

Monthly Activities Board Report – November 2024

Director's Report – Gratitude & Reflection

For me, this time of year is one of gratitude and reflection. And it should come as no surprise that there is plenty for which to be grateful and reflect!

I'm so grateful and thankful for all our library and city teams. They are a committed group who pour so much passion and effort to serve this community and make it better for everyone.

Let me take a moment to celebrate Chrstine Mackie who has worked at the library for 10 years and Kirsten VanDyke who has worked at the library for 5 years.

Beyond the excellent work our staff completes, what really sets us apart is the way our community shows up for each other and truly supports one another as well as our library. This is a special place.

Earlier this month, Friends of the Library, a separate 501c3 nonprofit organization supporting our library, received a donation of \$131,000 from the Kidd's Toy Museum. This generous gift reflects the impact a library and its team have on our community. Below is the kind note included with that donation:

Friends of the Ledding Library,

Please accept this donation on behalf of the Kidd's Toy Museum. The museum was started by Frank and Joyce Kidd, lifetime residents of Milwaukee. Joyce has been an active patron of the library since it opened. When deciding where to distribute funds after closing the museum, Joyce requested a portion be sent to the library. The library is so important to this community and we thank you for all of your hard work!

Sincerely,

Lizzy Knobel (Frank + Joyce's granddaughter)

I'm regularly asked by community members, "**How can I best support the library?**"

There are three general ways you can best support the library:

- Time
- Advocate
- Donate

Time:

- [Volunteer](#) with the Friends of the Ledding Library at their bookstore or sales
- [Become a friend](#) of the Friends of the Ledding Library
- [Apply](#) for the Library Board (adult and youth members) in the Spring
- [Support or join](#) the Board of the Ledding Library of Milwaukie Foundation.
- [Apply](#) for the Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

Advocate:

- Help share our library story in the community
- Share feedback about the library during public engagement at
 - public meetings
 - budget processes
 - and strategic planning

Donate:

- A [one-time gift](#) to Friends of the Ledding Library to support library programming like The Summer Reading and the Fall Author Series.
- [Lightly used books/dvds or plants/herbs](#) to the Friends of the Ledding Library for sales where proceeds support library programming.
- A [one-time or monthly gift](#) to the Ledding Library of Milwaukie Foundation to support the long-range success of the library.

Library 2025 Closure Dates – Save the dates!

New Year's Day – Wednesday, January 1

MLK Day – Monday, January 20

President's Day – Monday, February 17

Memorial Day – Monday, May 26

Juneteenth – Thursday, June 19

Independence Day – Friday, July 4

Labor Day – Monday, September 1

Veteran's Day – Tuesday, November 11

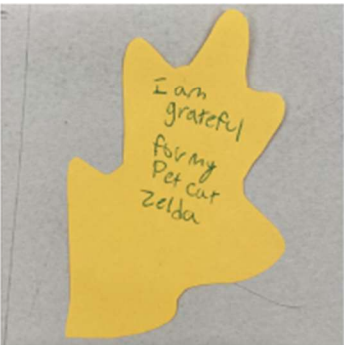
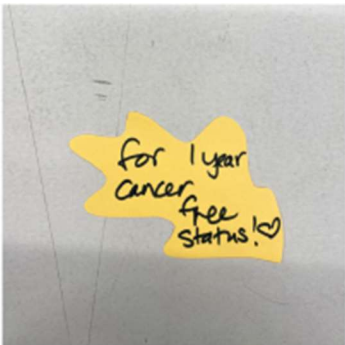
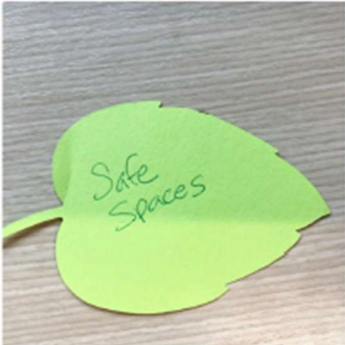
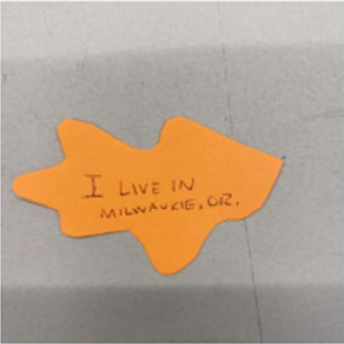
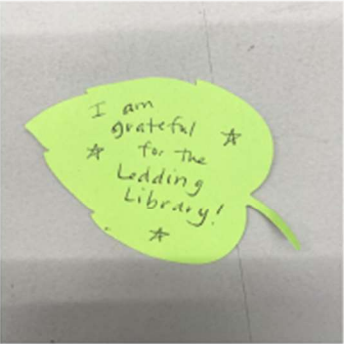
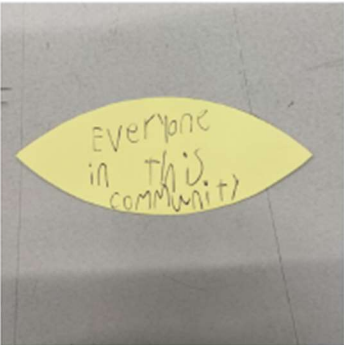
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27

