by *Jamberry* (Bruce Degen)

Milwaukee Public Library
Mitchell Street Branch | 906 W. Historic Mitchell St.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Contact the City of Milwaukee ADA Coordinator, 414-286-3475 or adacoordinator@milwaukee.gov no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event. 2026



ATTACHMENT A - P. 14 of 36
MPL CONSENT AGENDA
1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes -
03/24/26
P. 16

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

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Michael Morgan, Larresa Taylor, Teresa Mercado, Andrea Pratt, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Matt Kowalski

STAFF: Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder,
Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Chris Schabel, Rebecca Schweisberger,
Jessica Wolf

OTHERS: Budget and Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack

Chair Michael Morgan called the MPL Board of Trustees Building and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. on April 2, 2026 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

1. **Approval of the Minutes.** Chair Morgan entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the March 5, 2026 meeting. Trustee Pratt moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Taylor seconded. Motion passed.

2. **Capitol Branch Redevelopment.** Library Construction Projects Manager Yves LaPierre presented an update on the Capitol branch redevelopment project. The Department of City Development is seeking an alternative tenant for the space formerly planned for the Election Commission. The City Attorneys Office is preparing draft agreements, including a lease. The developer anticipates various site approvals will be completed in May and they are awaiting notice regarding the award of low-income housing tax credits for Phase II. The housing developer will break ground in July 2026. Engberg Anderson may begin preliminary site/building assessment and engineering as early as June of 2026. They will also begin community outreach and engagement, including listening sessions, workshops, and focus groups. Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Building & Development Committee was adjourned at 8:32 a.m. on April 2, 2026.

Building and Development Committee – April 2, 2026

- Engberg Anderson Contract
- Tenant
- City Attorney Draft Agreements
- May 2026 for Development Site Approvals
- May 2026 LIHTC for Phase II of Housing
- July 2026 Groundbreaking on Housing
- June 2026 Engage Engberg Anderson
- Building Condition Assessment
- Community Engagement:
 - Outreach to Stakeholders
 - Listening Sessions
 - Workshops
 - Focus Groups
- Schematic Design Begins



CAPITOL BRANCH REDEVELOPMENT

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INNOVATION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, April 9, 2026**

Video Conference via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Matt Kowalski, Neil Albrecht, Darryl Jackson, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Joan Johnson

OTHERS: MPL: Tim Fluhr, Melissa Howard, Ha Hoang, Tammy Mays Wilder, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Jessica Wolf
Common Council-City Clerk: Ashaunti Horton

Committee Chair Matt Kowalski called the MPL Board of Trustees Innovation and Strategy Committee meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. on April 9, 2026 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** Chair Kowalski entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the January 15, 2026 meeting. Trustee Kowalski moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Albrecht seconded. Motion passed.

2. **Technology and Innovation Update.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented an update on MPL's 2026 Technology and Innovation projects and initiatives. Between January and March 2026, MPL delivered 66 digital and technology programs, with 188 attendees. A new brochure has been produced listing digital resource programs, including introduction to Artificial Intelligence and computer applications for beginners. MPL staff wrote a successful grant for Digital Pathways: Online Health Literacy Programming for Adults and new programs will focus on health literacy and access. New technology tools have been implemented to improve performance and efficiency. Associate Library Director Ha Hoang shared an update on Telestaff, a new scheduling software that MPL is scheduled for implementation in June. Telestaff will help streamline scheduling and ensure continuity of services across locations and service points. Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns shared information about the acquisition of Telestaff and the software it replaced. An updated strategy document and an update on a new data dashboard will be presented at the June meeting.
Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Innovation & Strategy Committee was adjourned at 8:23 a.m. on April 9, 2026.

MCFLS Board Meeting Summary: April 7, 2026

The Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board of Trustees met via Zoom on April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

During the public comment section, MPL's newest Administrators Tim Fluhr (Central Library Public Services Area Manager) and Ha Hoang (Associate Library Director, Patron Experience and Strategy) were introduced to the MCFLS Board.

Key Reports and Actions

- **Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC):** the LDAC had not yet met in the month of April.
- **2025 Resource Library report by MPL staff:** Central Library Public Services Area Manager Tim Fluhr made his first ever report to the MCFLS Board presenting the metrics for each deliverable outlined in the Resource Library Agreement between MPL and MCFLS (dashboard and memo attached).
- **Public comment guidelines:** the Board approved a proposed policy to limit speakers to three (3) minutes each for up to a total of 30 minutes allotted for public comment.

Administrative and Staffing Updates

- **Personnel Changes:** Gladys Dalla, the new MCFLS Library Technologies Administrator was introduced.
 - **2025 LSTA Grants:** Director Hesel reported that with previous Board approval, he is using \$4,000 of LSTA grant funding to cover costs related to accessibility consultation for the MCFLS website in order to bring the website into compliance before the April 24th deadline. Most suburban members have until April 2027 to be in compliance.
-

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in-person at the new North Shore Library at 711 Grace St., Ste 112 in Bayside, WI.

MEMO

TO: Milwaukee County Federated Library System Board of Trustees

Cc: Michele Bria, Milwaukee Public Library Board President
Steve Hesel, MCFLS Executive Director

FROM: Tim Fluhr, Milwaukee Public Services Area Manager, Central

DATE: April 2, 2026

RE: 2025 – Resource Library Annual Report

The Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) is honored to continue its role as the Resource Library for the Milwaukee Federated Library System (MCFLS), and we value the opportunity to support member libraries and the communities they serve. We remain committed to providing backup reference, consulting, training, and other services outlined in the Resource Library Agreement, with the goal of enriching access to information, supporting staff development, and strengthening regional collaboration

The enclosed annual activities dashboard report provides supporting data for fulfilling our obligations.

Training and Consulting

In 2025, MPL provided 17.65 staff hours of training, consulting, and other assistance to 130 participants. Included in this were training and consulting related to libraries and health, cooperative cataloging, program development and summer outreach.

Backup Overdrive Support

MPL offers backup reference Overdrive support for suburban libraries. In 2025, professional library staff provided 20.25 hours of support to MCFLS libraries and patrons. This represents a 17.5 hour and over 600% increase from the previous year. As access to digital content through Overdrive increases, MPL is well positioned to play a greater role in supporting these resources and technologies for MCFLS patrons.



Access to Special Collections

MPL's archives and special collections contain materials representing the diverse people, organizations and events that have shaped Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin's rich and unique history. Many of these items are only available at Central Library. MPL's special collections requests grew from 4,230 items in 2024 to 6,089 items in 2025. MCLFS patron requests accounted for 531 items, up from 191 item requests the previous year (178% increase).

Tours and Visits

In 2024, MPL began collecting residency data from patrons visiting and touring the library. Since the process was not implemented for the entire year, data from only 123 visitors, including 9 visitors from suburban MCFLS libraries, was captured. This practice was codified and continued in 2025, and we are happy to report a full year of visitor residency data.

MPL welcomed 1,474 tour visitors in 2025. This topline number is comparable to 2024 data. MCLFS patrons accounted for 201 (13.6%) tour visits. Of the remaining visitors, 95 patrons hailed from regions of Wisconsin outside of Milwaukee County and 40 came from out of state.

Digital Resource Access

MPL provides access to vast array of electronic databases, streaming services and digital repositories. In 2025, MCFLS patrons made 5,320 visits to these resources, representing an increase of 1,765 visits. Overall, total visits increased to 181,402—a 42.7% increase—with growth across city, county, state and national regions.

MCFLS patrons made 23,968 visits to our website, mpl.org, in 2025. While this is a significant decrease relative to the 51,667 visits in 2024, it still represents an increase from the 11,694 visits in 2023. Overall mpl.org site visits increased by 12.5% to 1,646,244.

Reference Transactions, Retrievals, & Circulation

MPL staff provide in person, phone and email reference support. Reference transaction data is recorded through Gimlet, a web-based tracking tool provided to member libraries by MCFLS. Transaction data is recorded in real time and residence data is extrapolated from biannual survey data.

In 2025, MPL provided support for 40,456 in-person reference requests. Of those, 6,448 were from



MEMO

MCFLS suburban library patrons. This represents a 39% increase year over year. Overall, MPL staff supported 109,134 reference requests across all modes.

MPL provides DITTO photoduplication services through phone, in-person, and Aeon generated requests. In 2025, MPL filled 242 DITTO photoduplication requests. MCFLS patrons accounted for 9 requests, down from 24 in the previous year.

In 2025, MCFLS suburban libraries circulated 245,725 items owned by MPL. Meanwhile, MPL circulated 157,214 items owned by suburban libraries. Overall, the percentage of items circulated by non-owning libraries have remained stable over several years.

