

DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING
Henry Ford Centennial Library - Room 111
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Proposed

Commissioners:

- Chairperson Marcel Pultorak - Present
- Vice Chair Dr. Ryan Lazar - Present
- Secretary/Treasurer Jihan Jawad - Present
- Zeinab Alhashemi - Present
- Haya Bacharouch - Absent
- Gerilyn Biggs - Present
- Ali Dagher - Present
- Dr. Cheryl Hawkins - Present

Library Administration:

- Library Director Betty Adams - Present
- Assistant Director of Technical Services Mark Hancock - Excused
- Assistant Director of Programs & Services Rebecca Hermen - Present
- Assistant Director of Operations Patty Podzikowski - Present
- Office Assistant III Daniel Smith - Present

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pultorak at 5:05PM.

II. Approval of Minutes - February 21, 2025 regular meeting

Minutes approved as submitted.

III. Department Reports

A. Library Foundation

There was no new information to report on the Foundation. Their next meeting is March 19.

B. Director's Report

Please see the Directors's Report in full beginning on page 3.

C. Historical Museum

Dearborn Historical Commissioners Mary Bugea and Cayne Karnbach were present on behalf of the Museum.

Karnbach reported that the Museum held a Ramadan event on March 7.

The AAUW book sale will be held on March 29.

The Museum is seeking volunteers for the Pioneer School Program, beginning in March.

He reported that there will be a double lecture on April 2; one on Clara Ford, and the other on the Fords and Albert Khan.

Historical Commissioner Mariya Fogarasi will give a lecture on Berlin in May.

He reported that Craig Hutchinson has done his final issue of the Dearborn Historian. Replacements will be interviewed.

IV. Comments

The commission discussed attaining a formal legal opinion from internal counsel clarifying the Library system's classification with the State, and the roles and responsibilities of the commission. Commissioner Dagher and Chairperson Pultorak resolved to draft an inquiry with Director Adams at a later date.

Chairperson Pultorak suggested meeting with the Finance Department to review financial responsibilities to the City.

Commissioner Hawkins suggested the board reevaluate roles and bylaws in the future, and rebuild according to what the responsibilities of the Commission are established to be.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:19PM.

Dearborn Public Library

Director's Report



Presented at the Library Commission Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Betty Adams, Library Director

*Patrons celebrate Noon Year's Eve at
Henry Ford Centennial Library.*

Commissioner Notes

Programs

- Patrons expressed interest in reviving past programs, including Chess Club, Monday morning Storytime at BBL, and the former book club at Dearborn Brewing.
- Patrons praised recent events, particularly the Dave Birkett Lions Program and the Parmy Olson talk, with requests for similar high-quality programs.
- Patrons enjoyed the Jazz Concert and Heart Scavenger Hunt, with interest in more engaging and interactive programming.

Facility or Environment

- Patrons appreciate the library's welcoming atmosphere, comparing it favorably to other libraries.
- Concerns were raised about dim lighting near DVDs and video games, cleanliness in the computer area, and changes to the info desk setup.
- Positive feedback was given on the holiday decorations, overall cleanliness, and the idea of adding a public puzzle table in winter.

Technology & Accessibility

- Patrons noted difficulty using LendingKey compared to KitKeeper and suggested adding genre categories and author names in book club kit descriptions.
- Frustration that SparkLab does not accept TLN cards and that exceptions aren't made for staff-run equipment like the Glowforge.

Collections or Materials

- Patrons praised the library's diverse and comforting book selection, particularly for children and Arabic-speaking families.
- New shelf markers in the children's area were appreciated for helping patrons better understand the Dewey Decimal system.

Circulation and Services

- Patrons inquired about additional pickup lockers, particularly at Bryant and the former Snow Branch location.
- Some patrons requested more staff presence at the copy/computer desk and appreciated staff assistance with checkouts.
- The auto-renewal service received positive feedback.

Website and Promotion

- Some patrons found it difficult to locate movie listings for the Blockbuster Free Film Series on the website.