Day after Thanksgiving – Friday, November 28

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25

In November, the library hosted a gratitude tree where our community could write and share some of their gratitude. Below is a sample of the items included.



We're excited to announce that the new Scott Park is open, or as I think of it, "the library annex!"



Kudos:

A patron had a panic attack in the library and Kelly did an amazing job of compassionately helping him regulate his breathing and finding their calm state.

A computer user reported to our team that she finds the library a very comforting and welcoming place, due in large part to the kindness of library staff.

A patron commented that the study rooms are such a wonderful resource. He works for Cascadia Health and meets with clients here. He expressed heartfelt gratitude for these free, private meeting spaces!

Improving Organizational Health & Sustainability:

- Fida contacted Demco seeking help with the caster issues on almost all of our book carts. These were purchased in 2022 and should not break so quickly. Demco officially deemed them defective and are shipping us new parts for free!

Supporting Staff:

- Multiple library workers staffed the ballot box (alongside other city employees) outside of City Hall on November 4 & 5. Welcoming community members who were doing their civic duty by voting was a joy!
- Robert and Alex attended a webinar called “Is your library hearing-friendly?” presented by the American Library Association. They will be sharing different strategies for improving communication and accessibility in the library.
- Kelly met with the new Assistant City Manager, Joseph Briglio, as part of the management mentoring program. (MM Smarter)
- Melissa and Alex assisted Kelly with rating 88 applications for the On-Call Library Assistant I position. Due to several on calls receiving full-time employment, we hope to hire and train additional on-call staff this winter.

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need:

- Ever wanted to learn how to save a life? Sign up for naloxone training in February: <https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/library/free-naloxone-training>
- Bob’s Red Mill donated four cases of Bob’s Bars to the library. This donation will keep the library supplied in bars for any patron in need for several months.
- Tara attended the monthly Milwaukie Houseless Meeting with Kelly at the Public Safety Building. Houseless partners and the library are preparing for winter weather. The library is sent updates when Father’s Heart is open overnight for warming during the colder months.
- Parole and Probation had approximately 30 clients attend mobile outreach this month. The program continues to provide support throughout the county for people under supervision that are also houseless.
 - **One client shared that the Ledding Library staff are always very kind and treat her like a human being. She said that not all places treat her well, and she really appreciates being welcome in the library.**
 - During the MSOU, she was able to meet with her Parole Officer, connect with resources, and start the process for getting a new ID.
 - In December, Clackamas County Health will provide flu shots for clients and any community members that would like to receive one in the library.