Interlibrary Loan

In 2025, MPL received 13,304 ILL requests and filled 9,211 requests for patrons of libraries throughout the country. This marks a 12% increase in ILL lending. A total of 2,849 MCFLS patron requests were reviewed by MPL System Selectors for acquisition consideration, and 1,948 MCFLS patron ILL requests were filled by MPL. These numbers are generally consistent with 2024 data.

LibraryNOW – Seton Catholic School Accounts

The LibraryNow program provides students with remote, 24/7 access to library digital resources. In 2025, the program served 331 non-Milwaukee students enrolled in the Seton Catholic Schools. This number is consistent with prior program data.

Programs and Visits

Last year, 22,846 children participated in MPL’s Summer Reading Program. Of participants who shared residency data, 2,169 were from MCFLS zip codes and 37 were from outside of the county. 333 participants did not provide zip code data.

MPL received residence data for 6,021 patrons who participated in other MPL programming (not including SRP) in 2025. MCFLS patrons accounted for 445 participants, while 276 participants came from outside of Milwaukee County or the state.

The following information is not represented in the dashboard.

Cataloging



MEMO

MPL and MCFLS have a Bibliographic Agreement in which MPL performs system-wide work for the unified catalog. The work described here includes work performed within the scope of that contract and highlights efforts undertaken as part of MPL's role as the Resource Library.

To ensure all materials in the MCFLS Sierra database are accurately described and discoverable, Copy Cataloging and Database Management (CCDM) and MCFLS established an ongoing partnership with Backstage Library Works, effective October 2024. Backstage Library Works reviews MCFLS bibliographic records quarterly to standardize them using Resource Description and Access standards, control access points (author, title, series and subjects), and provide corresponding authority records for controlled access points to streamline discovery.

In addition, MPL's CCDM department began side-loading the records for Comics Plus directly into CountyCat for all member libraries to access and continues to proactively "group" digital (Comics Plus, Pressreader, Libby and Kanopy) and physical formats to optimize patron access to subscription resources.

Collections & Interlibrary Loan

MPL Acquisitions, Serials & Interlibrary Loan department continues to make enhancements to the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) workflow to improve the user experience for both patrons and library staff. MPL and MCFLS have an Interlibrary Loan agreement in which MPL performs system-wide work for this service and recognizes the role MPL plays as a Resource Library. In 2025, 2849 MCFLS patron requests were reviewed by MPL System Selectors for acquisition consideration. Of that, MPL staff filled 1948 ILL requests made by MCFLS library patrons.

Notably, MPL provides leadership and significant funding to support digital access system-wide. In 2025, MPL continued to offer system-wide digital access to the *Milwaukee Business Journal*. In addition, MPL purchased access to Comics Plus for all MCFLS member libraries, providing unlimited check-outs and no wait periods for e-comics and e-graphic novels.

Through the MCFLS Overdrive Advantage Account, MPL contributed \$375,000 in additional funds to increase availability of eResources via OverDrive/Libby. MPL System Selectors provide professional services selecting e-books and e-audiobooks, while tracking and balancing the budget. In addition, MPL's Adult Fiction Selector supported the launch of a pilot Lucky Day Collection in Overdrive/Libby for the MCFLS Advantage account. The MPL Adult Fiction Selector was able to not only curate this collection but also offer explanation to member libraries on the nuances of Overdrive/Libby selection and supply data points. Furthermore, MPL's Adult Fiction Selector serves as a selector for Wisconsin Digital Library collection and represents MCFLS and its best interests on the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) Selection Committee. The MPL Associate Director



MEMO

of Technical Services, Information Technology, and IT serves on the WPLC Steering Committee, representing and advocating for MCFLS.

MPL System Selectors, Library Services Manager-Acquisitions, Serials, & ILL, and Associate Library Director of Information Technology, Technical Services, & Collections, with the MCFLS Director, continued to work with Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Justice Center to provide collection support. MPL's YA and Children's System Selectors developed a list of recommended titles that were purchased specifically for the students at Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Justice Center. MPL staff from the Acquisitions, Serials, & ILL department will assist with additional processing, and the materials will be distributed to the Center and its students in 2026.

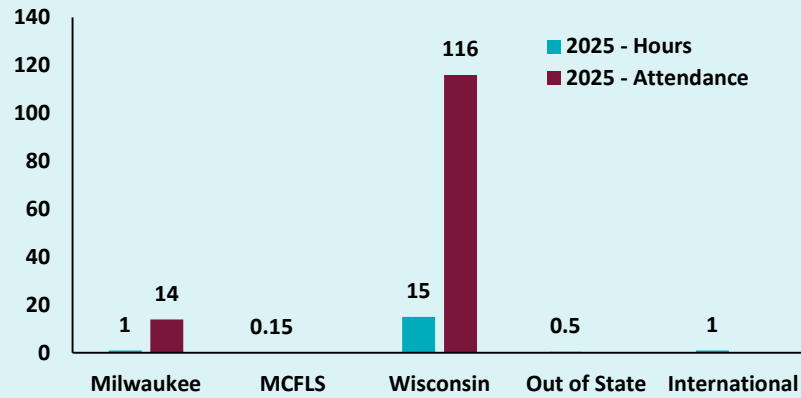
The Library Services Manager of Acquisitions, Serials, & ILL collaborates with MCFLS staff to address outstanding holds on cancelled orders and suppress the bibliographic records for improved patron experience.



