**APRIL 2025**

**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**

**Community Engagement**

* Handouts and a brochure on Makerspace services, resources and equipment are now available to the public in the Marketplace. These answer patrons’ basic questions about the Makerspace.

**Core Services**

* Two additional bike locks were purchased for circulation. They are available for use on the property for three hours.
* Moving forward, Makerspace users will sign a waiver of liability and indemnification before they are permitted to use equipment and resources.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Additional furniture was sent to Corrections Montana Enterprises for reupholstery. Two third floor ottomans were completed. Stain-proof, durable fabrics were selected for damaged grey and brown chairs on the fourth and third floors for reupholstery in June 2025.
* MPL staff received training on Workday, the new County accountancy platform. All requisitions and acquisitions will now be managed within Workday, resulting in greater transparency, recordkeeping and budget management.
* **Community Engagement**

**Community Engagement**

* Project Community Connect took place on April 11. Selya organized this incredible and important event. PCC is a one-stop-shop, with many community providers and organizations coming together to help meet our neighbors’ basic needs while they work towards obtaining stability—all in a safe, welcoming, and stigma-free environment. We had 71 service providers participate and over 300 people come through and receive services.
* We took the Bookmobile to the Kyiyo Pow Wow at the Mansfield Center and lead a craft in efforts to reach priority communities.
* We held a William Kittridge event lead by Montana Poet Laurette Chris La Tray.
* Mariah Gladstone led a cooking demo to a packed house in the Demo Kitchen. She made a 3 Sisters soup.

**Core Services**

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* The Bookmobile partnered with Five Valleys Seed Library to start a mini seed library on the Bookmobile supporting local agriculture and sustainability
* Programming hosted a craft swap on April 5 to support re-use, community sharing and sustainability. We partnered with local crafting organizations to further support sustainable efforts.
* The Bookmobile distributed native grass and wildflower seeds balls engaging community members of all ages.
* We took the Bookmobile to the MUD Library’s Earth Day event participating in sustainable community efforts.

**Reference**

**Community Engagement**

* Attendance by reference staff at Community Webs Project Planning Workshop in San Francisco with other entities throughout the country
* Missoula Writes reception well attended at 125 attendees and 147 submissions for the contest this year
* Reference staff now part of the MT Book Award Committee

**Core Services**

* Book chat kit titles updated with new titles
* Weeding and shifting for better use of shelving and browsability
* Onboarding of new volunteers for the Friends’ store and vital records data entry
* Travel kits in process of being updated with new brochures and info

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* Donating appropriate discards to the new hospice for their in house library
* Display pod promoting bike month
* MPL was recognized for its commitment & dedication to the American Red Cross Premier Blood Partner Program. Last year 226 units of blood were collected at drives hosted by MPL.

**Youth Services**

**Community Engagement**

* Hosted Teen Art Show for the month of April in the Teen Space. Pieces from Big Sky seniors based on Greek mythology
  + Included a First Friday art show with refreshments
* Bradin went to Sunflower Montessori to bring Tiny Tales to preschoolers
* Sensory Story Time and Story Time for Diverse Abilities – programs for patrons with different needs
* School tours ramping up as end of the year approaches – hosted several classes from many MCPS schools, ranging from kindergarten to high school

**Core Services**

* Replaced components of STEM and Story Time Kits that were missing pieces or very worn out
* Led learning session and tour for 18 Arlee high school students; resources at the library and online for research topics related to themes in Fools Crow
* Pulled books that needed new labels or relabeling to get fixed for better findability

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Partnered with spectrUM to host an Earth Day themed story time; read books that matched with each spectrUM experiment in the Discovery Area after story time (pollinators, water cycle, wind energy, geology, and gardening)
* Earth Day program: create recycled seed pods
* **Branches**

**Community Engagement**

* **Big Sky**
* Had four patrons show up for Writers’ Group at various times throughout the month, so I will be continuing that program. A regular patron showed up for Tech Time as well and got some help on sending photos and using Zoom. No patrons for 3D printing this month.
* **Frenchtown**
* Book Club met in April to discuss Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese. Seven attended.
* Family movie night showed Dog Man. Sixteen showed to watch and enjoy. This is the last family movie night of this school year.
* I have started planning for the summer.
* **Lolo**
* Community Knitter's Group - YARNS
* Book Discussion Group
* Dream Bigger - After School Program
* Title 1 Parent Night - adults and children
* **Potomac**
* Hosted monthly book club
* Restocked Little Free Library and shared information on it via library Facebook page
* **Seeley Lake**
* Still working on connecting with local partners regarding SRP.
* **Swan Valley**
* Our Story time has continued to be popular with our little community members.
* We have hosted a couple of committee meetings for local organizations.

**Core Services**

* **Big Sky**
* Updated all Big Sky branch signs with accurate hours.
* **Frenchtown**
* Completed one new library card this month.
* Ordered and received one ILL.
* Continue to cover all types of books for MPL.
* **Lolo**
* Collection Development including: Review of new fiction and catalog modifications to change from 14 day to 28 day checkout for items older than 6 months. Integrated these into the fiction section and removed books that were not being checked out.
* Completed new item selections and placed order with Caroline. With new county purchasing system and current restrictions, I asked Caroline to use the remainder of the Lolo budget to purchase items for the greatest areas of need to patrons.
* **Potomac**
* Helped place items on hold for several patrons
* Brought new “New” books to the branch to refresh the collection
* **Seeley Lake**
* Active book club with dynamic participants.
* Ongoing weeding of the collection.
* After School Book Club still going strong. Making plans for summer.
* **Swan Valley**
* Our Book Chat book for April was Red Rover by Deidre MacNamer. I did not get to participate in the discussion because I was gone at the time, but I heard a lot of laughter was involved even if most of the members didn’t really like the book much.
* Notary services continue to bring community members who have never entered the library in for a visit. In the month of April we had 16 notary visits.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* **Big Sky**
* Communicated with Ashley Clark, the Child Nutrition Program Coordinator at the Missoula Food Bank about serving summer meals to kids out of the Big Sky branch again this summer. Despite their recent funding cuts, they’re continuing the program and we will be picking up lunches there twice a week to offer to patrons.
* **Lolo**
* Helping to facilitate a clean air monitoring system for the Lolo community to be located in the Lolo school library.
* **Seeley Lake**
* We are now in Phase 2 with Climate Smart. The air quality monitor has been installed and is collecting data.
* **Swan Valley**
* We are gearing up for our summer reading program. I will be visiting the local school to try to get them excited for reading.