



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, June 24, 2025

4:00 p.m.

East Branch

2320 N. Cramer Street

Milwaukee, WI 53211

Community Room, Gift of Lucile Krug

WELCOME & ROLL CALL

4:00 – 4:05

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:05 – 4:15

BOARD EDUCATION

4:15 – 4:25

1. **East Branch Introduction.** Library Services Manager Amelia Osterud will share a brief introduction of East branch.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

4:25 – 4:55

2. **Budget Outlook.** Budget & Management Special Assistant Nathaniel Haack will provide an overview of the 2026 budget and the Board will discuss budget priorities.

CONSENT AGENDA

4:55 – 5:00

Attachment A, page 3

3. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes, May 27, 2025.**
4. **Special Board Meeting Minutes, June 5, 2025.**
5. **Committee Reports.**
 - a. Building & Development Committee – June 5, 2025
6. **Administrative Reports.**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Report
 - c. Statistics

NEW BUSINESS

5:00 – 5:20

7. **Annual Report.** Library Administration will present the 2025 MPL Annual Report.

8. **Funding for the MPL Hotspot Lending Program.** Director Johnson will seek approval to use money from the MPL Trust Fund to sustain this critical service through 2025.

Attachment B, page 22

REPORTS

5:20 – 5:30

9. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Library Director Joan Johnson will report on the June 9, 2025 meeting.

10. **MPL Board Executive Committee.** President Mark Sain will report on the action item from the June 11, 2025 meeting.

Attachment C, page 26

CLOSING REMARKS

5:30 – 5:35

11. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment.**

REMINDER: Next scheduled meetings are:

July 9, 2025 Library Services & Programs Committee – Virtual Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

July 10, 2025 Building & Development Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

July 22, 2025 Finance & Personnel Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:30 a.m.

July 22, 2025 Board Meeting – Central Library, 4:00 p.m.

Trustees

Mark Sain, *President*, Michele Bria, *Vice-President*, Teresa Mercado, *Financial Secretary*, Ald. Milele Cogg, Darryl Jackson, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, 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 will be in attendance at 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities. Make requests to the Library Director's Office at (414)286-3021, 286-2794 (FAX) or Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233 Attn: Accommodation Request.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

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

PRESENT: Mark Sain, Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Venice Williams

STAFF: Chantel Clark, Melissa Howard, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Jessica Wolf

President Mark Sain called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:08 p.m. on May 27, 2025. Trustees Coggs and Saffold participated by conference phone.

President Mark Sain introduced Jessica Wolf, MPL's new Library Human Resources Administrator. Ms. Wolf gave a brief overview of her professional and personal background and shared that she is excited to contribute to the library's mission.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 2025**
2. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2025
 - b. Building & Development Committee Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2025
 - c. Library Services & Programs Committee Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2025
3. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics

President Sain asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 3-33 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REPORTS

4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Trustee Kathleen Vincent reported on the May 12, 2025 meeting.
 - **Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC) Highlights:** The Council discussed:
 - o Federal funding concerns regarding the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

ATTACHMENT A - P. 1 of 19

MPL CONSENT AGENDA

3. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 05/27/2025

P. 3

- Advocacy efforts by the System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) through the postcard campaign.
 - A proposed 5% increase to the statewide digital library collection budget. The increase is scheduled to be approved by the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) on June 9th.
 - The Great Library Treasure Hunt campaign attracted diverse participants across Milwaukee County and generated positive feedback. Informational item.
- **South Milwaukee Public Library Funding Status.** The South Milwaukee City Council commissioned a report from the Wisconsin Policy Forum regarding the future of library services in South Milwaukee. The report outlined several options for the city, including closing the library and paying for services through MCFLS, moving to a smaller space, or pursuing new mixed-use construction. The City Council is now reviewing the options. Informational item
 - **Library Support Postcard Campaign:** MCFLS Executive Director Steve Heser presented an update on funding for IMLS. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) received notice that it will receive full funding for the remainder of the fiscal year, through October 1, 2025. The current federal budget for 2026 does not include funding for IMLS. A statewide awareness campaign has been developed to share community support for funding IMLS and libraries. Participation is optional and MCFLS member libraries will receive a batch of post cards. Patrons may complete the post card and return it to a participating library or through postal mail. Completed post cards will be sent to federal elected officials. Director Johnson requested authorization for MPL to participate in the post card campaign. Trustee Vincent moved to authorize Library Administration to participate in the IMLS 'Speak Up for Libraries' postcard campaign, utilizing gift or trust funds to cover postage fees. Trustee Mercado seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

5. **Annual Bylaws Review.** President Sain referred to the MPL Board Bylaws, listed as Attachment B of the agenda. No changes were recommended. Per the bylaws, a review committee will be convened every 4 years. The next committee review will be done in 2026. Informational item.
6. **Summer Reading Program.** Kelly Wochinske, Library Public Services Area Manager (Education & Outreach), presented an update on MPL's Summer Reading Program (SRP). The 2025 SRP will highlight the library's role as a place of belonging and community. The SRP celebrates reading and growing with the theme 'Summer with MPL' and features all new artwork. Patrons are invited to participate in challenges at the library and MPL will also serve patrons at various locations in the community. Programming services offer youth access to materials, the opportunity to contextualize academic learning, practice in 21st century skills, and pro-social behaviors and relationship building. MPL is creating 'book chains' to celebrate reading choices and to share book recommendations. The SRP kickoff celebration will be held at Central Library on May 31st. Informational item.
7. **Closing Remarks.** President Sain and Library Director Joan Johnson recognized Marian Royal, Public Services Area Manager (Central Library), who is retiring on June 6th. All Trustees are invited to join Construction Projects Manager Yves LaPierre for a tour of the new Martin Luther King branch on Thursday, May 29th. Trustee Morgan gave kudos to the MPL Foundation and MPL staff for a successful and enjoyable Literary Luncheon on May 15th.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of May 27, 2025 was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Michael Morgan, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Mark Sain, Ald. Larresa Taylor

STAFF: Chantel Clark, Melissa Howard, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Marian Royal, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Jessica Wolf

Presiding Chair Michele Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 1:31 p.m. on June 5, 2025. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Letter of Support – Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared information about the SHLB Coalition and requested authorization to include MPL as a signer on a letter from SHLB to elected officials in Congress. SHLB is a major advocate for anchor institutions and supports efforts to obtain and promote open, secure, high-quality broadband services to support connectivity. Director Johnson reviewed the current technology offered by MPL, including hotspots. In 2024, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved a new rule to support wi-fi hotspots through the E-Rate program. The E-Rate hotspot lending program would provide sustainable funding for libraries to support patrons with at-home access to the internet and the opportunities it brings, regardless of where they live or their financial status. The new program was scheduled to be effective July 2025. In early May 2025, the Senate moved forward with a resolution to end E-Rate funding for hotspots, effective immediately. If the resolution is passed by the House of Representatives, funding for any existing contracts for this program would be terminated, also effective immediately. Additionally, the resolution would prevent the FCC from acting in the future to return hotspots to a list of eligible services for library funding. In response, SHLB has drafted a letter, listed as Attachment B of the agenda, urging representatives to oppose resolutions that would overturn the FCC E-Rate hotspot decision.

Trustee Vincent moved to authorize MPL to sign on to the SHLB Coalition letter to the U.S. Members of the House of Representatives, urging them to vote NO on Senate Joint Resolution 7 and House Joint Resolution 33. Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of June 5, 2025 was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

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

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Michael Morgan, Matt Kowalski, Mark Sain, Larresa Taylor, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Teresa Mercado

STAFF: MPL: Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder,
Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger

Chair Michael Morgan called the MPL Board of Trustees Building and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. on June 5, 2025 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 May 1, 2025 meeting. Trustee Sain moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Martin Luther King Branch Redevelopment.** Library Construction Projects Manager Yves LaPierre presented an update on the project, which is attached at the end of these minutes. The core and shell punch list items are nearly complete. Updates to the parking lot will be completed in July. All interior work is expected to be completed in the next few weeks and a punch list will be created. The developer is working on completing the entry and repairs to the canopy, with a target date of August 1. The presentation includes examples of the 'dot matrix' method of producing the picture for the meeting space window. The images are examples only and will not be the final product. The Committee offered suggestions for the location of the MPL Board recognition plaque.