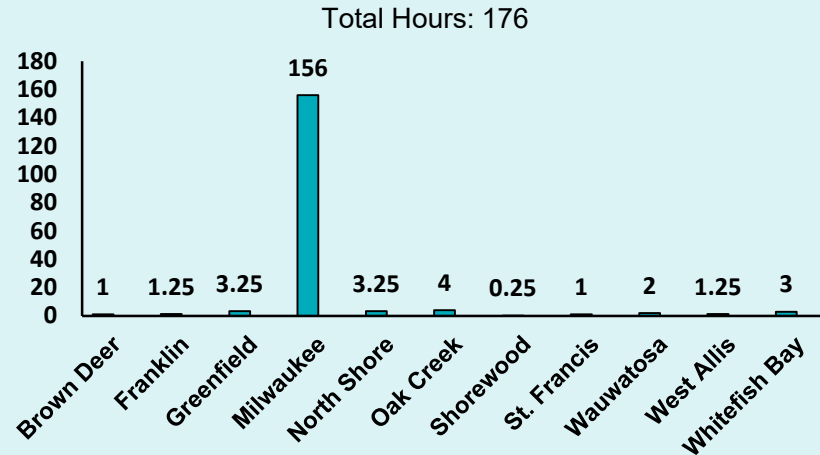


2025 Resource Library Dashboard

Training and Consulting Events

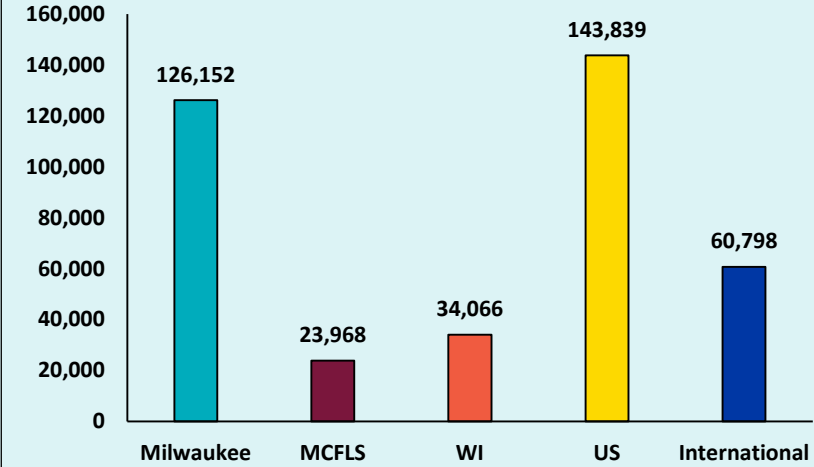


Backup Reference Support Overdrive Support



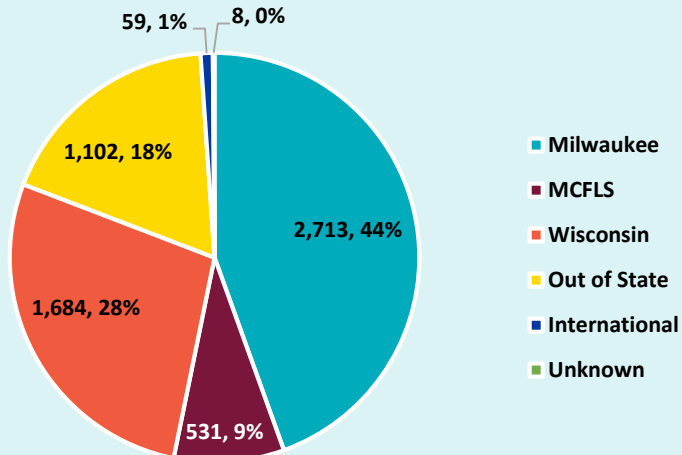
Visits to MPL Webpage

Web Sessions for mpl.org by residency type
MPL Total: 1,646,244



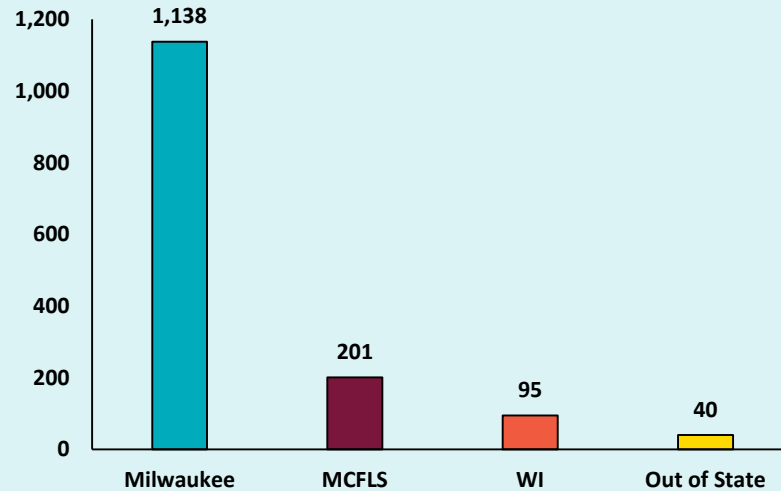
Access to Special Collections

Total number of items requested by Residency type



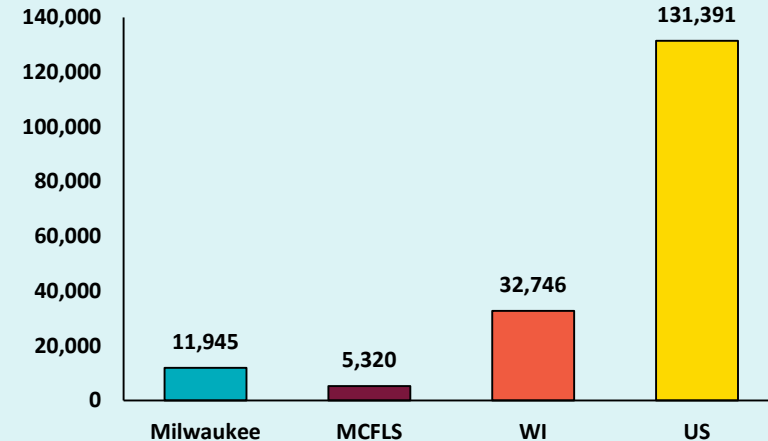
Tours and Visits

Participation by Residency



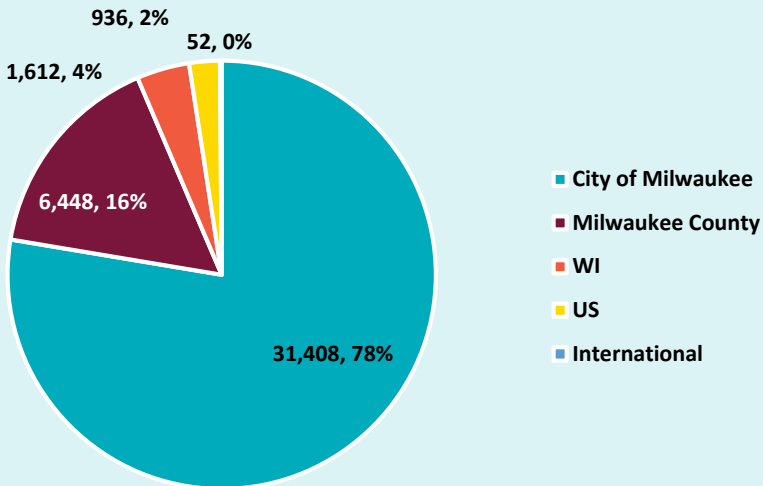
Digital Library Visits

Active Users for Content.mpl by residency type
Total Visit: 181,402



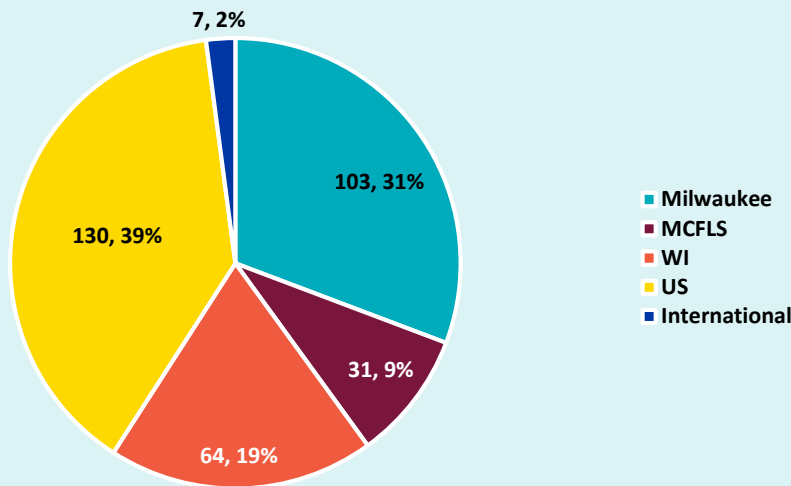
In-person Reference Transactions

Total Transactions: 40,456



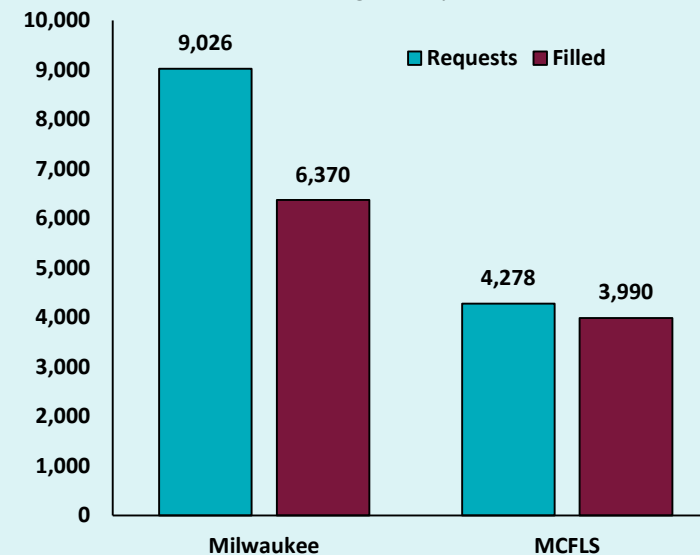
Ditto Requests

Orders for reproduction and document delivery



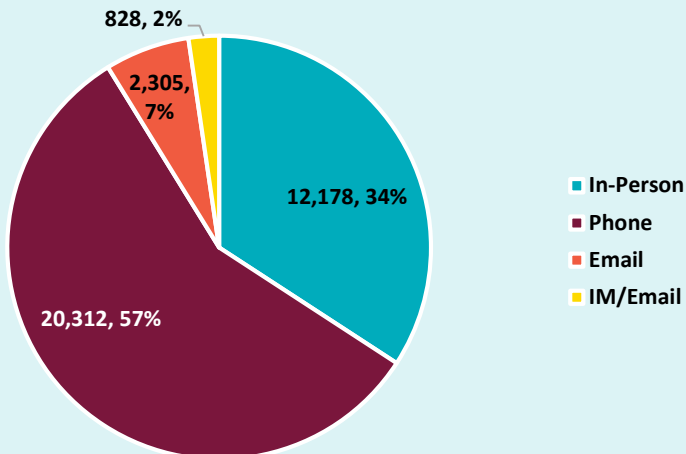
Interlibrary Loan

Owning Library Items

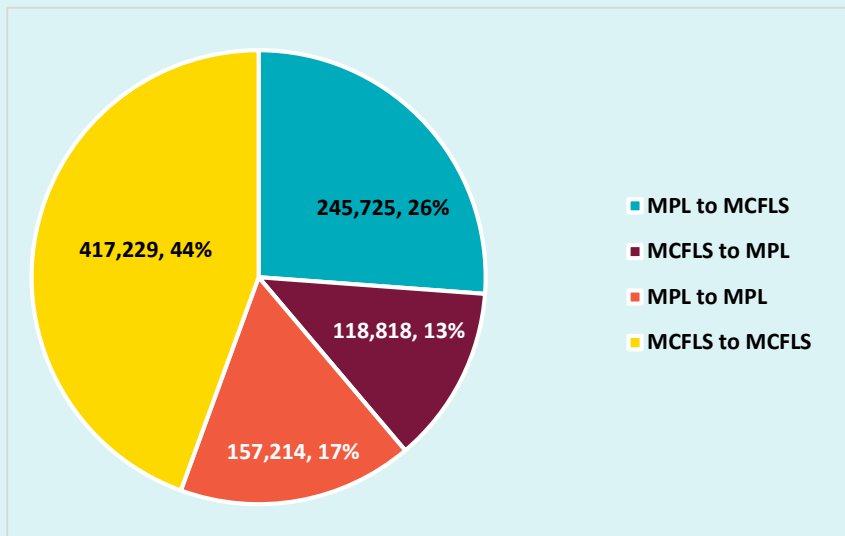


In-Person and Electronic Reference Transactions

