**The MPL Mission**

Spark curiosity. Make connections. Thrive together.

Missoula Public Library achieves its mission by fostering community engagement, providing core services, and promoting sustainability and wellness.

* **Circulation – August 2024**

**CORE SERVICES**

* Montana Shared Catalog staff in Helena initiated a SirsiDynix ILS upgrade that included new functionalities to improve patron account management.
* Finalized Book Mobile branch WorkFlows and Enterprise configuration in preparation for launch in Fall 2024.

**SUSTAINABILITY & WELLNESS**

* Passport Agent Paula Johnson attended the bi-annual Notary Convention in Helena, MT.
* **Community Engagement – August 2024**

**Community Engagement**

* We held a book launch for Montana Poet Laureate, Chris La Tray’s, new book, “Becoming Little Shell”. Around 160 people attended and it was also streamed online with 800 views in the month of August.
* The Bookmobile arrived and our new Bookmobile Specialist, Chloe Runs Behind, began the intensive planning of scheduling stops, connecting with stop coordinators, stocking the vehicle with needed supplies, and creating training SOPs. Chloe, along with the Programming Librarian, Xavier Kneedler-Shorten, began planning for the launch party for the Bookmobile that will take place September 28th.
* The adult Summer Learning Program had more participants than ever take part in the BINGO game. For Adult and Teen SLP programming combined we had a total of 593 attendees.
* We planned a new program series to kick off during the fall quarter called “Get Lit”. Any program that promoted any sort of literacy was given a “Get Lit” badge in our PR. Some examples include:
  + Induction Cooking Class with Climate Smart Missoula
  + A Grow Music program which features local youth and adult musicians
  + A health literacy class about being Pain Savvy.
* We did outreach at the fair, foodbank and a Books on Tap event at Imagination Brewing.
* Led two UM student orientation sessions called Big Sky Experiences in the library's MakerSpace with 18 freshmen, helping strengthen community through programming with an interactive experience while also engaging teens, one of the library's priority communities.
* We held an educational program with Aspen Decker, an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (t̓at̓ʔayaqn, Ql̓isp̓é & Ksanka) and a speaker of her tribal Nsélišcn ‘Salish language’, where Aspen spoke about the Salish language, art, and the rich history of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes. There were 40 people in attendance.

**Core Services**

* Assistant Director of Community Engagement, Amanda Allpress, and Community Engagement Specialist, Selya Avila, traveled to Juneau, AK for the 2024 Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) + Alaska Library Association (AkLA) conference which had a heavy focus on Community Engagement. Both felt that the conference was wonderful and they brought back so many ideas to put to use at MPL.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* We held the first Resource Access Day (RAD) in August and served about 25 people.
* Partnership Health and MPL collaborated to offer weekly drop-in medical services in the Ellingson Room. Insurance is not required. This partnership evolved from conversations about how challenging it is for outreach workers to contact unsheltered folks in the wake of the recent implementation of the camping ordinance. The hope is that by offering this service at a consistent time, in a consistent community hub, the word will get out and people will utilize the opportunity for medical care.
* **Reference – August 2024**

**Community Engagement**

* Secured a new volunteer with a library background to take over the library project at the LGBTQ Center. The project should resume in the second half of September.
* Family Search volunteers from Kalispell would like to do Family Search classes here to teach the basics of genealogy.

**Core Services**

* Ordered patron requests and titles with many holds while awaiting the book budget to be approved.
* Transitioning Home Library Services over to the bookmobile. Ending some service where the numbers are low and/or parking logistics are challenging. Using the bookmobile will improve efficiency and increase engagement with new patrons.
* Inventoried part of non-fiction collection (000’s and 100’s).
* Provided mentoring for potential master’s in library sciences student.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* Started a Music League for staff to encourage socializing and to improve staff connections.
* **Youth Services – August 2024**

**Community Engagement**

* Summer Bash SLP program to wrap up summer/SLP - 90+ attendees, offered 2 local kids’ musicians (including one new performer who made her debut at the library)
* Hosted group of kids from Soft Landing at a Cooking for Kids class this month to fun results
* Last of the summer’s PaddleHeads Story Time - made preliminary plans with their outreach/education coordinator to work with YS/MPL even more
* Wrapped up a successful Tiny Tales in the Park summer series at Westside Park - over 300 attendees over the summer!

**Core Services**

* Completed restructuring of 2nd floor materials and move of YA materials ot new teen area - have already observed teens browsing the collection, and had a parent express appreciation that all of her kids of various ages and reading levels can be on the same floor
* Integrated relevant JR and IEFA materials into JNF/E collections to allow for more visibility in collection and ability to check out those materials; discarded outdated and/or culturally insensitive materials
* Moved Parenting Collection to the Tiny Town area to increase visibility and browsability; need to assess placement/shelving further

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Formed Staff Engagement and Recognition Committee to celebrate accomplishments and to create connection and community as described in the *Framework for Workplace Mental Health and Well-Being* project.