



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, October 28, 2025

4:00 p.m.

Martin Luther King Branch - Community Room
2901 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212

WELCOME & ROLL CALL

4:00 – 4:05

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:05 – 4:15

BOARD EDUCATION

4:15 – 4:25

1. **Martin Luther King Branch Introduction.** Library Services Manager Tiffany Thornton will share a brief introduction of MLK branch.

CONSENT AGENDA

4:25 – 4:30

Attachment A, page 3

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes, September 23, 2025.**
3. **Committee Reports.**
 - a. Building & Development Committee – October 2, 2025
4. **Administrative Reports.**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Report
 - c. Statistics
5. **Updated MPL Board Committee Assignments.**
6. **2026 Board Meeting Schedule.**

REPORTS

4:30 – 4:45

7. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Library Director Johnson will report on the October 14, 2025 MCFLS Board meeting.

8. **Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting.** A Committee member will present action items from the October 28, 2025 meeting.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS

4:45 – 5:00

9. **2026 Budget.** Library Director Joan Johnson will provide a status report regarding the Library's 2026 budget.

10. **MPL Foundation Funding Priorities.** Library Director Joan Johnson will present Administration's recommendation for its funding request to the MPL Foundation.

Attachment B, page 28

5:00 – 5:20

11. **Capitol Branch Redevelopment.** Library Director Joan Johnson will introduce Commissioner of City Development Lafayette Crump to share information about redevelopment of the Capitol branch.

Attachment C, page 31

12. **Summer Reading Program Update.** Kelly Wochinske, Library Public Services Area Manager (EOS and CLCR), will present a report on the 2025 Summer Reading Program.

CLOSING REMARKS

5:20 – 5:25

13. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment.**

REMINDER: Next scheduled meetings are:

November 5, 2025 Library Services & Programs Committee – Virtual Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

November 6, 2025 Building & Development Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:00 a.m.

November 25, 2025 Board Meeting – Central Library, 4:00 p.m.

Trustees

Mark Sain, *President*, Michele Bria, *Vice-President*, Teresa Mercado, *Financial Secretary*, Ald. Milele Coggs, 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, September 23, 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, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Scott Spiker, Venice Williams, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Michael Morgan, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent

STAFF: Kelly Bolter, Kristina Gomez, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Brett Rohlwing, Rebecca Schweisberger, Heather Smith, Emily Vieyra, Kelly Wochinske

OTHER: Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack

Acting Chair Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:10 p.m. on September 23, 2025. Trustees Sain, Mercado, Coggs, Saffold, and Williams participated by phone/virtual conference.

Chair Bria remarked on the success of the Martin Luther King branch grand opening, gave kudos to all involved, and reminded Trustees that the October meeting will be held at the new Martin Luther King branch.

Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns introduced Emily Vieyra, Temporary Public Services Area Manager – Central Library. Ms. Vieyra formerly served as Library Services Manager – Acquisitions & Serials before agreeing to act as interim Manager for Central Library.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes July 22, 2025**
2. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – July 22, 2025
3. **Administrative Reports**
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Library Director's Reports
 - c. Statistics
4. **Revised MPL Board Meeting Schedule.**

Chair Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda presented as attachment A, pages 4-49 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

ATTACHMENT A - P. 1 of 25
MPL CONSENT AGENDA

2. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - 09/23/2025
P. 3

REPORTS

5. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting.** Library Director Joan Johnson reported on the September 9, 2025 meeting. The Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC) received a presentation about the new Welcome Card pilot program. MPL is partnering with Wauwatosa Public Library to implement the program, which will begin in October. The pilot will be evaluated after 6 months. MPL received kudos on the new Martin Luther King branch. MCFLS mailed nearly 12,000 postcards from patrons to Congress in support of the national 'Speak Up for Libraries' advocacy campaign. MCFLS Executive Director Steve Hesser has developed a webinar about MCFLS governance, which will be shared with all MCFLS member Trustees on October 23rd. Informational item.
6. **Urban Libraries Council (ULC) Executive Committee.** Trustee Bria reported on the July meeting. ULC continues to focus on advocacy and building bi-partisan support for libraries at local and national levels. ULC is launching a virtual training course for members to build leadership skills and support the pathway to library leadership and management. An upcoming course will focus on the basics of data analytics. The Business Value Calculator helps members quantify the economic impact of library use in the surrounding areas. The ULC Data Hive prepared several whitepapers on the economic impact of library branches. The Development Task Force has been created to recommend advocacy methods to reach donors at the national level. Trustee Bria is chairing this committee. Member libraries are facing some of the same challenges and working together to identify scalable solutions. ULC discussed conducting research on outcomes of the connection between reading and movement. Informational item.
7. **Building & Development Committee.** Trustee Kowalski presented the action items from the September 4, 2025 meeting.
 - **Contract Award Request – Central Library Fire Alarm System.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns reviewed the status of the current fire alarm system, which is very outdated and in need of replacement. Replacing this critical safety system is a priority. The Committee discussed the selection process and concerns that only one bid was received. Deputy Director Meyer-Stearns confirmed all RFP and selection processes were followed. President Sain noted other projects and some redevelopment projects have been approved with only one bidder response. The vendor will be responsible for meeting the specifications of the RFP and City inspectors will review the finished product.

Trustee Kowalski moved to award the fire alarm system replacement contract to Wil-Surge Electric, Inc. for \$2, 986,150.00. Trustee Williams seconded. Motion passed. Trustee Taylor abstained.
 - **Martin Luther King Branch Proposed Room/Area Naming.** Library Director Johnson presented a recommendation for naming areas and rooms in the new Martin Luther King branch. The list is on page 52 of the agenda. The recommendations were developed with MPL Foundation leadership and follow the existing Board policy related to naming. Spaces will either be named in acknowledgement of donors or a plaque recognizing the donation will be placed outside the area.

Trustee Mercado moved to approve the list of donor-named spaces as presented. Trustee Spiker seconded. Motion passed.
8. **Board Photo.** This item was held for a future meeting.

9. **Approval of Agendas as Corrected.** Revised agenda items from July 2025, listed as Attachment C of the agenda, were presented for approval. Trustee Spiker moved to approve the corrected versions; Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.
10. **2026 Budget.** Library Director Joan presented an update on the 2026 budget. The budget summary is attached at the end of these minutes. MPL is sustaining a 3.3% reduction from the cost-to-continue request, resulting in the loss of 10 positions. Due to additional miscellaneous staffing and funding changes, there are 16 fewer positions total. However, MPL is holding vacancies as needed and there will be no layoffs. MPL is reviewing changes in funding sources and updates to the staffing model. Current library hours, including Drive-up, will be retained and year-round service on Sundays will continue at Central Library only. A new, more equitable Sunday staffing rotation will be implemented. The staffing study findings will be presented at the November Board meeting. Staffing will be realigned to meet patron needs and support library goals. To support investments in youth and all-ages 21st century learning, 2 librarian and 2 Library Customer Service Representative (LSCR) positions will be converted to Connected Learning Specialists to staff all four MPL makerspaces. As part of the investment in staff and patron safety, 1 LSCR position will be converted to a Library Communications Assistant position. Additional realignment includes converting 4 LCSR and 1 Library Circulation Services Supervisor (LCSS) positions from Central Circulation to Technical & Collection Services and shifting 1 Librarian from Central Library Children's Room (CLCR) to Technical & Collection Services. MPL continues to advocate for designation as the statewide Resource Library. Capital projects include masonry, roof, and dome repair at Central Library, upgrades to IT and security infrastructure, and planning for construction of a new Capitol branch. 2026 Priorities include:
- Implementation of OneMPL, a system-wide realignment of roles, reporting structures, workflows, and culture.
 - Maintaining Education and Outreach Services, including delivery service, college prep, workforce development, and creating a pipeline to youth employment.
 - Economic and Digital Inclusion - focus on workforce development, continuation of the Entrepreneur-in-Residence program, and expansion on Artificial Intelligence (AI) instruction.
 - Community Engagement - using the community engagement report findings and other feedback to guide decision-making and planning. Branch workplans will be updated for 2026.
 - Technical Services and Collections - acquisitions, management and access for all materials including books and media, hotspots, laptops; database management and maintenance and IT support for all network services, online resources, desktops and wi-fi; interlibrary loan for County and State.
 - Maintaining Virtual MPL Services including: CountyCat/Holds pick up; downloadable and streaming video and audio content; research databases and online journals; online courses, tutoring and homework help; online reference via chat and email; selected virtual live and recorded programming; social media accounts on multiple platforms; 24/7 access to the aforementioned.
 - Environmental Investments – working with the Environmental Collaboration Office to install electric vehicle charging stations at select locations.
 - Administrative Services, Facilities and Fleet - Executive Leadership team vacancies to be filled as quickly as possible, HR, Business Office, Communications, Security Services at most locations, Maintenance Services for buildings and grounds at 13 locations and other operations. Security staffing moved in-house this year and recruitment and selection, onboarding, and training is ongoing—hope to fully stabilize in early 2026.

Director Johnson will send Trustees a copy of the narrative report, statistics for Sunday usage, and the executive summary of the staffing study (when available). Informational item.

11. **Art Loan to Milwaukee Public Museum.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns presented information about the provenance of a portrait of Solomon Juneau and a request to loan the piece to Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM). The memo is attached at the end of these minutes. If approved, MPL will make a recommendation for replacement with another piece. Deputy Director Meyer-Stearns noted the Ben Franklin statue at Central Library is currently on loan from MPM and it is being appraised as well. A request for permanent transfer of the portrait and statue may be presented to the Board at a future meeting. Trustee Spiker moved to approve the 2-year loan of the Solomon Juneau portrait to the new Nature & Culture Museum of Wisconsin (Milwaukee Public Museum). Trustee Kowalski seconded. Motion passed.
12. **Closing Remarks.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared details on upcoming events:
 - September 30th – *I Live Underwater*: a Max Nohl Book Event with Maritime Archaeologist Tamara Thomsen. Milwaukee Public Library welcomes Wisconsin Historical Society Maritime Archaeologist Tamara Thomsen to discuss the newly published memoir of Max Nohl, a Record-Breaking Diver and Deep-Sea Explorer. The original manuscript is part of MPL's collection. It was borrowed by the Wisconsin Historical Society, who annotated, enhanced, and published the work. MPL receives proceeds from the sale of the book.
 - Chair Bria gave a reminder about the upcoming Ben Franklin Awards Ceremony.
 - The October meeting will be held at Martin Luther King branch.

