**MAY 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**

* In April, Alex Johnson, Makerspace Coordinator, made two site visits to Bozeman and Billings to review their makerspaces and discuss best practices and policies.

**Core Services**

* Elizabeth attended the online Montana Shared Catalog Membership meeting on May 6. Key points of interest for MPL include:
  + MSL membership contracts have not been updated since 2017.  Staff are working to simplify and consolidate member contracts into a single document which will list the services each member library uses.  The drafts will be finalized for Fall 2025.  MSC bylaws will be updated accordingly.
  + The MSC will invest in BCA Private Suite to give the MSC better access to managing subscriptions, passwords and reports in Blue Cloud Analytics and

Unlimited Web Services Connector (vs. SIP Licensing) which permits the MSC to replaces SIP as a communication standard between third party vendors and the ILS.  Libraries will see a 6% vs. 4% increase in FY2026 annual costs.  MPL’s contribution will rise from $48,830.07 to $51,759.87.  The 6% increase results in a change of $2,929.80, as opposed to the 4% increase of $1,953.20, or an additional $976.80.  FY2027 will see a return to the 4% annual increase after this investment is made.

* + The MSC is updating its record privatization policy.
* EJ acted as a library rep for the State of Montana procurement contract for the Courier RFP. No proponent selected yet.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Four grey, four brown chairs, and four ottomans were sent to Corrections MT Enterprises for reupholstery. This marks the refurbishment of approximately 65% of currently damaged furniture.
* **Community Engagement**

**Community Engagement**

* Over the month of May we had a 4-part Intro to Playwriting series with Ean Miles Kessler. We had 10 participants attend every class and are inspired to do more writing classes in the future.
* We started a passive program called Spice It Up: Spice Club. Each month the public will be invited to pick up a spice kit in the Demonstration Kitchen on Level Three. We partnered with the Good Food Store and they have generously donated the spices. Each kit includes a featured spice, background and traditional uses of the spice, and a low-cost recipe.
* We started a new program called Board Games and Relax. Inviting the public to unwind, have fun, and connect with others. The program will be held every Wednesday. Whether you’re a seasoned gamer or new to the world of board games, there’s something for everyone.
* Chloe attended the Northside/Westside Leadership Committee meeting to connect with people in those communities and share information about the Bookmobile.
* Chloe successfully connected with Mountain Homes about setting up a Bookmobile stop.
* The Bookmobile visited the Roxy Annex on the same night that the library had a Staff Engagement film opportunity for the film Party Girl.
* We’re thrilled to celebrate MPL’S Community Engagement Specialist Selya Avila’s recognition as a 2025 Library Journal Mover & Shaker in the Community Builders category! She is one of only 50 selected nationwide

**Core Services**

* Selya attended the Libraries Advancing Community Learning to Reduce Substance Use conference. She contributed to a toolkit that will be available to public libraries in 2026 which will help libraries with best practices with programming in this area and practicing areas of harm reduction in their library.
* Chloe trained two new staff on how to drive the Bookmobile to expand capacity and substitute.
* Chloe provided simple library instruction to students at Seeley Lake Elementary and Woodman school at Bookmobile stops in May.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month in May, we partnered with Missoula Public Health and the Montana Happiness Project to give away free gun safety locks with resource materials to support suicide prevention. We gave away over 100 locks.
* May’s First Friday was an Upcycled Art Show with Clark Fork Early Education. This evening supported sustainability education and practices for youth.
* May 3rd we held a Movement for Your Mental Health program lead by Turning the Wheel Missoula.
* Our First Reads series with the Montana Repertory Theater had its last reading on May 3rd. All programs were well attended and gave the public a chance to see theater at no cost.
* The Bookmobile participated in Roll and Read, hosted by Missoula Public Health. The goal of Roll and Read was to promote resilience, health and positive family connections.
* In partnership with Freecycle we held a bike Fix-It Clinic on May 12th to encourage learning how to fix a bike rather than replacing it.
* We held a Bike to the Library Day on May 17th to encourage sustainable commuting. The Friends of the Library provided Book Bucks for anyone who biked this day good for $2 in Store books.
* The Resource Access Day (RAD) program continues to grow and more providers than ever want to participate. We are exploring ways to include providers on a rotating basis.
* Chloe gave away 50 free books at Bookmobile stops in May.