Mr. LaPierre also provided an update on other projects:

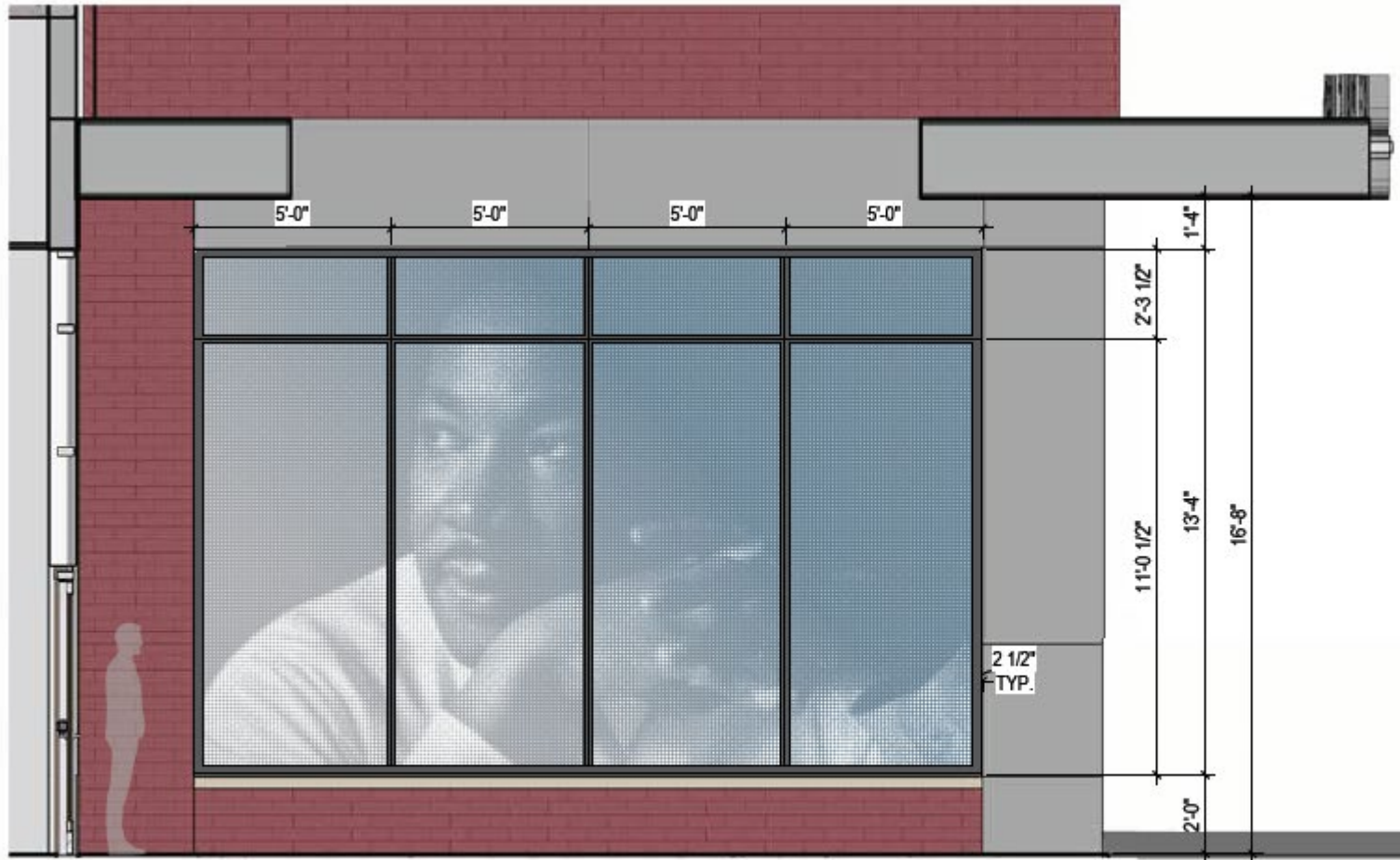
- Good Hope parking lot renovation is underway. Curbs, gutters, and stormwater infrastructure are underway.
- The 4T renovation is progressing well. Demolition is nearly complete and new walls and finishes will be installed soon.

The Committee commended Mr. LaPierre for his dedication and proficient management of these projects.

Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Building & Development Committee was adjourned at 8:25 a.m. on June 5, 2025.





1 EXTERIOR ELEVATION
Scale: 1/4" = 1"



2

INTERIOR ELEVATION - COMMUNITY ROOM

Scale: 1/4" = 1"



Milwaukee Public Library, Building and Development Committee, June 5, 2025



Milwaukee Public Library, Building and Development Committee, June 5, 2025



**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
May 31, 2025**

2025

City Revenues

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
<i>Additional City Appropriation</i>	\$ 32,920,741	\$ 13,387,243	40.7%
<i>Fines</i>	\$ 94,000	\$ 36,073	38.4%
<i>Lost Materials, etc.</i>	\$ 50,000	\$ 30,761	61.5%
<i>MCFLS Contracts</i>	\$ 927,000	\$ 19,396	2.1%
Total City Appropriation	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 13,473,473	39.6%

City Expenses

Salaries & Benefits

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 19,539,425	\$ 7,745,075	39.6%
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 2,985,098	33.9%
Total	\$ 28,332,167	\$ 10,730,173	37.9%

Supplies & Services

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>General Office Expense</i>	\$ 115,700	\$ 32,778	28.3%
<i>Tools & Machinery Parts</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Construction Supplies</i>	\$ 18,000	\$ 8,610	47.8%
<i>Energy</i>	\$ 886,500	\$ 363,073	41.0%
<i>Other Operating Supplies</i>	\$ 278,956	\$ 89,814	32.2%
<i>Vehicle Rental</i>	\$ 9,200	\$ 1,807	19.6%
<i>Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental</i>	\$ 13,200	\$ 1,580	12.0%
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 86,600	\$ 63,119	72.9%
<i>Information Technology Services</i>	\$ 357,920	\$ 255,947	71.5%
<i>Property Services</i>	\$ 861,520	\$ 800,154	92.9%
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	\$ 46,000	\$ 100,634	218.8%
<i>Vehicle Repair Services</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Other Operating Services</i>	\$ 152,112	\$ 36,290	23.9%
<i>Reimburse Other Departments</i>	\$ 111,900	\$ (384)	-0.3%
Total	\$ 2,937,608	\$ 1,753,422	59.7%

Equipment

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Library Materials</i>	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 696,951	37.0%
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$ 220,824	\$ 67,002	30.3%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 337,042	\$ 120,354	35.7%
Total	\$ 2,443,366	\$ 884,307	36.2%

Other Departmental Appropriation

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Villard Square Property Payment</i>	\$ 11,600	\$ -	0.0%
<i>East Property Payment</i>	\$ 9,133	\$ 9,133	100.0%
<i>Mitchell Street Property Payment</i>	\$ 76,000	\$ 27,000	35.5%
<i>Good Hope Property Payment</i>	\$ 42,967	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Contingent Energy Financing</i>	\$ 138,900	\$ 69,438	50.0%
Total	\$ 278,600	\$ 105,571	37.9%

ARPA Revenue Replacement

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
Total	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
Total City Expenses	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 13,473,473	39.6%

2024

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
	\$ 28,574,827	\$ 12,244,271	42.8%
	\$ 114,500	\$ 44,597	38.9%
	\$ 66,500	\$ 23,561	35.4%
	\$ 819,000	\$ 447,948	54.7%
	\$ 29,574,827	\$ 12,760,377	43.1%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 5,973,002	\$ 2,299,924	38.5%
	\$ 2,687,851	\$ 1,034,712	38.5%
	\$ 8,660,853	\$ 3,334,636	38.5%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 121,803	\$ 29,240	24.0%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 16,500	\$ 15,092	91.5%
	\$ 847,800	\$ 265,420	31.3%
	\$ 252,947	\$ 98,748	39.0%
	\$ 8,800	\$ 2,337	26.6%
	\$ 14,700	\$ 5,827	39.6%
	\$ 146,600	\$ 83,053	56.7%
	\$ 442,552	\$ 315,542	71.3%
	\$ 1,418,038	\$ 727,709	51.3%
	\$ 38,500	\$ 125,029	324.8%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 146,239	\$ 42,288	28.9%
	\$ 108,600	\$ (2,979)	-2.7%
	\$ 3,563,079	\$ 1,707,306	47.9%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,827,000	\$ 704,253	38.5%
	\$ 522,032	\$ 157,315	30.1%
	\$ 86,563	\$ 18,528	21.4%
	\$ 2,435,595	\$ 880,096	36.1%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 9,800	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300	0.0%
	\$ 74,000	\$ 27,000	36.5%
	\$ 45,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 136,200	\$ 68,076	50.0%
	\$ 270,300	\$ 100,376	37.1%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 14,645,000	\$ 6,737,963	46.0%
	\$ 14,645,000	\$ 6,737,963	46.0%
	\$ 29,574,827	\$ 12,760,377	43.1%

**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
May 31, 2025**

2025

2024

Additional Funding Sources

Grants

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent		Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
WTBBL Jul '24 - Jun '25	\$ 1,033,100	\$ 932,666	90.3%		\$ 1,004,300	\$ 845,684	84.2%
ILL Jul '24 - Jun '25	\$ 233,550	\$ 147,150	63.0%		\$ 223,350	\$ 96,594	43.2%
Total	\$ 1,266,650	\$ 1,079,816	85.2%		\$ 1,227,650	\$ 942,278	76.8%

Trust Funds

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent		Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
Materials	\$ 167,000	\$ 118,828	71.2%		\$ 134,000	\$ 71,311	53.2%
Programming	\$ 53,000	\$ 11,860	22.4%		\$ 42,000	\$ 12,946	30.8%
Training	\$ 26,000	\$ 13,223	50.9%		\$ 20,000	\$ 5,141	25.7%
Marketing	\$ 45,000	\$ 434	1.0%		\$ 35,000	\$ -	0.0%
Contingency	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%		\$ 4,000	\$ -	0.0%
Board Development	\$ 5,000	\$ 384	7.7%		\$ 4,000	\$ 384	9.6%
Strehlow 50+	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,312	16.4%		\$ 29,756	\$ 2,469	8.3%
Staffing Study	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%		\$ 28,000	\$ -	0.0%
Total	\$ 309,000	\$ 146,041	47.3%		\$ 296,756	\$ 92,251	31.1%