With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of September 23, 2025 was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Milwaukee Public Library

Year 2026 Proposed Budget Overview

Operating Budget	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Change from 2025 to 2026	% Change	Notes
Salaries and Wages	\$ 19,539,425	\$ 18,991,489	\$ (547,936) ▼	-2.8%	3.5 FTE and \$156K increase for full year of Library Security Guards \$68K increase for conversion of Business Office position from Grant to O&M funded 0.25 FTE and \$21K increase for conversion of Technical Services position to full time 10.0 FTE and \$557K reduction for branch Sundays elimination \$202K reduction for PCA increase from 5% to 6%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 8,546,171	\$ (246,571) ▼	-2.8%	Fringe benefits rate remains 45%
Supplies and Materials	\$ 414,700	\$ 421,000	\$ 6,300 ▲	1.5%	Increase in maintenance supplies and bindery supplies
General Services	\$ 1,581,600	\$ 1,563,072	\$ (18,528) ▼	-1.2%	\$176K decrease to Security to eliminate contracted guard services \$115K increase to Facilities for snow clearing (\$79K), repairs (\$23K), and software (\$13K) \$40K increase to IT for improved data cabling, fiber expansion
Energy	\$ 882,900	\$ 895,744	\$ 12,844 ▲	1.5%	- Rate changes: 9% increase natural gas and 2% increase electricity, 4% decrease gasoline for vehicles 11K reduction for branch Sundays elimination
Equipment	\$ 411,000	\$ 425,430	\$ 14,430 ▲	3.5%	Increase to IT for Cybersecurity & new Software Implementation (Digital Signage, Partnership Database, Canva)
Books and Materials	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 1,946,000	\$ 60,500 ▲	3.2%	Inflationary increase based on industry projections
Special Funds - Branch Property Payments	\$ 139,700	\$ 92,000	\$ (47,700) ▼	-34.1%	- East, Good Hope, Mitchell Street, Villard Square, & MLK. - Decrease due to end of Mitchell Street lease payments
Special Funds - Energy Financing	\$ 138,900	\$ 141,700	\$ 2,800 ▲	2.0%	Energy efficiency project equipment lease
Total	\$ 33,786,467	\$ 33,022,606	\$ (763,861) ▼	-2.3%	
Total Less Fringe Benefits	\$ 24,993,725	\$ 24,476,435	\$ (517,290) ▼	-2.1%	
Positions	398	382	-16 ▼	-4.0%	
O&M FTEs	311.38	305.63	-5.75 ▼	-1.8%	
Non-O&M FTEs	24.45	17.95	-6.50 ▼	-26.6%	
Total FTEs	335.83	323.58	-12.25 ▼	-3.6%	

Summary

The Milwaukee Public Library is approximately 3% of the total City of Milwaukee Operating Budget

- 2026 Proposed MPL City Supported Budget:** The 2026 Proposed Budget is \$33 million, including fringe benefits, which represents a decrease of \$764K (-2.3%) over the 2025 Adopted Budget. For MPL's cost-to-continue request, we requested an increase of \$349K (1%) to maintain the current level of service and hours. However, the total of all cost-to-continue budget requests submitted by all City departments resulted in a budget gap of over \$100 million. Departments were directed to revise their requests to achieve at least a 7.5% reduction from their cost-to-continue request. The Mayor's 2026 Proposed Budget for the Library includes a 3.3% reduction from our cost-to-continue request.
- Key Impacts:** The 2026 Proposed Budget ends Sunday hours at branch libraries (Central Sunday hours are maintained) and eliminates ten full-time positions. MPL is holding vacancies as needed and there will be no layoffs.
- Capital Budget:** The Mayor's 2026 Proposed Capital Budget for MPL is \$3 million. \$2.725 million is allocated for masonry and structural repairs to the historically significant dome, roof support, and copper eagles at Central Library; \$75K is allocated for system-wide security technology upgrades; and \$200K is allocated to plan construction of a new Capitol branch library.

MEMO

TO: Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Deputy Library Director

DATE: September 23, 2025

RE: Loan of Solomon Juneau portrait to Nature & Culture Museum of Wisconsin (Milwaukee Public Museum)

Proposal

The Library Board of Trustees is asked to approve a two-year loan of a large, full-length portrait of Solomon Juneau to the new Nature & Culture Museum of Wisconsin (Milwaukee Public Museum) while the Library and Museum consider options for a more permanent transfer of the object to Museum custody. Any subsequent proposal for permanent transfer rather than a temporary loan of the artwork would be presented to the Library Board for approval before action is taken.

Background

A framed portrait of Solomon Juneau, founder and first Mayor of Milwaukee, measuring 7-1/2-feet high by 5-feet wide, has long displayed at the Central Library, thought to be on loan from the Museum, currently in the 3rd floor Rotunda. This year, the Milwaukee Public Museum asked for the recall of the loaned object for inclusion in their new Nature and Culture Museum of Wisconsin; records at both the Library and Museum indicated that the portrait was the property of the Museum, placed on permanent loan to the Library at the Library's request in 1968.

Upon request for its return, MPL gathered all historic documentation on the artwork and discovered that Library Board minutes dated 1883 recorded presentation and acceptance of the portrait to the Library, not the Museum as previously thought. This complicated provenance reflects the intertwined histories of the Library and Museum. The Library and Museum have worked together to re-craft the loan request to reflect this new provenance and ownership history.

The work, dated 1872, pictures Solomon Juneau and is by Milwaukee painter, printer, and photographer Hugo Broich, after an earlier painting by Samuel Marsden Brookes and Thomas H. Stevenson dated 1857. The work was given to the Library in 1883 by the Stockholders of the Bank of Commerce. The original painting by Brookes & Stevenson was commissioned by the City of Milwaukee and is on permanent display in the Office of the Mayor. A photo and full information about the portrait at MPL is available in the online catalog of the MPL Art Collection at this link: <https://bit.ly/juneau-portrait>.¹

¹ MPL's catalog information for the work is also available at this alternate link: <https://hub.catalogit.app/mpl/folder/portrait-collection/entry/54eb0e90-cbde-11eb-afa7-6fa1222c3123/>.



Justification

The Board of Trustees is asked to approve a two-year loan of the portrait to the new Nature & Culture Museum of Wisconsin, to be a centerpiece of their new “Milwaukee Revealed” gallery, the successor to the Streets of Old Milwaukee. Approval of the loan will allow the portrait of Solomon Juneau to be reunited with an important portrait of his wife, Josette Juneau, and other related materials at the Museum, including a collection of Juneau’s personal papers. The portrait will be displayed alongside related materials in an immersive new streetscape exhibit that centers the Juneaus’ historic home at the site of the famous Mitchell Building.²

As the centerpiece of the new gallery, the Museum will be able to embed the portrait in a world-class exhibit installation, place the portrait in its historical context with related objects, and interpret it to museum standards. Display of the painting at the Museum will allow this important portrait to be seen in a new light to help Milwaukeeans experience and connect to the Milwaukee’s history in new and exciting ways. The Museum is also better suited to manage this type of large-scale art and museum object. Loan of the portrait will allow the Library to highlight other holdings from its art collection in the Central Library Rotunda.

Since the portrait at MPL is secondary to the earlier painting by Brookes & Stevenson on permanent display in the Office of the Mayor, the City of Milwaukee will still retain a version of the portrait if the loan request is approved.

Additional Information

MPL’s search for historic documentation prior to a recommendation also uncovered information that led to a new attribution for the portrait. In addition to new findings about the object’s provenance, it was also discovered that the portrait at MPL was not by Brookes & Stevenson as originally thought, but instead by Hugo Broich after the earlier painting at the Mayor’s Office by Brookes & Stevenson. The Museum has updated its information for the object accordingly, and these new findings about the artist and provenance of the portrait will shape interpretation of the object at the Future Museum.

Procedure

An appraisal of the portrait has been commissioned, with the Library and Museum sharing the cost. The findings of the appraisal report will be shared with the Board after the appraisal is received by the Library. If Board approval is granted, loan agreements will be executed by both parties and the Library and Museum will work together to arrange insurance and transport of the object for loan at a mutually agreed date, before the opening of the Future Museum in early 2027. If the Board of Trustees denies the request, the Library will notify the Museum of the Board’s decision in writing.

² For more information about the new ‘Milwaukee Revealed’ gallery, see: Milwaukee Public Museum, “Milwaukee Revealed,” 2025, <https://www.mpm.edu/mkerevealed>.



MPL Loan to Milwaukee Public Museum (Nature & Culture Museum of Wisconsin), 2025

1. **Hugo Broich** (American, b. Prussia, 1831-1905),
After a painting (1857) by Samuel Marsden Brookes (American, b. England, 1816-1892) and Thomas H. Stevenson
(American, b. England, 1817-1882 or 1889)

Solomon Laurent Juneau, 1872

Oil on canvas or original print on paper – Medium TBD pending fine art appraisal

7-1/2' H x 5' W (framed)

Gift of Stockholders of the Bank of Commerce, 1883

Milwaukee Public Library Collection, 1883.1.1

Insurance Value: TBD pending fine art appraisal



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

ATTACHMENT A - P. 9 of 25
MPL CONSENT AGENDA
*3a. Building & Development Committee
Meeting Minutes - 10/02/2025*
P. 11

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Video Conference via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Michael Morgan, Matt Kowalski, Teresa Mercado, Larresa Taylor, Joan Johnson

EXCUSED: Mark Sain

STAFF: MPL: Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, PJ Woboril

OTHERS: Budget and Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack

Chair Michael Morgan called the MPL Board of Trustees Building and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. on October 2, 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 September 4, 2025 meeting. Trustee Taylor moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Mercado seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Project Inventory and Status Report.** Library Facilities Manager PJ Woboril provided an update of ongoing projects, listed as Attachment B of the agenda.
 - **MPL Central Fire Alarm Upgrade** – The contract is currently routing for signatures. The project is expected to begin within the next several weeks and be completed by 1st quarter 2026.
 - **C-Cure 9000 Upgrade** – Updating the badge access system that integrates with other facilities systems. The system has been implemented at Martin Luther King branch and will be updated systemwide.
 - **System Wide Facility Condition Assessment** – The contractor has been onsite at MPL locations reviewing buildings, parking lots, mechanicals, systems, etc. The project also includes adding barcodes to all mechanical equipment that connect to MPL's work order system and will allow mechanics to access product information.
 - **Future projects include:** masonry and roof repairs to the dome at Central Library; sealing and repairing the exterior of Central Library; Central Library Terrace restoration; Zablocki branch window replacement. The dome and exterior projects are expected to be funded in 2026 and the terrace restoration and window replacement will be funded in 2027.
3. **Capitol Branch Redevelopment.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared information about potential redevelopment of the Capitol branch. The City has an opportunity to partner with a developer, Gorman and Company, and a property owner, AFS Milwaukee, LLC, in a mixed-use development project that could incorporate a new library to replace the Capitol branch. The development would also include other City services onsite and space for early voting. The location is about 1.3 miles east of the Capitol branch, in the former Walmart space at Midtown. The idea has been in discussion for several months and became more feasible in June, when the developer was awarded tax credits through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA). Additional information will be provided to the Board, who has approval authority on the project. The City's team is evaluating the idea and the economic development potential of having City services, including the

library, in the area. The Mayor has allocated \$200,000 in the proposed municipal budget for MPL to engage a consultant to assess the facility and location to ensure the site is suitable and can meet MPL specifications for a new library. Updates will be presented at future Building & Development Committee meetings. Informational item.

The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Building & Development Committee was adjourned at 8:33 a.m. on October 2, 2025.