**Reference**

**Community Engagement**

* Onboarded a new quarterly batch of volunteers

**Core Services**

* Currently focused on weeding. Completed a weed of the Montana Room binders.
* Ordered the initial batch of Nintendo Switch games to create a new circulating collection.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* Created a Bike Month display and included handouts from Missoula in Motion.
* Has two members on the Safe Environment Committee to debrief safety issues and help solve problems.

**Youth Services**

**Community Engagement**

* Hosted author and chef Gabrielle Hamilton in the Demo Kitchen for a family cooking demonstration, sponsored by the Foundation
* Gave tours to 5 different classes throughout the month where they got to visit spectrUM, Families First, MakerSpace, and look for books to check out
* Working with Texas Roadhouse to hand out their reading challenge bookmarks to kids (read 3 books, get a free kid’s meal!)

**Core Services**

* Weeded the TOT books for condition; made room for lots of incoming new TOT books
* Installed neon Teen Space sign, green sound cloud, and rearranged furniture in teen area to create a more cohesive and comfortable area
* YS staff working on reading lists for different topics, read-alikes, etc. to add to website as digital resource for youth/families

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* **Branches**

**Community Engagement**

* **Big Sky**
* Connected with a lot of patrons through all advertised programs (3D Printing Open Hours, Big Sky Writers’ Group, and Tech Time). Hoping to continue that momentum into the summer time. Continued planning for summer Arts & Crafts program.
* **Frenchtown**
* Book Club met in May to discuss March by Geraldine Brooks. Ten attended. Nice discussion.
* Completed two new library cards this month.
* Looking forward to summer
* **Lolo**
* Community Knitter's Group - YARNS
* Book Discussion Group
* Dream Bigger - After School Program
* **Seeley Lake**
* Sent fliers for Summer Reading Program to elementary school.
* Connected with Outdoor Ed program about AUOR Road Show on July 2nd.
* Had free trigger locks for community for Mental Health Awareness month.
* **Swan Valley**
* Our Story time has continued to be popular with our little community members since the weather has gotten nicer we haven’t had as many at a time, but we are gearing up to have some older kids show up in the summer.
* A local college student is wanting to help with summer reading and any other tasks that need to be done around the library this summer.

**Core Services**

* **Big Sky**
* Made sure Big Sky High School staff are aware of the public library’s open hours during the summer. Purchased new books for Kids, YA, and Adult collections.
* **Frenchtown**
* Continue to cover all types of books for MPL.
* **Lolo**
* "Purple Air" sensor to measure air quality was placed in the Lolo branch library this month. Community members will be encouraged to use the library as a fresh air reprieve during potential wildfire smoke inundations.
* Summer program will begin on Monday, June 9th. SpectrUM will facilitate the "Be a Health Scientist" to kick off our summer program. Also, there will be a story time each week, a crafternoon, reading logs and stickers and fun activities and games for the children over the summer.
* **Potomac**
* Set up library cards for new family in the area
* Continuing to bring in new-to-the-branch books from the MPL adult collection
* **Seeley Lake**
* Active book club with dynamic participants.
* Finished weeding the E, BEG E, as well as junior non-fiction and fiction sections.
* The After School book club has such a great time hanging out every Wednesday. They’ve all got summer jobs – but still want to meet.
* **Swan Valley**
* Our Book Chat book for May was The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin. We all agreed that we are glad we didn’t live during those times. Many of us have traveled in the area where it was set and could envision the places that were described in the book.
* Notary services continue to bring community members who have never entered the library in for a visit. In the month of May we had 12 notary visits.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* **Big Sky**
* Enjoyed the beautiful spring weather on my commute!
* **Lolo**
* Providing information to the public regarding the "Purple Air" monitoring system and follow-up resources.
* **Seeley Lake**
* Phase 2 of Climate Smart’s clean air program has wrapped up. Hoping to get air filters in June so that when wildfire season hits, the branch can be a clean air center during open hours. Staying in touch with Amy Cilimburg.
* **Swan Valley**
* We are gearing up for our summer reading program. I have visited the local school to try to get them excited for reading. Also the local homeschool kids that come to the library are starting to sign up already. I have 11 kids signed up and June 2 was my official start date.