

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Danielle Rumple  
PRESIDENT

Melissa Mark  
VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Wheeler  
SECRETARY

Wendy Friedman

Frank Pisano

Karen Rock

Rebekah Craft  
LIBRARY  
DIRECTOR



LEARN. CONNECT. DISCOVER.

# MISSION

The Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, Michigan enriches lives by providing opportunities and resources for everyone to learn, connect, and discover.

# VISION

The Baldwin Public Library will be an essential part of the community and the first choice for access to cultural, recreational, and learning opportunities.

# CORE VALUES

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Intellectual Freedom
- Equitable and Inclusive Access
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Innovation
- Welcoming Environment
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Commitment to Excellence

ADOPTED APRIL 2022

# BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Rumple, Danielle**  
**PRESIDENT**

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Birmingham, MI 48009  
Cell: (734) 693-3861  
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Term expires 2025

Finance Committee  
Strategic Planning  
Committee

**Mark, Melissa**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

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Term expires 2025

Building Committee,  
Outreach Committee

**Wheeler, Jennifer**  
**SECRETARY**

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Term expires 2027

Personnel Committee,  
Policy Committee

**Friedman, Wendy**

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Term expires 2027

Outreach Committee  
Building Committee

**Pisano, Frank**

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Term expires 2025

Finance Committee,  
Building Committee

**Rock, Karen**

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Term expires 2027

Personnel Committee,  
Strategic Planning  
Committee

**Awad, Marina**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

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Term expires February 2026



LEARN. CONNECT. DISCOVER.

# AGENDA

# Baldwin Public Library Board Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Rotary/Donor Rooms

## *Agenda*

The full Board packet is available online at [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org) on the Friday preceding the meeting.

This is an open meeting. All members of the public are invited to attend.

Call to order, pledge of allegiance, reading of the Library's mission statement, and establishment of a quorum.

### I. General Public Comment Period

The Library Board values public meetings and welcomes your comments on Library issues, but will not debate items not on the agenda. The Board respectfully asks that comments be made as concisely as possible, when a motion has been made, or in the general public comment portion of the meeting. The maximum time for individual speakers should not exceed three minutes.

### II. Consent Agenda

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and approved by a roll call vote. There will be no discussion of these items unless a Board member or a citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered as the last item under new business.

- A. Approval of January 22, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes p. 7
- B. Approval of January 2025 vendor payments in the amount of \$80,717.77, including payments in excess of \$75,000. p. 12
- C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$336,546.91 p. 17

### III. Board Reports and Special Announcements

- A. President's report
- B. Board comments
- C. Introduction of new Student Representative Marina Awad p. 86
- D. Staff anniversaries (Melissa Mark) p. 65
- E. Upcoming events of interest (Jaclyn Miller) p. 84

IV. Board Committee Reports	
A. Finance – Frank Pisano	p. 16
The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.	
B. Building – Wendy Friedman	p. 19
The next meeting of the Building Committee will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.	
C. Outreach - Melissa Mark	p. 21
Report on the January 21, 2025 meeting was presented at the January Board meeting. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will take place on Tuesday, March 4 at 11:00 a.m.	
D. Policy – Jennifer Wheeler	p. 22
<b>Suggested Board action:</b> To make a motion to adopt proposed changes to the Naming Rights Policy, Gift and Donation Policy, Code of Conduct, Privacy Policy, Hours of Service Policy, Library Displays Policy, Group Study Rooms Policy, Public Comment Policy, Unattended Children Policy, Bylaws of the Library Board, Meeting Room Policy, and Social Media Policy, as found on pages 24 to 50 of the February 2025 Board packet.	
E. Books & Bites Committee – Wendy Friedman	p. 51
F. Strategic Planning – Danielle Rumpel & Karen Rock	
The Strategic Planning Committee will commence in March 2025, with a planned delivery of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan in fall 2025.	
V. Library Report – Rebekah Craft and Jaclyn Miller	p. 55
VI. Liaisons	
A. Report from Friends of the Baldwin Public Library (Ryndee Carney)	p. 67
B. Beverly Hills (Andrew Drummond, Beverly Hills Village Council)	
C. Bloomfield Hills (Susan McCarthy, Bloomfield Hills City Commission)	
D. Bingham Farms (Kathy Mechigian, Bingham Farms Village Council)	
VII. New & Miscellaneous Business	
A. 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Accomplishments	p. 70
VIII. Unfinished Business	
IX. Items removed from the Consent Agenda	
X. Information Only	

A. Upcoming events of interest	p. 84
B. Student Representative Application – Marina Awad	p. 86
C. Baldwin Public Library Spring 2025 Learn.Connect.Discover Newsletter	p. 95
D. The Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber Thrive – Baldwin Public Library cover feature and article	p. 103
E. Downtown Publications article "Experience techno music at Baldwin Library"	p. 105
F. Downtown Publications article "Techno music at Baldwin Library Saturday"	p. 107
G. Detroit Free Press article "Stepper's Ball and other Detroit weekend options that aren't the Super Bowl"	p. 108
H. Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle article "Library Holds Techno Music Dance Party"	p. 112
I. Beyond Basics Coat Drive Certificate	p. 113
J. Detroit Free Press article "Accounting errors have cost Wayne County libraries millions"	p. 115
K. Detroit Free Press article "Bonnie Jo Campbell, Gretchen Whitmer and Lions land on Michigan Notable books list"	p. 119
L. Living Bird Magazine from Cornell Lab of Ornithology article "A New Dawn for Birds at Chicago's McCormick Place"	p. 127
M. The Digital Librarian article "Library Tech Trends for 2025"	p. 129
N. American Libraries article "2025 Youth Media Award Winners"	p. 133

## XI. Adjournment

The next special meeting of the Library Board will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room to conduct the Director's annual performance evaluation.

The next regular meeting of the Library Board will take place on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

***Motion:*** *To adjourn the February 24, 2025 Board Meeting.*

Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the Library at the number (248) 647-1700 or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la biblioteca en el número (248) 647-1700 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES,  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 22, 2025**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by President Danielle Rumble at 7:30 p.m.

Library Board present: Wendy Friedman, Melissa Mark, Frank Pisano, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, Jennifer Wheeler, and Student Representative Kate Walter.

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director; Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director; Robert Stratton, Office Administrator.

Friends of the Library liaison present: None.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: One.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance following establishment of quorum.

Wheeler read aloud the Library's Mission Statement.

1. General Public Comment Period: None provided.

2. Consent Agenda:

Mark requested to remove Item D (Approval of Engagement Agreement with Anne M. Seuryneck, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC) from the Consent Agenda.

**Motion to approve the consent agenda.**

**A. Approval of December 16, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

**B. Approval of December 2024 vendor payments in the amount of \$255,984.14, including payments in excess of \$75,000.**

**C. Approval of total expenses in the amount of \$370,743.05**

**1st** Rock

**2nd** Wheeler

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion of Item D. Approval of Engagement Agreement with Anne M. Seuryneck, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC: Craft reported the City of Birmingham has reviewed the 2009 Administrative Services contract. City attorney Mary Kukcharek will be writing a new contract, and the City will be increasing the cost of these services substantially. Craft wanted the Library to have their own representation in reviewing the contract. Since there is no formal contract to review, the Board decided to delay signing an engagement agreement. Once a new Administrative Services Contract is received, this issue may be brought up again in a future Board meeting.



**Motion to pause on approval of the engagement agreement with Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC until a later date when we have a new contract from the City.**

**1st** Pisano

**2nd** Mark

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: Friedman.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved.

3. Board Reports and Special Announcements:

**President's report:** Rumble thanked the Chamber of Commerce, and noted the Chamber coffee reception to be held in the Library Atrium the following morning. Rumble shared the certificate received from Beyond Basics for the Library's support in their coat drive. Rumble thanked Kate Walter for her service as Student Representative. Rumble thanked the Birmingham Cable Board for awarding the library with a \$22,435 grant for a new website and virtual tour. Rumble thanked Library staff for agreeing for the Library to be an Oakland County warming shelter.

**Board comments:** Rock was impressed with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle article about the Library of Things.

**Staff Anniversaries:** Mark recognized the following staff anniversaries: Jaclyn Miller (4 years of service), and Caroline Salucci (20 years).

**Upcoming events of interest:** Miller reported upcoming events at the Library, full details of which are on pages 40-41 of the January Board packet.

4. Board Committee Reports

**Finance Committee:**

Pisano reported that the Finance Committee met on January 13. Present were Pisano, Rumble, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on page 18 of the January Board packet. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

**Building Committee:**

Friedman reported that the Building Committee met on January 13. Present were Friedman, Pisano, Craft, and Miller. Full minutes from this meeting are on pages 21 of the January Board packet. The next meeting of the Building Committee will take place on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

**Outreach Committee:**

Mark reported that the Outreach Committee met on January 21. Present were Friedman, Mark, Craft, and Miller. They reviewed a new trifold brochure draft, which will soon be finalized and sent to the printer. The CaRE (Community and Resource Engagement) Fair will be held on April 12, which will allow non-profit organizations to meet new local volunteers from the public. Invitations were sent to 25 organizations, hoping to involve 10-15 organizations in the fair. All Seasons delivery will continue, with Friedman and Mark delivering their books. A volunteer appreciation event was discussed, planned for April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Library. The Birmingham Parade is on May 18. The Outreach Committee will meet next on March 4 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room.

**Policy Committee:**

The Policy Committee will meet next on Tuesday, February 4 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room. They will review 12 policies that have not been reviewed since last year.

5. Library Report:

Craft and Miller presented highlights from the Library Report. Full details of the complete report are on pages 23-32 of the January Board packet.

The Library of Michigan State Aid Survey will be submitted this week. Craft will present to City of Birmingham Long Range Planning on Saturday, January 25.

6. Liaisons

Friends: There was no report.

Beverly Hills: There was no report.

Bloomfield Hills: There was no report.

Bingham Farms: There was no report.

