



Beyond Land Acknowledgments: the Library Foundation Supports Festival of Indigenous Culture & Creativity

IndigiPalooza, Missoula's inaugural celebration of Indigenous literature, art, and culture, was a fantastic success — thanks to a hardworking collaboration between Chris LaTray (Little Shell Chippewa), Chickadee Community Services, and Missoula Public Library; and to financial support from the Library Foundation and others. More than 300 people attended the August 1 gala reading featuring former US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo (Mvskogee/Creek), and each Library session on August 2 drew an average of 160 attendees. Topics included entrepreneurship, cultural appropriation, language preservation, oral traditions, and resilience. MPL's social media post of Apsaalooke hip hop artist Supaman garnered 16,700 views and more than 800 reactions! Presenters represented a diversity of backgrounds: Blackfeet/Pikuni, Salish, Apsaalooke, Dakota, Upper Skagit, Nooksa, Lumbee, Little Shell and Turtle Mountain Chippewa, and Cherokee. Co-organizing IndigiPalooza complements MPL's goal to ensure the Library belongs to everyone and is filled with rich cultural connections. The Library Foundation is honored to channel the giving that will help make a community-wide endeavor like IndigiPalooza possible. □



Jesse DesRosier, Aspen Decker, Shane Doyle, and James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw. Photo: Glenn Junkert

"As a lifelong citizen of Missoula, IndigiPalooza was a foundational anchor for me. My thanks to the Library Foundation and the folks at MPL for hosting this two-day festival. I hope IndigiPalooza will become an annual event."
— Glenn Junkert

On the Road with Dory! A Bookmobile Q+A

Q: The Library's donor-powered bookmobile has been on the road for one year. Can you describe the impact in a few statistics?

A: We've put on 5100 miles, served 4000 patrons, circulated 1800 items, distributed 700 free books. More than 200 visitors have signed up for their first library card at the bookmobile!

Q: Out of 26 unique stops on the book-mobile route, do you have any personal favorites?

A: I genuinely enjoy them all. I love visiting senior living facilities, and doing art and science with the kids at our neighborhood stops is the best. Getting to visit with folks of all ages in their own spaces is a dynamic kind of work. Lately, I've especially enjoyed our stop at the Clinton Food Pantry.

Q: What's an unforgettable book you've read?

A: I can't stop thinking about *Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker (616.898).



MPL's Sprinter bookmobile, the purchase of which was 100% funded through donations and grants, has been expanding library services to Missoula County's rural and less-mobile neighbors since October 2024. Kudos to Dory Athey, MPL's Community Engagement team, library director Slaven Lee, and our incredible donor universe for making this form of equity and inclusivity a high priority. □

This year, 1,200 young readers participated in "Color Our World" and 443 attended special Library programming. MPL's Summer Learning is supported by the Library Foundation's Lorraine Jay Fund.



Reflections on MPL's "Color Our World" Summer Program

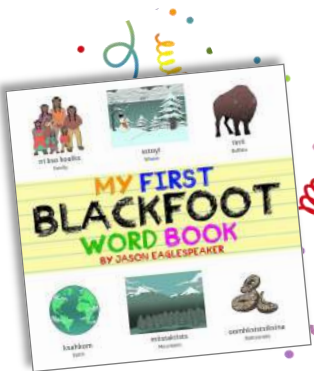
"I'd like to share a powerful example of how Missoula Public Library's Summer Learning Program can truly make a difference. This summer, I took my son and daughter to one of the two-day programs, led by a dynamic comic book duo from Seattle called 80% Studios. Their energy and passion were contagious, and they connected with the children in the room with genuine enthusiasm. The artists gave each child their full attention and encouragement. My kids left the workshop inspired and buzzing with creativity. By the end of the summer, my son had produced several beautifully crafted and thoughtful comics. I encouraged him to send a copy to the two artists who led the workshop. know it would make them proud to see the spark they ignited. It's moments like these that remind us how even the smallest experiences can have a lasting impact — and show how our library transforms children's lives every day."

— Brandon Prinzing, MPLF Chair □

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Thanks to generous superfans like you, MPL now offers a unique collection of Indigenous-related children's books. This new permanent collection is displayed in the DNA Playground area of the Children's Library and reflects the theme of "DNA of Place." We are grateful to our donors for supporting resources that foster connection and a sense of belonging at the Library.

Thank you donors!



you make the difference.

When it comes to expanding access to literacy resources, cultural experiences, and civic engagement — you are an essential part of our library ecosystem.

This fall, you can help us meet our \$60,000 goal for library support. Your gift today will make a lasting impact!

ONLINE GIVING is easy. Scan this handy QR code with your phone camera. Or go to: missoulapubliclibrary.org/foundation.

WE LOVE MAIL. Use the enclosed envelope to send a donation of \$75, \$150, or your preferred amount. MPLF 455 E. Main St, Missoula 59802

CONTACT US for gifts of stocks, IRAs, or for estate planning. Phone 406-541-8865 foundation@missoulapubliclibrary.org



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"[MPL's project] isn't just about a roof, it's about reimagining what public spaces can be, how we steward our environment, and how we engage our community through thoughtful, imaginative processes."