Foundation Contributions

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent		Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
Materials	\$ 279,497	\$ 13,653	4.9%		\$ 225,817	\$ 17,384	7.7%
Programming	\$ 1,661,809	\$ 409,989	24.7%		\$ 1,437,759	\$ 244,377	17.0%
Total	\$ 1,941,306	\$ 423,642	21.8%		\$ 1,663,576	\$ 261,761	15.7%

Investments

U.S. Bank National Assoc. Commercial Paper (rated A1) confirmation #327155918 dated 05/23/25 and maturing 06/20/25 at a rate of 1.75%...\$290,000

Director's Report

June 2025

First Lady Dominique Johnson reached out to Director Johnson to express her commitment to the cause of advancing literacy skills and instilling in children across the city the love of reading. To that end, she is committed to participating with MPL staff in delivering the “Summer with Milwaukee Public Library: 2025 Summer Challenge – For All Ages” and will host a reading lounge at select branches throughout the summer. Working with MPL staff, she will help promote summer reading to a broader audience.

Johnson was asked by the Urban Libraries Council Chief Operating Officer to participate in an advocacy call with two other Wisconsin library directors on a call with Senator Tammy Baldwin’s staff. We requested support for preservation of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and continued IMLS funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). We shared stories about how our respective organizations have benefitted from these services over the years and how critical it is for the health and well-being of the people in our communities who rely on library services.

Johnson and other Public Services managers met with Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) Chief of Staff and a Deputy Chief to debrief regarding a serious security incident at Villard Square. Critical information was shared by both groups to help improve MPD support to MPL staff during a crisis, including training for MPL staff.

Johnson met with a potential developer partner to explore how MPL could potentially be integrated into a larger development project along with other city departments that would be co-located with a new housing development.

The City is working to find efficiencies and reached out to MPL to participate in an audit of the library’s telecommunications services. Johnson and a small team met with her peers to get a full briefing on what’s entailed, the potential benefits for the library and next steps.

In an effort to be accessible to the MPL teams, Director Johnson is visiting teams throughout the system, and most recently visited the Villard Square Branch Library team.

Johnson participates in the Westtown Association Board meetings and attended the organization’s first highly successful Night Market of the season. She attended a community event by BID21 in honoring the retirement of its long-time Executive Director. Johnson continues to attend the Milwaukee County Federated Library System’s (MCFLS) monthly Board meetings, the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation Board meetings, and the Rotary Club of Milwaukee programs and Board meetings. She attended the Urban Libraries Council Annual Business Meeting. The regular meetings of the Schools, Health and Library Broadband Coalition (SHLB) are ongoing.

Summary of **VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON PROGRAMS:**

MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ

Shelby Van Pelt in Conversation. Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. Shelby was joined in conversation with Librarian Jacki Potratz, who led a charming discussion of the book and Shelby's whirlwind success as a bestselling author. Book sales and signing followed the author conversation from Milwaukee's Boswell Book Company. Attendance: 311

MPL HELPS PEOPLE LEARN

Art Book Club. The focus of this month's theme was tile and mosaics, which featured materials showcasing mosaics from around the world. Attendance: 62

ChatGPT Unlocked. This program explains ChatGPT and AI in an easy-to-understand way, showing Patrons what it can do, how they can use ChatGPT in their daily life. Topics covered included the history of Artificial Intelligence, keys to writing a good prompt, and privacy tips to stay safe while using AI. The attendees enjoyed taking a closer look at ChatGPT and were very engaged throughout the class. There was also a good discussion about the ethical use of AI and how to avoid bias in your results. Attendance: 7

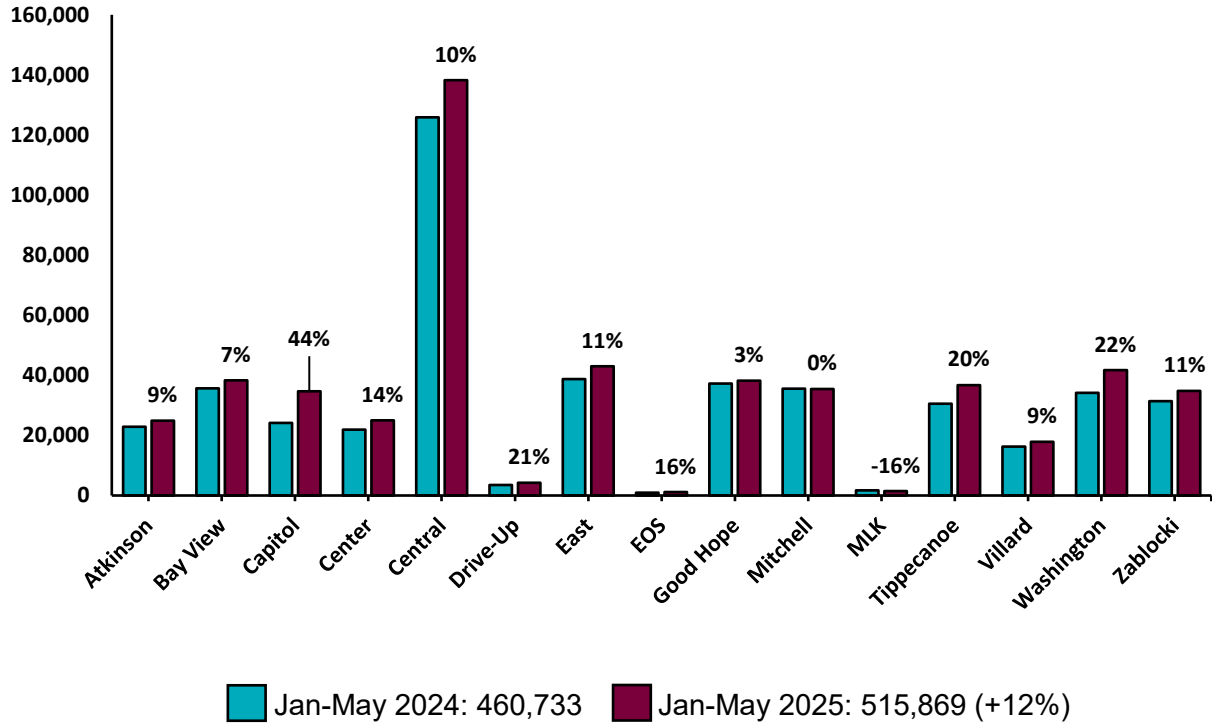
Vertical Gardening [Virtual]. Save space, screen bad views, and create privacy by growing vertically. We'll discuss fun, affordable, and attractive ways to use this gardening technique to incorporate flowers and edibles into your landscape and container gardens. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will share ways vertical gardening can help reduce energy use by shading air conditioners, walls, and outdoor seating. Sponsored by We Energies. Attendance: 283

MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT

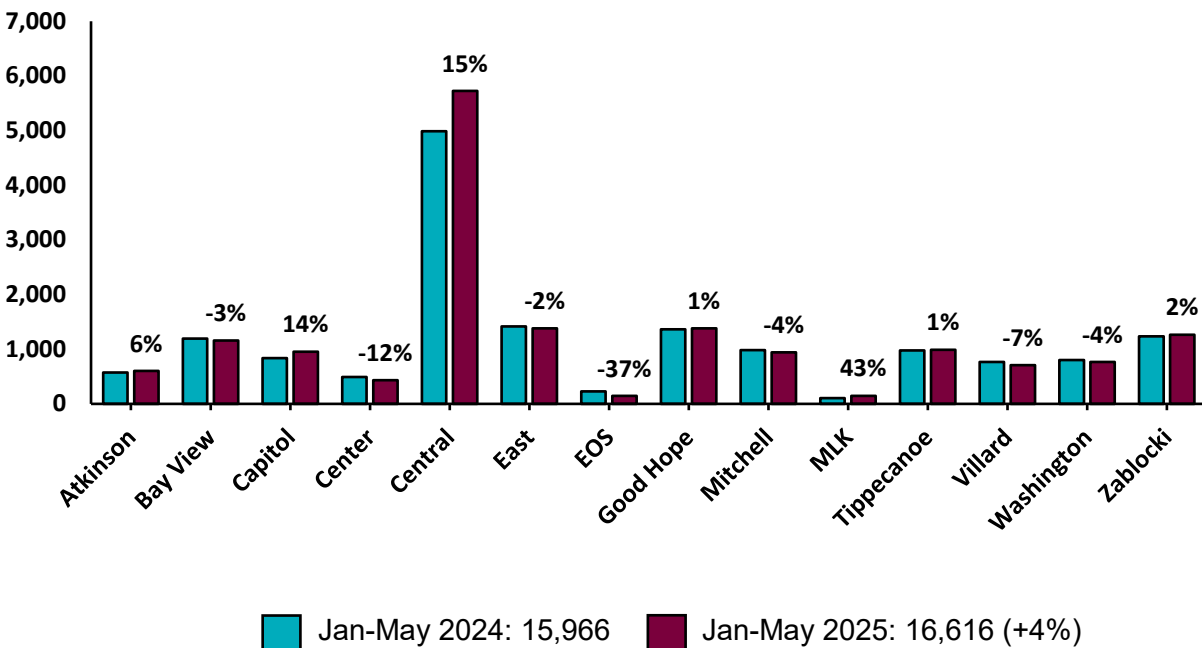
Blissful Spring Brunch Community Meal: Celebration of Mothers. Nurturing. Selfless. Strong. The 2nd community meal of 2025, this celebration-of-mothers brunch program recognized these attributes and many more! With Mother's Day observed the day after, we applauded all mother figures for their love, wisdom and resilience. Attendees engaged in a trivia challenge before enjoying brunch favorites. Menu included: Buttermilk Pancakes, Breakfast Potatoes, Shrimp & Grits, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon and Vegan Sausage. The specialty beverage served were 'mock-mosas' (nonalcoholic mimosas). Community members were given an opportunity to share a reflective sentiment of their mother figure. This heart felt fulfilled fellowship was an endearing kick off to celebrating Mother's Day! Attendance: 55