Total Transactions: 35,658

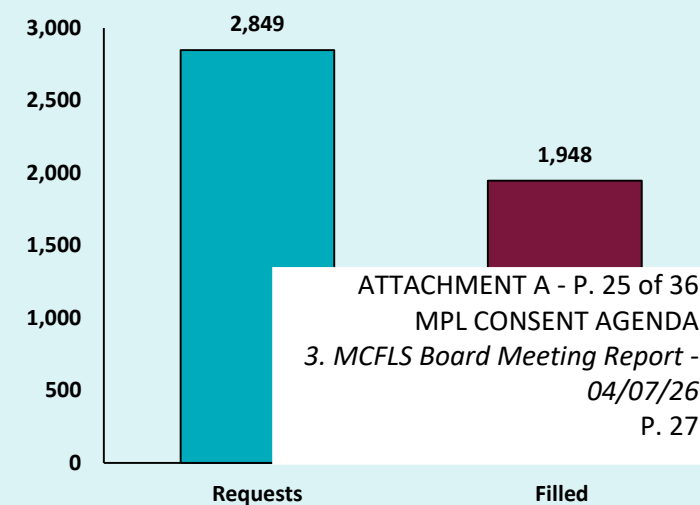


Material Checkouts at Non-Owning Locations



Interlibrary Loan

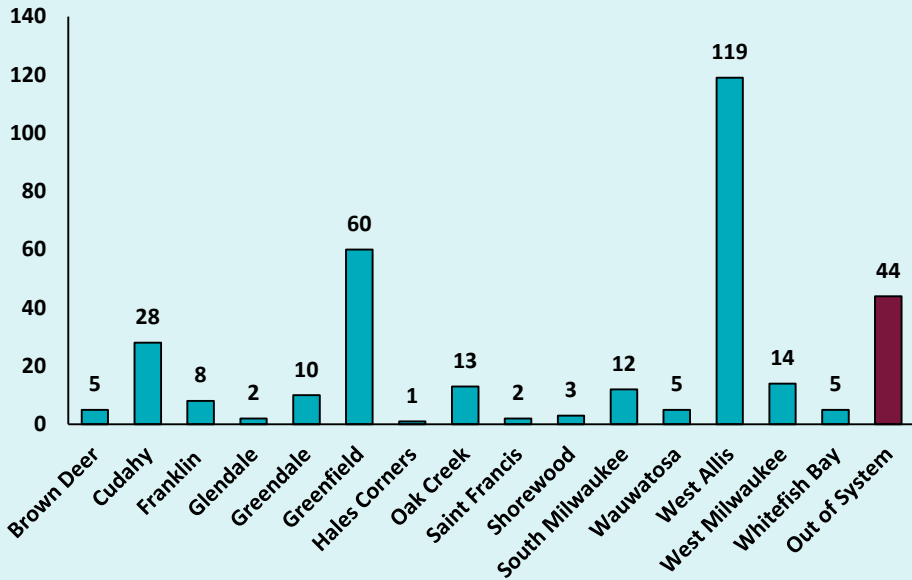
Items Borrowed by all MCFLS Patrons



ATTACHMENT A - P. 25 of 36
MPL CONSENT AGENDA
3. MCFLS Board Meeting Report -
04/07/26
P. 27

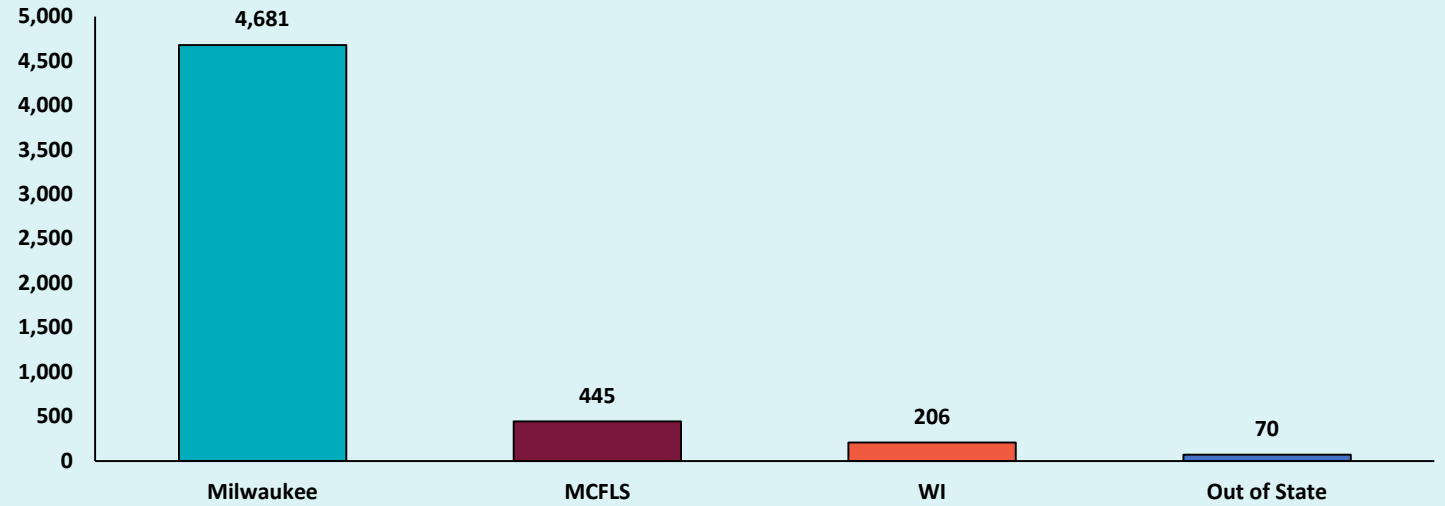
LibraryNOW Accounts for Seton Catholic Schools

Total non-Milwaukee Students: 331



Adult & Children’s Program Attendance by Zip Code

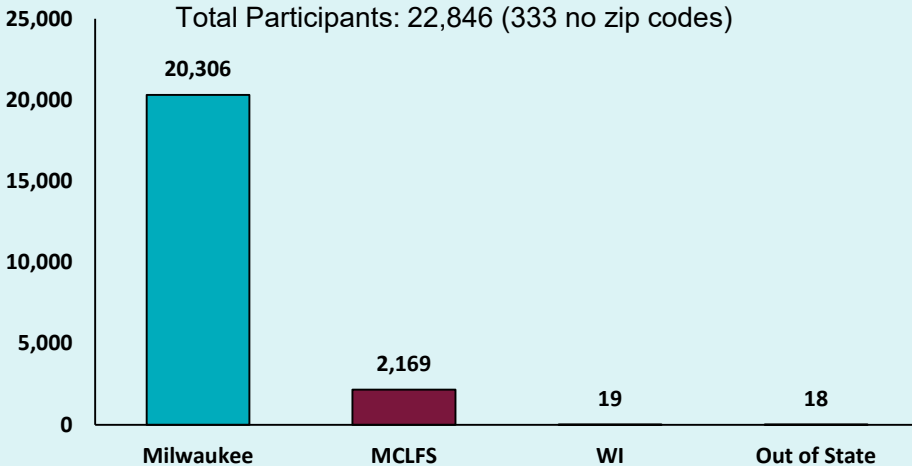
2025 Total: 6,021 responses



Summer Reading Program

Participation by Zip Code

Total Participants: 22,846 (333 no zip codes)



**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
March 31, 2026**

2026

2025

City Revenues

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
<i>Additional City Appropriation</i>	\$ 32,698,143	\$ 8,935,484	27.3%
<i>Fines</i>	\$ 92,000	\$ 13,278	14.4%
<i>Lost Materials, etc.</i>	\$ 46,000	\$ 9,575	20.8%
<i>MCFLS Contracts</i>	\$ 1,028,000	\$ -	0.0%
Total City Appropriation	\$ 33,864,143	\$ 8,958,337	26.5%