General Feedback

- Residents at Hubbard West (O'Reilly Manor) expressed gratitude for the library's outreach services.
- Patrons praised the My Mini Friends dollhouse updates and overall program efforts.
- Staff received direct compliments for their preparation and event moderation.
- One patron enthusiastically mentioned "Pizza Party!"

Current Happenings at the Library

- Cereal Donation Drive going on now!
Participate in fun games, challenges, and programs themed around our pantry drive for boxes of unopened cereal!
- Relocation of Salina Locker
- Esper redesign development
- Bryant landscaping design development
- Budget Session preparation
- Preparation for Summer Reading!



Strategic Priority 1

Cultivate Library Programming and Services that Foster Community Connections

- **Adult Services**

- The Zawayya Program, in collaboration with AANM, created engaging discussions with author Armen Keteyian, strengthening literary and cultural bonds.
- Book Club Transition: Virtual programming was successfully implemented due to weather constraints, maintaining high patron attendance and engagement.
- Teen Ceramics Studio Event: High participation and positive reception have encouraged plans for summer programming.
- Library Displays: Cozy-themed display led to 59 checkouts, a record for the department.

- **Branch Activities**

- **Bryant Branch** hosted multiple storytimes (attendance: 12-30 per session) and Take & Make crafts (20 kits), fostering literacy for young readers.
- **Esper Branch** maintained strong patron engagement through LEGO Club (79 participants), Craft Tables (91+), and English Language Learning (ELL) sessions (6 attendees).



Teen Ceramics creations being showcased in various forms of completion.

Cozy-themed display, showing off our librarian curated collection creating a new department record for highest number of items circulated from a display!



Strategic Priority 1 (CONT.)

Cultivate Library Programming and Services that Foster Community Connections

- **Youth Services**

- Outreach at River Oaks and other schools led to over 40 new library card applications.
- SparkLab activities, including a slime-making event, drew strong participation from youth patrons.
- Jingle Bash event featured a reader's theater performance, engaging children and families in literacy activities.
- Baby Storytime (20-30 attendees) and other regular youth programs continue to foster early literacy.
- Soft play elements added to public spaces to provide a more engaging environment for young children.
- Nursing Nook project underway to support caregivers and young children.

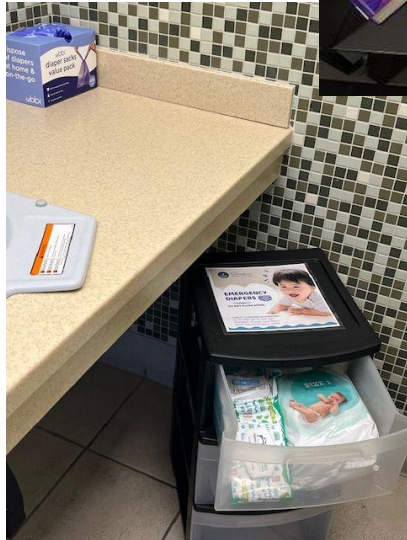


New Library Supervisor, Lindsey, providing a captivating storytime to our youngest patrons at HFCL.

Strategic Priority 2

Innovate Library Spaces to Support Learning and Collaboration

New VOX Books collection materials in process.



Family restroom and service desks now feature diapers on demand and other family toiletries. Patrons have had very positive feedback from this initiative.

- **Facility and Collection Improvements**

- Collection relocation, termed “The Big Shift Project” is underway, consolidating all Adult Non-Fiction DVDs in one section rather than interfiling them with books, improving accessibility.
- Polk and Bresser’s City Directories were relocated to the magazine room for better storage for preservation of the material.
- Family Bathroom Lighting Upgrade installed, improving visibility and response time.
- New Shared Calendar launched for staff coordination, enhancing communication.

- **Processing and Circulation Enhancements**

- A new VOX book collection is being processed, blending print and audio features to improve literacy engagement.
- The Circulation Workroom is undergoing modifications to accommodate the transition of MeLCat operations from Processing.
- ACCESS the Library visit introduced students to origami and the Creative Bug database, strengthening community engagement.