**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
September 30, 2025**

2025

2024

City Revenues

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
<i>Additional City Appropriation</i>	\$ 32,920,741	\$ 23,153,100	70.3%
<i>Fines</i>	\$ 94,000	\$ 59,027	62.8%
<i>Lost Materials, etc.</i>	\$ 50,000	\$ 41,708	83.4%
<i>MCFLS Contracts</i>	\$ 927,000	\$ 521,811	56.3%
Total City Appropriation	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 23,775,646	69.9%

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
	\$ 28,574,827	\$ 23,274,800	81.5%
	\$ 114,500	\$ 67,490	58.9%
	\$ 66,500	\$ 34,805	52.3%
	\$ 819,000	\$ 667,884	81.5%
	\$ 29,574,827	\$ 24,044,979	81.3%

City Expenses

Salaries & Benefits

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 18,849,425	\$ 13,965,098	74.1%
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 5,436,017	61.8%
Total	\$ 27,642,167	\$ 19,401,116	70.2%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 5,973,002	\$ 3,732,943	62.5%
	\$ 2,687,851	\$ 1,680,957	62.5%
	\$ 8,660,853	\$ 5,413,900	62.5%

Supplies & Services

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>General Office Expense</i>	\$ 115,700	\$ 67,377	58.2%
<i>Tools & Machinery Parts</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Construction Supplies</i>	\$ 18,000	\$ 14,070	78.2%
<i>Energy</i>	\$ 886,500	\$ 626,372	70.7%
<i>Other Operating Supplies</i>	\$ 278,956	\$ 140,158	50.2%
<i>Vehicle Rental</i>	\$ 9,200	\$ 4,058	44.1%
<i>Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental</i>	\$ 13,200	\$ 7,640	57.9%
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 86,600	\$ 71,611	82.7%
<i>Information Technology Services</i>	\$ 357,920	\$ 314,388	87.8%
<i>Property Services</i>	\$ 1,476,520	\$ 1,375,825	93.2%
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	\$ 121,000	\$ 100,634	83.2%
<i>Vehicle Repair Services</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
<i>Other Operating Services</i>	\$ 152,112	\$ 66,962	44.0%
<i>Reimburse Other Departments</i>	\$ 111,900	\$ 42,190	37.7%
Total	\$ 3,627,608	\$ 2,831,285	78.0%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 121,803	\$ 52,299	42.9%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 16,500	\$ 18,755	113.7%
	\$ 847,800	\$ 559,971	66.0%
	\$ 252,947	\$ 159,027	62.9%
	\$ 8,800	\$ 4,311	49.0%
	\$ 14,700	\$ 9,601	65.3%
	\$ 146,600	\$ 109,278	74.5%
	\$ 442,552	\$ 367,992	83.2%
	\$ 1,418,038	\$ 1,385,965	97.7%
	\$ 38,500	\$ 126,821	329.4%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 146,239	\$ 61,319	41.9%
	\$ 108,600	\$ 46,315	42.6%
	\$ 3,563,079	\$ 2,901,654	81.4%

Equipment

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Library Materials</i>	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 1,087,729	57.7%
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$ 220,824	\$ 72,794	33.0%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 337,042	\$ 165,555	49.1%
Total	\$ 2,443,366	\$ 1,326,078	54.3%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,827,000	\$ 1,460,310	79.9%
	\$ 522,032	\$ 165,172	31.6%
	\$ 86,563	\$ 77,452	89.5%
	\$ 2,435,595	\$ 1,702,934	69.9%

Other Departmental Appropriation

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Villard Square Property Payment</i>	\$ 11,600	\$ 9,216	79.4%
<i>East Property Payment</i>	\$ 9,133	\$ 9,133	100.0%
<i>Mitchell Street Property Payment</i>	\$ 76,000	\$ 59,942	78.9%
<i>Good Hope Property Payment</i>	\$ 42,967	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Contingent Energy Financing</i>	\$ 138,900	\$ 138,876	100.0%
Total	\$ 278,600	\$ 217,167	77.9%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 9,800	\$ 8,802	89.8%
	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300	100.0%
	\$ 74,000	\$ 56,631	76.5%
	\$ 45,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 136,200	\$ 136,153	100.0%
	\$ 270,300	\$ 206,886	76.5%

ARPA Revenue Replacement

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
Total	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
Total City Expenses	\$ 33,991,741	\$ 23,775,646	69.9%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 14,645,000	\$ 13,819,605	94.4%
	\$ 14,645,000	\$ 13,819,605	94.4%
	\$ 29,574,827	\$ 24,044,979	81.3%

**Milwaukee Public Library
Financial Report
September 30, 2025**

2025

Additional Funding Sources

Grants

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
WTBBL Jul '25 - Jun '26	\$ 1,178,700	\$ 252,913	21.5%
ILL Jul '25 - Jun '26	\$ 263,150	\$ 43,572	16.6%
Total	\$ 1,441,850	\$ 296,485	20.6%

Trust Funds

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
Materials	\$ 167,000	\$ 162,821	97.5%
Programming	\$ 53,000	\$ 21,478	40.5%
Training	\$ 26,000	\$ 21,759	83.7%
Marketing	\$ 45,000	\$ 454	1.0%
Contingency	\$ 5,000	\$ 500	10.0%
Board Development	\$ 5,000	\$ 384	7.7%
Strehlow 50+	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,976	24.7%
Staffing Study	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
Hot Spots	\$ 295,000	\$ -	0.0%
4T Renovation	\$ 689,773	\$ -	0.0%
Total	\$ 1,293,773	\$ 209,372	16.2%

Foundation Contributions

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
Materials	\$ 281,497	\$ 22,297	7.9%
Programming	\$ 1,672,809	\$ 1,129,911	67.5%
Total	\$ 1,954,306	\$ 1,152,208	59.0%

2024

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,033,100	\$ 289,667	28.0%
	\$ 233,550	\$ 33,517	14.4%
	\$ 1,266,650	\$ 323,184	25.5%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 134,000	\$ 116,492	86.9%
	\$ 42,000	\$ 20,237	48.2%
	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,720	28.6%
	\$ 35,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 4,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,384	34.6%
	\$ 29,756	\$ 6,758	22.7%
	\$ 28,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	\$ 296,756	\$ 150,591	50.7%

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 270,817	\$ 27,118	10.0%
	\$ 1,732,759	\$ 426,747	24.6%
	\$ 2,003,576	\$ 453,865	22.7%

Investments

U.S. Bank National Assoc. Commercial Paper (rated A1) confirmation #327156420 dated 09/22/25 and maturing 10/22/25 at a rate of 1.55%...\$260,000

Director's Report

October 2025

As part of the annual budget cycle and in advance of the Library's budget hearing before the City's Finance and Personnel Committee of the Common Council, Director Johnson met with key members of the Council's Finance and Personnel Committee to brief them on the Library's 2026 Service Plan. She listened to community feedback on the Mayor's Proposed Budget at the annual Joint Public Hearing and the novel Listening Session offered by the Council's Finance and Personnel Committee. The latter two hearings were exceedingly well attended with many comments focused on housing, wages and taxation.

Subsequent to the budget hearings, Johnson worked with team members and budget office staff to develop alternatives to the proposed service plan while simultaneously preparing for implementation of service changes for 2026.

Johnson joined staff in welcoming Wisconsin Historical Society Maritime Archaeologist Tamara Thomsen to present the newly published memoir of Max Nohl, an adventurer and inventor who revolutionized deep-sea diving. Milwaukee Public Library partnered with the Society to facilitate the editing and publishing of Nohl's manuscript, the original of which is housed in the Library's archives. The Library and the Society partner regularly to offer joint programming featuring authors and subject matter of local history relevance.

Johnson and team met with Superintendent Chantel Jewell of the Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center (MCCRC). The work discussed builds on an existing partnership that also includes MCFLS and will help inform a pilot project to test a new Welcome Card that can be offered to justice-involved individuals re-entering the community and other residents who are unable to provide proof of address. This new card type will allow access to most resources at MPL and Wauwatosa PL. During the pilot, staff will track usage and conduct analysis to understand service and fiscal impacts for long-term feasibility.

City-wide Flood Recovery Coordination meetings continue and Director Johnson regularly attends to provide updates on Library efforts to support residents. During this period, the Library supported FEMA teams who did tabling at multiple branch locations to provide Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) services.

Johnson and others met with MLK Branch developer team member Deshea Agee to tour the apartments and meet the artists whose works were unveiled and shown as part of the tour. An integral part of the development features local artists and provides a vehicle for promoting and selling their work. Discussion included plans for joint programming to offer "Artist Talkbacks" at venues inside the library and at a community gallery space within the development.

Johnson worked with team members to offer professional development in Change Management Leadership for all managers systemwide, which included preliminary messaging, web-based training and two 2-hour, in-person sessions with MATC facilitator Laurie van Wieringen, CPA, Lead Faculty, and Business Analyst. Other HR supporting activities include intensive recruitment and selection work to fill two vacancies on the Administrative and Executive level teams, and orientation meetings with several new employees.

Johnson's engagement with community stakeholders is ongoing and she welcomed new MPL Trustee Daryl Jackson and conducted an MPL Board orientation. Johnson and team met with MPS Superintendent Dr. Brenda Cassellius to discuss the long-running partnership with MPS and the possibilities for strengthening the relationship and strategies for increasing our impact in the community. Ongoing activities included attendance at the MCFLS Board meeting. Johnson completed tasks for the Rotary Club of Milwaukee Board which conducted its business via email this period.

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

MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ

Dr. Eric Klinenberg in Conversation with Emilio de Torre. Milwaukee Public Library hosted a fascinating evening with acclaimed sociologist and best-selling author, Dr. Eric Klinenberg, who was in conversation with Emilio De Torre, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Turners. Eric Klinenberg is Helen Gould Shepard Professor of Social Science and Director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. He is the author of *2020: One City, Seven People*, and *the Year Everything Changed* (2024), *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* (2018); and many other titles. The event was co-sponsored by Boswell Book Company and the Milwaukee Turners. Attendance: 80.

MPL HELPS PEOPLE LEARN

Special Collections Spotlight Series: The History of Milwaukee's Gugler Lithographic Company. Explore the history of the Gugler Lithographic Company with Sarah Finn, Special Collections Librarian in Frank P. Zeidler Humanities Room. The Gugler Lithographic Company was founded in Milwaukee in 1878 by German immigrant Henry Gugler and his two sons, Julius and Henry Jr. The Guglers started small, printing letterhead and checks for businesses. The firm gained a national audience when they landed Pabst Brewing as client. Gugler was one of Wisconsin's largest operating printing companies, printing everything from food can labels to billboards for a local and national clientele. Milwaukee Public Library is proud to have 1,136 posters printed by the Gugler Company, and a set of Gugler sample scrapbooks dating from 1891 through 1944. Attendance: 34

Art Book Club: Printmaking. Explore the wondrous world of printmaking during September's edition of Art Book Club. There will be numerous examples of print processes from Central Library's vast Art Reference collection. Woodcuts, engravings, lithographs, screenprints and more! From graphic black and white illustrations, to colorful abstract prints, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Drop in any time during the program to browse the materials at your leisure. Attendance: 40

I Live Underwater: A Max Nohl Book Event. Tamara Thomsen from the Wisconsin Historical Society spoke about Max Nohl and the book that was published earlier this year using Nohl's manuscript that's in our Local History Manuscript Collections. DESCO brought a diving suit to the event. Attendance: 24

Snack Hack: 2.0. Snack Hack: 2.0 is a food and nutrition adult literacy program offered as weekly sessions designed to teach all aspects of food: nutritional elements, food groups, cooking principles, history of food, how food is grown, cultural connections to what we eat, how food works in our bodies and methods on how to prepare meals at home. Sessions include a cooking demonstration and a snack for attendees. September closed out Block 3 and began Block 4 - the last section of the 4-block system used to structure the program's curriculum. Week 1 continued the 'Cooking Principles' miniseries. Attendees learned the roast technique using vegetables and the recommended fats to use when high heat is

involved (smoke point). Week 2 demonstrated the whip technique. Heavy cream was used to make a topping/garnish by forcing air into the cream molecules, changing the texture and volume. Week 3 taught attendees how to simmer. The main recipe was connected to the autumnal equinox. The accompanying recipe walked through the steps for making homemade croutons. Total attendance for 4 sessions: 64