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
	\$ 32,920,741	\$ 8,539,804	25.9%
	\$ 94,000	\$ 14,239	15.1%
	\$ 50,000	\$ 18,468	36.9%
	\$ 927,000	\$ 19,396	2.1%
	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 8,591,907	25.3%

City Expenses

Salaries & Benefits

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 19,412,775	\$ 5,168,992	26.6%
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ 8,735,750	\$ 2,173,552	24.9%
Total	\$ 28,148,525	\$ 7,342,544	26.1%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 19,539,425	\$ 5,009,048	25.6%
	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 1,872,013	21.3%
	\$ 28,332,167	\$ 6,881,061	24.3%

Supplies & Services

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>General Office Expense</i>	\$ 116,550	\$ 17,247	14.8%
<i>Construction Supplies</i>	\$ 27,133	\$ 8,954	33.0%
<i>Energy</i>	\$ 913,744	\$ 301,315	33.0%
<i>Other Operating Supplies</i>	\$ 348,084	\$ 100,980	29.0%
<i>Vehicle Rental</i>	\$ 9,530	\$ 3,770	39.6%
<i>Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental</i>	\$ 13,200	\$ 2,837	21.5%
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 119,342	\$ 21,101	17.7%
<i>Information Technology Services</i>	\$ 394,200	\$ 286,465	72.7%
<i>Property Services</i>	\$ 688,500	\$ 239,359	34.8%
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	\$ 125,000	\$ 112,504	90.0%
<i>Other Operating Services</i>	\$ 151,874	\$ 39,605	26.1%
<i>Reimburse Other Departments</i>	\$ 120,916	\$ (888)	-0.7%
Total	\$ 3,028,073	\$ 1,133,249	37.4%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 115,700	\$ 18,283	15.8%
	\$ 18,000	\$ 4,825	26.8%
	\$ 886,500	\$ 162,012	18.3%
	\$ 278,956	\$ 39,756	14.3%
	\$ 9,200	\$ 1,292	14.0%
	\$ 13,200	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 86,600	\$ 53,032	61.2%
	\$ 357,920	\$ 232,996	65.1%
	\$ 861,520	\$ 386,477	44.9%
	\$ 46,000	\$ 85,786	186.5%
	\$ 152,112	\$ 20,929	13.8%
	\$ 111,900	\$ (384)	-0.3%
	\$ 2,937,608	\$ 1,005,004	34.2%

Equipment

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Library Materials</i>	\$ 1,946,000	\$ 346,255	17.8%
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$ 359,534	\$ 35,732	9.9%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 148,311	\$ 20,646	13.9%
Total	\$ 2,453,845	\$ 402,633	16.4%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 471,619	25.0%
	\$ 220,824	\$ 26,473	12.0%
	\$ 337,042	\$ 115,679	34.3%
	\$ 2,443,366	\$ 613,771	25.1%

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%
	\$ 278,600	\$ 92,071	33.0%

Total City Expenses	\$ 33,864,143	\$ 8,958,337	26.5%
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Total City Expenses	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 8,591,907	25.3%
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**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
March 31, 2026**

2026

2025

Additional Funding Sources

Grants

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>WTBBL Jul '25 - Jun '26</i>	\$ 1,178,700	\$ 812,956	69.0%
<i>ILL Jul '25 - Jun '26</i>	\$ 263,150	\$ 181,211	68.9%
Total	\$ 1,441,850	\$ 994,167	69.0%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,033,100	\$ 780,925	75.6%
	\$ 233,550	\$ 123,438	52.9%
	\$ 1,266,650	\$ 904,363	71.4%

Trust Funds

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 172,000	\$ 34,482	20.0%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 75,000	\$ 9,263	12.4%
<i>Training</i>	\$ 27,000	-	0.0%
<i>Marketing*</i>	\$ 91,000	\$ 6,450	7.1%
<i>Contingency</i>	\$ 4,000	-	0.0%
<i>Board Development</i>	\$ 3,000	-	0.0%
<i>Strehlow 50+</i>	\$ 8,000	\$ 370	4.6%
Total	\$ 380,000	\$ 50,565	13.3%

	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%
	\$ 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	-	0.0%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 1,216,049	\$ 119,441	9.8%
Total	\$ 1,574,765	\$ 119,441	7.6%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 281,497	\$ 8,851	3.1%
	\$ 1,660,809	\$ 198,108	11.9%
	\$ 1,942,306	\$ 206,959	10.7%

Investments

U.S. Bank National Assoc. Commercial Paper (rated A1) confirmation #327156952 dated 03/30/26 and maturing 04/29/26 at a rate of 1.40%...\$275,000

Director's Report April 2026

Johnson welcomed and thanked scores of library supporters at the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library Annual Literary Luncheon, its biggest fundraiser of the year. They are also planning a smaller project in collaboration with Johnson and team members who have been meeting with them to clarify roles, document commitments and establish a timeline.

Staff from across the system worked together to deliver another successful ZineFest, which attracted over 5000 people to the Central Library on a Saturday in April. Johnson was there to encourage and congratulate staff on the tremendous community response. They came from all over the Midwest and other areas to support over 120 mostly local vendors. Johnson made this news the centerpiece of her annual National Library Worker Day all-staff message of gratitude and appreciation on April 22nd.

This is a correction for the Civic Bites series mentioned in the March report. The program featured special guest Alderwoman Sharlen Moore, interviewed by Civic Engagement Services Manager Aisha Coursen (not Community Kitchen Coordinator Chef Sharrie Agee).

Johnson met with Greater Milwaukee Urban League (GMUL) CEO and President Eve Hall along with their Community Engagement Director to learn about GMUL's services and how they might overlap with those of MPL. There are a few areas of potential collaboration that could benefit both organizations and the shared clientele being served. Another collaboration involves the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO) for cultural programming in May as part of the America 250 initiative. It will feature MSO Pops Conductor Byron Stripling.

The work of the OneMPL Governance Committee continues to unfold as Johnson and team brings more staff members into the loop and begins to share information with staff more broadly. Many Administration Team members are involved in leading this work. The team is also heavily focused on 2027 budget preparation, responding to staff regarding the new Sunday staffing model and scheduling, Telestaff training and implementation, and planning for the expansion of Sunday service from three to five branches later in the year.

Johnson's engagement with community stakeholders is ongoing and she attended the MCFLS, Westown and Rotary board meetings. She also attended the virtual Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition member meeting and the statewide quarterly virtual meeting of the System and Resource Library Administrators Association of WI (SRLAAW).

March 2026

Summary of VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON PROGRAMS:

MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ

Mark Oppenheimer, Author of *Judy Blume: A Life - In Conversation with Molly Snyder*. Milwaukee Public Library and Boswell Book Company welcomed Penguin Random House author Mark Oppenheimer for a fascinating evening to discuss the incomparable Judy Blume. Mark will be in conversation with OnMilwaukee's Molly Snyder. In *Judy Blume*, journalist, historian, and longtime Blume aficionado Mark Oppenheimer pens a beautiful, multidimensional portrait of the acclaimed author through extensive interviews with Blume herself, invaluable access to her papers and correspondence, and thoughtful

analysis of Blume’s beloved novels, including early, unpublished works that shed light on the pathbreaking writer she would become. Oppenheimer peels back the curtain to reveal the woman behind the literary empire in all her complex, multifaceted glory—a true gift for anyone who grew up reading and loving these extraordinary books. Attendance: 40

Milwaukee Ballet Storytime: In partnership with the Milwaukee Ballet, several branches hosted a series of ballet story times. Facilitated by MPL staff, the program featured guided stretching from Milwaukee Ballet dancers, a reading of “Alice in Wonderland”, and opportunities for dancing and taking photos with the performers. Information was also provided to caregivers on how to enroll their children in ballet programs, and upcoming MPL programming was also highlighted. Staff were able to connect with many new patrons and share information about what the library has to offer. Ballet story times were held at Central, Atkinson, Capitol, Center Street, Mitchell Street, Tippecanoe, Washington Park. Total attendance: 358

MPL HELPS PEOPLE LEARN

Civic Bites - A Conversation & Snack with Alderwoman Sharlen Moore. What does the Common Council do and who gets it all done? During this program, attendees heard from Alderwoman Sharlen P. Moore talk about what drew her to this work, her role day-to-day, and how you can get more involved in our city this year. We snacked on Alderwoman Moore’s favorite dish while she was interviewed by MPL’s Civic Engagement Manager, and attendees learned all about the functioning of Milwaukee’s legislative body. Attendance: 16