7. New & Miscellaneous Business:

Craft reviewed the proposed Library Welcome Statement memorandum, found on pages 36-37 of the January Board packet. This Welcome Statement received edits, and print-outs of the final version were supplied to Board Trustees prior to this meeting:

Here is the proposed Welcome Statement, with edits suggested by Karen Rock in red:

The Baldwin Public Library values the individual contributions of everyone who uses our library and recognizes that each person is an ~~a whole~~ individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences. We are committed to creating an inclusive space that welcomes and respects all people. Through our diverse programming, expansive collection, and ongoing staff training, we strive to reflect and celebrate every person who uses our library.

Our staff members are dedicated to:

- Championing free and open access to information
- Eliminating racial and social equity barriers in library programs, services, policies and practices
- Ensuring that we are reaching and engaging everyone disenfranchised people in the community ~~and helping them express their voice~~
- ~~-Removing barriers to our library users in order to create a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive space~~

Pisano expressed discomfort and called for dismantling the [IDEA] Taskforce. He stated "there are serious flaws here", that it "causes division," and that large corporations and the US government are "getting away from" DEI programs. Pisano said, "To a certain group, this is a political statement." Pisano said he thinks the Library needs to change course and eliminate the IDEA Taskforce, and believes putting out this Welcome Statement will "cause problems". He specifically pointed to the statement "...and recognizes that each person is an individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences." as problematic. Craft stated her dissatisfaction with the concept of eliminating the Idea Task Force as doing so would question her future with the organization.

Several Board members questioned why he thought this was political. Pisano replied "I just think it's political and it goes towards DEI, which everybody's getting away from because they're finding that it's racist towards other people, and it's.. and I don't think it's appropriate."

Wheeler commented that she did not feel that being a kind person and welcoming to everyone is political, and did not find the Welcome Statement to be inherently political. Pisano does not understand "why we have to have complex lives and feelings and experiences" In the statement, and does not support it.

Rock suggested removing "...and recognizes that each person is a whole individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences."

Craft emphasized the importance of the IDEA Taskforce and its success since its implementation in representing the diverse patronage Baldwin has. She helped explain why diversity, inclusion, and equity are important values, and where the Library was prior to the implementation of the Taskforce.

A motion was made to revise the Welcome Statement by Rumble. A member of the public commented that they did not understand what this statement accomplished beyond "extra words."

**Motion to replace the [antiracism statement] replace is with the Welcome Statement as follows:**

The Baldwin Public Library values the individual contributions of everyone who uses our library ~~and recognizes that each person is an individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences.~~ We are committed to creating an inclusive space that welcomes and respects all people. Through our diverse programming, expansive collection, and ongoing staff training, we strive to reflect and celebrate every person who uses our library.

Our staff members are dedicated to:

- Championing free and open access to information
- Eliminating racial and social equity barriers in library programs, services, policies and practices
- Ensuring that we are reaching and engaging everyone disenfranchised people in the community.

**1st** Rumble

**2nd** Friedman

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Rock, Wheeler.

Nays: Rumble, Pisano, Mark.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was not passed.

**Motion to replace the [antiracism statement] and instead put the revised Welcome Statement (as follows), followed by the Mission, Vision, and Core Values that were adopted in 2022.**

The Baldwin Public Library values the individual contributions of everyone who uses our library ~~and recognizes that each person is an individual with complex lives, feelings, and experiences.~~ We are committed to creating an inclusive space that welcomes and respects all people. Through our diverse programming, expansive collection, and ongoing staff training, we strive to reflect and celebrate every person who uses our library.

**1st** Mark

**2nd** Wheeler

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumpel, Wheeler.  
Nays: None.  
Absent and excused: None.  
The motion was approved.

8. Unfinished Business: None.

9. Items Removed from Consent Agenda: None.

10. Information Only: See pages 39-46 of the January Board packet.

11. Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**1st** Mark

**2nd** Pisano

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumpel, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary & Donor Room.

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Jennifer Wheeler, Secretary

Date

**Register of Claims**  
**Baldwin Public Library**  
300 W. Merrill Street  
Birmingham, MI 48009

Check Number	Vendor #	Vendor	Amount
	000902	CENGAGE LEARNING INC	39.98
	000605	CINTAS CORPORATION	259.90
	001090	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	18,058.80
	008827	KANOPY, INC	568.65
	005550	LEE & ASSOCIATES CO., INC.	640.08
	003527	LOWER HURON SUPPLY CO INC	1,097.43
	006349	MIDWEST COLLABORATIVE	300.00
	002013	MIDWEST TAPE	11,840.84
	001194	NELSON BROTHERS SEWER	170.00
	006785	OVERDRIVE, INC.	17,376.66
	009604	THE DETROIT JEWISH NEWS FOUNDATION	85.00
	009840	THOMAS S. KLISE COMPANY, INC	95.47
	000158	VERIZON WIRELESS	103.39
12459	009920	CORPORATE DINING CONCEPTS	279.00
12539	009024	D.M. BURR GROUP	4,891.29
12557	002013	MIDWEST TAPE	144.88
12558	008336	NBS COMMERCIAL INTERIORS	792.00
12571	005861	UNIQUE MGMT SERVICE, INC	41.20
12605	000795	LIBRARY DESIGN ASSOCIATES, INC.	1,846.00
12606	002013	MIDWEST TAPE	184.12
301735	009202	AQUARIUM DESIGN INC	240.00
301781	000249	GA BUSINESS PURCHASER LLC	324.64
301789	001090	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	201.61
301820	009612	PLAYAWAY PRODUCTS LLC	732.14
301829	007408	T-MOBILE	736.49
301834	009863	US BANK EQUIPMENT FINANCE	69.93
301869	MISC	BRIELLE ROBERTSON	66.99
301888	004493	ELITE IMAGING SYSTEMS, INC	747.01
301929	009478	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	172.08
301985	000902	CENGAGE LEARNING INC	27.99
301986	000627	CONSUMERS ENERGY	1,038.00
301993	000179	DTE ENERGY	6,059.60
302016	004904	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	2,346.45
302032	009478	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC	192.19
302048	009026	WELLS FARGO VENDOR FIN SERV	768.47
302052	006638	ACTION MAT & TOWEL RENTAL, INC	70.72
302061	000843	BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	700.00
302070	003904	CAPITAL ONE BANK	7,028.30
302096	008164	GARY EISELE	91.70
302107	006666	GRID 4 COMMUNICATIONS INC.	227.56
302110	MISC	HEBAH HEFZY	28.28
302122	MISC	MADISON DRAKE	15.94
302152	MISC	TESSA MILLER	16.99

**Register of Claims**

Baldwin Public Library  
300 W. Merrill Street  
Birmingham, MI 48009

Check Number	Vendor #	Vendor	Amount
Total:			80,717.77

**I hereby certify that each of the above invoices are true and correct.**

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Library Director

**Allowance of Vouchers**

**The Library Board of Directors of the Baldwin Public Library has examined the claims listed on the foregoing Register of claims and except for claims not allowed as shown on the Register such claims are hereby approved and dated in accordance with MCL 397.210a and the Birmingham City Charter.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary of the Baldwin Public Library Board**



## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance Committee

Building Committee

Outreach Committee

Policy Committee

Books & Bites Committee



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## February 2025 Finance Committee Report

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The Baldwin Public Library Board's Finance Committee met on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present were Frank Pisano, Danielle Rumble, Rebekah Craft, and Jaclyn Miller.

- Public Comment - none
- Craft: FY 2024-25 budget after seven months – tracking as expected
  - We do anticipate another higher than normal water bill due to an undetected leak under the building, which has now been repaired. Craft is inquiring about water usage notifications.
  - We will be posting an RFP for our Integrated Library System
- Craft: Updates to preliminary FY2025-26 Budget.
  - Includes Capital Improvements, staffing adjustments, estimates through FY27-28
- Miller: expenditures with Friends of the Baldwin Public Library donations
  - Nothing unusual, primarily program supplies and presenter fees
- Pisano did not attend any meetings.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Monday, March 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

## FINANCIAL REPORT: January 2025

This report references the Revenue and Expense Report 2024-25, found on the following page. At 58.3% of the way through fiscal year 2024-2025, the Library has spent 55.2% of its budget and received 88.5% of its revenue. By this point of the year, the Library was budgeted to have spent 58.3% of its budget and to have received 58.3% of its revenue.

Two pay periods were recorded in the month.

**Vendor payments in excess of \$75,000:**

	\$	-
<b>Total vendor payments in excess of \$75,000</b>	\$	-
Balance of vendor payments less than \$75,000	\$	80,717.77
<b>Total vendor payments</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>80,717.77</b>

**City of Birmingham allocations:**

Payroll Period Ending 01/04/25	\$	125,432.95
Payroll Period Ending 01/18/25	\$	104,915.22
Fixed Past Retirement Health Care Cost (acct 711.0004)	\$	1,979.17
Retirement Cost (acct 711.0010)	\$	8,040.17
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>240,367.51</b>

BS&A Software Charge (acct 811.0000)	\$	351.67
Administrative Services (acct. 813.0000)	\$	8,740.83
MML Insurance Premium (acct. 960.0400)	\$	535.00
<b>Total City of Birmingham allocations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>249,995.01</b>

**Reconciling adjustments:**

Refunds and Voids (Fines, Bags, Room Rentals, Magazines etc.)	\$	(128.20)
Audit Fees	\$	1,330.00
Water Bill		
Credit Card Fees	\$	158.33
City of Birmingham Parking	\$	4,474.00
<b>Total Recon Adjustments</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,834.13</b>

<b>Total expenses for the month</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>336,546.91</b>
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BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORT 2024-25  
January 2025