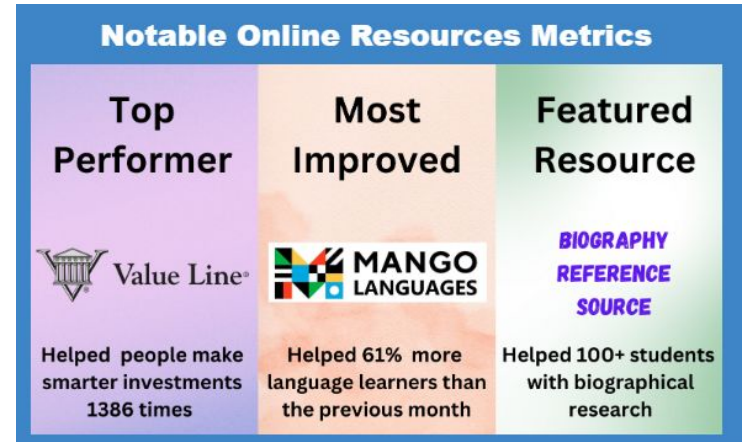
- **Automation and Technology Updates**

- Updated eMedia FAQ pages improve patron access to digital resources.
- Two new laptops deployed to SparkLab to support creative technology programs.
- New Library Systems Specialist, Josh S., onboarded and trained.
- Website Updates: Library Commission pages expanded to include a full timeline

Strategic Priority 3

Elevate Library Visibility and Outreach Efforts

- **Enhanced Online Presence**
 - **Website Metrics**
 - **Active Users:** 13,000
 - **Page Views:** 30,000
 - **Top Pages Visited:** Calendar, About Us, and Online Resources
 - **Top Performing Online Resources**
 - **ValueLine** (Stock & Business Information) served over 1,000 patrons.
 - **Detroit Free Press (Historical)** usage increased by **189%**, connecting over **300 patrons** with historical archives



Strategic Priority 3

Elevate Library Visibility and Outreach Efforts



- **Community Engagement**

- Adult Services Manager has been connecting with local high school teachers in Dearborn to promote upcoming teen programs.
- Our team has a certified SciStarter Ambassador, finding ways to showcase library services to the current and future science explorers of our community.
- Youth and Adult Service Managers are participating in the Building Community-Based Summers Cohort through Library of Michigan, bringing to DPL fresh ideas around our summer reading program.
- The Valentine's Day Scavenger Hunt was introduced after the success of the "Where's Snoop?" Olympic program, encouraging fun patron participation.
- Staff visited several schools and events including William Ford during Parent University. River Oaks outreach resulted in over 40 new library card applications.
- Oakman Childcare and Lowry Preschool families enjoyed storytimes and tours of Henry Ford Centennial Library. Many got library cards and checked out items during their visit.

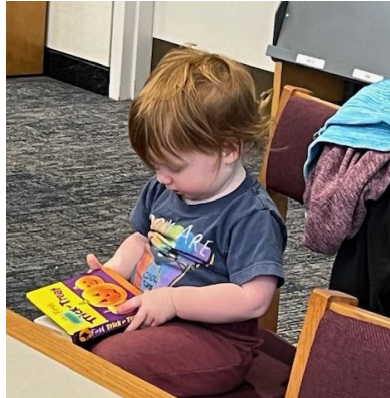
Strategic Priority 4

Increase Accessibility for Children, Youth, and Seniors



Enhancements in Services for Youth and Seniors

- SparkLab sessions provided 51 machine uses for patrons, fostering STEAM learning.
- A newly certified SciStarter Ambassador is now on staff to introduce more volunteer and citizen science opportunities for library users.
- Ready to Read Monday continues to be a popular program. Children and their caregivers enjoy activities that support the early literacy practices of Reading, Writing, Singing, Talking, and Playing.
- Noon Years' Eve and Take Your Child to the Library (in your pajamas) Day were a great success. Patrons enjoyed a balloon drop, crafts, and of course stories in celebration.
- Twenty-eight students and instructors were introduced to the library's Creative Bug database, the art of Japanese paper folding and learned how to create an original origami craft.