Total attendance for 139 programs: 1,672

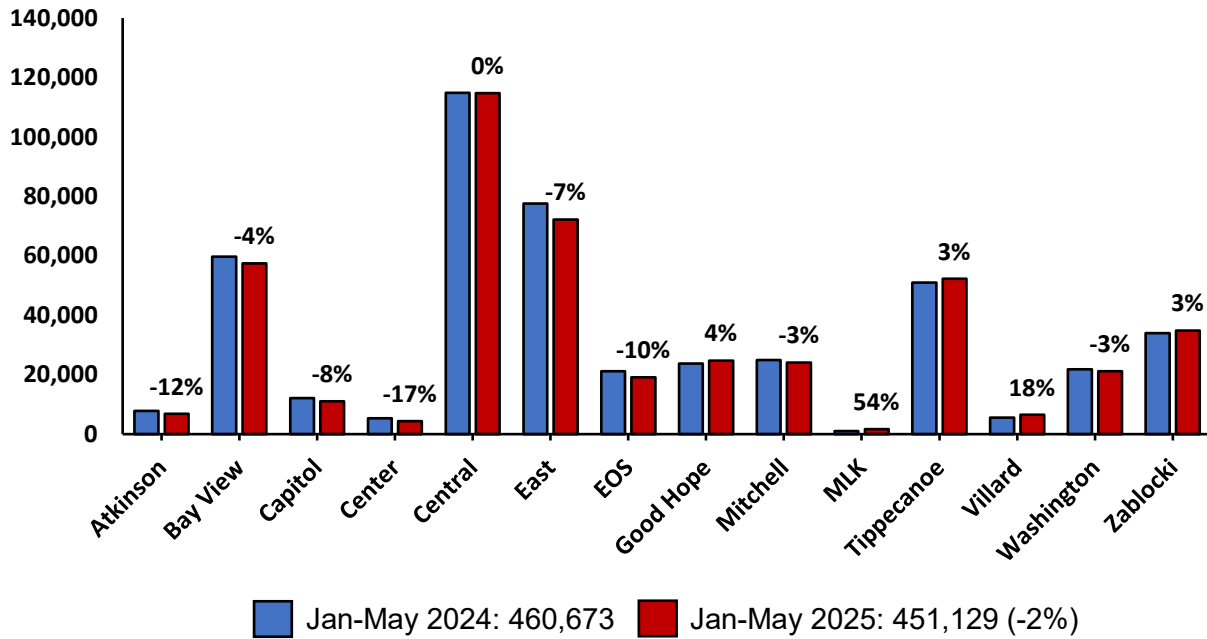
Patron Visits



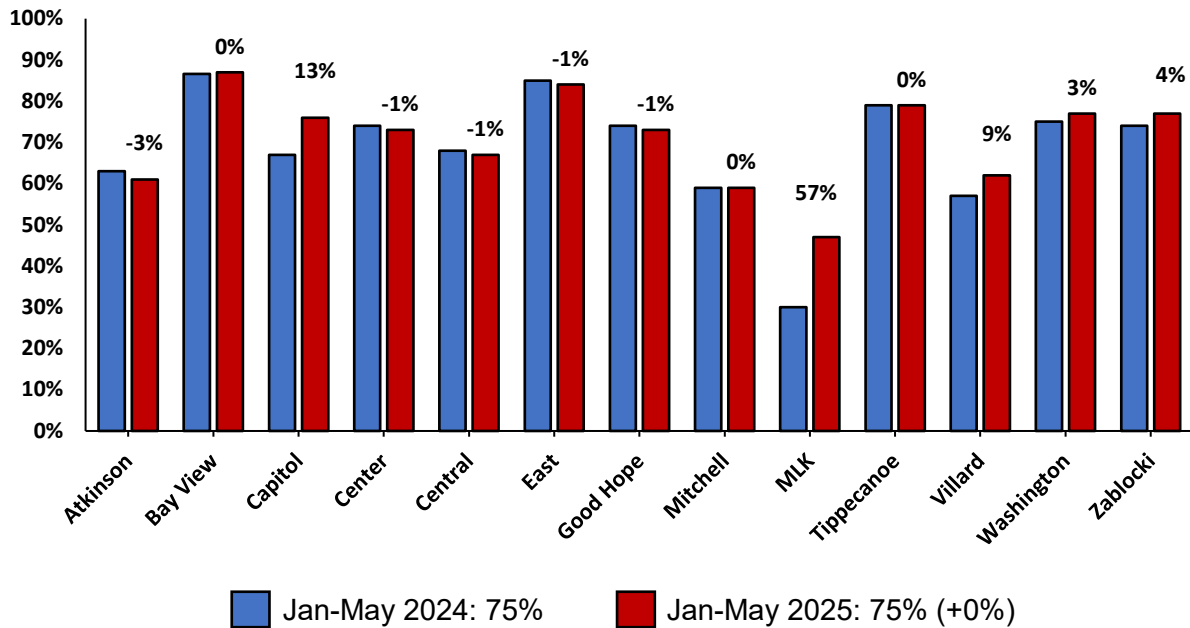
Registration



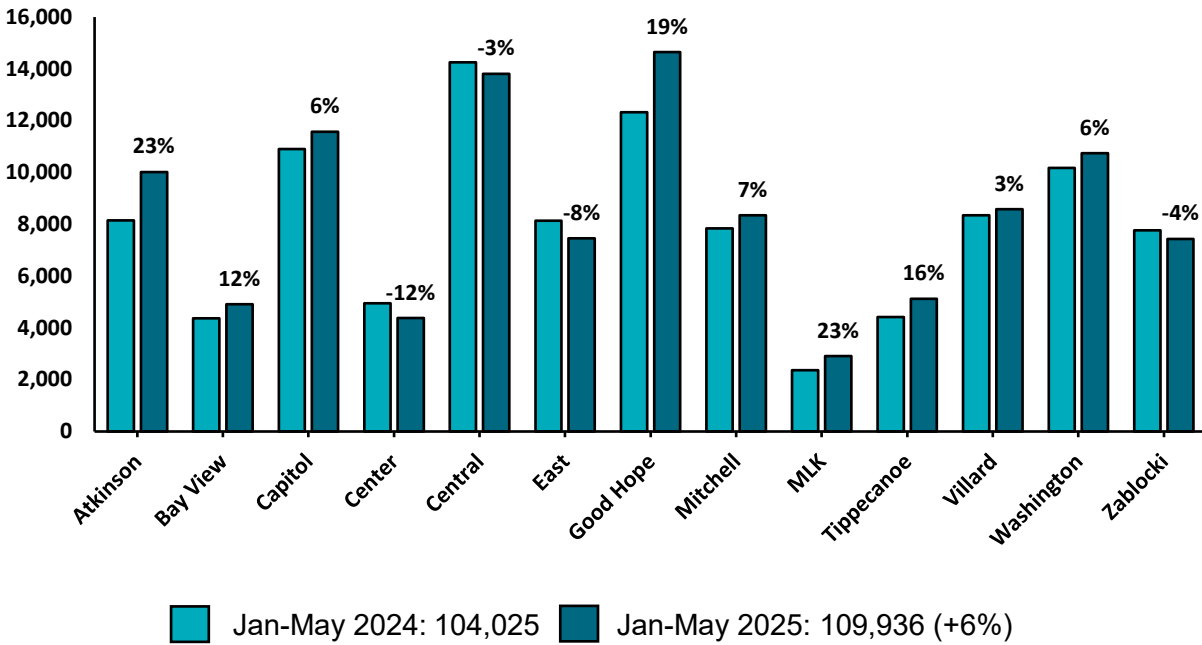
Traditional Circulation



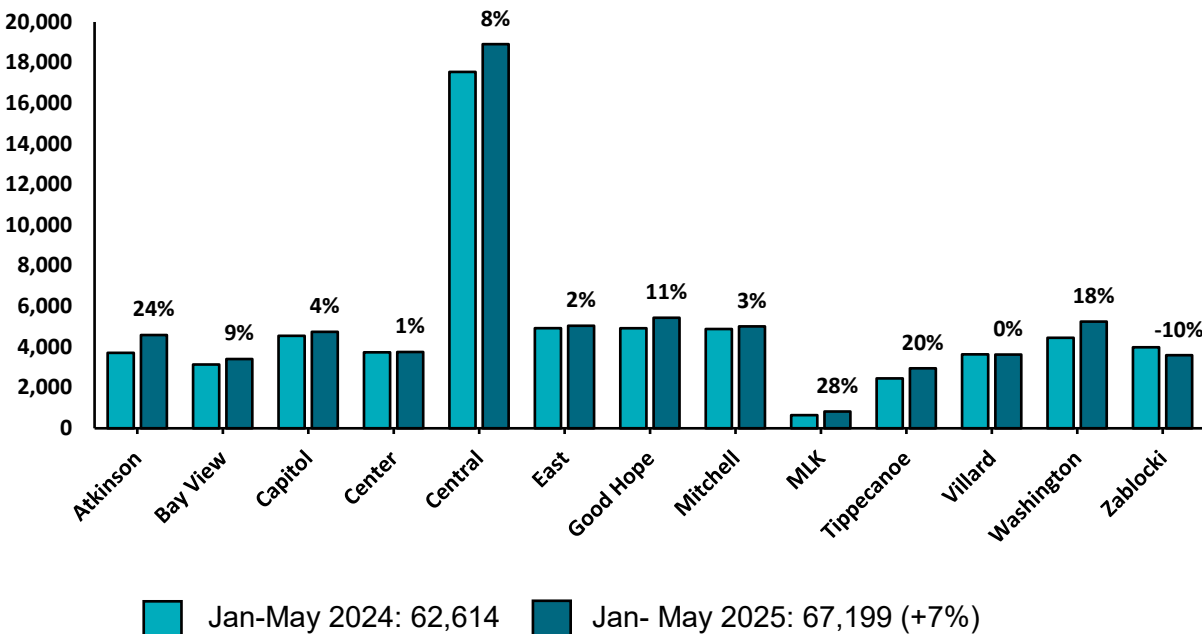
Self-Checkout



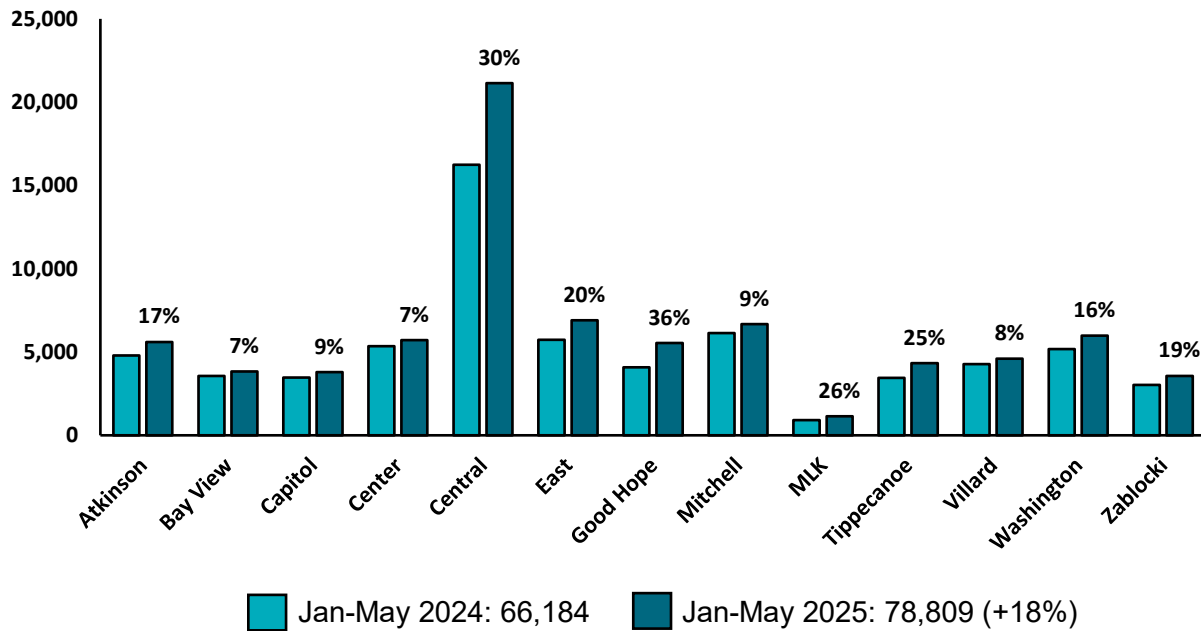
Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Jobs



Public Computer Sessions



Wi-Fi Unique Users



Ready Reference



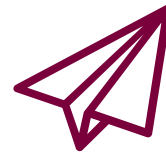
16,036

Call Sessions
Last Year: 19,210



726

Chat Sessions
Last Year: 668



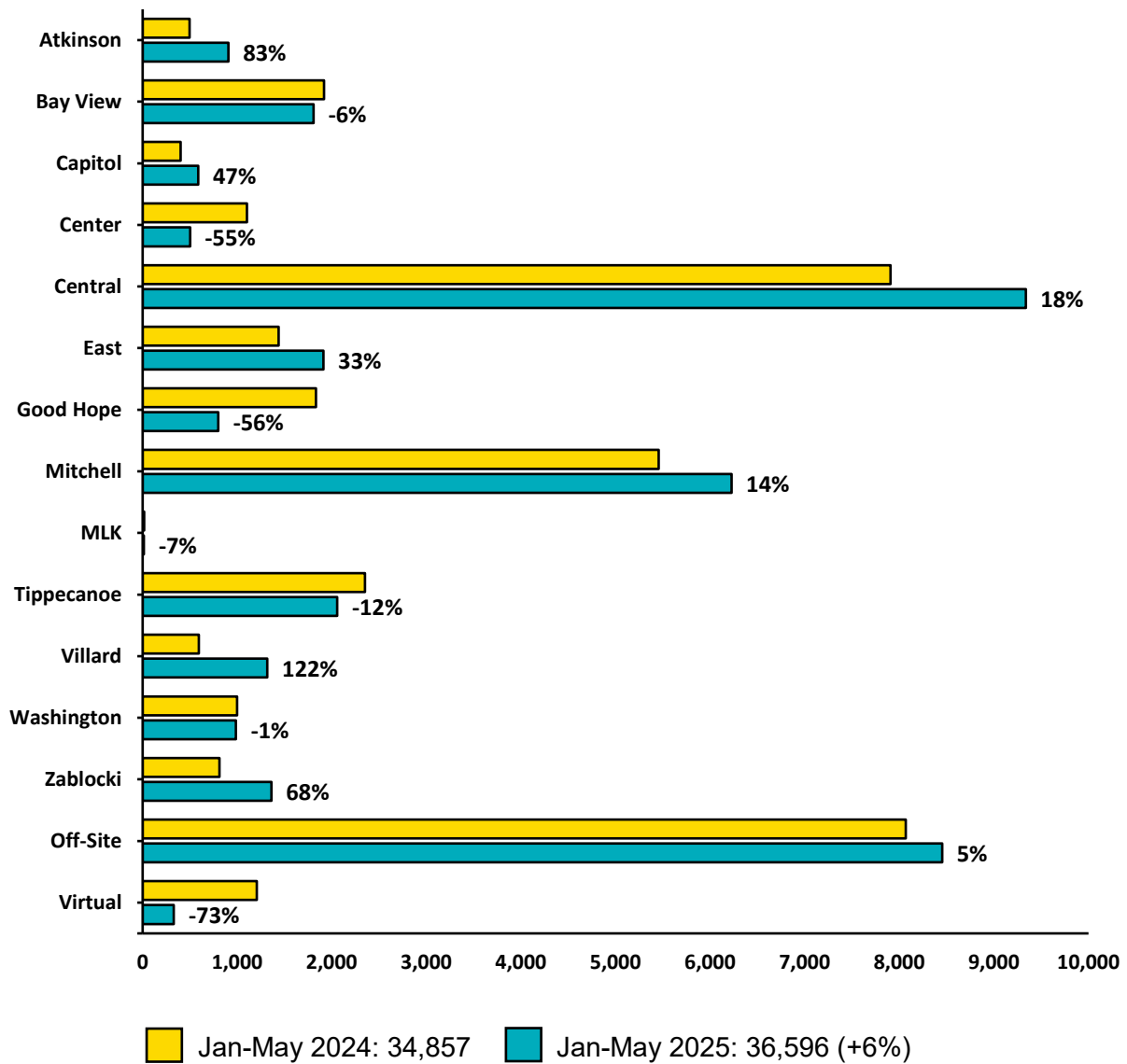
116

Email Sessions
Last Year: 850

eCirculation

Platform	Jan-May 2024	Jan-May 2025	Change
Freegal Music	54,317	72,715	+34%
Hoopla Digital	34,368	28,474	-17%
Kanopy	11,401	15,847	+39%
OverDrive	195,258	214,238	+10%
Total	295,344	331,274	+12%

Program Attendance



MEMO

Date: June 24, 2025

To: Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

From: Library Director Joan Johnson

Re: Trust Fund and Gift Fund Expenditure Request

Approval is requested to expend up to \$295,000 from the Milwaukee Public Library Trust and Gift Funds to support the Hot Spots program in 2025.