58.33%  
7th Month  
of the year

	2024-2025 Budget	Current Month Budget January 2025	Current Month Actual January 2025	Variance For Month	Y-T-D Budget 2024-2025	Y-T-D Actual 2024-2025	Variance For Y-T-D	% Received/ Spent	Prior year Y-T-D 2023-2024	% Received/ Spent Prior Y-T-D
<b>REVENUES</b>										
TAXES	\$4,497,490	\$374,791	\$0	(\$374,791)	\$2,623,536	\$4,492,575	\$1,869,039	99.9%	\$4,174,572	100.0%
PROVISION FOR TAX LOSS	(\$15,000)	(\$1,250)	(\$376)	\$874	(\$8,750)	(\$1,127)	\$7,623	7.5%	(\$1,294)	64.7%
COUNTY AND STATE REVENUE	\$95,000	\$7,917	\$0	(\$7,917)	\$55,417	\$7,011	(\$48,406)	7.4%	\$8,558	8.6%
GRANTS	\$0	\$0	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$0	\$1,050	\$1,050	0.0%	\$0	0.0%
COMMUNITY CONTRACTS	\$1,084,860	\$90,405	\$0	(\$90,405)	\$632,835	\$461,352	(\$171,483)	42.5%	\$440,876	41.9%
PATRON USE REVENUE	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$3,466	\$758	\$18,958	\$23,728	\$4,769	73.0%	\$22,867	64.1%
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$5,000	\$417	\$19,397	\$18,981	\$2,917	\$57,740	\$54,823	1154.8%	\$67,383	84.2%
OTHER REVENUE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$66	\$66	0.0%	\$163	0.1%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,699,850</b>	<b>\$474,988</b>	<b>\$23,537.55</b>	<b>(\$451,450)</b>	<b>\$3,324,913</b>	<b>\$5,042,394.98</b>	<b>\$1,717,482</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>\$4,713,125.55</b>	<b>82.4%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$3,164,800	\$263,733	\$240,368	(\$23,366)	\$1,846,133	\$1,734,355	(\$111,778)	54.8%	\$1,610,790	54.4%
SUPPLIES	\$164,000	\$13,667	\$6,192	(\$7,474)	\$95,667	\$75,479	(\$20,188)	46.0%	\$81,013	54.0%
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$346,760	\$28,897	\$21,572	(\$7,325)	\$202,277	\$194,351	(\$7,926)	56.0%	\$183,611	58.5%
TECHNOLOGY & MAINTENANCE	\$158,000	\$13,167	\$1,375	(\$11,792)	\$92,167	\$112,311	\$20,145	71.1%	\$110,555	63.4%
UTILITIES	\$134,980	\$11,248	\$7,098	(\$4,151)	\$78,738	\$79,676	\$938	59.0%	\$66,354	56.4%
OTHER CHARGES	\$110,100	\$9,175	\$5,926	(\$3,249)	\$64,225	\$46,493	(\$17,732)	42.2%	\$60,176	52.1%
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS & FURNISHING	\$179,000	\$14,917	\$1,846	(\$13,071)	\$104,417	\$93,024	(\$11,393)	52.0%	\$2,256,917	63.3%
COLLECTIONS	\$727,000	\$60,583	\$52,171	(\$8,412)	\$424,083	\$414,732	(\$9,351)	57.0%	\$446,773	67.7%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,984,640</b>	<b>\$415,387</b>	<b>\$336,546.91</b>	<b>(\$78,840)</b>	<b>\$2,907,707</b>	<b>\$2,750,421.40</b>	<b>(\$157,285)</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>\$4,816,189.44</b>	<b>59.7%</b>
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>\$715,210</b>	<b>\$59,601</b>	<b>(\$313,009)</b>	<b>(\$372,610)</b>	<b>\$417,206</b>	<b>\$2,291,973.58</b>	<b>\$1,874,768</b>			
FUND BALANCE-BEGINNING OF YEAR						\$399,274.76				
FUND BALANCE-CURRENT						\$2,691,248.34				

The fund balance should be not less than 25% of annual operating expenditures and not more than 35% of annual expenditures, except when the Library is building a fund balance in support of specific non-recurring projects.

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## February 2025 Building Committee Report

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The Baldwin Public Library Board's Building Committee met on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room. Present were Wendy Friedman, Frank Pisano, Rebekah Craft, and Jaclyn Miller

- Public Comment - none
- Phase 3 update
  - PCI Dailey is finishing up several punch list items in the next few weeks:
    - Fix caulk at exterior diffuser to left of front door to have a smooth finish.
    - Provide banding at new limestone at plaza on lowest band.
    - Two cleanouts at entry landscaping grass bed to be cut down.
  - A metal corner guard was added to the window joinery outside the front door. MCD recommended this after the project was completed and the cost was \$320.
  - PCI Dailey will need to look at options for repairing the concrete flooring finish because it is showing pitting in the high traffic areas.
- Feather Friendly installation – installation has been delayed until spring 2025 when temperatures will be above 50 degrees.
- Teen Scene
  - Teen staff are meeting with designers from ISCG to go over furniture options for the space
- Dishwasher in staff lounge
  - A new mid-range Bosch dishwasher from Witbeck Appliance is on order and will be installed the week of February 10. This dishwasher is used to clean staff dishes and program supplies/dishes. As such, we can use public funds to replace it.
- Temperature management in the Idea Lab. We included money in this year's budget to improve ventilation and temperature control in the Idea Lab. Rebekah will solicit quotes for a mini-split system.
- Grand Hall wall signage will be added to identify collections and will be produced in the Idea Lab.
- Water leak related to water heater – the water heater in the Birkerts basement was not producing hot water and several plumbers have been out to inspect the situation. The water heater was repaired the week of February 3. After the water heater was repaired, a leak was found under the northwest corner of the Grand Hall. The leak has been leaking into the crawl space since November 2024, so we will see another increase in our water bill for this quarter. Rebekah will be looking into why the library was never notified about the higher water usage for these two months.

- Craft outlined proposed building improvements that have been included in the budget for the next three years.

**FY 2025-2026** - Total is \$80,000, which includes:

- Youth Room north window blinds \$15,000
- Youth Room picture book shelving \$20,000
- 6 Youth staff desks - \$10,000
- Carpet, paint, and desks for AS office - \$20,000
- Carpet and paint Lower level hallway & Rotary Room - \$15,000

**FY 2026-2027** - Total: \$310,000, which includes:

- Solar panels - \$185,000
- Bird strike glass coating - \$50,000
- Grand hall sofas - \$10,000
- Sound proofing - \$10,000
- Youth play area interactive furniture wall units \$5,000
- New restroom partitions in basement - \$20,000
- Carpet, paint, and new furniture for IT and Access Services - \$30,000

**FY 2027-2028**

- Generator \$400,000
- Items not on the agenda:
  - Friedman suggested that, during Strategic Planning, we consider nighttime lighting to highlight any artwork hanging in the youth room windows in the future.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Delos Board Room.

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## January 2025 Outreach Report

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The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, January 21 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room at the Baldwin Public Library. Present were Wendy Friedman, Melissa Mark, Rebekah Craft, and Jaclyn Miller.

- Public Comment - none
- Old Business
  - Review trifold draft – last comments by Friday 1/24, Miller will send for printing next week
  - Review CaRE Fair responses, next steps –
    - Friedman and Mark will do phone followups
    - Miller has an email follow up ready to go on February 7.
    - Press Release
    - Spring Newsletter
    - City newsletters
    - CSOs at BPS
    - Sandwich board at BPL the week before
    - Planned light refreshments – coffee, water, cookies
- New Business
  - All Seasons delivery schedule in 2025
    - January 23 – Friedman
    - Feb 26 -Mark
    - March 26 – Mark
    - April 23 - Friedman
  - Connect with Briarbank – will identify needs and Mark or Friedman will stop by if necessary
  - Volunteer Appreciation Event – April 4, 10:30am-noon; Jeanne Lloyd Room
- Anything not on the agenda
  - Books and Bites Kickoff Meeting is in the works
  - How can we spread the word about the Teen Scene?
    - Press release
  - Who else in schools can we be talking to?
    - Media specialists inservice coming uo
    - Can we get our events into HS papers, announcements?
  - Idea Lab at STEM nights – Greenfield, 1/28/25
  - Story time at Brrrmtingham Blast this weekend
- Next meeting date: March 4, 2025 at 11am

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## February 2025 Policy Committee Minutes

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The Baldwin Public Library Board’s Policy Committee met on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Delos Board Room. Present were Melissa Mark, Jennifer Wheeler, Rebekah Craft, and Jaclyn Miller. No members of the public were present.

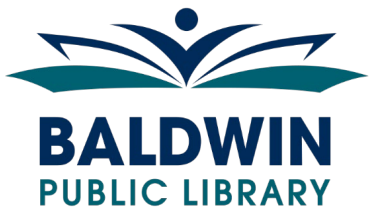
The Committee reviewed the following policies, with changes proposed by library staff in advance of the meeting:

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Proposed corrections</b>	<b>Last Updated</b>
Naming Rights Policy	Grammatical corrections, clarification of Naming Rights period, addition of guidelines for use of space by donors	October 2022
Gift and Donation Policy	Grammatical corrections	February 2024
Code of Conduct	Grammatical corrections, clarification to perimeter of library property, added provision prohibiting live streaming, added clarification to collection boxes for charity drives, added requirement that service animals must be well-behaved at all times	March 2024
Privacy Policy	Grammatical corrections, clarified how information is used	February 2024
Hours of Service Policy	Grammatical correction	February 2024
Library Displays Policy	Reduction in amount of items displayed, clarification of language	February 2024
Study Rooms Policy	Eliminated list of minimum occupancy requirements, grammatical corrections	October 2023
Public Comment Policy	Clarification of times when public comment sessions are located in meeting	February 2024
Unattended Children Policy	Grammatical correction	October 2022
Bylaws of the Library Board	Grammatical corrections	February 2023
Meeting Room Policy	Grammatical corrections, added room capacity clarifications, removed #12 about selling goods as part of a rental, #17 added rule about paint, glue, and glitter use, added #21 Changes to contract and setup may only be made by signers of room rental contract	January 2022
Social Media Policy	Update of platform names, added provision to allow postings related to social media	February 2024

	trends and humorous content related to working in libraries.	
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The next meeting of the Policy Committee will take place in August 2025.