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need at the Library 2024						
	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	
Weekly Tuesday Outreach Clients	15	6	11	7	13	
Water Bottles/Granola Bars	139	129	132	97	100	
Outreach Card Referrals	5	6	8	9	13	
Bus Passes	NA	NA	2	3	6	
Parole and Proboation Outreach	30	20	20	16	no data	
PITS Outreach Referrals noted	4	3	4	6	5	
Cooling Center Days	NA	NA	2	0	5	
Extended hours of Cooling Center	NA	NA	5	0	18	
Cooling Center Participants	NA	NA	10	0	65	
Cultural Passes	170	113	143	195	159	

Community Partnerships, Collaborations and Connections:

- Tara reached out to a handful of local businesses and seed companies about receiving seed donations for our (very popular) seed library. She has already gotten a “yes” response from two companies, as well as an offer to teach a seed starting class.
- Brent, Christine, Eileen, Jessalynn, Kirsten, Lucy, Melissa, and Nicole assisted city staff during the election and provided ballot box direction and “I Voted” stickers to community members.
- Thanks to Friends of the Ledding Library funding, and agreement between Libraries in Clackamas County (LINCC), we’ll have some new places to visit through the [cultural pass program](#) in 2025:
 - Leach Botanical Garden
 - Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education
 - Museum of Oregon Territory

Programs and Outreach



- Sara and Tara hosted a Library of Things Open House for the public on November 14. Anyone who stepped in the room found an amazing array of items to try – from an electronic musical instrument called a theremin to a screen-free audio player for kids called a Yoto.
- Seven teens met with Jessalynn at the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting this month. They each created publicity for the December teen movie using Canva and then voted on a winner. They also talked about Spring Break program ideas.
- Jessalynn hosted a drop-in puzzle program for all ages as part of the “All Together Now” series.
- Book Club News: Science Fiction and Fantasy book group discussed *Provenance* by Ann Leckie. The Daylight Book Club discussed *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead. The evening Ledding Book Club talked about *Still Life* by Louise Penny, which most of the group enjoyed, although two members found it “overly chatty” and boring.
- Robert supported one patron with Tech Help and helped them set up their new smart phone.

Outreach:

- Jessalynn delivered books plus one of our new outreach book sets to the Linwood after-school CARE site. She also shared storytime with the K-3rd grade classes. The books will stay at the site for a month for kids to enjoy. (*Improving Library Service at the Point of Need*)
- Jana shared storytime with the teen parents and their toddlers in the PACE (Parenting-Academics-Career-Employment) program at the Sabin Center. Each teen received a free book for their child paid for by the State of Oregon’s Ready to Read Grant.

- The Ready Set Go kindergarten-readiness program at Wichita Center invited the library to their classroom for another storytime this month. Teacher Denys Arias translates the stories and songs into Spanish.

Book Displays:

- Native American Heritage Month (+ Booklists), Cozy cooking, Thanksgiving/Gratitude



Other Highlights:

- Tara created a gratitude tree for the main entry. Patrons and staff alike quickly filled its branches with the things they are thankful for, each on a bright fall leaf. Thanks to Tara for bringing a beautiful idea to life and to Jan and our IRCO (Immigration Refugee Community Organization) teen intern Anastasiia for making all the leaves!



- Close to 350 kids searched high and low for dinosaurs in the children's library during the weeklong Dinovember Scavenger Hunt.

- IRCO Intern, Anastasiia, created an amazing umbrella for the library goose Millie. Millie is ready for the annual Umbrella Parade in December.



- Teen Art Project saved! A large poster was left in the teen room and the amazing Jana posted a photo of the poster in the teen room to see if anyone would claim it. The teen came in and saw the poster and was very happy because it was part of a group project.
 - From Melissa - He was very amused and slightly horrified by the posted sign in the teen room; he said his work wasn't "display-quality art". But he took the sign for fun and was very relieved and appreciative that we had hung on to the poster.

	Ledding Library			Statistics				
	November			2024				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Circulation	56915	54525	48262	47025	26412	42294	39197	53130
Patron visits	18261	16885	14263					
New Cards	289	323	265					
Computer use	1106	934	885					
WiFi sessions	1384	1458	1323					
Questions (all desks)	2649	2546	2052					
Programs								
Adult	5	6	6					
Attendance	50	82	55					
Juvenile	24	32	30					
Attendance	1034	1159	1009					
Teen	2	10	5					
Attendance	82	32	21					
Total Programs	31	48	41					
Total Attendance	1166	1273	1085					
Volunteers								
Number	74	71	59					
Hours worked	487	489	383					