Art Book Club: Chromolithography. Chromolithography is a printmaking process where multiple lithographic stones are used to create vibrant multi-colored prints. It was popular in the 19th century and used to illustrate books on a wide variety of topics such as decorative arts, architecture, and fashion plates. The prints are luminous! Milwaukee Public Library holds many books that feature chromolithographs. A selection will be out for the public to browse during this open house event. Attendance: 32

Special Collections Open House: Women’s History Month Edition. Attendees got to learn all about Milwaukee Public Library’s early pioneering director, Theresa West, and more icons of Women’s History in Milwaukee. On view were an array of historical items from MPL’s Special Collections and other rarely seen treasures. Librarians were present to share and answer questions. Attendance: 21

“Understanding AI” Field Trips to Central: The Central Library Children’s Room hosted five class visits with grades 6-8 from Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy at the beginning of March. Staff presented the “Understanding AI” lesson plan, gave a brief overview of LibraryNow, shared booktalks, and a building tour for each group. The “Understanding AI” field trip learning objectives are for students to be able to explain what AI is, recognize signs that something may be AI generated, and understand what it means to use AI responsibly. Total Attendance: 208

MPL Teen T-shirt Release Event. Last fall, makerspace programming focused on fashion and style. Teens explored fashion and brand development through a series of creative, skill-building workshops and two guest educator workshops with local creator Marie Carter of The Classic Shoppe. During those workshops, participants learned how to design with personal and community identity in mind, resulting in four cohesive designs developed with support from makerspace facilitators. Teens reviewed and approved prototypes created using Cricut technology and gained insight into branding strategies and social media promotion. The program series culminated in a release event on March 27, when MPL teen

interns showcased promotional videos and reflected on their learning. To extend the impact beyond the programming, the final designs were added to MPL's merch store, making limited-edition MPL Makerspace t-shirts available to the broader community.

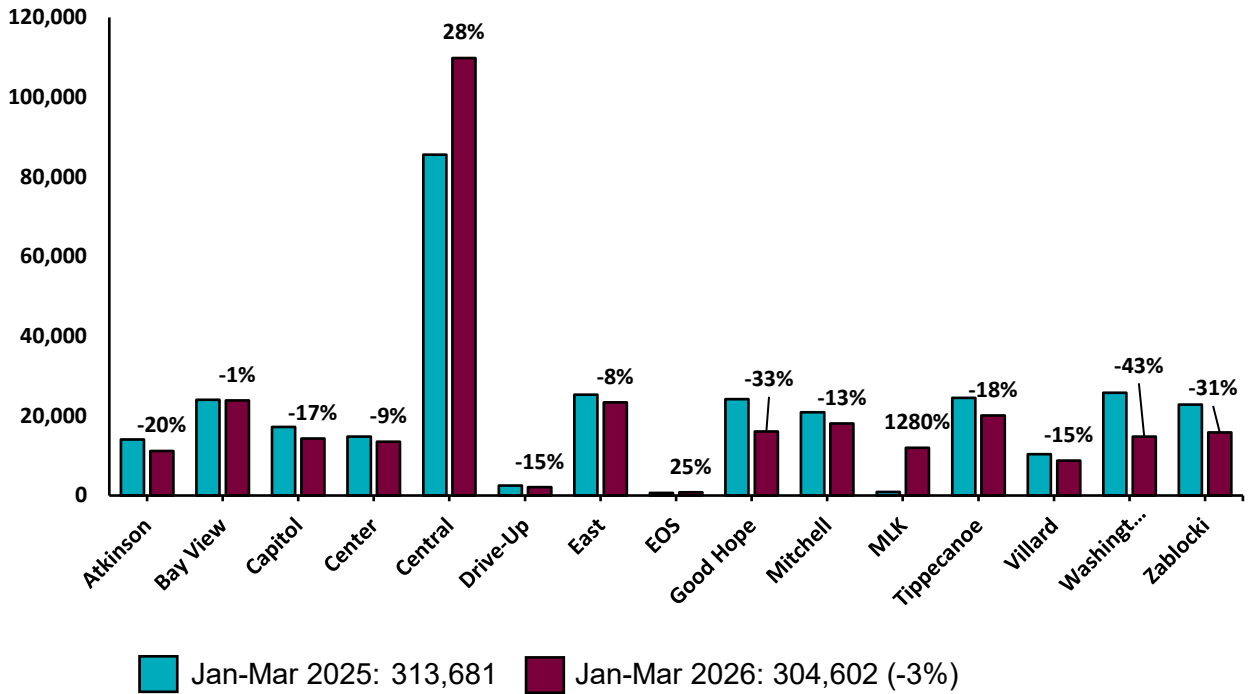
MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT

Feminism and the Art of Zine Making. Lion's Tooth Bookstore presented a wonderful hands-on workshop to celebrate Women's History Month. Participants received a brief introduction to the role of pamphlets and zines at different times in the Feminist movement, and participated in a hands-on reflection on Feminism through the art of zine making. Attendance: 11

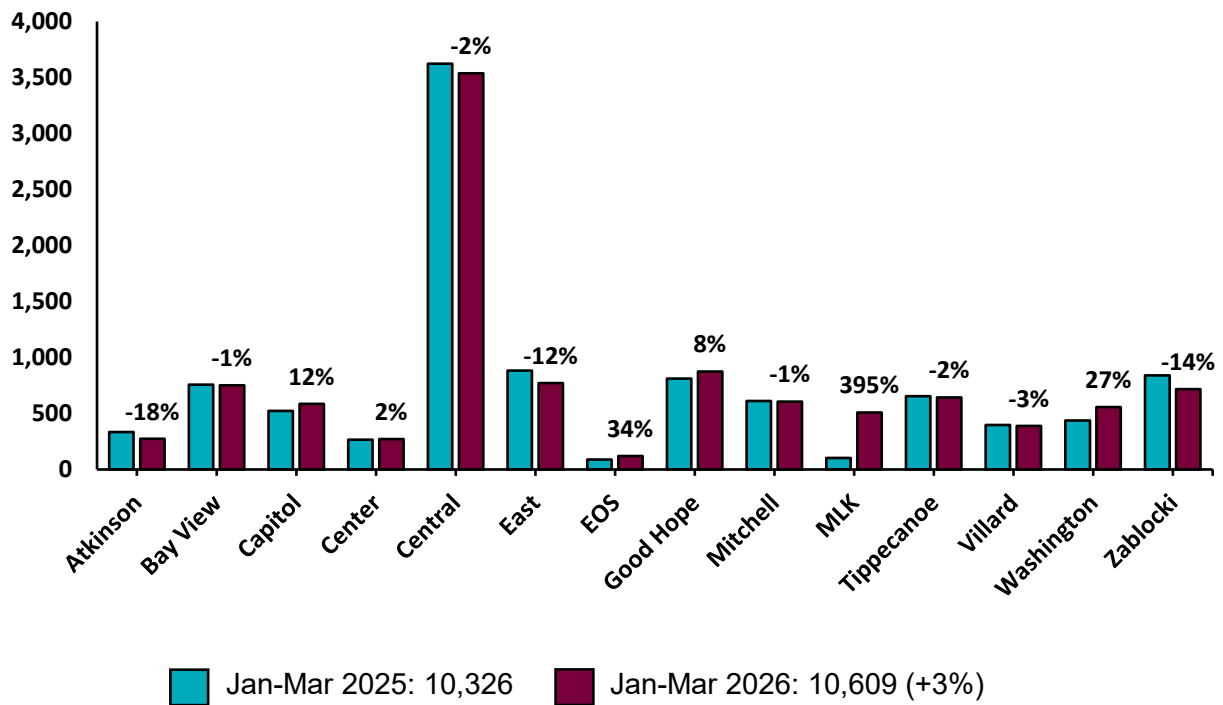
Sweet Sounds: An MPL Signature Event. On Saturday, March 21, Sweet Sounds turned Villard Square Branch all the way up as the North Cluster Signature Program came to life. From noon to 4 PM, the building didn't just host an event—it vibed, pulsing with music, laughter, smiles, delicious food, and a true sense of community. The day played out like the ultimate playlist, each moment seamlessly mixing into the next. DJ Fuzzy Logic kept the beats going strong, Browser made a star appearance bringing joy (and plenty of photo ops) to visitors of all ages, and a member of the Soulful Liners Dancers got the crowd moving. Across the library, creativity and curiosity were in full swing. Guests got glammed up with Artsy Face Painting, carried away one-of-a-kind balloon sculptures by Giggalin Gil, tested out instruments with Brass Bell, and crafted their own books with Betty Brinn Children's Museum staff. Patrons also improvised with our talented staff to create shaker eggs, custom crowns and even record labels! Families and friends composed their own rhythm for the day—dancing here, crafting there, stopping for a snack, then jumping right back into the fun. And the “sweet” in Sweet Sounds absolutely delivered, with treats and eats provided by Fusion & Spice Catering and Bridget's Mobile Bakery that kept everyone energized and humming along. Attendance: 243