# Naming Rights Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

## **Purpose:**

The Baldwin Public Library (BPL) Trust Board (Board of Directors) considers the naming of a space in honor or memory of a living or deceased individual, corporation, foundation, or organization to be one of the highest distinctions it can bestow. BPL seeks to recognize persons who have supported BPL through distinguished effort or substantial financial contributions by naming a space in their honor. A "space" is defined as an internal feature, which may be a room or area, or an external feature, which may be gardens or an outdoor area.

## **Opportunities for Naming:**

Financial Donation: A designated space shall be named in accordance with the sponsor's wishes, pending approval from the Director. Proposals for naming facilities should be submitted to the Director and should contain specific information in support thereof, including any guidelines on how the donated funds are to be used to support the named space. If endorsed by the Director, the proposal shall be forwarded to the BPL Trust Board for approval.

Distinguished Effort: The naming of a space may honor or memorialize an individual who has achieved exceptional distinction in librarianship and/or other areas of knowledge management or who has served BPL in a professional capacity and has earned a state or national reputation for preeminent achievements in librarianship while employed by BPL. The credentials, character, and reputation of each individual shall be appropriately reviewed as part of the nomination process. A proposal for naming a space in honor of a member of the community shall also be considered when that person has given distinguished service to BPL that merits recognition in BPL's history.

Deferred Gifts with Naming Rights: Deferred gifts are those gifts that are committed for BPL use in the present, but received by BPL in the future. There may be many forms of such gifts. Deferred gift assets become available for investment by BPL when a donor transfers cash or assets to BPL and obtains, in exchange, a life income based on the value of donated assets. The forms in which gifts may currently be established include, but are not limited to: charitable gift annuity (no trust); charitable remainder unitrust; charitable remainder annuity trust; pooled income fund (pooled trust); and charitable lead trust.

Each deferred gift plan shall have a mutually signed agreement that specifies the type of plan, amount of the income payments, and the purpose and use of the deferred gift.

People interested in developing this type of gift are encouraged to contact the Director to discuss their options. All plans for Deferred Gifts shall contain a written statement of intent with full details of the gift. The Director shall submit a recommendation to the BPL Trust Board for final acceptance.

Once a deferred gift has received formal acceptance by the BPL Trust Board, the gift shall be considered as irrevocable.

**General Guidelines:**

BPL shall use the following guidelines to make decisions on the merits of each naming opportunity:

1. Negotiations for the naming rights ~~of for~~ a particular space may be initiated by the Director, a benefactor, or other interested parties.
2. In the event that the flow of funds agreed to constitute a naming opportunity ceases before the agreed time, the Director may recommend to the Trust Board that the use of the benefactor's name for the space be discontinued.
3. When a major building project is to be undertaken, a tailored naming policy may be proposed. Such a policy shall require the endorsement of the Director for recommendation to the BPL Trust Board.
4. If an individual or organization, after which a space has been named, comes into disrepute at BPL or in the community at large, the Director may recommend to the BPL Trust Board that the use of the name be discontinued.
5. The Director shall submit all requests for naming rights to the BPL Trust Board in writing. The request shall contain a recommendation based on the criteria and objectives outlined in this policy. The BPL Trust Board shall review and research each submitted naming nomination on its individual merits.
6. All contract documents must be finalized before BPL issues final approval for a naming opportunity and declares the officially recognized name of the space.
7. Publicity for the proposed naming of the space may not occur until the recommendation for naming is approved by the BPL Trust Board.
8. Naming rights shall remain in place for a period of at least twenty-five (25) years. A ~~plaque shall be placed ,although a plaque shall remain in the location in perpetuity;~~ acknowledging the name and the donation. In the event the space is significantly altered in a timeframe less than 75% of the agreed upon time ~~from~~ when the gift was made, the BPL Trust Board shall ~~ensure the name is carried roll the name forward~~ in a similar capacity.
9. Donating funds for a library space or piece of furniture does not grant the donor unrestricted access to the space at any time in the future. Use of library spaces and furniture are available to all patrons of the library on an equitable basis.

*Naming Rights Policy adopted by the BPL Board on May 19, 2008. Revised June 18, 2012, June 20, 2016, March 21, 2022, October 17, 2022, February 24, 2025*

**Gift Recognition Replacement-Special Considerations:**

A request to rename, add a second name, or remove a name from a space shall conform to the following principles:

Any request to rename, add, or remove a name from a space within BPL should include documentation pertaining to the original approval and subsequent name change proposal. In the event that donor names must be removed for new construction, or in the event **the space** is destroyed by natural disaster and is rebuilt to be used for its original purpose, recognition shall be replaced per the original agreement.

In the event a building is drastically altered through construction, the BPL Trust Board shall reserve the right to add or alter gift recognition, including the name of the space. Any donor plaques displaced as a result of this shall be rededicated in an alternative location in accordance with the timeframe developed for the original gift.

When a named space has ~~been reached the end of its useful life and shall be replaced or~~ substantially renovated, the replaced or renovated space may be renamed in recognition of a new donor or honoree. Appropriate recognition of earlier donors or honorees shall be included in or adjacent to new, renovated or redeveloped spaces.

**Dedication Ceremony and Plaque:**

Upon approval of the naming by the BPL Trust Board, an appropriate dedication ceremony may be planned and conducted. The donor and the donor's guests, the BPL Trust Board, and the Executive Board of the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library shall be notified at an early date to ensure attendance and participation. A dedication plaque or comparable marking may be erected at the ceremony. All building plaques must conform to the signage that has been selected for the area in size, design, location, materials, and content.

**The Baldwin Public Library  
Gift Agreement for Naming Rights**

**For The *[insert name]* Space**

In accordance with the Baldwin Public Library Trust Board's Naming Rights Policy, the undersigned intends to establish, by a gift of \$*[insert amount of gift commitment]*, payable over a period of up to *[insert number here]* years, a named space to be known as

The *[insert name]*.

It is the donor's wish that the space located *[insert with space description]* be named The *[insert name]* and marked with an appropriate plaque.

This naming right shall remain in place for a period of at least twenty-five (25) years, although a plaque shall remain in the location in perpetuity, acknowledging the name and the donation.

The Baldwin Public Library Trust Board gratefully acknowledge this generous gift and the terms stated within by the signature of their duly authorized representative on duplicate copies of this agreement.

Baldwin Public Library

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Donor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acknowledgment by the President  
of the Baldwin Public Library  
Trust Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Donor

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Gift and Donation Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

The Baldwin Public Library (BPL) encourages gifts and donations, which will enhance library services. Monetary contributions are added to The Baldwin Public Library Trust for purchases beyond the means of the regular budget.

## I. Gifts of Materials, Artwork, Furnishings, Technology, or Personal Property

- A. Offers of gifts of materials for the collection shall be reviewed with the donor prior to acceptance. Gifts are accepted with the understanding that they become the property of BPL upon receipt and that BPL shall make all necessary decisions according to its Collection Development Policy as to their retention, placement, cataloging and other considerations relating to their use and disposition. ~~BPL does not accept textbooks, books in poor physical condition, or used magazines. Materials such as books and other items may be donated in honor of a friend or relative. These items will be marked with a special plate.~~
- B. While gifts of art and other collectibles are welcome, BPL reserves the right to determine the placement and display of these objects. The decision to accept the gift will be based on the suitability to BPL's mission, and the availability of space for display. Such gifts are accepted only on the condition that the use and disposition are up to the discretion of the Library Trust Board and/or the Library Director. BPL may request that an artwork be accompanied by a current appraisal of value and may request evidence of artistic importance, merit of the work, and reputation of the artist. BPL, at its discretion, may also request from the donor evidence of provenance and present title to the artwork. A deed of gift, or similar document, transferring sole and exclusive ownership of the artwork to BPL will be required.
- C. Gifts of technological equipment shall be reviewed with the BPL Director or designee and may be accepted with the understanding that they become the property of BPL. The decision to accept the gift will be based on the suitability to BPL's mission and need for the type of equipment offered.

## Gifts of Money

- General gift funds – Unrestricted monetary gifts will be used at the discretion of BPL Trust Board to the best advantage of BPL. Restricted monetary gifts will be accepted on the condition that the specific use requested is consistent with the mission of BPL and the BPL Collection Development Policy.

Gifts of money to purchase tribute or memorial items are always welcome. A minimum of \$25.00 is needed to purchase an item. These gifts will be expended for the designated purpose with appropriate recognition. Proper notification will be sent on receipt of the gift, in advance of the item being ordered.

- Endowment Funds – A named endowment fund may be established for the continuing support of BPL. These funds are established in perpetuity, and the use of funds will be guided by the wishes of the donor with the annual income used in accordance with the fund restrictions. A minimum amount of \$10,000.00 is needed to establish an Endowment Fund.

Those interested in establishing a fund should contact the BPL Director to discuss options. A minimum amount of \$5,100.00 must be physically secured by BPL before the BPL Director recommends the establishment of the named Endowment Fund. The remainder must be pledged and received within five (5) years. In the event that the flow of funds agreed upon does not reach a minimum of \$10,000 within five years, the named Endowment Fund shall be dissolved and the funds will be co-mingled with other BPL gift monies.

## **Sponsorships**

BPL welcomes sponsorships of programs, projects and events from individuals and groups, including but not limited to businesses and organizations. Sponsorships will be accepted at the discretion of the BPL Director. Sponsorships and gift items will be formally acknowledged in a manner discussed and agreed upon by the BPL Director and donor.

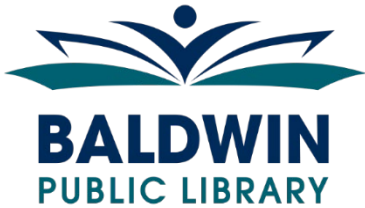
## **Appraisals for Tax Purposes**

Neither the BPL Trust Board nor the BPL Director will assess or suggest a value for non-monetary gifts for income tax or other purposes. The letter of acknowledgment will not contain a statement of value for donated items. All donations to BPL are tax deductible and provide tax benefits to the fullest extent of state and federal law. BPL will provide a descriptive receipt upon request.