The Hot Spots program began in 2019, initially supported through funding from the MPL Foundation. The Foundation is currently unable to sustain financial support for this program, and we now seek Trust Fund support to preserve the program through 2025.

As outlined in the Investment Policy, the goal of the Trust Fund is to permit an annual draw of up to 5% to support MPL's collection, programming, and other activities not funded through City of Milwaukee budgeted funds. In addition, the Board reserves the right to authorize expenditures for special projects which—if approved—may result in the annual draw exceeding the standard 5% threshold for that year.

To support your review, we have included a chart showing year-end fund balances and annual expenditures from the past ten years.

As of May 2025, the market value of the fund is \$7,131,016. Current expenditure authorizations include:

\$286,000	Unrestricted funds for collection materials, programs, and other activities
\$15,000	Restricted funds (Hunkel) for collection materials related to the insurance industry; books or equipment pertaining to art, travel, literature, or music
\$689,773	Unrestricted funds (Mary A. Klug) for the 4T renovation project
\$1,276,773	Total



MPL Trust Fund - Unrestricted Fund Balance & Expenditures



2020: additional \$493,401 was authorized and spent from Elaine C. Lange funds for Central Business Commons and Rotary Room renovation

MPL Hotspot Program Fact Sheet

Overview:

The Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) hotspot program began as a six-month pilot at three MPL branches in 2019. Based on the community response and need, the program expanded with hotspots available at all MPL locations by 2020. Hotspots are a holdable, 3-week checkout with unlimited data for up to 10 devices per hotspot.

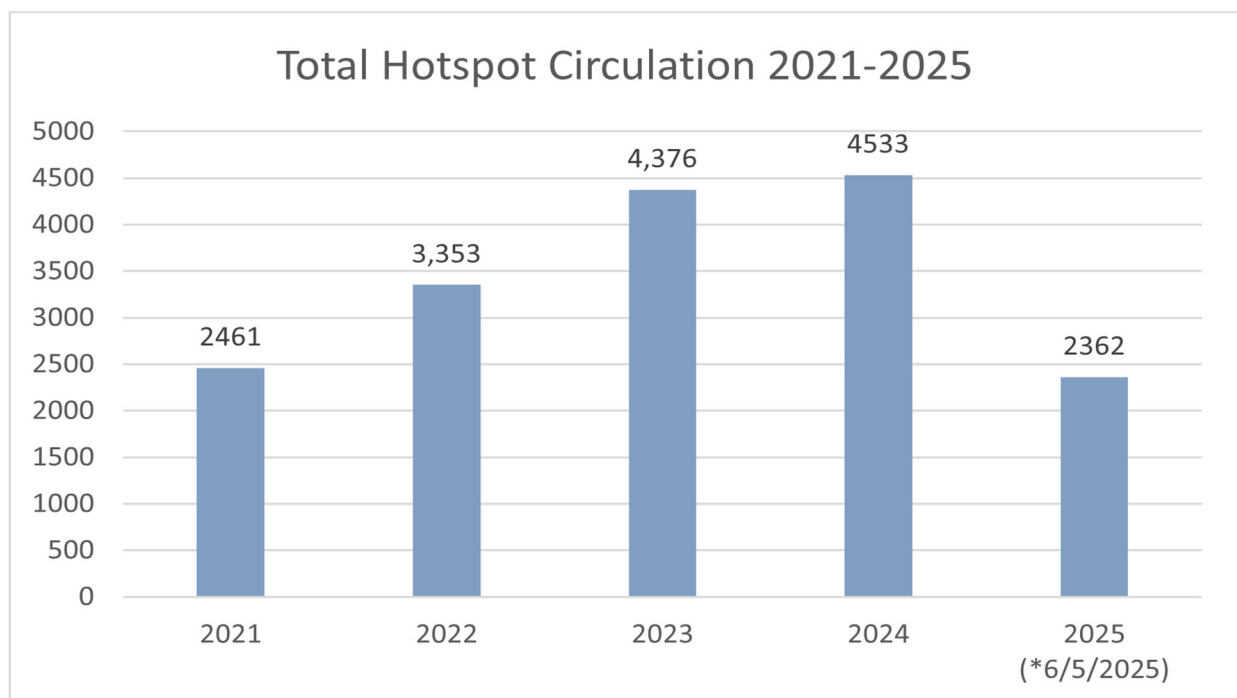
Since the beginning, MPL has acquired devices and services through T-Mobile using the monthly government rate. MPL has leveraged T-Mobile promotions throughout the program to acquire most devices at no cost, thus only paying for associated supplies for circulation and the service lines.

Value and Need for Patron:

Hotspots have high usage and consistently high hold queues, which directly correlate to the number of devices MPL can fund. Hotspots support up to 10 devices so actual usage exceeds circulation data as there is an average of 2.4 people per household in the City of Milwaukee per the U.S. Census Bureau.

Pew Research Center notes a correlation to household income and likelihood of home broadband while also noting that most adults across many demographics indicate they use the internet demonstrating a need for consistent and accessible internet access. Hotspot distribution is strategically determined for locations of broadband service need.

Circulation:



Financial Overview:

Hotspot Program Expenditures:

Expenses	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Data	\$13,093.49	\$83,618.88	\$131,218.79	\$108,359.86	\$162,075.35	\$123,876.56	\$54,073.09	\$676,316.02
Supplies	\$923.47	\$2,508.64	\$481.55	\$3,258.79	\$4,908.21	\$5,064.55	\$700.79	\$17,846.00
Printing	\$250.00							\$250.00
Total	\$14,266.96	\$86,127.52	\$131,700.34	\$111,618.65	\$166,983.56	\$128,941.11	\$54,773.88	\$694,412.02

MPL Foundation Hotspot Contributions:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Restricted			\$67,850.00	\$40,038.00	\$36,555.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,759.00	\$195,202.00
Impact 100			\$100,000.00					\$100,000.00
Wells Fargo		\$50,000.00						\$50,000.00
Unrestricted	\$15,000.00		\$13,575.52	\$71,794.00	\$109,665.00		\$5,000.00	\$215,034.52
Total	\$15,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$181,425.52	\$111,832.00	\$146,220.00	\$25,000.00	\$30,759.00	\$560,236.52

MPLF Contributions	Expenditures	Balance as of 5/31/2025
\$560,236.52	\$(694,412.02)	\$(134,175.50)

Future of the Program:

The E-Rate Hotspot Program would be a more financially sustainable model with expansion capacity as MPL's cost would be approximately 10 percent of total costs. The current Legislative Review has paused any associated program funding disbursement. During this pause, some vendors have updated quotes and ideally improved pricing based on the established E-Rate Hotspot standards. Since MPL would bear the full cost, sustainable funding remains the most critical factor in the program's future. The lack of guaranteed funding in 2024 and 2025 has impeded MPL's ability to sustain target device availability and meet patron demand.



**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Mark Sain, Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Joan Johnson

OTHERS

PRESENT: MPL: Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Rebecca Schweisberger
City Attorney's Office: Andrea Fowler

Chair Sain called the MPL Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. on June 11, 2025. All Trustees participated by video conference.

1. **Approval of the Minutes.** Chair Sain entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the November 13, 2024 meeting. Trustee Mercado moved to approve the minutes and Trustee Bria seconded. Motion passed.
2. **2025 Progress Report.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented an update on the status of selected library goals, which were shared with the Committee at the November meeting. The presented slides are attached at the end of these minutes. The data in the report is through the first quarter of 2025. Data is presented in graph form using the following format:
 - the first graph shows long-term trends of system totals
 - the second graph uses spark lines to show the same trends, parsed by branch
 - the third graph shows quarterly data parsed by cluster and then by branch

Goal: Increased Library Usage - Visits

- Most locations saw a decline in visits in the last half of the 2010s and all had a large drop in 2020 due to COVID
- Some locations also had a decrease in visits due to construction or renovation, as most locations moved to a smaller temporary location with limited services. Mitchell Street is the exception, as the Forest Home branch was open during construction of the new branch.
- For Q1 2025, visits are up 10% over Q1 2024
- Plans to increase outreach to the north cluster is supported by the data, which shows the lowest number of visits in that cluster
- Director Johnson contacted all Directors of the United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee (UNCOM) in an effort to expand partnerships and ask them to promote library services to their clients and encourage them to get library cards
- MPL continues to ramp up marketing efforts and is working with INPOWER Solutions on a promotional campaign, beginning this month

Goal: Increased Library Usage - Circulation

- System totals and cluster data shows similar patterns as visits, but at reduced levels
- Post-COVID gains are much more modest compared to visits
- Declines at Martin Luther King branch are due to limited services at the temporary branch
- Data shows different populations utilize library resources in different ways

Goal: Increased Library Usage – Registration/Renewals

- MPL is 25% toward the goal for card renewals and 23% toward new card registration

Goal: Economic Outcomes – Business & Technology Department Programs & Services

- Working with the Teen Advisory Board and Teen Interns to continue the pipeline to youth employment
- Expanded programming in the Business Commons, with a goal of contributing to economic and employment growth in Milwaukee. The 2025 goal was to increase program services and resources to underrepresented small business owners and entrepreneurs by 30%. MPL is currently at 56% to goal for the year.
- MPL is again participating in the City's Summer Youth Internship Program

Goal: Economic Outcomes – Teen Connected Learning & Early Literacy Programs & Services

- Working with the MPL Foundation to secure funding through 2025 and to include a 4th makerspace at the new Martin Luther King branch
- Recruiting to fill 2 makerspace Facilitator positions, additional Teen Intern positions, and 5 Children's Librarian vacancies
- Youth Services is currently onboarding 2 Coordinators and 1 Manager

Goal: Increase Digital Inclusion

- Goal to provide broadband service to 500 households in Milwaukee. The Request for Proposal received no bids and Director Johnson provided feedback she received from potential vendors. At this time, MPL will not be able to address the issues cited without receiving a significant grant to fund some of the costs. Director Johnson is exploring alternatives.