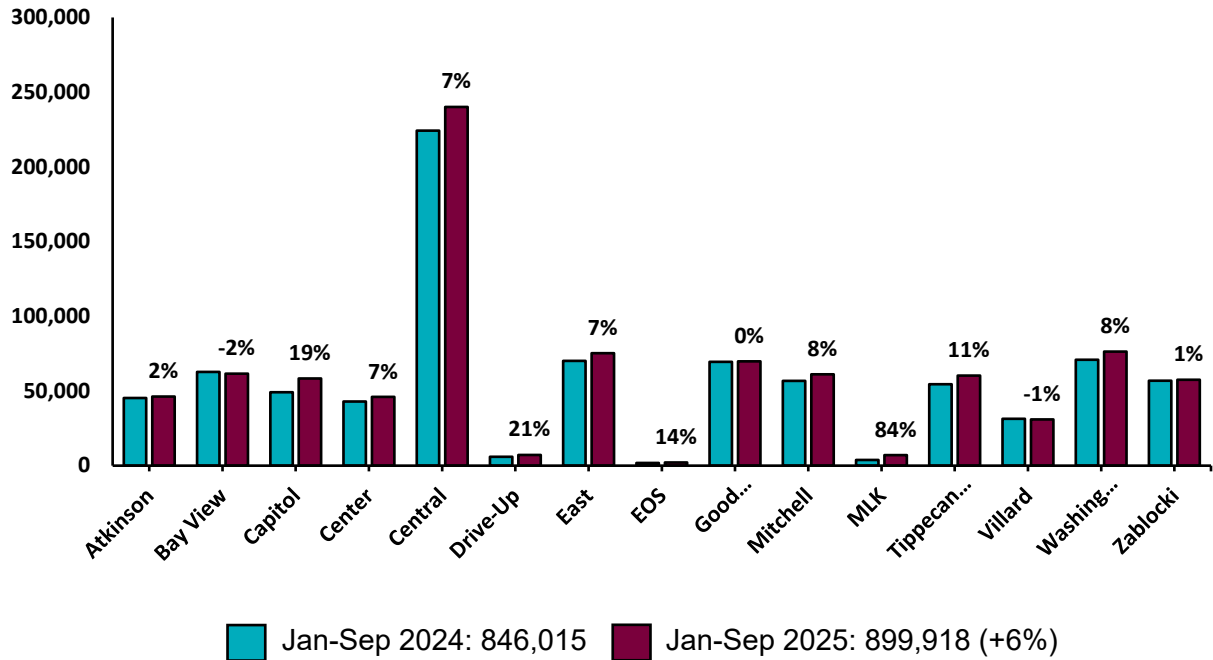
MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT

Martin Luther King Branch Library Grand Opening. After nearly a decade of planning and preparation, Milwaukee Public Library opened the doors of the brand-new Martin Luther King Branch Library to the community on Saturday, September 6. The day's festivities included musical and spoken word performances by Poet Laureate Shelly Conley; Praise Motivated; DJ Bizzon; and the beloved Roselette Dancers. Activities took place all day, with engaging projects in the Makerspace; Chef Sharrie and a cooking demonstration using the new Charlie Cart; Gigglin' Gil making balloons for all ages; Mama Edie sharing a magical story time for children; and lots of cool maker projects for teens and younger patrons. We welcomed delicious food from the Milwaukee Fire Department's pizza oven; Bronzeville Kitchen and Lounge; and bites from Confectionately Yours. The festivities were kicked off by remarks from Mayor Johnson, Alderwoman Coggs, Director Johnson, and Library Board VP Dr. Michelle Bria. Attendance: 1,300

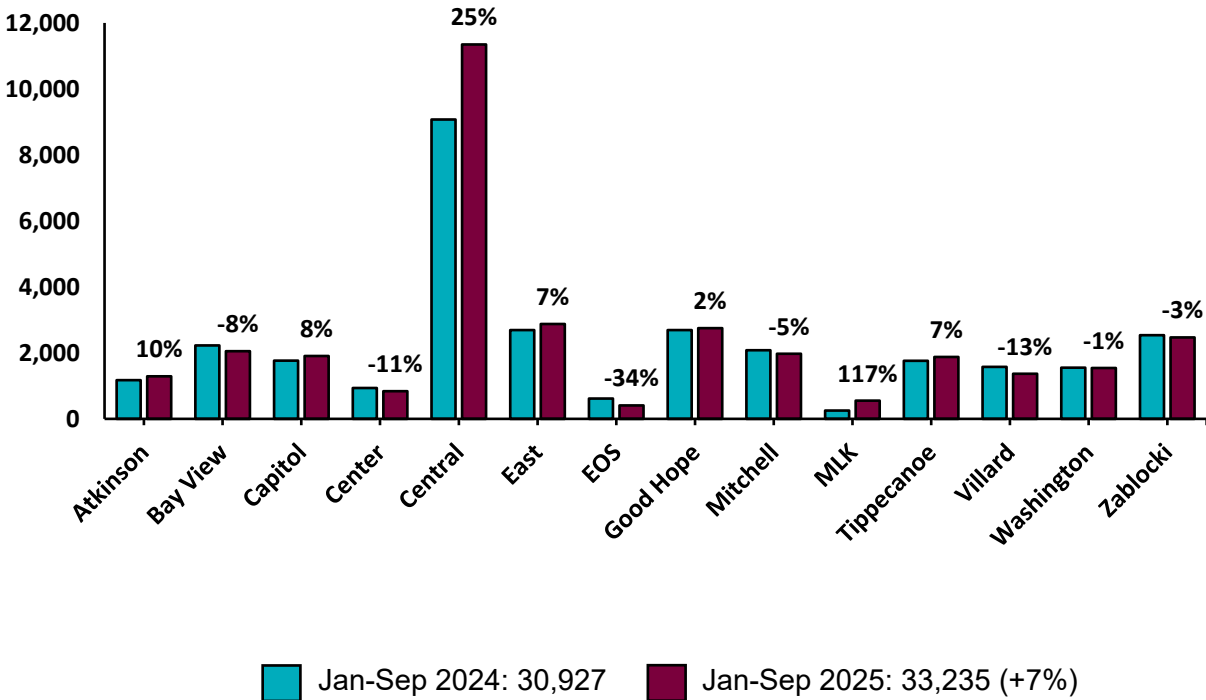
Fall Fest. Good Hope Branch Library hosted its annual Fall Festival featuring Milwaukee Black Cowboy Kevin Nichols and his two horses. The event had 74 attendees who played games, enjoyed autumnal snacks, and engaged in activities to complete a bingo sheet such as using the library catalog or signing up for a library card. Staff were thrilled to see so many families explore the library and interact with the various crafts provided. The highlight though, was seeing faces light up as patrons saw a horse was at the library. Attendance: 75