## **Gifts to Staff**

Staff will not accept gifts of any kind from members of the public except for plants or edible gifts such as cookies, candy, etc., which can be placed in the department and shared with staff. All other gifts shall be refused or returned to sender except at the discretion of the BPL Director.

*Gift and Donation Policy adopted by the BPL Board on April 17, 2006. Revised June 18, 2012, June 20, 2016, April 18, 2022, February 26, 2024, February 24, 2025*



# Code of Conduct

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | www.baldwinlib.org

## Introduction

The Baldwin Public Library (BPL) is committed to serving everyone, including those in the community who most need access to services and resources and for whom barriers may sometimes hinder full and equitable access, ~~including~~ ~~That includes~~ those who are experiencing homelessness, those with health challenges, those with income challenges, and other vulnerable or marginalized members of the community.

The BPL Board of Directors has established the following guidelines to ensure:

- Everyone may access BPL's information, services, and opportunities
- BPL patrons experience safe library spaces
- BPL resources are protected from theft and damage
- BPL staff members have a safe workplace

**BPL does not tolerate illegal behavior** which is never permitted in physical and virtual library spaces.

**Visitor conduct must never endanger the health, safety, or well-being** of other BPL users or employees or cause or threaten to cause damage to BPL property.

The following expectations apply to Baldwin's interior spaces, the Littles' Garden, the Fran Stern Children's Librarian Terrace, the bike racks in front of the front door, the curved sidewalk along the southwest side of the building, and the Terrace and planters along the southeast corner of the building.

## Expectations

- A. Disruptive or unsafe behavior is prohibited, including, but not limited to:
  - Profanity
  - Running, climbing furniture, throwing, hitting, pushing, or shoving
  - Following, threatening, bullying, or harassing other people
  - Inflicting physical, sexual, or verbal abuse
- B. Children under the age of 10 must be supervised at all times in accordance with the library's [Unattended Children Policy](#).
- C. Sounds must not be louder in volume than the general noise level of the area.
- D. Visitors must not interfere with the use of the library by other patrons or with employees' performance of duties by monopolizing the attention of staff.
- E. Visitors must have permission from a library staff member to enter a designated staff area.
- F. Visitors must not record, photograph, ~~or livestream~~ another person in the library without their permission. In the case of minors, permission must come from the parent or legal guardian.
- G. Personal items must be kept ~~in the owner's possession with you~~ at all times. BPL is a public space; staff are not responsible for loss or damage of unattended items.
- H. Visitors must not misuse or loiter inside restrooms.
- I. Food and beverage use
  - Covered beverages are acceptable everywhere, except at public computers.

- Single-serving snacks are acceptable everywhere, except at public computers, in study rooms, and in the Idea Lab.
  - Uncovered beverages and larger snacks and meals need to be consumed in the BPL **café atrium**.
  - To minimize damage, staining, and pests, please report all spills to BPL staff immediately.
- J. Visitors must not view materials which are inappropriate for the surroundings.
  - K. Visitors must not use computers or mobile devices to create, send, or receive obscene, illegal, or sexual explicit matter in accordance with BPL's [Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy](#) and Michigan Compiled Law 397.606.
  - L. Soliciting for funds and/or support for political, charitable, or other causes must occur outside of BPL and may only take place on adjoining public sidewalks. Solicitors must not impede entry to BPL. Solicitations inside the building are not permitted. **Any organization wishing to place a collection receptacle in BPL's vestibule to gather donated items must first contact the Director or Associate Director to determine whether the request can be accommodated.**
  - M. Visitors must not use controlled substances on library property.
  - N. Service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, are permitted in BPL. **Animals must be well-behaved and in control at all times.** Animals must not be left unattended on library property.
  - O. Visitors must not use skateboards, bicycles, or other wheeled forms of recreation equipment anywhere other than on sidewalks.
  - P. Visitors must wear proper attire in the library at all times.

### **Accountability**

These guidelines apply to visitors of all ages. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for the behavior and safety of minors or adults who require care. Any conduct that violates these guidelines may result in cost recovery charges, exclusion from BPL spaces and from the use of BPL services, and prosecution.

All BPL staff are authorized to ask visitors whose choices violate the BPL's guidelines to leave the building for the remainder of the day. All staff are authorized to call 911 and required to document the incident.

The Birmingham Police Department will be notified if unsupervised children and other patrons who require care are unable or unwilling to tell staff their full name, the name of a parent, guardian, or caregiver, and the phone number of a parent guardian, or caregiver.

BPL may bring criminal charges against any persons suspected of criminal acts toward BPL staff or patrons, including theft or vandalism of BPL property or materials or of any violations on BPL property of federal, state, or local laws and ordinances.

### **Right of Appeal**

Any BPL user who has had their privileges suspended may appeal to the Library Board by submitting a written request to BPL staff. BPL staff shall then schedule a hearing before the Library Board and shall notify the patron requesting the hearing in writing at least seven (7) days before the hearing.

**If you see anyone violating these rules or feel that others are acting inappropriately, please inform a BPL staff member immediately.**

*Code of Conduct Policy adopted by the BPL Board June 21, 2004. Revised August 17, 2015, May 20, 2019, May 18 2020, December 19, 2022, March 18, 2024, February 24, 2025. Based on the Oak Park Public Library's "A Library for Everyone" Policy*



## Your Right to Privacy

The Baldwin Public Library (BPL) is committed to protecting your right to privacy regarding the questions you ask and the materials you borrow. This Privacy Policy explains your privacy and confidentiality rights, the steps BPL takes to respect and protect your privacy when you use BPL resources, and how we deal with personally identifiable information that we may collect. ~~from you.~~

## Confidentiality of Library Records

To protect patrons' rights of free speech, free thought, and free association, the Baldwin Public Library will maintain confidentiality of library records to the fullest extent permitted by law. For the purposes of this policy, a "library record," as defined by [The Library Privacy Act 455 of 1982, 397.602 \(k\)](#) and amended as [Public Act 315 of 2020](#), is "a document, record, or other method of storing information retained by a library that contains information that personally identifies a library patron, including the patron's name, address, or telephone number, or that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific materials from a library."

## The Information We Collect

Any information ~~you choose to shared~~ will only be used to provide or improve BPL services. BPL gathers and retains information about current and valid BPL users. This may include the following:

- Library card applications (Name, Address, Email address, Phone number, Library card number, Date/year of birth, school ID number, wireless provider (if applicable), preferred name)
- Materials currently checked out
- Last Patron to checkout an item
- Overdue materials
- Notice history
- Fines paid or waived
- Meeting room applications
- Event registrations
- Summer Reading application
- Internet access
- Credit card transactions
- Hold pickup authorization
- Reading history (if enabled by patron)

BPL uses and links to resources owned and operated by third parties, including integrated library systems, offsite computer services, databases, and electronic journals. We license these resources for use by BPL patrons. BPL makes every attempt to include user privacy protections in license agreements with third parties. However, because the use of these websites and resources is not governed by BPL, we strongly recommend that you review the privacy policies of the websites that you visit. When connecting to licensed resources outside BPL, we authenticate users as BPL cardholders and do not provide any personally identifiable information.

## Use of the Library's Computers, Mobile Hotspots, Internet To Go Kits, **Library of Things**, and Online Services

Private information is cleared off public computers with software after each session ends. When visiting BPL's website, BPL automatically collects and stores information about the visit, including but not limited to:

- The Internet domain and IP address from which access to our web site is gained
- The type of browser and operating system used to access BPL's website
- The date and time of access to BPL's website
- The pages visited and for how long
- The links clicked on and all files downloaded
- The type of device the visitor used to access the site (desktop, mobile, etc.)
- The address of the website from which the initial visit to [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org) was launched, if any.

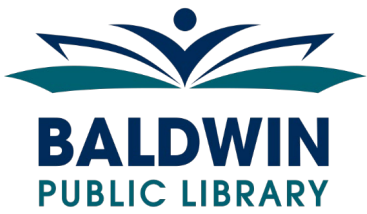
BPL uses this information to help make its site more useful to visitors and to learn about the number of visitors to our site and the types of technology our visitors use. Data collected is not connected to your personal information or identity.

Please see the [Library's Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy](#) for further information about technology use within BPL.

## How We Use Your Information

Access to records shall be restricted as much as possible and treated as confidential.

- Employees of BPL shall only access records required to complete Library work as assigned and appropriate to job duties.
- Employees of BPL shall only provide account information to **the** BPL cardholder, unless the person inquiring is listed as a parent, legal guardian, or authorized user.
- BPL may use records to distribute library-related information to registered borrowers.
- BPL may report information about the delinquent account of a patron who obtains materials from BPL to a collection agency under contract with BPL. BPL shall provide the collection agency with only the library records necessary to seek the return of overdue or stolen materials or to collect fines from the patron.
- BPL may disclose library records to another library or library cooperative for the purpose of conducting interlibrary loans. The library records must be limited to those required for providing interlibrary loans.
- ~~If BPL requests the assistance of a law enforcement officer directly or on behalf of a patron, and the Director determines that records produced by a surveillance device may assist the law enforcement office to render the requested assistance, BPL may disclose the records to the law enforcement officer upon request.~~ BPL records people using the library in order to increase security and to provide a means of identification should an incident occur.
- BPL may use non-identifying information to provide examples of how library resources and equipment have been used by other patrons in the past.
- Any other disclosure of library records is prohibited unless required by law.

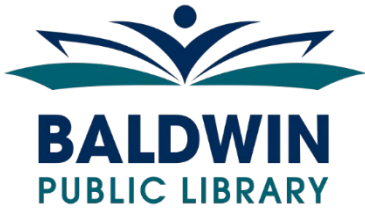


# Hours of Service Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

In order to be accessible to as many patrons as possible and to comply with state regulations, the Baldwin Public Library (BPL) maintains regular service hours.