Goal: Anchor in Neighborhoods as Third Place, Gathering Place, & Safe Space

- The facilities plan has been in effect for over 10 years and the newest branch, MLK is set to open in August
- 10 of 14 in-house Security Officer positions filled

Goal: Central Library as State-wide Resource and Service Revisions

- Findings from the staffing study will help inform decisions about realigning services. A report on the staffing study will be presented to the Board.
- Working toward strengthening oversight for Central Special Collections and building capacity in the branches
- As part of the 2025 budget revisions, phone services will be decentralized. MPL is working with the City Information Technology Management Division (ITMD) to implement. Branch staff telephone training has been completed.
- Piloting use of Niche Academy for staff training with a goal to expand to other systems state-wide
- In addition to working with the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) and the System and Resource Library Administrator's Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW), Director Johnson is working with the American Library Association (ALA) and the Urban Libraries Council on Library advocacy efforts.

2. **Fundraising Feasibility Study.** Chair Sain moved into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes sec. 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

considering a request to engage a consultant, via an RFP process, to determine the feasibility of running a successful major gifts campaign at this time.

Trustee Mercado Moved to direct Library Administration to develop a scope of services, per their recommendations, for a request for Proposal (RFP) seeking a consultant for the purposes of conducting a fundraising feasibility study. Trustee Sain seconded. Motion passed

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Executive Committee was adjourned at 5:31 p.m. on June 11, 2025.

Executive Committee Meeting

June 11, 2025

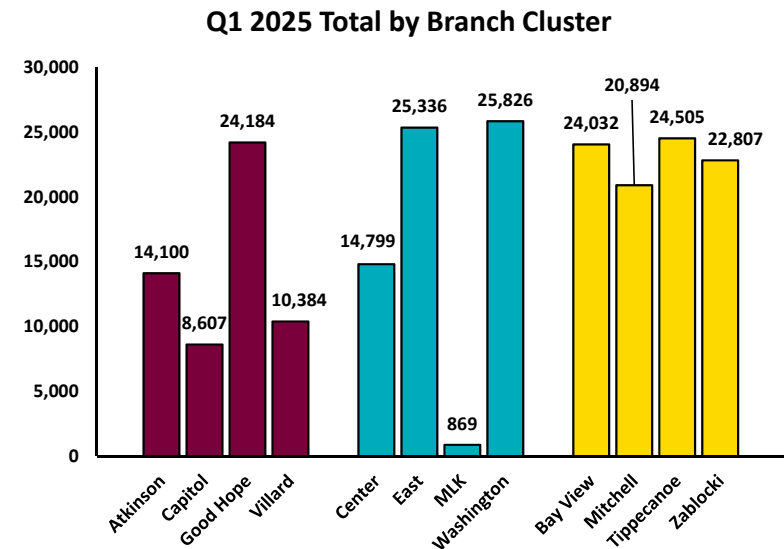
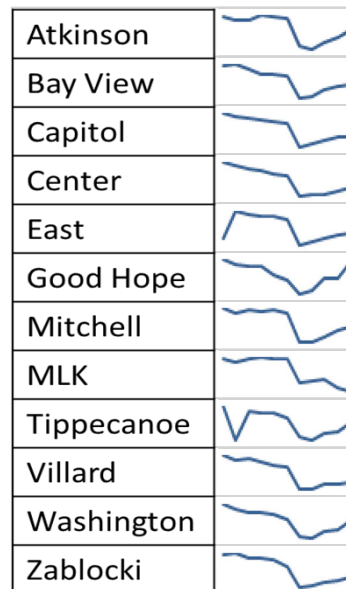
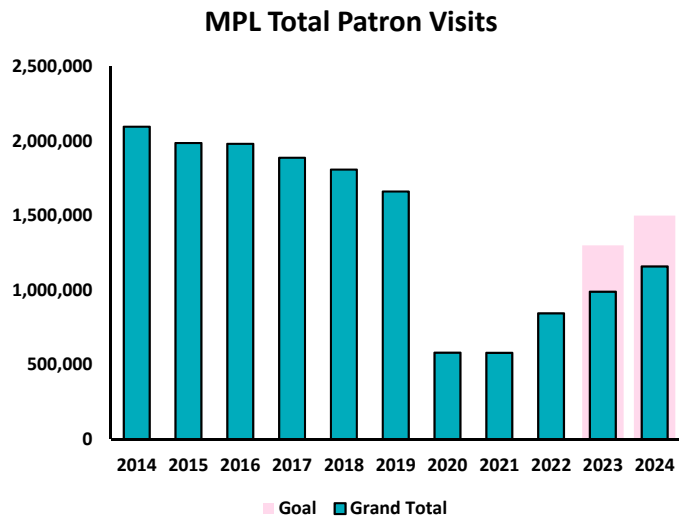


Inspiration Starts Here – Read • Learn • Connect



2025 Progress Report

Increase Library Usage - Visits

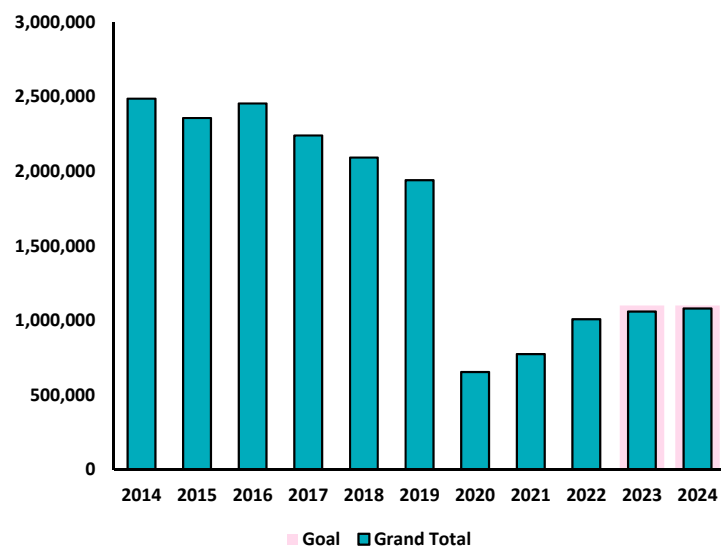


2025 Goal:

1,500,000 Patron Visits across all locations – Q1 Jan-Mar 2025: 305,074 (20% of goal) & 10% increase from 2024

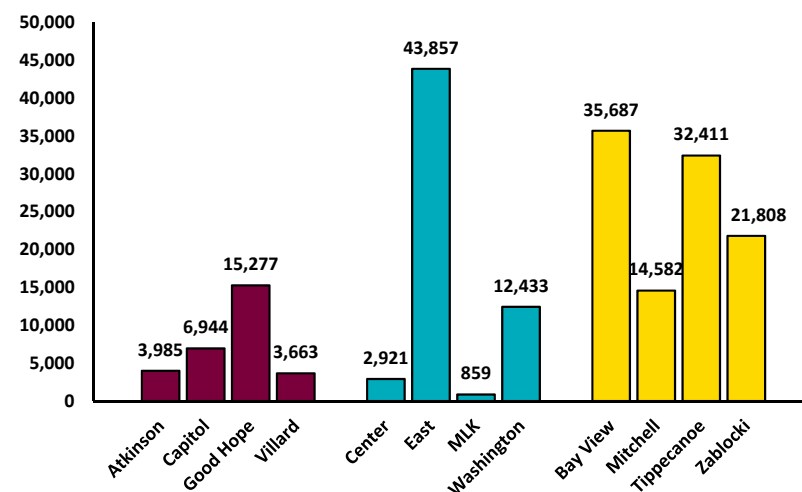
Increase Library Usage - Circulation

MPL Total Circulation



Atkinson	
Bay View	
Capitol	
Center	
East	
Good Hope	
Mitchell	
MLK	
Tippecanoe	
Villard	
Washington	
Zablocki	