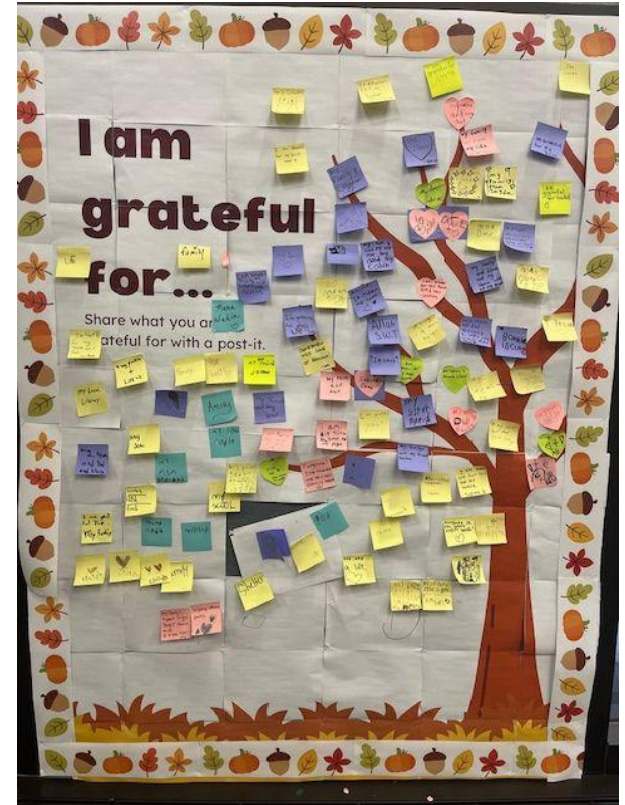
Facility and Service Items

Security & Infrastructure

- Bryant Branch is working with Dearborn Police and DA Central on new security camera installations and potential upgrades.
- Discussions on landscaping and grounds improvements are ongoing for Bryant Branch. Design phase is transitioning from concept to schematic.
- HFCL carpet and upholstery deep cleaning is being put out to bid.
- Esper Branch design meetings are ongoing, with MCD doing site visits in the past month.
- Navy flag pole backing is in process of being restored before Memorial Day.
- New interior lights installed throughout Bryant Branch Library.

Staffing Adjustments & Challenges

- Several staff transitions, involving the Supervisor and OSIII level, may impact workflow efficiency through transition period.
- MeLCat service is now operating out of Circulation, requiring training and reallocation of responsibilities.
- Inability to hire PT staff is still being addressed.



Here, and Beyond! Notes

- March is Reading Month!
- [Library Lover's Week is February 11 - 14, 2025](#)
- **Puppet Show with Alex Thomas & Friends**, Saturday, March 29th at HFCL
- **Cursive Club**, Tuesday, April 29th at Bryant Branch
- **Tool Time: Explore Woodworking at Your Library**, Saturday, May 3rd, at HFCL
- **SAT Study Week**, March 24-28th at 4pm at HFCL
- **Teens In Motion: A Chain Reaction Challenge**, Tuesday, May 27th at 4pm at HFCL
- **Late Night at the CQ: A Ramadan Open House at the Museum**, Friday, March 7th at 9pm
- **Arab-American Heritage Scavenger Hunt**, Monday April 7th - Sunday, April 27th, all locations
- **Rain Garden 101**, Thursday, April 10th at 6:30pm at HFCL
- **Tech Time** every Friday from 1-4pm at HFCL

Summer Reading Challenge Kickoff
Saturday, May 31st 3-5pm



Library of Michigan News:

- [Michigan Library Advocacy Day in Lansing, Wednesday, April 30](#)
- [February 27, 2025 MeLCat, Michigan's eLibrary, Celebrates 20 Years of Sharing Resources](#)
- [February 20, 2025 Dr. Melba Joyce Boyd, Award-Winning Detroit Author, Named Michigan Poet Laureate](#)
- [January 22, 2025 Library of Michigan Announces 2025 Michigan Notable Books](#)

Thank you!

Bonus: Hawk was spotted in February outside of Bryant Branch Library.



Families enjoy our new interactive furnishings in the youth area at HFCL.



Assistant Director of Operations enjoys a rare opportunity to be in the driver's seat of the Dearborn Historical Museums' classic Model T before Bryant Library's 100 Year Celebration.