1. BPL is **generally** open seven days per week.
2. BPL is closed on New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day and weekend preceding, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day and weekend preceding, Staff Development Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Day. Other closing dates may be added on a non-annual basis. This schedule is approved each year at the August Library Board meeting.
3. BPL closes at 5:30 p.m. on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
4. BPL may be closed when weather conditions deteriorate to the point where emergency situations prevail, when vital equipment in the building fails, when there is a general emergency impacting the library facility, or when mandated by the State of Michigan.



# Library Displays Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

## POSTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF NON-LIBRARY MATERIALS

As part of its public service, the Baldwin Public Library (BPL) provides designated areas for displays and handouts. BPL retains priority rights to all display space for library purposes. Displays, handouts and announcements must be approved by the Library Director or appointed designee(s) before being posted. These items will be placed in the literature rack or on bulletin boards as determined by BPL staff. Priority consideration will be given to organizations based in BPL's service district.

All materials displayed or left at BPL are subject to the following conditions:

- Any request for posting of literature must be delivered to BPL Administration and receive administrative approval before display. Display space is available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of an individual or group. The fact that an organization or person is permitted the use of a BPL display space does not in any way constitute an endorsement by BPL of their policies or beliefs.
- The content and manner of display will be limited to designated areas.
- There will be full compliance with [City of Birmingham Code, Article IV, Section 26-111 through 26-138](#).
- Information about non-profit civic, educational, cultural, and community programs or events may be displayed.
- Materials will be discarded or recycled after their use at BPL. Due to limited distribution and storage capacity, excess quantities will be discarded immediately. A **6 one** inch or shorter stack of materials is the maximum **height-amount** of literature that will be accepted. **Posters and fliers should not be larger than 11 x 17"**.
- Prior posting of an item by an organization is not a guarantee **that for ongoing posting for** similar or additional items **will be posted in the future**.
- Unapproved materials will be discarded at BPL's discretion.

# Study Rooms Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | www.baldwinlib.org

The Baldwin Public Library (BPL) provides Study Rooms for individuals and groups to meet without disrupting quieter areas of the library.

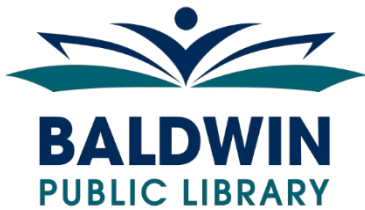
The following Study Rooms are available for use:

Study Rooms 1-4	Maximum occupancy: 2 people	<del>Minimum occupancy: 1 person</del>
Study Rooms 5-6	Maximum occupancy: 3 people	<del>Minimum occupancy: 2 people</del>
Study Room 7	Maximum occupancy: 4 people	

## Guidelines:

- Study Rooms check out for two (2) hours, per day, per group.
- Study Rooms are available on a first come, first served basis. Study Rooms may not be reserved ahead of time.
- Study Rooms must be checked out, with a valid Baldwin Public Library card, **in good standing**. If a user enters the Study Room without first checking out the room, the user will be asked to check out the room or possibly leave the room. The person who checks out the room must be the person using the Study Room.
- Physically entering the Study Room before checking the room out does not give a user priority to use the room.
- Accompanying technology packs can be checked out with a valid Baldwin Public Library card. These packs must be returned to the Information Desk.
- If there are groups waiting to use the Study Rooms after your session, a new group will receive priority use of the room.
- Any items that are brought into the Study Rooms are the responsibility of the BPL card holder using the Study Room. Items left unattended in Study Rooms will be removed and **placed turned** into lost and found. In the event that a Study Room is vacated for more than ten minutes, the checkout will be canceled and the Study Room will be made available to other users.
- Noise volume within Study Rooms must be kept to a low level, as the rooms are not soundproof.
- Users of Study Rooms will be asked to leave the room if the capacity has been exceeded or if the room is used inappropriately, as determined by BPL staff.
- Meetings that may disturb regular BPL functions are not permitted.
- The Study Room must be left in the same condition it was in prior to the meeting. If something needs cleaning or repairing, please notify a staff member right away.
- Study Rooms must be vacated **fifteen (15) five (5)** minutes before the library closes.
- Taping, stapling, or tacking of materials to the walls or other furnishings is prohibited.

- Violations of the BPL Code of Conduct may result in the loss of room checkout privileges.



# Public Comment Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

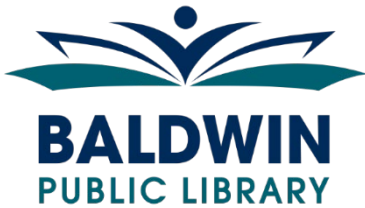
**Role of Public Comment at Library Board Meetings:** The Birmingham City Charter grants exclusive authority to the publicly elected Library Board to maintain and operate the Baldwin Public Library (BPL). Members of the public shall have a reasonable opportunity to comment on matters pending before the Library Board.

The agenda for any meeting of the Library Board will include a general comment period **at the beginning of each meeting** for any public comment on any subject relevant to BPL.

The Board President or presiding officer will determine the order in which speakers will be recognized. Unless additional time is granted by the Board President or presiding officer at the beginning of the meeting before public comment begins, each person is allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak **during general public comment and when a motion has been made**. Speakers may not cede time to another speaker. Meeting participants may speak when specifically recognized by the presiding officer.

Public comments will be addressed to the Board. Personal attacks on Library Board members, staff members or members of the public will not be tolerated, nor will language that is considered offensive, harassing, or profane. If at any time a speaker appearing before the Board exceeds the time limitations set forth in this policy or becomes abusive in language or behavior, the President or presiding officer may declare that person out of order and refuse them permission to continue to address the Board. Any person or persons judged by the Board to be disorderly or who do not follow the guidelines established by the Board will be asked to leave the premises.

The Board may or may not take action on any presented items. The Board President or other presiding officer may respond as appropriate and, for example, direct speakers to the appropriate staff member for assistance. Issues requiring possible action by the Board may be added to a future agenda. Issues that may need to be addressed by **the BPL Director or Associate Director** ~~the administration~~ will be duly noted.



# Unattended Children Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

Children aged ten and under must be accompanied by a caregiver while using the Baldwin Public Library (BPL). Caregivers must be at least fourteen years of age and are responsible for their children's behavior while at BPL. Children aged eight to ten must have a caregiver in the building, while children aged seven and under must be in the same room and within direct sight of their caregiver.

When a child is discovered to be unattended, BPL staff will attempt to contact the caregiver and explain the Unattended Children Policy. If a caregiver cannot be contacted within thirty minutes, BPL staff will take appropriate action that may include contacting the Birmingham Police Department to take charge of the child.

At closing, if a child is unattended, BPL staff may contact the Birmingham Police Department. At least two staff members will stay with the child until a caregiver arrives or the child is turned over to the Birmingham Police Department. If the child is ten and under or ~~is an older child who~~ is uncomfortable being left behind, the child is considered to be unattended.

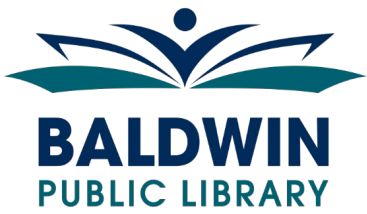
Under no circumstances will a BPL staff member take a child out of the building or knowingly allow a child to leave the building unaccompanied.

If an unattended child shows symptoms of a medical emergency, BPL staff will call 911 immediately.

When a parent or caregiver alerts BPL staff that their child is missing, staff will immediately respond and follow established guidelines and procedures that may include contacting the Birmingham Police Department.

*Unattended Children Policy adopted by the BPL Board July 27, 1990. Policy revised March 16, 1998, December 15, 2003, November 15, 2021, October 17, 2022, February 24, 2025.*





# Bylaws of the Board of Directors

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

These Bylaws should be read in concert with federal, state and local laws. To the extent that federal, state or a local law supersedes the Bylaws, then the applicable law (not the Bylaws) shall apply.

## **ARTICLE I - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of Public Act 164 of 1877 ("PA 164") as amended, the Baldwin Public Library Board of Directors shall consist of six members who are elected at the biennial city election in accordance with Chapter XVI of the Birmingham City Charter as amended.

## **ARTICLE II**

Section 1 – The Officers of the Board of Directors shall be a President, a Vice President and a Secretary. The Library Director or their designee shall act as Recording Secretary and keep a true and accurate account of all of the proceedings of the Board Meetings. The Treasurer of the City of Birmingham shall be Treasurer of the Library Board ex officio, as designated in Chapter XVI, Section 3 of the Birmingham City Charter as amended.

Section 2 – The President, Vice President and Secretary shall be elected **annually** at the annual meeting, as defined in Article III, Section 2. Each officer shall hold office until a successor shall have been duly elected or until death or resignation. Vacancies in any office shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors after such vacancy occurs. The Library Board may fill any vacancy occurring on the Library Board, by the appointment of a person to hold such office until the next regular city election, in accordance with Chapter XVI of the Birmingham City Charter. No person shall be eligible to be appointed to fill a vacancy on the library Board if that person is a spouse or a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister or the spouse of any library employee or board member.

Section 3 – The President of the Board shall preside at all meetings, appoint all committees, authorize calls for any special meetings, and generally perform<sup>s</sup> the duties of a presiding officer. The President shall have the authority to sign on behalf of the Board of Directors all instruments, contracts, or documents necessary or proper to be executed as approved by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 4 – In the absence of the President or in the event of the death or inability of the President to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of president.

Section 5 – The Secretary of the Board shall certify along with the Library Director all bills approved by the Board of Directors. In the absence of the Secretary, any member of the Board of Directors present at the meeting may certify bills approved by the Board of Directors. The secretary shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the President of the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE III - MEETINGS**

Section 1 – The regular monthly meetings of the Library Board shall be held at the Library on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm or at a time stated from the proceedings of the previous meeting unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – The regularly scheduled November meeting of the Library Board shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3 – Special meetings may be called by the President or upon written request of three members of the Board, for the transaction of business stated in the call for the meeting. Notice will be provided according to the Michigan’s Open Meetings Act, as amended, MCL 15.261, et seq.