Total attendance for 156 programs: 3,489

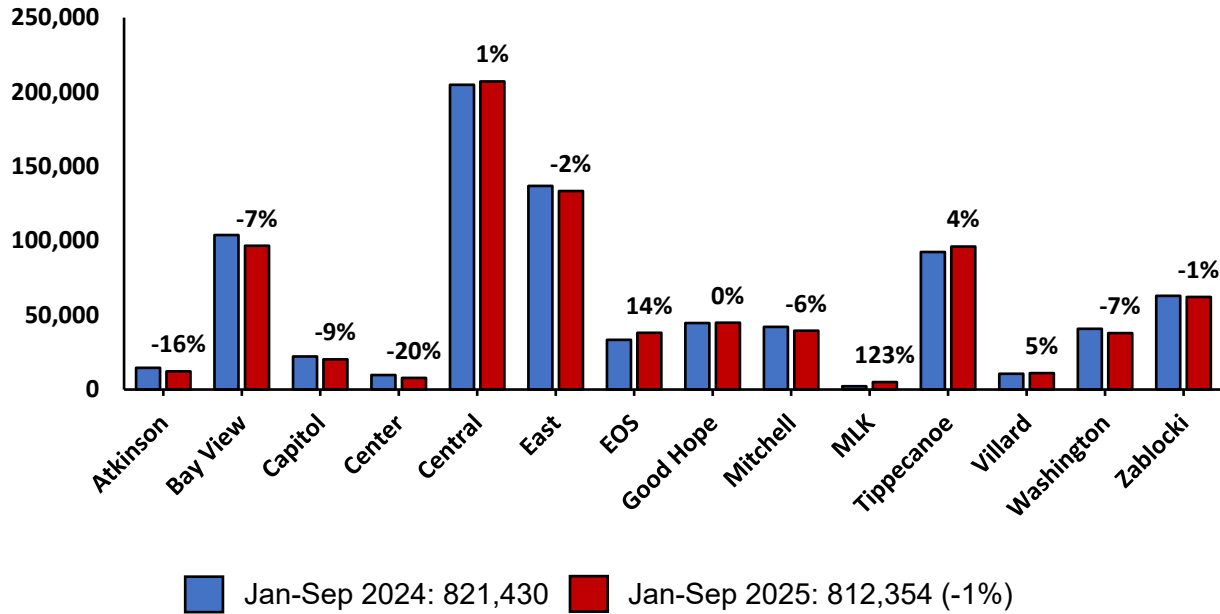
Patron Visits



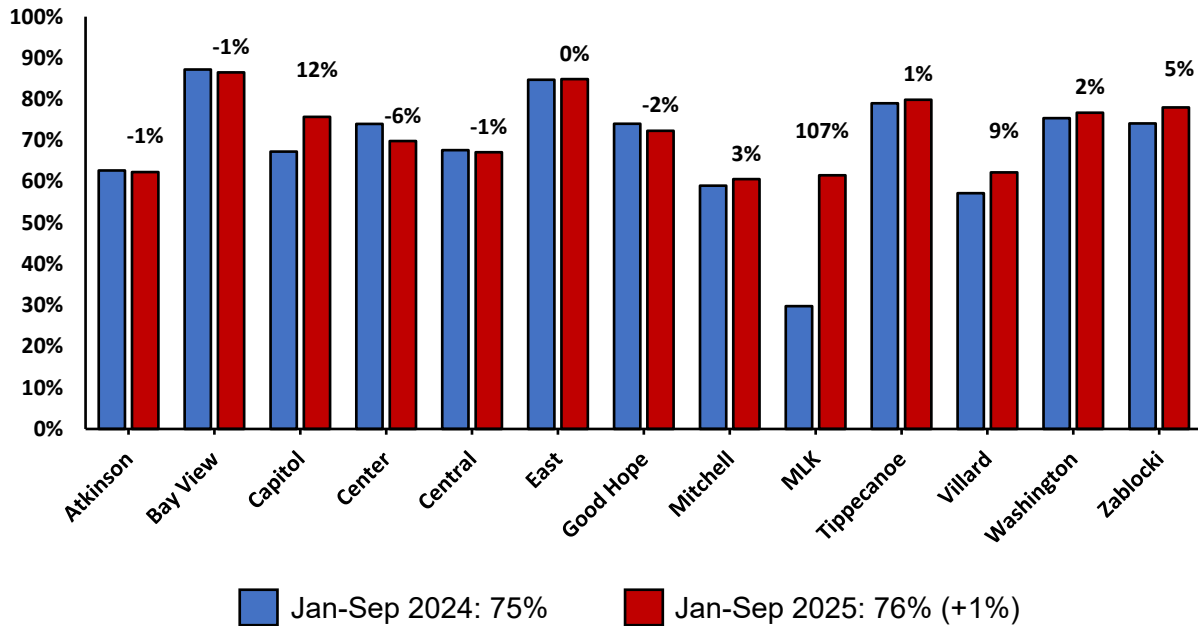
Registration



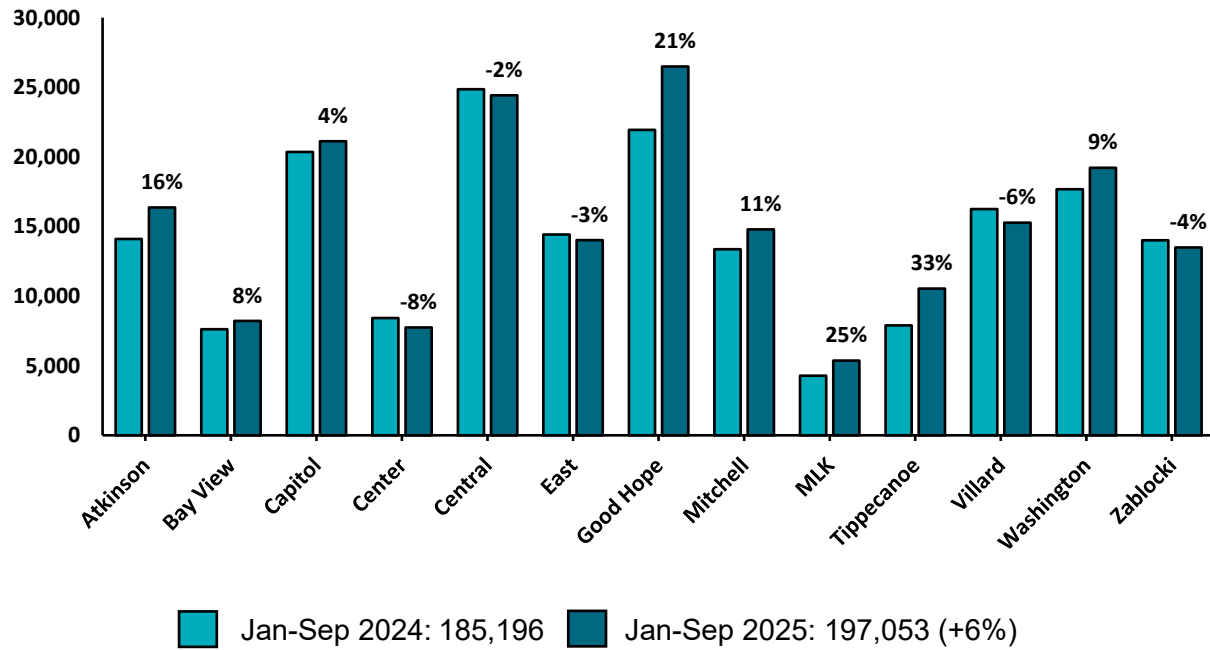
Traditional Circulation



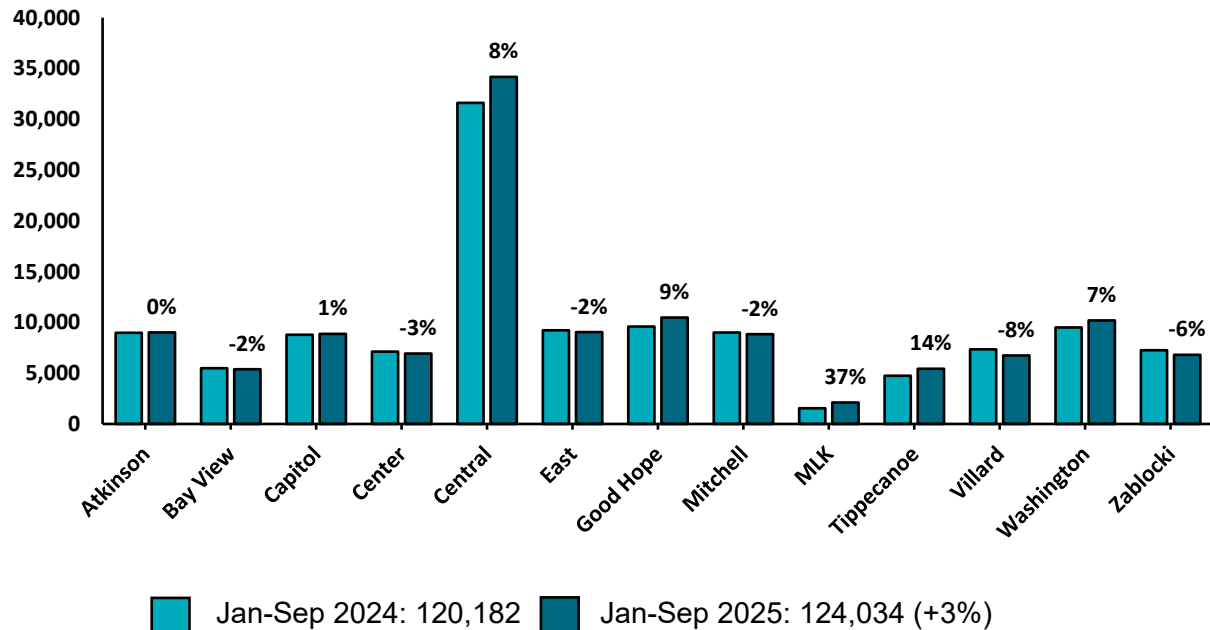
Self-Checkout



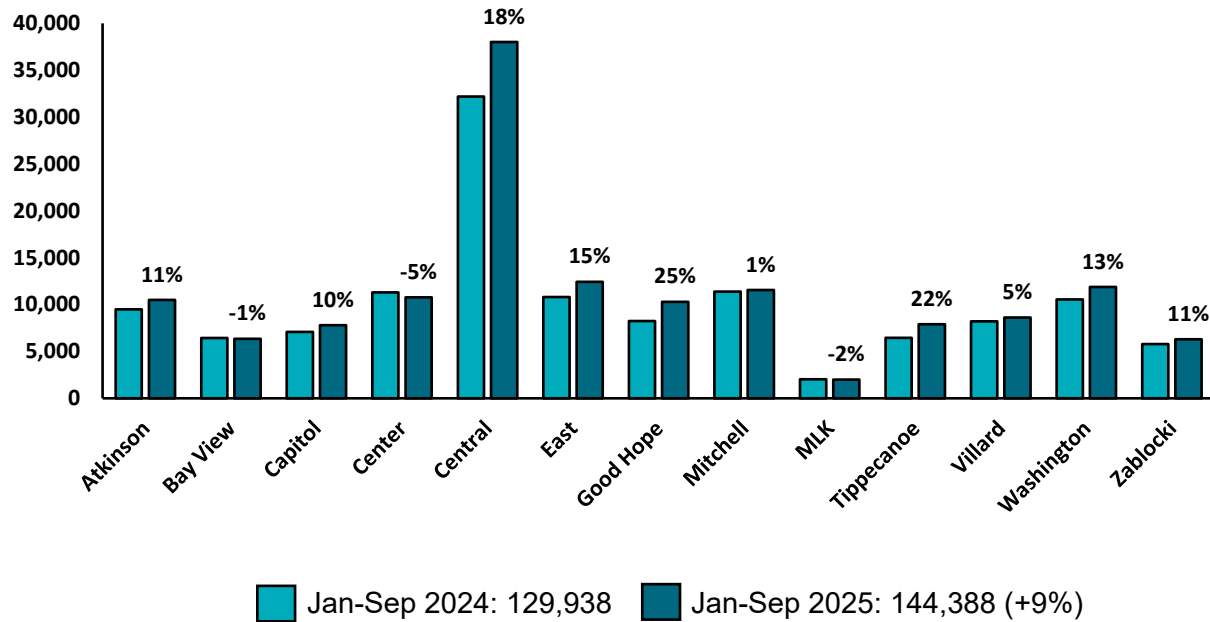
Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Jobs



Public Computer Sessions



Wi-Fi Unique Users



Ready Reference



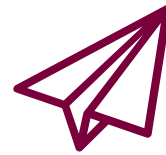
28,159

Call Sessions
Last Year: 31,194



1,300

Chat Sessions
Last Year: 1,204



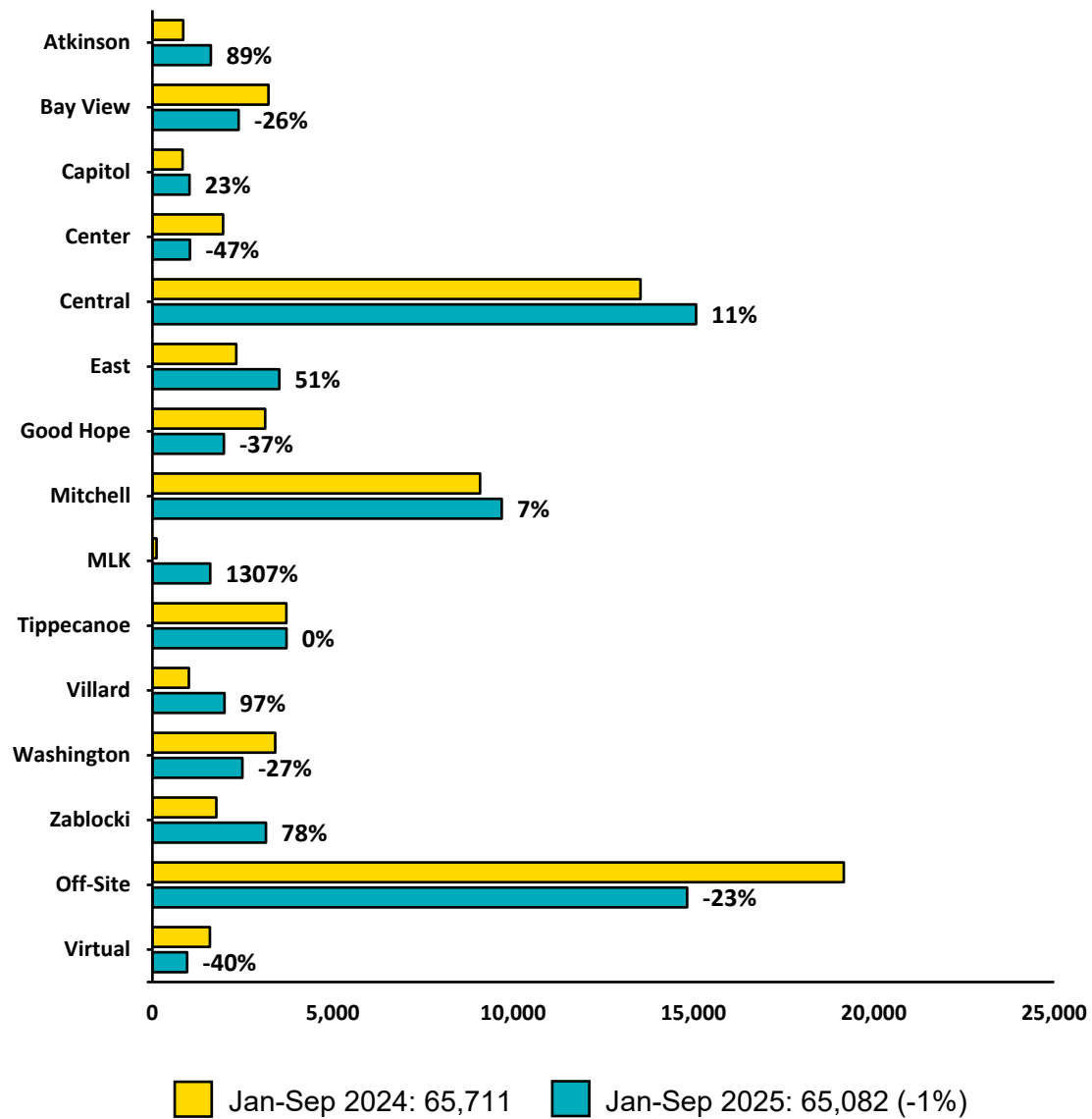
186

Email Sessions
Last Year: 1,044

eCirculation

Platform	Jan-Sep 2024	Jan-Sep 2025	Change
Freegal Music	92,077	160,208	+74%
Hoopla Digital	60,090	48,915	-19%
Kanopy	19,659	27,818	+42%
OverDrive	340,469	385,320	+13%
Total	512,295	622,261	+21%