— Krista Lammers, WMCC

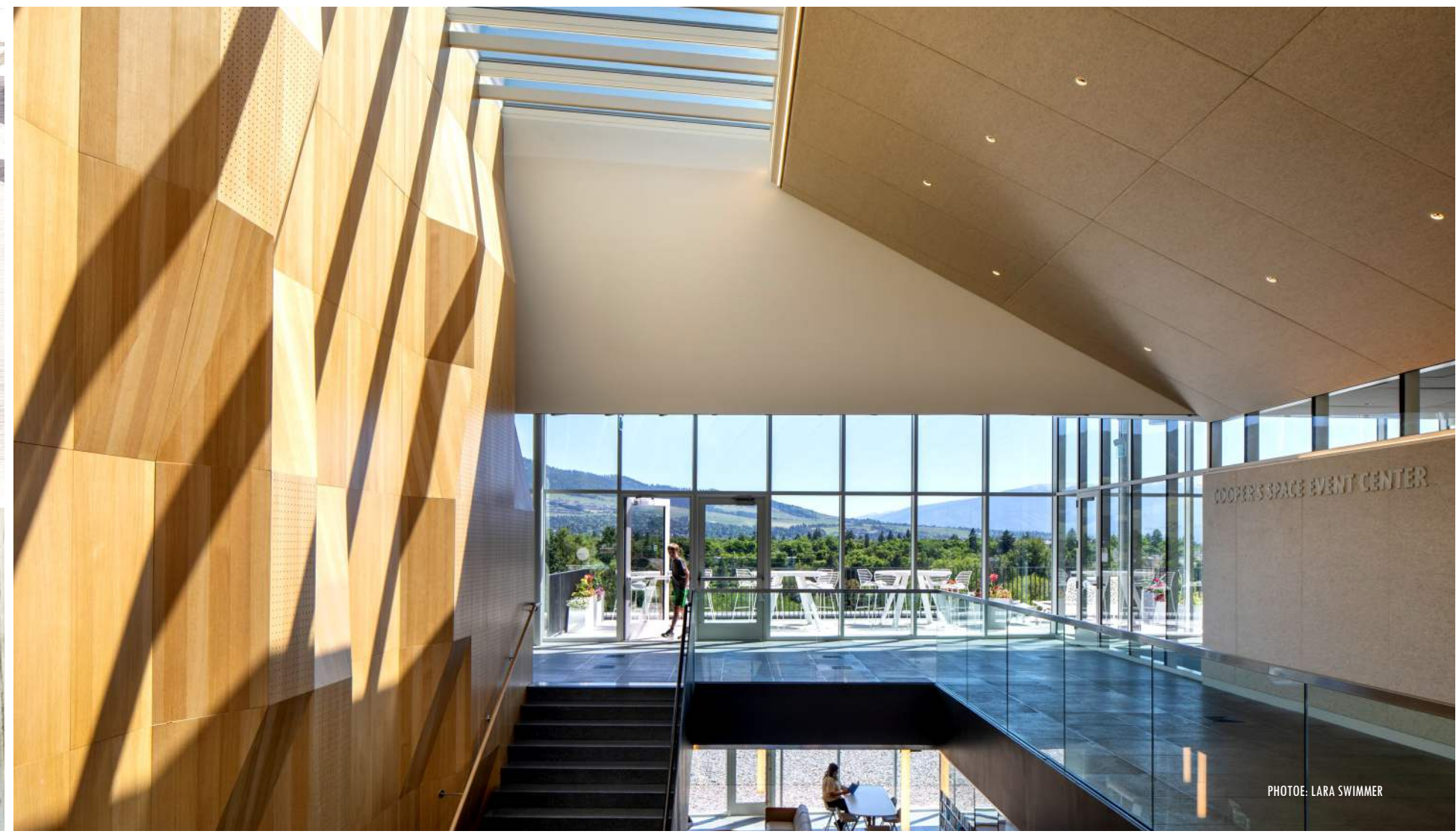
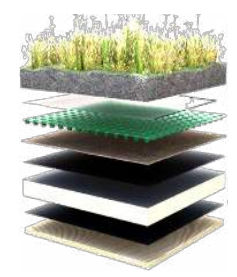


PHOTO: LARA SWIMMER

Reimagining the Public Library Space: A Green Light for a Green Roofscape!

As of September, final funding commitments for living rooftops and a climate resilience learning hub at our favorite Library have been secured! Missoula Public Library Foundation led the charge with an early pledge of \$70,000 over two years. Similar matching funds have since been pledged by the Missoula Redevelopment Agency and Missoula County. Together, these commitments unlock EPA funding, which will be administered by the Western Montana Conservation Commission. Initially, MT DNRC planned to contribute matching funds. But despite receiving a high rating from conservation experts, House Appropriations inexplicably cut Missoula's project from DNRC's budget in the last legislature. Thanks to the persistence of Tracy Campbell at Missoula Stormwater, the project remains on track! When complete, MPL's green roofscape will help protect Missoula's watershed, reduce heat island effect, and increase carbon sink capacity and pollinator habitat. Green space will also serve as an interactive demonstration model for regenerative design and urban ecology. A green roofscape continues the Library's legacy of award-winning sustainability in design and programming, which was recognized last year by the International Federation of Library Associations in Barcelona. □



455 E Main, Missoula MT (406) 721-2665

Libraries are models of gift economies, providing free access not only to books but also music, tools, seeds, and more. Books at the library belong to everyone. A library card is a kind of agreement to respect and take care of the common good.

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