Section 4 – As required by applicable law, including, but not limited to, the Michigan’s Open Meetings Act, as amended, MCL 15.261, et seq., public notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be posted in advance of such meetings.

Section 5 – A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of four (4) members of the Board. The affirmative vote of four (4) members of the Board of Directors is required for the approval of any action or decision of the Board regardless of whether four, five, or six Board Members are present.

### **ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES**

Section 1 – The President of the Board shall annually appoint members to standing committees such as Finance, Personnel, Building, Policy, and Outreach. These committees shall make periodic reports to the Board.

Section 2 - Special Committees for the study and investigation of special problems may be appointed by the President and shall make periodic reports to the Board as requested.

Section 3 - Committees shall be empowered only to study, investigate and report, and be purely advisory.

### **ARTICLE V - LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Section 1 – The Library Director shall be considered the executive officer of the Library and shall have sole charge of the administration of the Library under the direction and review of the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE VI - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order govern the Board in all cases ~~not consistent which are not inconsistent~~ with these bylaws or any special rules of order the Board may adopt.

### **ARTICLE VII**

*Bylaws adopted by the Baldwin Public Library Board in 1940. Revised May 1961, November 1981, October 1985, December 1985, February 1989, October 2014, October 2021, February 2023, February 2025*

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board by the affirmative vote of four (4) members of the Board of Directors, provided that the amendment was stated in the meeting notice.

# Meeting Room Policy

300 W. Merrill St. Birmingham, MI 48009 | 248-647-1700 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)

## **Purpose:**

Meeting rooms in the Baldwin Public Library (BPL) serve a number of functions for the community. They provide space for BPL activities and programs, the Friends of the Library, the City of Birmingham, and other organizations affiliated with BPL. The meeting rooms are also available for rent to the public with appropriate fees being charged.

The meeting rooms are made available regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use. Permission to meet at BPL does not in any way constitute or imply endorsement of the user's policies or beliefs by BPL staff, the Library Board, or the City of Birmingham.

BPL reserves the right to deny use of BPL and meeting rooms to any group should their use conflict with BPL service or lead to disturbances.

Groups shall abide by all applicable laws, ordinances, codes, and other BPL policies while using the meeting rooms. Violations of any regulation may result in the immediate removal of the group from BPL. Violators are also subject to prosecution for any violations of any local ordinances or state or federal law. A person or group who is asked to leave BPL for violating the Meeting Room Policy is not entitled to a refund of their fee.

Groups interested in renting a meeting room must return a completed meeting room contract. The contract must be submitted by the responsible party who will remain present for the duration of the rental.

## **General Regulations and Guidelines:**

1. BPL Administration authorizes the use of the rooms and maintains the schedule. Meeting room availability as well as the contract can be viewed online. BPL reserves the right for staff members to enter a room at any time.
2. BPL programs and library-related services, meetings and events have first priority for scheduling use of the facilities.
3. BPL is not liable for injuries to people or damage to property, individuals or organizations using the meeting rooms.
4. All organizations, businesses, and private individuals hosting meetings at BPL will uphold high ethical standards without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or other protected status.
5. Schedule of fees: Prices are determined per each four (4) hours of use. There is a four (4) hour minimum charge based on room rented. If the reserved time is more than four (4) hours, the fee is prorated to the nearest half hour.

<b>Rental Space</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Delos Board Room	\$30
Jeanne Lloyd Room	\$40
Rotary Tribute or Donor Room	\$40
Full Rotary Tribute & Donor Room	\$80

Equipment and Supplies (includes basic support of BPL-supplied equipment):

Use of Kitchen	\$20 (For Donor Room only)
Coffee (10 cup pot)	\$15
Hot tea per (10 cup pot)	\$10
Video Projector	\$25
Conference Phone	\$10
Whiteboard	\$10

Activities are limited to the room rented. The rental of any other space in BPL will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

6. Meeting rooms are generally available during the following hours.

Monday through Thursday	9:30 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.
Friday through Saturday	9:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Earlier starting times may be available if arranged and approved in advance by BPL. Meeting room use, including clean up, must end fifteen minutes before BPL's closing time.

7. If a meeting is cancelled by a group one week prior to the scheduled event, the meeting can be rescheduled, or the rental fee can be refunded. If a meeting is cancelled due to a BPL conflict, the meeting can be rescheduled, or the rental fee will be refunded. Meetings cancelled by a group less than one week prior to the scheduled event will be refunded 50% of their fee. BPL reserves the right to cancel any reservation at any time. BPL is not responsible for any fees incurred due to a cancelled reservation. If BPL Administration denies the application for failure to conform to this policy, the applicant may submit a written appeal to the Library Board within five (5) business days of the Library Director's decision. The decision of the Library Board, on a timely written appeal, shall be final.

In the event of a no-show by the rental group, the room will be held for 30 minutes. If BPL Administration has not been notified of a cancellation, the room may be released for other use.

8. Each group is responsible for ensuring that attendance at its meeting does not exceed the maximum seating for the meeting room.

*Meeting Room Policy adopted by the BPL Board February 16, 2004. Revised April 22, 2004, March 20, 2006, November 20, 2006, January 22, 2007, April 21, 2008, June 15, 2009, June 21, 2010, December 15, 2014, January 19, 2022, February 24, 2025*

### Maximum Room Capacity

	Lecture Set-up	Classroom Set-up	Conference Set-up
Delos Board Room	N/A	N/A	12
Jeanne Lloyd Room	40	20	20
Rotary Tribute or Donor Room	35	20	20
Full Rotary Tribute & Donor Room	100	48	40

#### Jeanne Lloyd Room setup options and capacity:

- Lecture style (chairs only, **maximum 40 seats**)
- Classroom style (2 chairs one side of table, **maximum 10 tables/20 seats**, including presenter table)
- Conference style (tables in U formation, **maximum 10 tables/20 seats** around outside perimeter, including presenter table)

#### Tribute or Donor Room setup options and capacity:

- Lecture style (chairs only, **maximum 35 seats**)
- Classroom style (seated at tables, **maximum 10 tables/20 seats**)
- Conference style (tables in U formation, **maximum 10 tables/20 seats** around perimeter, including presenter table)

#### Full Rotary Room setup options and capacity:

- Lecture style (chairs only, **maximum 100 seats**)
- Classroom style (seated at tables, **maximum 20 tables/40 seats**, including presenter table)
- Conference style (tables in U formation, **maximum 20 tables/40 seats** around perimeter, including presenter table)

9. Reservations for meetings will be accepted up to six months in advance. BPL Administration reserves the right to limit the frequency of use of its meeting rooms, to cancel reservations, and to review any or all applications before granting approval.
10. Banners, literature, photographs, or signage may not be placed anywhere in BPL without the permission of BPL administration. Tape cannot be applied to walls.
11. Fundraising activities by non-profit groups must receive prior approval from the Library Director or the Director's designee.
- ~~12. Groups cannot charge an admission or registration fee and cannot sell goods or services. Non-profit groups may charge cost recovery fees for their event.~~
13. Refreshments may be served although alcoholic beverages are not permitted. Coffee and/or tea can be provided by BPL for a fee (see schedule). Any group who has a meal

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catered or who brings in refreshments should place all trash in a proper trash receptacle before leaving the building.

14. BPL is a smoke-free, flame-free building. Candles, electronic cigarettes, and sterno warmers cannot be used.
15. Political organizations may use the meeting rooms provided meetings do not include **petitions or fundraising**. They may include business meetings, issue discussions, and candidate forums.
16. Minors may use meeting rooms as long as they can meet all meeting room requirements. The Contract must be signed by an adult, age 21 or older, who must remain present for the duration of the rental.
17. Groups using a meeting room shall remove all items from the room and leave the room in the same condition it was prior to the meeting. **If paint or glue will be used during the rental, the renter is responsible for providing table coverings and immediately cleaning any spills. Glitter is not permitted for use during rentals.**
18. Groups are responsible for any and all damage caused by meeting attendees or others associated with the meeting. Damages will be determined by the Library Director or the Director's designee. The person or organization will receive a notice of the assessment including itemized damages within 14 days. The signee of the Meeting Room Contract is responsible for facilitating remittance for damages.
19. Any outstanding fees must be paid before additional reservations will be accepted.
20. A copy of these rules and regulations will be provided to all persons who rent one of the meeting rooms. Violation of this policy and the guidelines will result in the future inability to rent rooms.
21. **Changes to the Room Rental contract, including the requested setup, must only be made by the signer of the contract.**

### **Publicity:**

BPL maintains a calendar of confirmed meeting dates which is available to the public either in the administrative office of BPL or online. Groups must be willing to have notice of their booking appear on the Meeting Room calendar. The Library will answer general questions from the public about times and room locations for meetings taking place at BPL.

The name, address, or phone number of BPL may not be used as the official address or headquarters of any organization except those affiliated with BPL.

The use of meeting rooms by a non-BPL group shall not be publicized in such a way as to imply BPL sponsorship of the group's activities.

### **Payment of Fees:**

A Meeting Room Contract must be completed and returned with appropriate fees before the room reservation will be considered final. Room set-ups and equipment requests must be included with the Room Reservation Contract and payment must be made one week prior to the meeting.

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BPL may not be able to accommodate last minute change requests.

Payment may be made by cash, credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover accepted), or by check payable to Baldwin Public Library. BPL will bill the applicant for any bank fees related to a cancelled check.

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The Baldwin Public Library (BPL) utilizes various social media applications whereby BPL staff and users can interact through virtual (internet) communication to effectively promote our programs, collections, services, and electronic resources. BPL regards online social media applications in the same way as its other information resources in accordance with its mission of serving our patrons' needs for informational, educational, cultural, and recreational pursuits.