Program Attendance





BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES 2024-2026

(Updated 10/15/25)

LIBRARY BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Michael Morgan, Chair
Matt Kowalski
Mark Sain
Larresa Taylor
Teresa Mercado

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mark Sain, President
Michele Bria, Vice-President
Teresa Mercado, Financial Secretary
VACANT, Past President

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Teresa Mercado, Chair
Milele Coggs, Vice-Chair
Felicia Saffold
Scott Spiker
Venice Williams

INNOVATION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Matt Kowalski, Chair
Darryl Jackson
Scott Spiker
Larresa Taylor
Venice Williams

LIBRARY SERVICES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Milele Coggs, Chair
Kathleen Vincent, Vice-Chair
Darryl Jackson
Michael Morgan
Felicia Saffold

AUXILIARY COMMITTEES

Urban Libraries Council Executive Board - Michele Bria
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation Board - Michele Bria
Milwaukee County Federated Library System Board – VACANT

**Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
2026 Schedule of Meetings (by Committee)**

RECESS: February, August, December

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD

4th Tuesday of the month, except recess months

Date	Day	Time	Location
January 27, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
March 24, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Street Branch Community Room
April 28, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
May 26, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
June 23, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Washington Park Branch Community Room
July 28, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
September 22, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room
October 27, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Tippecanoe Community Room
November 24, 2026	Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

LIBRARY BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1st Thursday of the month, except January (New Year holiday) and recess months

Date	Day	Time	Location
January 8, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
March 5, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 2, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 7, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 4, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 2, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
September 3, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 1, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 5, 2026	Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday of the month in June and November

Date	Day	Time	Location
June 10, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 18, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting



**Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
2026 Schedule of Meetings (by Committee)**

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Quarterly – 4th Tuesday of the month in January, April, July, and October

Date	Day	Time	Location
January 27, 2026	Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 28, 2026	Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 28, 2026	Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 27, 2026	Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting

INNOVATION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Quarterly – 2nd Thursday of the month, except January (due to conflict with B&D Committee), April, June, October

Date	Day	Time	Location
January 15, 2026	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 9, 2026	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 11, 2026	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 8, 2026	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting

LIBRARY SERVICES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Quarterly – 1st Wednesday of the month March, May, July, November

Date	Day	Time	Location
March 4, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 6, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 1, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 4, 2026	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting



**Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
2026 Schedule of Meetings (by date)**

January 2026			
January 8	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
January 15	Innovation & Strategy Committee	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
January 27	Finance & Personnel Committee	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
January 27	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

March 2026			
March 4	Library Services & Programs Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
March 5	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
March 24	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Street Branch Community Room

April 2026			
April 2	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 9	Innovation & Strategy Committee	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 28	Finance & Personnel Committee	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
April 28	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

May 2026			
May 6	Library Services & Programs Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 7	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 26	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

June 2026			
June 4	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 10	Executive Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 11	Innovation & Strategy Committee	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
June 23	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Washington Park Branch Community Room



**Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
2026 Schedule of Meetings (by date)**

July 2026			
July 1	Library Services & Programs Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 2	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 28	Finance & Personnel Committee	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
July 28	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

September 2026			
September 3	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
September 22	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room

October 2026			
October 1	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 8	Innovation & Strategy Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 27	Finance & Personnel Committee	8:30 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
October 27	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Tippecanoe Branch Community Room

November 2026			
November 4	Library Services & Programs Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 5	Building & Development Committee	8:00 a.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 18	Executive Committee	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
November 24	Board Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Central Library, Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room



Memo

TO: Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Joan Johnson, Library Director

DATE: October 28, 2025

RE: Milwaukee Public Library 2026 Priorities for MPLF Fundraising

The MPL Foundation (herein referred to as “the Foundation”) has recently been more limited in its ability to disburse unrestricted funding to the Library or raise directed funding for the highest priority projects of the MPL and the Board of Trustees. Examples of this include limited or no funding for Hot Spots to lend and the Community Kitchen programming. In addition, the Foundation has modified its schedule to disperse its annual gift to the Milwaukee Public Library (herein referred to as “the Library”) in the form of a single payment each December. This presents a challenge to Library Administration due to the fact that by December, the gift in its entirety is fully encumbered. In lieu of this, Director Johnson recommends to the MPL Board of Trustees that the Foundation be directed to focus its fundraising efforts to support Library programming in the broad categories described below to allow for greater flexibility and to enable the Library to meet its obligations.

Outlined on the following pages, are programming priorities along with a brief description and priority level. The subtotals in each category shown below are based on budgets developed for each program within the category.

Youth Programs	\$621,500
Adult Programs and Events	\$112,600
Staff Development	\$ 24,000
Collections	\$200,000
Digital Inclusion	\$365,027

If the Foundation were able to raise enough money to fully fund the priorities described in this memo, the grand total would equal \$1,323,127.00. The Foundation’s fundraising commitment to the Library for 2025 was \$1,235,000.00.



Program Name	Description	Priority
YOUTH: EARLY LITERACY (0-5)		
Ready to Read suite of programs and services	Ready to Read Coaching-Practice-based coaching service offered to early childhood teachers. The service is currently offered virtually and features an 8-week curriculum of weekly 1-hour mentoring sessions covering early literacy, brain development, and social-emotional development for young children birth. Early Childhood Teacher Early Literacy Workshops- Offered at MPL locations and at partner sites such as MATC. Teachers earn continuing education credits. Family Early Literacy programs in Spanish. Ready to Read staff model and encourage <i>talking, singing, reading, playing, and writing</i>, the key actions parents take to build their child's early literacy skills. Deposit Collection Service - Regular delivery of high quality, developmentally appropriate book collections to child care centers.	High
YOUTH: CHILDREN'S LITERACY & SCHOOL-AGED SERVICES (6-12)		
Summer Reading Program – In-house and Community Outreach	Summer Reading Program – Encourages children, teens, and adults to visit their library branch or Central to be inspired to keep reading and learning during summer. Staff provide recommended reads on display, drop-in projects, Take and Makes, and enriching programming. Staff assist patrons with signing up or patrons can use an online app. Summer Reading Outreach - Coordinated through Education and Outreach Services. Summer Outreach Sites are offered a menu of services including a deposit collection of books to support independent reading and group read-alouds; professional development and programming tools for staff including STEAM and book-based lesson plans; an online a resource portal with recorded virtual programs and additional lesson plans; and giveaway books for their participants. Select sites (child care and school-aged) are offered in-person, library-staff-led activities.	High
LibraryNOW	LibraryNOW provides virtual library accounts for all Milwaukee students and fosters literacy, education, and community engagement through valuable partnerships with local schools, community organizations, and MPL library branches. Educators collaborate with MPL staff and community partners to provide digital literacy support, develop and lead educational programs, and contribute to community engagement initiatives in schools, libraries and youth-serving agencies in the community.	High



Program Name	Description	Priority
YOUTH: YOUNG ADULT SERVICES (13-18)		
Teen Connected Learning	Connected Learning programs help young people develop a love of reading, increase information literacy skills, and establish relationships that bridge the gap between in- and out-of-school learning. We help Milwaukee students develop 21st-century skills in the makerspaces and connect with library resources to cultivate a city of lifelong learners. We also support youth with life skills training, i.e. culinary programming.	High
ADULT/EVENTS: ENRICHMENT FOR ALL AGES		
Signature Programs	In alignment with MPL's long-term goal of increasing library patronage, Public Services will invite existing and new patrons into library buildings with the development of annual signature programming delivered in each cluster. These events will utilize the Community Engagement survey results to develop events that are patron-driven and drive awareness of library programs and services. A signature program is one that a patron will identify with a branch or cluster. Ideally, it should be an annual event that patrons rely on and look forward to each year, such as Zinefest.	Med-High
Adult Event Series	Destination programming featuring compelling local figures of note or nationally known authors, scholars, public officials, etc.	Med
Business/Entrepreneurship and General Adult Programs	Includes funding for: Business and Technology department to implement several initiatives related to supporting entrepreneurs in Milwaukee. Also includes funding for community outreach events.	Med

Program Name	Description	Priority
DIGITAL INCLUSION		
Chromebooks	These devices support MPL's efforts in providing access to resources to address digital access and equity. These have been a popular circulating option. This proposal outlines acquiring Chromebooks to make more available for usage and MPL's ability to support digital inclusion.	Med
Hot Spots	HotSpots continue to be a popular item with high-circulation and demand, providing a means for digital access for patrons, contributing to MPL's goal of strategies that support our community in having digital access and equity.	High





Midtown Info Sheet – MPL Board of Trustees Meeting October 28, 2025

The Capitol branch was built in 1964 and renovated 1995. It is the third oldest branch in the MPL system and one of the smallest branches. Two RFPs for the redevelopment of the Capitol branch were issued in 2018 and 2019 with no actionable proposals. The Capitol site's redevelopment is challenged by the small lot size of the current location and no acceptable sites in its service area for a mixed-use development similar to the new MLK branch.

The Midtown site offers an opportunity for a new library similar to MPL's recently redeveloped branches. This is also an opportunity to revitalize Midtown Center. A new MPL Midtown branch would be co-located in the former Walmart building with the Election Commission with frontage on Hope Avenue. A large, self-storage retail tenant would be located at the back of the former Walmart building. Across Hope Avenue, Gorman and Company will be developing 100 apartments in 2026 with another 100 apartments in a second phase.

