

# 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.



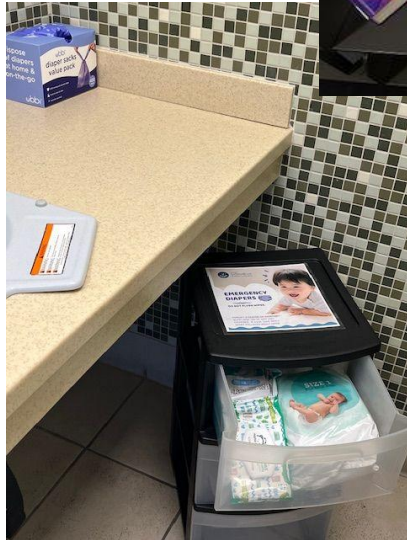
*New Library Supervisor, Lindsey, providing a captivating storytime to our youngest patrons at HFCL.*



# 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 interfilming 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.

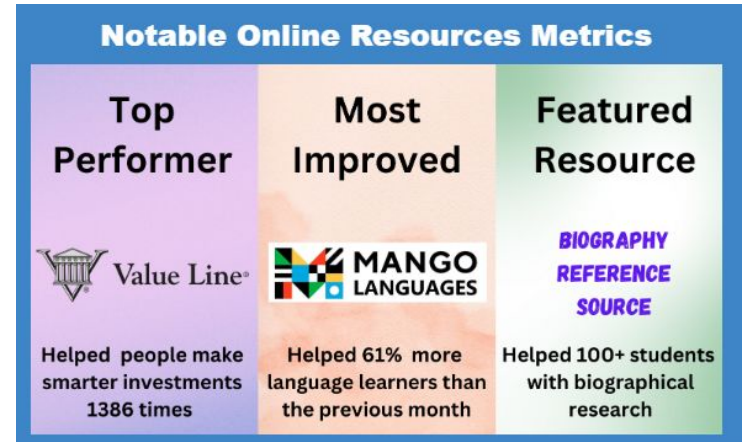
- **Automation and Technology Updates**

- 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.



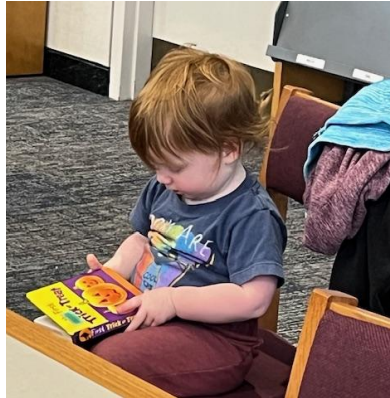
# Strategic Priority 4

## 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.



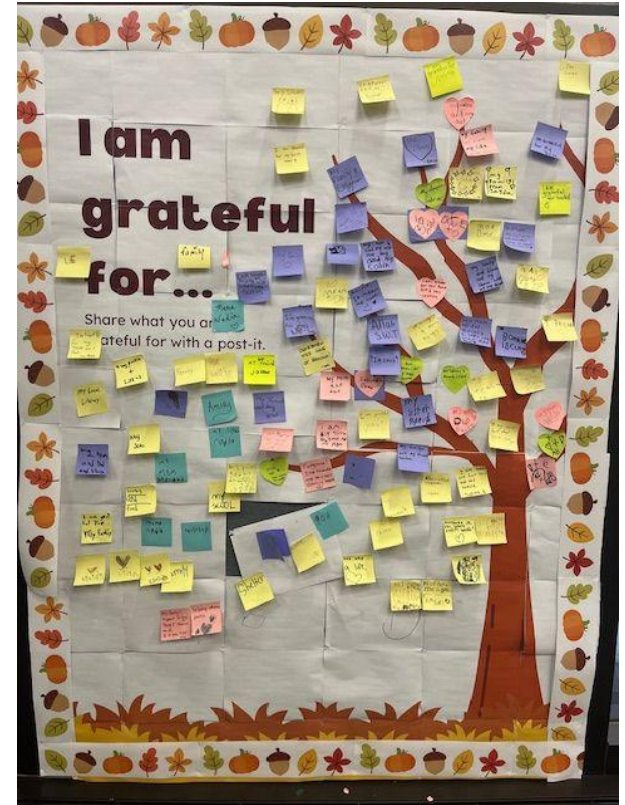
# Facility and Service Items

## 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 A before Bryant Library's 100 Year Celebration.*