Daniel Tiger's Be My Neighbor Day: On March 14th, the Central Library Children's Room hosted “Be My Neighbor Day” in partnership with Milwaukee PBS and Fred Rogers Productions, with support from the PNC Foundation. Featuring a Meet & Greet with Daniel Tiger, the event also included a Daniel Tiger episode screening in McBeath and activity stations throughout the Children's Room highlighting the themes of kindness and community. CLCR staff also led three story times over the course of the day. This was the first time visiting the Central Library for many patrons who have since returned to attend other programs and check out materials. Attendance: 1,612

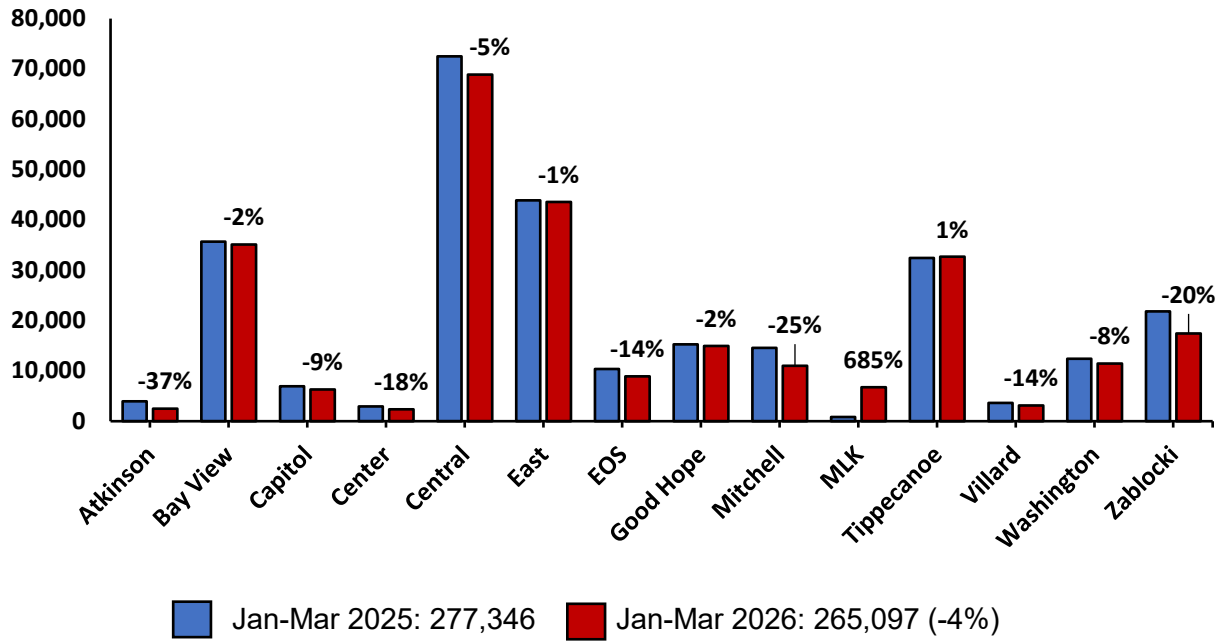
Patron Visits



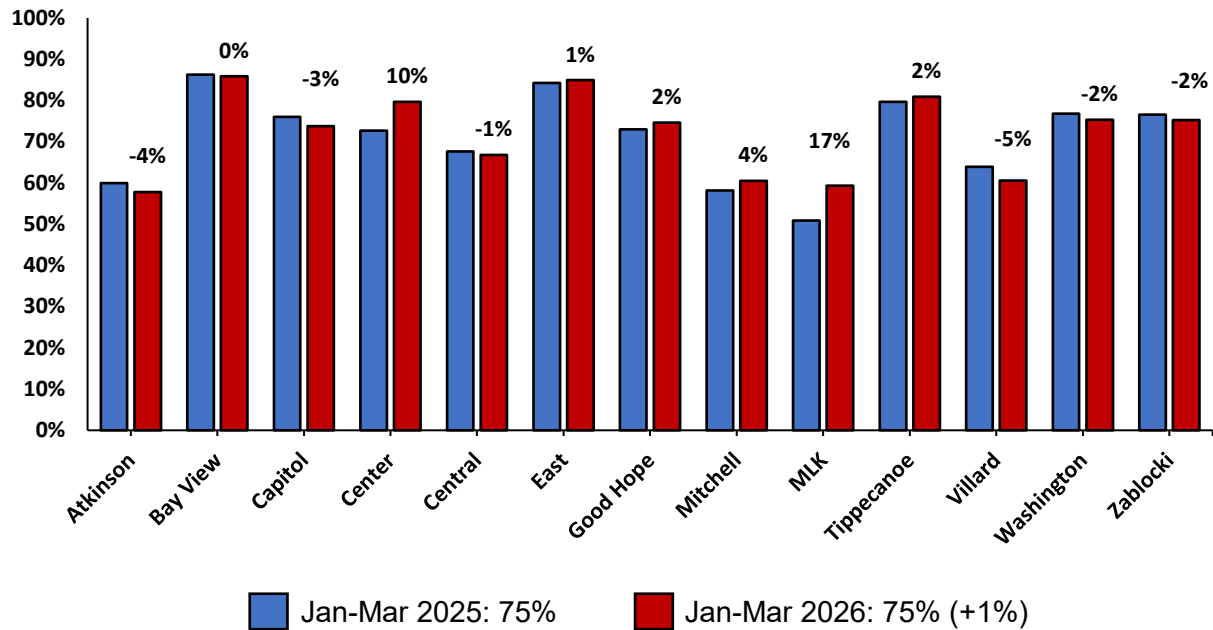
Registration



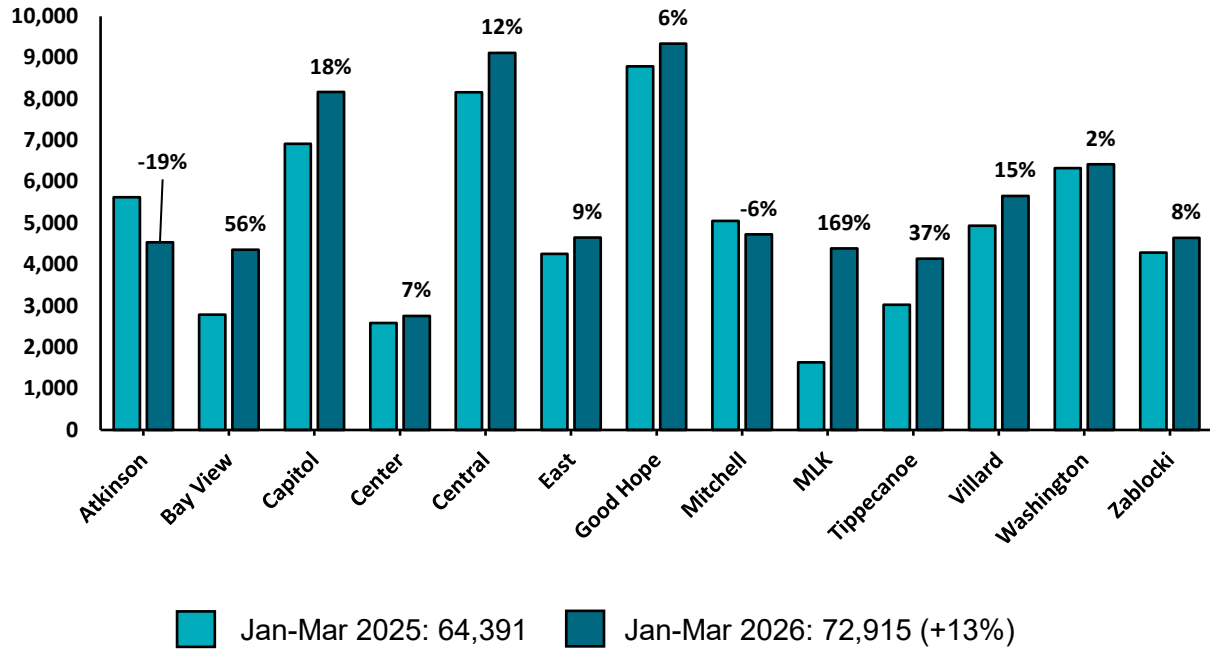
Traditional Circulation



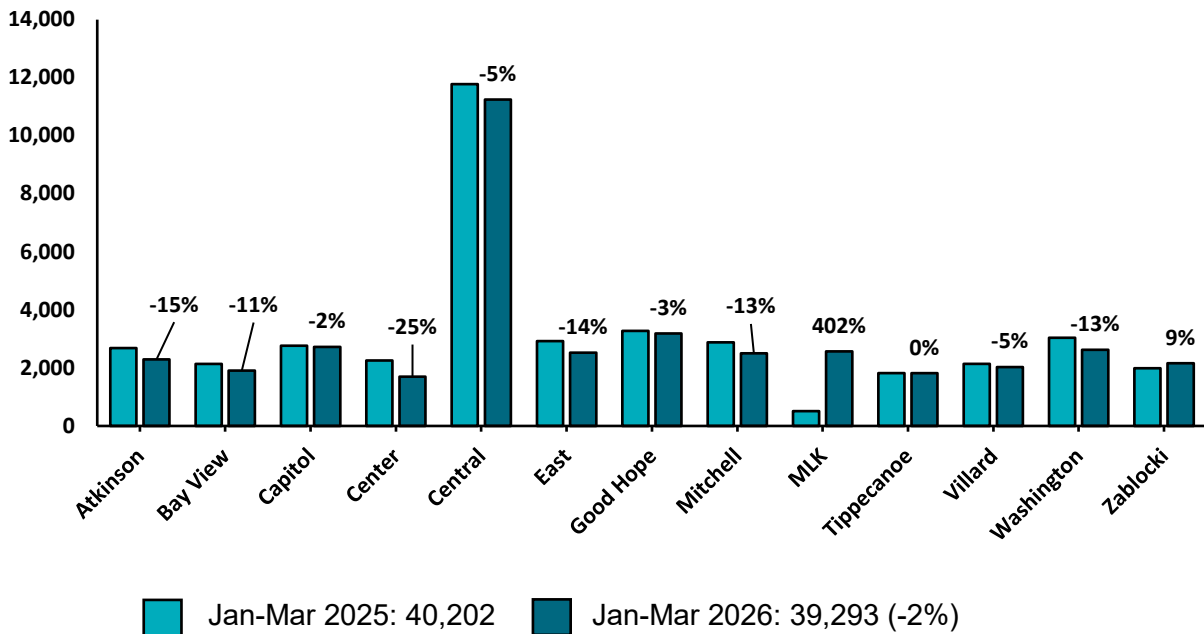
Self-Checkout



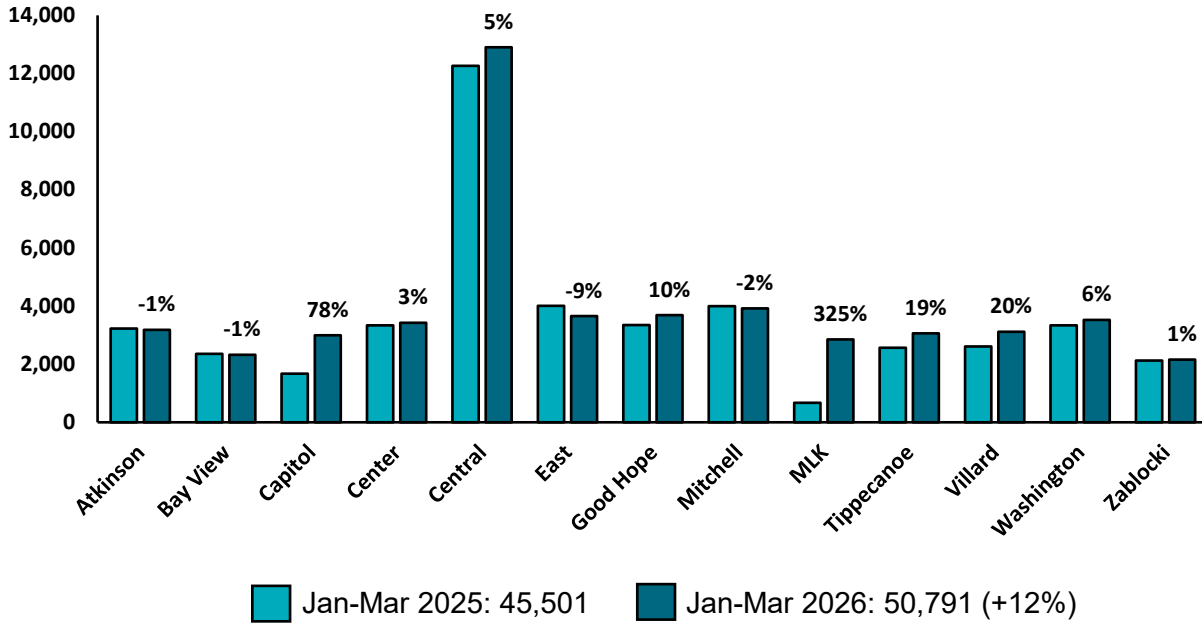
Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Jobs



Public Computer Sessions



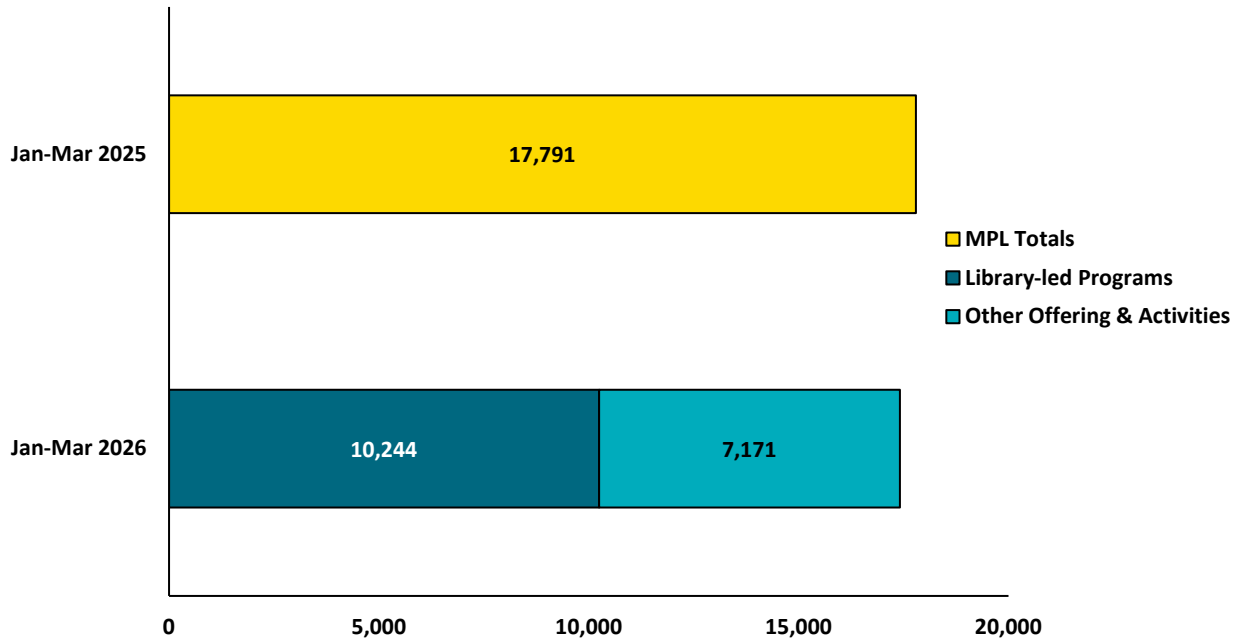
Wi-Fi Unique Users



eCirculation

Platform	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Change
Freegal Music	39,713	206,995	+421%
Hoopla Digital	17,393	16,844	-3%
Kanopy	9,582	11,721	+22%
OverDrive	128,318	143,644	+12%
Total	195,006	379,204	+95%

Program Attendance*



Jan-Feb 2025: 17,791 Jan-Feb 2026: 17,415 (+2%)

*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
NOMINATING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Monday, March 11, 2026

Video Conference Call via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Neil Albrecht, Milele Coggs, Matt Kowalski, Larresa Taylor, Venice Williams,
Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Felicia Saffold

OTHERS: MPL: Rebecca Schweisberger

Committee Chair Matt Kowalski called the MPL Board of Trustees Nominating Committee meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. on March 11, 2026 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

1. **MPL Board Officers Nomination Slate.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared a brief overview of the MPL Board by-laws and nomination process. The Committee discussed the proposed slate and updates to the nomination process for the next term. Trustee Albrecht moved to present the proposed slate at the April meeting. Trustee Taylor seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Nominating Committee was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. on March 11, 2026.



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