Midtown Location

1.3 miles east of Capitol Branch. 2.6 miles west of Atkinson Branch

Midtown = 17,000 to 18,000 SF branch with space for large community room and makerspace. 90+ parking spaces

Capitol = 12,777 SF branch and 30 parking spots

Midtown has similar walk scores and bus access to Capitol branch

Aldermanic Representation

Atkinson	District 1 – Andrea Pratt	Rufus King Neighborhood
Capitol	District 10 – Sharlen Moore	Dineen Park Neighborhood
Midtown	District 2 – Mark Chambers	Capitol Heights Neighborhood

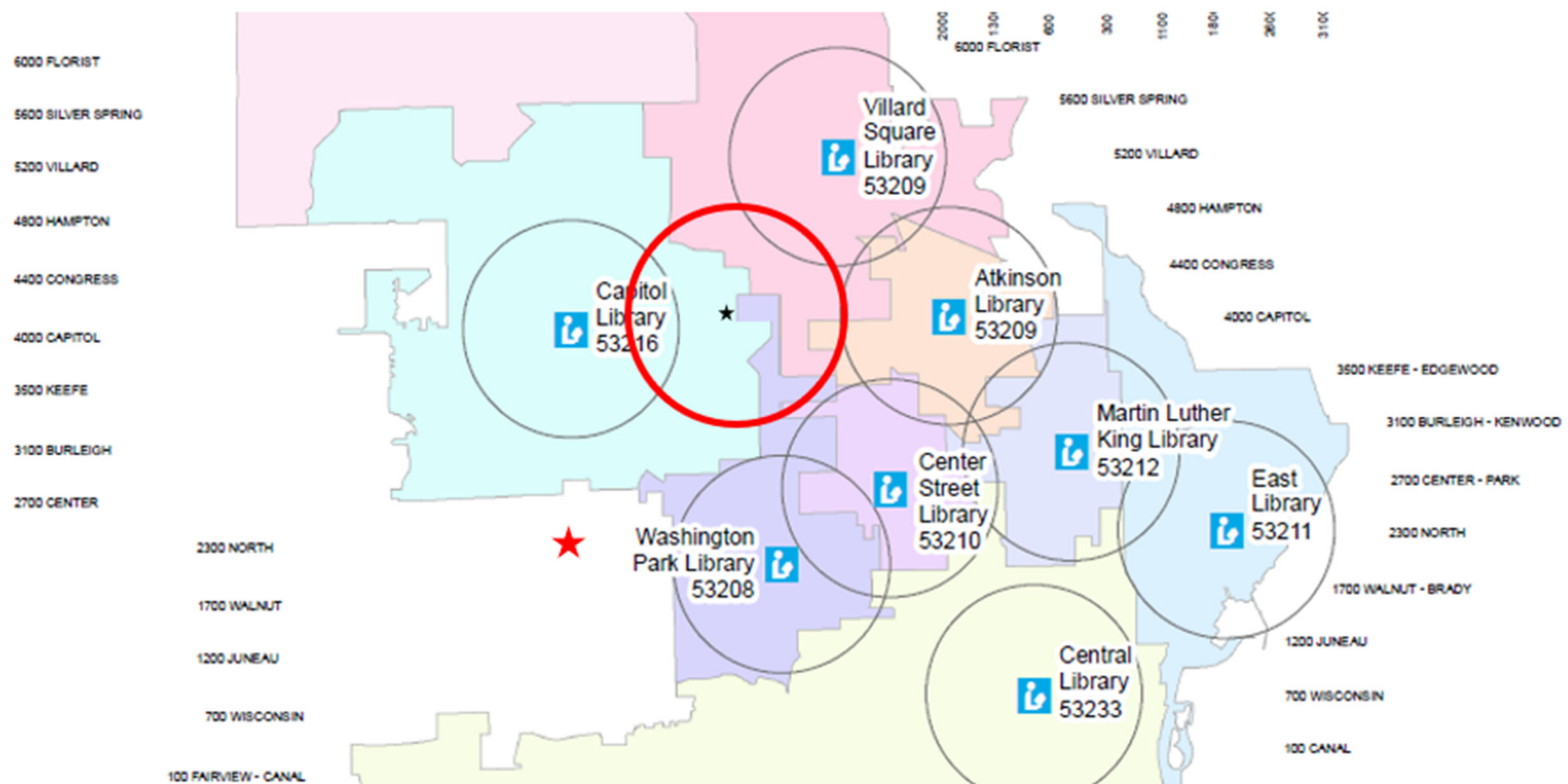
Next Steps

Community Engagement

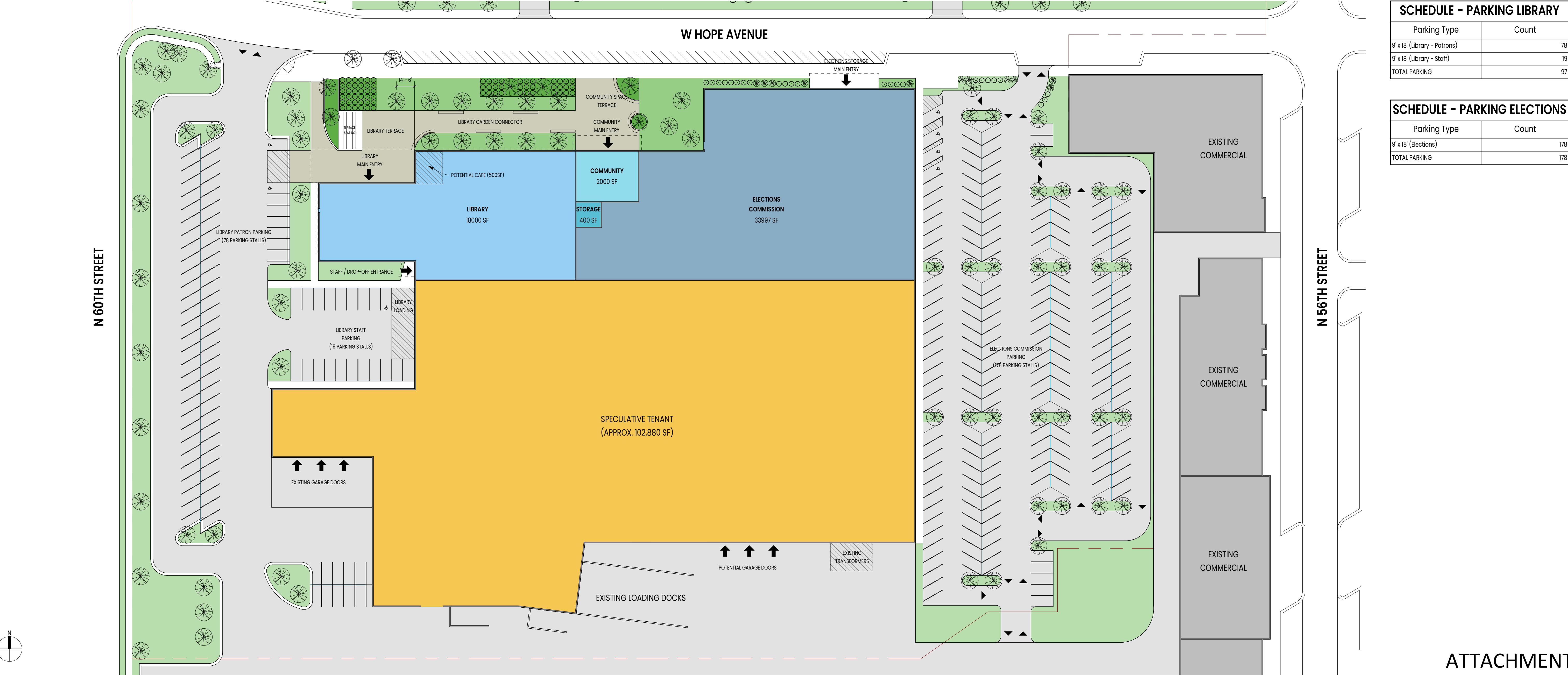
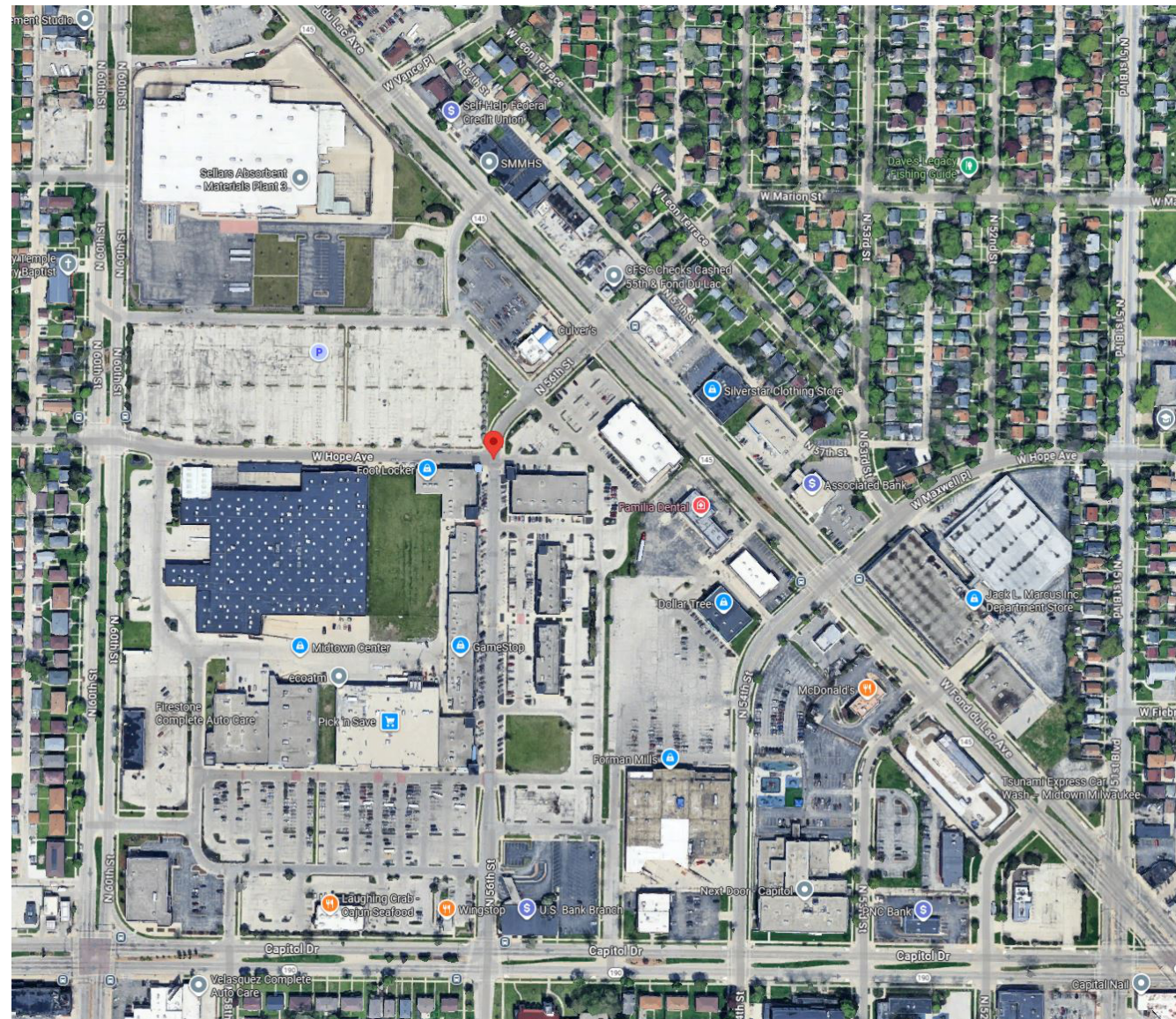
Preliminary Planning with DPW and Election Commission

Issue RFP for Architectural Services





Moving Capitol Library 1.3 miles east to Midtown – Effect on Service Areas. ★ Wauwatosa Library