Q1 2025 Total by Branch Cluster



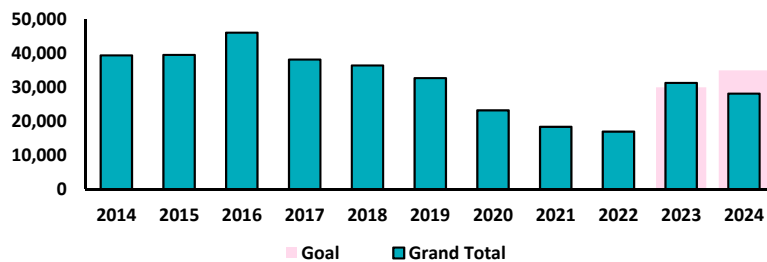
2025 Goal:

1,100,000 Physical Materials Circulated – Q1 Jan-Mar 2025: 277,346 (25% of goal) & 0% increase from Q1 2024

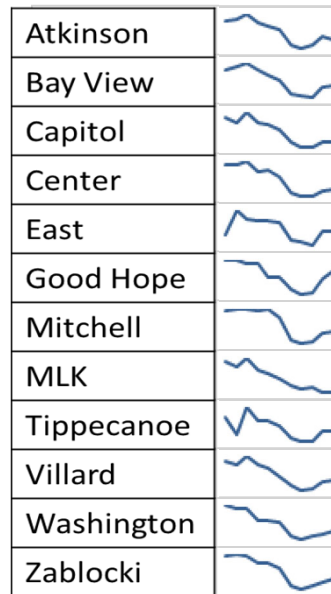
700,000 Electronic Materials Circulated – Q1 Jan-Mar 2025: 155,293 (22% of goal) & 7% increase from Q1 2024

Increase Library Usage - Registrations/Renewals

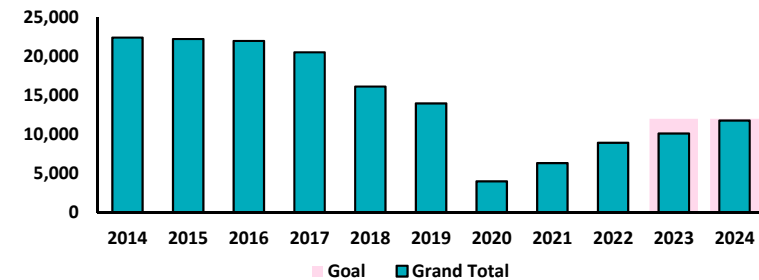
MPL Total In-person Card Renewals



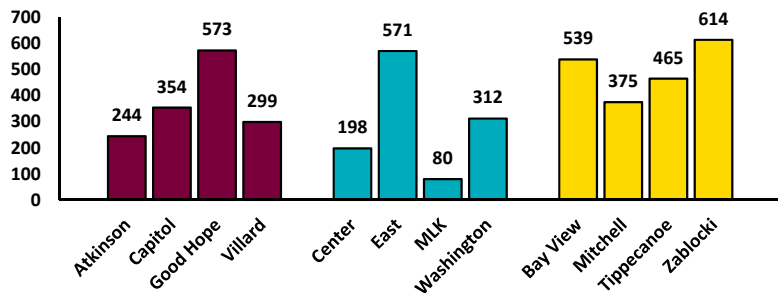
10 year Trends by Branches



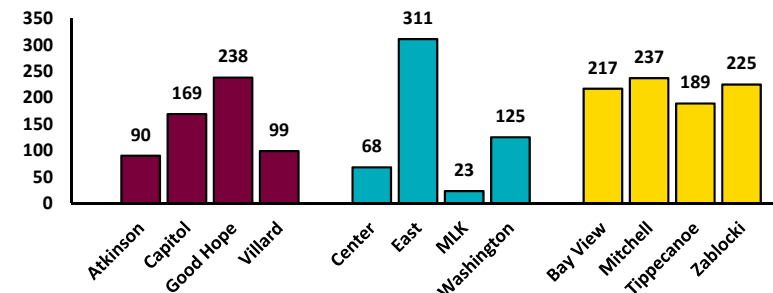
MPL Total New Cards



Q1 2025 MPL Total by Branch Cluster



Q1 2025 MPL Total by Branch Cluster



2025 Goal:

30,000 Card Renewal Registrations— Q1 Jan-Mar 2025: 7,515 (25% of goal) & 3% decrease from Q1 2024

12,000 New Card Registrations— Q1 Jan-Mar 2025: 2,811 (23% of goal) & 14% increase from Q1 2024

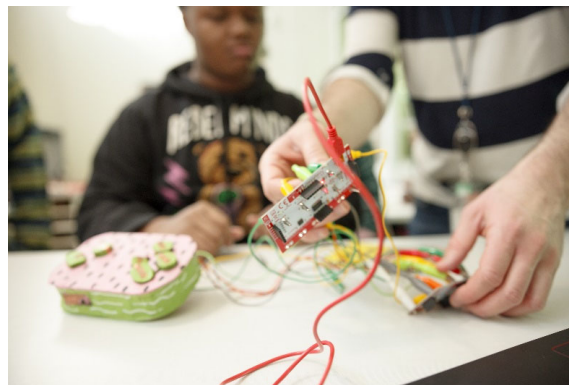
Economic Outcomes – Business & Technology Department

- Business and entrepreneurship programs continue to grow:
 - 195 participants in Q1 — up 74% from last year and already 56% to goal for the year.



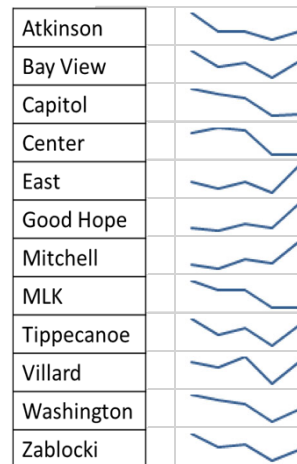
Economic Outcomes – Teen Connected Learning/Early Literacy

- Preparing to launch a 4th makerspace at MLK
- Hiring/onboarding underway: 2 Facilitators, 5 Children's Librarians, 2 Coordinators, 1 Manager
- Teen Intern Program thriving—participating in city's Earn & Learn program

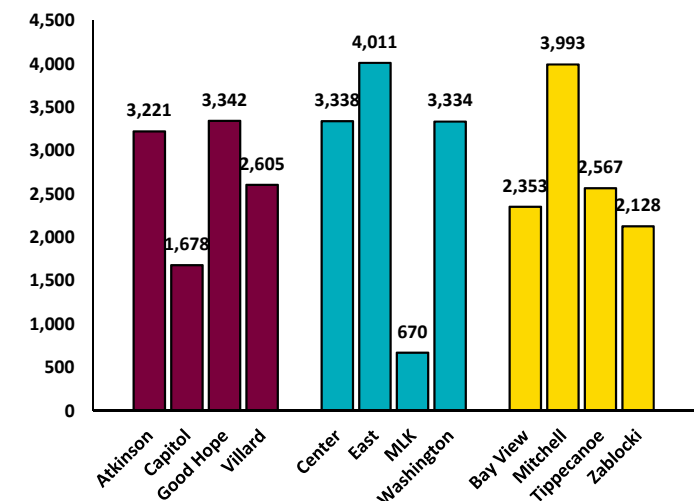


Increase Digital Inclusion

- Wi-Fi usage up across most branches, especially on the north side
- Broadband RFP received no bids; feedback cites high startup costs, and competitive market
- Grant funding remains essential for future infrastructure improvements

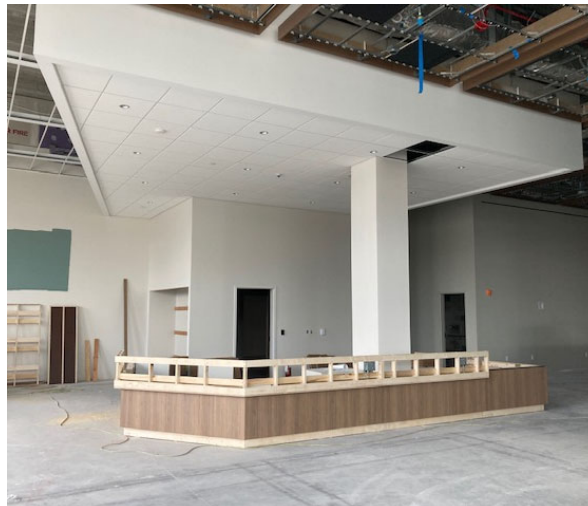


Q1 2025 MPL Total by Branch Cluster



Anchor in Neighborhoods as Third Place, Gathering Place & Safe Space

- 10 in-house security hires accepted; top contract officers covering remaining roles for now
- MLK branch set to open early August



Central Library as State-wide Resource and Service Revisions

- Staffing study completed; realigning resources
- Phone service decentralization underway—branch staff trained, ITMD implementation pending
- Launched Niche Academy pilot for staff development
- Advancing library advocacy with MCFLS, SRLAAW, ALA, and ULC—engaging state and federal leaders

Thank you!