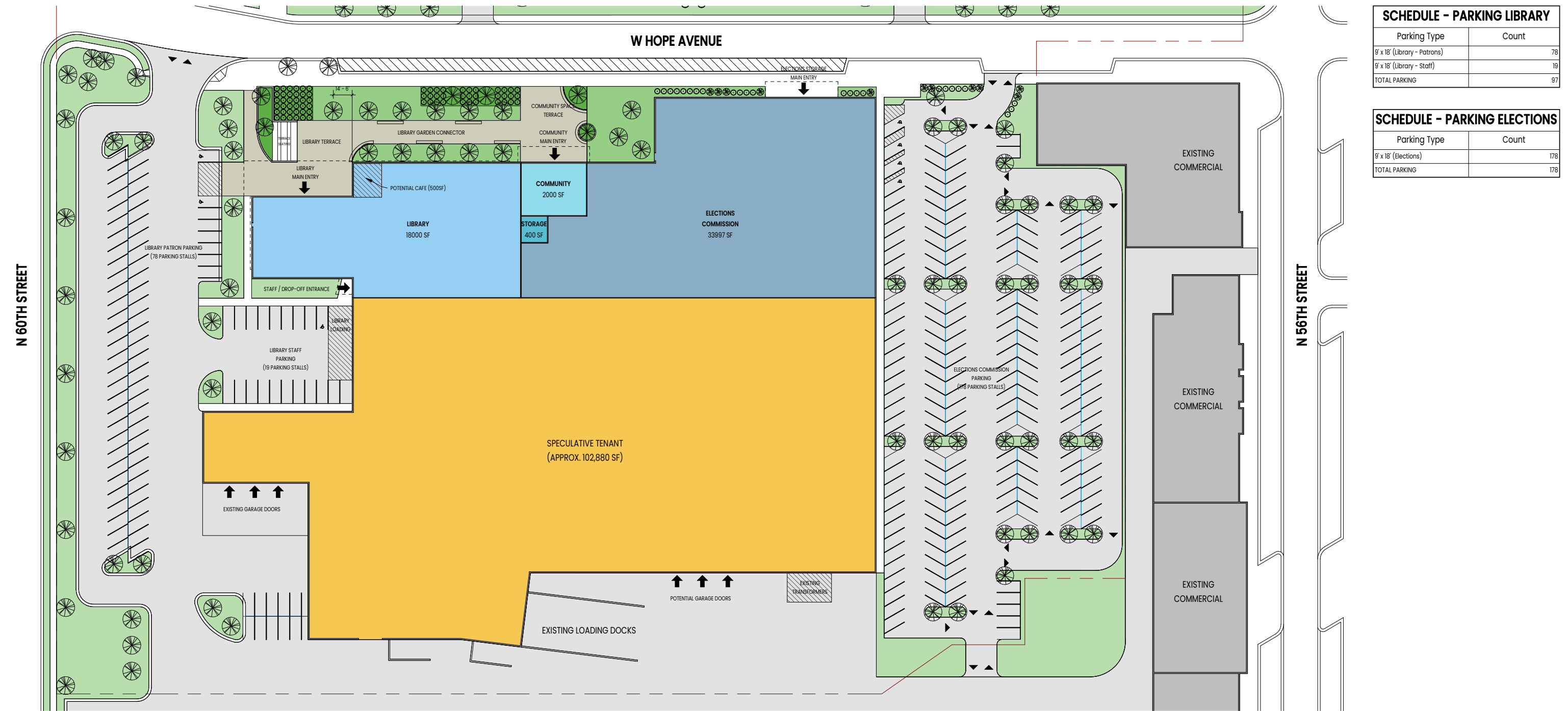
SCHEDULE - PARKING LIBRARY	
Parking Type	Count
9' x 18' (Library - Patrons)	78
9' x 18' (Library - Staff)	19
TOTAL PARKING	97

SCHEDULE - PARKING ELECTIONS	
Parking Type	Count
9' x 18' (Elections)	178
TOTAL PARKING	178

MIDTOWN

PROPOSED LIBRARY, COMMUNITY & ELECTION COMMISSION

09.22.2025





ATTACHMENT C - P. 6 of 11
11. Capitol Branch Redevelopment
P. 36



ATTACHMENT C - P. 7 of 11
11. Capitol Branch Redevelopment
P. 37



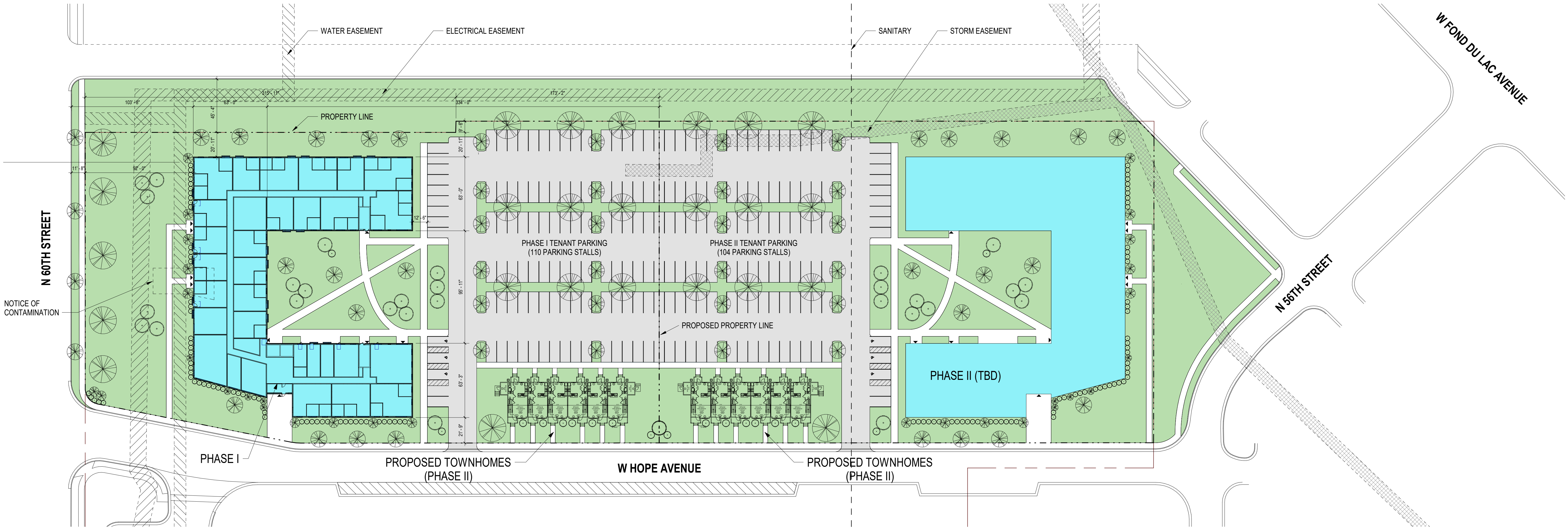
ATTACHMENT C - P. 8 of 11
11. Capitol Branch Redevelopment
P. 38



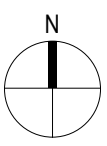
ATTACHMENT C - P. 9 of 11
11. Capitol Branch Redevelopment
P. 39

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 4 LEVELS OF MULTI-FAMILY
- 100 UNITS
- 1BR, 2BR, 3BR



CONCEPTUAL RENDERING

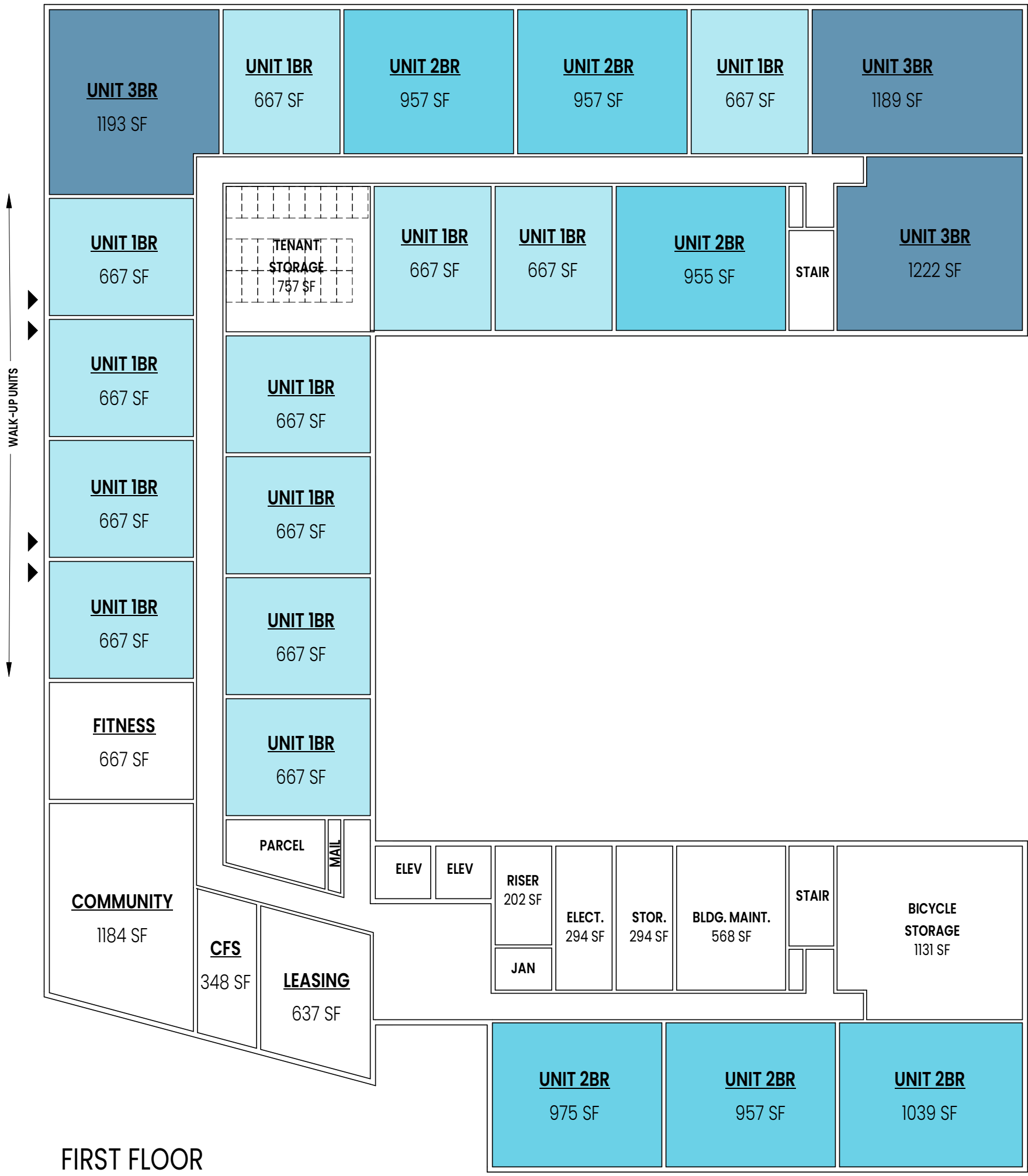


1" = 40'-0"

CONCEPT DESIGN - OVERALL

GORMAN - MIDTOWN COMMONS

9.25.2025



UNIT SUMMARY	
UNIT TYPE	Average SF
UNIT 1BR	667 SF
50	
UNIT 2BR	973 SF
30	
UNIT 3BR	1215 SF
20	
TOTAL OF ALL UNITS: 100	

Rentable Area Legend

- CFS
- COMMUNITY
- CORE & SHELL / AMENITY
- ELECTIONS STORAGE
- FITNESS
- LEASING
- LIBRARY
- STORAGE
- UNIT 1BR
- UNIT 2BR
- UNIT 3BR