## **What is Social Media?**

Social media is defined as any website or application that allows users to share information. Social media can include, but is not limited to, blogging, instant messaging, social media sites, and wikis. Many social media sites allow users of those sites to become a "friend," "follower," or otherwise associate their own "profiles" or virtual presences with BPL's profile on these sites. Examples of such sites are [Twitter](#), Facebook, Instagram, and blogging platforms like [Blogger](#) and WordPress. BPL does not act in place of, or in the absence of, a parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions that a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this resource.

## **Library Social Media Content**

BPL employees will regularly create, post, and share current professional content by using social media. Designated staff members will have access to BPL's social media accounts to manage the following types of content and features:

- Notice of library events, meetings, and programs; notice of community events
- Photographs and videos from the above
- Links to articles, videos about libraries, publishing, books, reading, and other literacy-related content
- Information about library-related services such as databases and electronic services
- Highlights of special collections such as local history or new additions to the collections
- [Social media trends and humorous content related to working in libraries](#)

## **Personal Information**

BPL does not collect, maintain, or otherwise use the personal information stored on any third party site in any way other than to communicate with users on that site, unless granted permission by users for BPL contact outside the site. Contact outside the site may include program promotion, volunteer opportunities, reference help, or other similar activities. Users may remove themselves at any time from BPL's "friends" or "followers" lists, or request that BPL remove them. Users should be aware that third party websites have their own privacy policies and should proceed accordingly.

## **Comments, Posts, and Messages**

BPL shall be granted the right to reproduce comments, posts, and messages in other public venues. For example, a response to a Facebook post or blog book review may be quoted in a newspaper or on the BPL website. No personal information, other than first name, will be used unless prior approval is granted by the user.

BPL assumes no liability regarding any content provided by any participant in any BPL sponsored social media service, and does not endorse or review content outside the “posts” created by BPL staff.

To participate in BPL social media services, users must agree to abide by all BPL policies, including the following:

- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy](#)
- Social Media Policy
- Terms of Service of each individual third-party service provider.

The role and utility of social media sites will be evaluated periodically by BPL staff, and may be terminated at any time without notice to subscribers.

## **Comment Removal Policy**

The official BPL social media accounts will serve as a limited public forum that will allow BPL staff to share information about BPL with people who engage with each platform. All library users are welcome to participate, provided they accept the terms of service of the respective social media platforms: copyright violations, obscenity, pornography, defamatory or libelous comments or threats to the library, library staff and other users is prohibited.

BPL is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and free discourse. Users are welcome to participate and comment on our blogs and social media sites, but BPL requests and urges that all participants adhere to the general rules of civility.

All social media interactions will be regularly monitored, reviewed, and approved for content. BPL ~~requests is-requesting~~ and urges all participants to engage in civil communication. Should a patron post materials listed below, the patron will be temporarily blocked and items removed, and will be notified of why they are being blocked. The patron will be afforded an appellate process to challenge the removal and block within 48 hours of the removal and block and appeal to the library director. The patron will have the opportunity to have their postings reinstated as determined by the library director. The following material may be removed from BPL social media sites:

- Advertisements
- Postings which contain obscene matter
- Supreme Court defined “hate” words
- Threats against BPL staff or other users

- Postings that are hateful, threatening, pornographic, that contain graphic or gratuitous violence
- Potentially libelous or defamatory postings
- Postings which contain privileged, proprietary, or confidential information about any person, business, or entity, including, without limitation, patrons, vendors, BPL or BPL partners
- Postings which violate or potentially violate local, state, or federal laws, including, but not limited to, intellectual property and copyright laws
- Postings which discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, age, sexual orientation, creed, or ancestry
- Postings which contain sexual harassment, epithets, or slurs
- Postings that support or oppose the nomination or election of a candidate for public office, the investigation, prosecution, or recall of a public official, or the passage of a levy, bond issue, proposal, or other issues on a ballot

Comments and opinions expressed through any BPL social media account are those of the individual contributors, and do not reflect those of the BPL, its officers or employees. Social media users should use their own judgment about the quality and accuracy of any information presented through social media.

## Books & Bites Committee Meeting #1 Minutes

Tuesday, February 4 at 2:00 pm

Committee Members present: Michelle Hollo, Rebekah Craft, Jaclyn Miller, Wendy Friedman, Julie Milliron, Omar Odeh

Absent: Lindsay Van Syckle, Judy Vindici

### Event Details

- Set date: Friday, October 10, 2025
- Event time: 7-10 p.m.
- Determine event ticket prices
  - General: \$125/225 per couple
  - Senior Price: none
  - At the door pricing: none
- Goal - What will we be raising money for? The library would like to install a whole building generator to be able to offer community members a refuge in times of power outages. Funds would go into the Library trust as we work toward this goal.
- Budget
  - Estimated spending for the event – no more than \$10,000
    - Linens, dishes, lighting, tables/high-tops
  - Revenue goal - \$75,000
  - Profit estimate - \$50,00
- Website information [www.baldwinlib.org/booksandbites](http://www.baldwinlib.org/booksandbites):
  - link to purchase tickets
  - list of sponsors, auction donors, service, restaurant and wine donors
  - sponsorship opportunities
  - Fundraising purpose of the event
  - button for general donation
- Attendance goal – max capacity is 250
- Options for the event to feature:
  - Should we host a wine tasting again? – undecided, but we did think mocktails should be considered
  - Silent auction – online or in person bidding? – Wendy is reaching out to David Goodman (<https://www.auction-results.org/>), a live auctioneer, who will attend our next meeting to give an overview of his services.
  - Live music – would prefer to have background throughout the spaces
  - Food and dessert stations, donated or purchased from local restaurants and caterers - undecided
  - Custom engraved wine glass from Idea Lab – undecided

- Step and Repeat with sponsors/donors highlighted
- Set event details – next meeting
  - Theme and atmosphere- something related to lights/power, generate
  - Dress code – Cocktail attire
  - Music style

**Responsibilities**

- Silent Auction items, package creation – Rebekah will send out 2018 package list and we will talk about which local businesses to contact about donations at a future meeting.
- Sponsors – Rebekah will pull together items for the sponsor packet and the committee will discuss
- Food – we would like to have 10 restaurants donate food for 10 stations, to be spread out in the atrium, youth room, grand hall, and new adult area. Committee members should keep each other posted on attempts to contact restaurants so that efforts aren’t duplicated.
- Wine & Beer tasting – Wendy will speak with son-in-law, who has connections with wine distributors
- Graphic Design – Michelle will start pulling together event concepts
- Event name – Omar will brainstorm titles on the theme
- Decorations – with the increase in ticket price, we would like to make sure that the décor is special and elevated for the event
- DJ – Rebekah has connection with free local DJ who has sound equipment

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

**Proposed Books & Bites Sponsorship Levels *TBD at next meeting***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Donation Amount</b>	<b>#Tickets</b>	<b>Name on Youth Plaque</b>	<b>Ad in Program</b>
Presenting	\$ 5,000.00	10	Yes - Gold level donor	Inside Front or Inside Back Cover
	\$ 2,500.00	6	Yes - Silver level donor	Full Page
	\$ 1,000.00	4	Yes - Bronze level donor	Half Page
	\$ 500.00	2	No	None

Also discussed, in no particular order:

- Using table signs instead of banners to advertise food donations

- Using program booklets
- Step and repeat backdrop for photos, featuring sponsor logos
- Can we get any pro athletes/celebrities to participate? Help with an auction prize?
- Michelle will create a card
- Marketing pieces should highlight the large auction items; smaller auction items/packages should round out the offerings so that attendees have multiple price points to choose from
- We considered a raffle or 50/50
- Good audio is critical

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25 at 2pm. David Goodman will join us at 2:10pm**



## LIBRARY REPORT

Statistical Dashboard

Programs & Services

Facility

Diversity & Equity

Community Outreach & Partnerships

Personnel & Organization

Financial

Expenditures from FOBPL Donations



# Statistical Dashboard

January 2025								
	Current Month	This month last year	Current FYTD	Previous FYTD	FY 24-25 Q2 Target	Better/ (Worse) Target	Off Target Cautionary On Target	
<b>Financials</b>								
Revenues	\$ 23,538	\$ 22,437	\$ 5,042,399	\$ 4,713,307				
Expenses	\$ 336,547	\$ 637,444	\$ 2,750,421	\$ 4,816,064				
<b>Circulation</b>								
Circ (Charges & Renewals)	53,333	50,843	351,976	352,477	235,000	116,976	On Target	
Self-Check Usage	56.9%	19.7%	57.1%	20.0%				
% of Circ by Residents*	90.9%	91.0%	91.0%	91.2%	92.0%	-1%		
% of Circ by Non-Residents	9.1%	9.0%	9.0%	8.8%	8.0%	1%		
<b>Interlibrary Loans</b>								
Items borrowed	790	866	5,297	4,930				
Items loaned	807	850	5,086	5,383				
<b>Technology Usage</b>								
Database Sessions	6,238	5,406	39,404	45,505	17,500	21,904	On Target	
Downloadable Content	17,843	16,414	109,719	101,563	75,000	34,719	On Target	
Public Computer Usage	554	518	3,978	3,925				
Wireless Sessions	2,942	1,892	17,828	33,253	27,000	(9,172)	Off target	
<b>Program Attendance</b>								
Program Attendance for Adults	257	215	1,919	1,284				
# of Programs for Adults	25	13	111	83				
Program Attendance for Teens	167	50	845	600				
# of Programs for Teens	9	5	49	37				
Program Attendance for Youth	1,766	1,160	11,778	11,702				
# of Programs for Youth	74	57	411	309				
Computer Classes Attendance	73	42	373	240				
# of Computer Programs	9	8	43	37				
Online Video Views	327	207	699	523				
Idea Lab Visits	689	209	4,047	1,263				
<b>Total Program Attendance</b>	<b>3,279</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>19,661</b>	<b>15,612</b>	<b>13,000</b>	6,661	On Target	
<b>Total # of Programs</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>500</b>	114	On Target	
<b>Outreach Attendance</b>	452	70	2,653	4,329				
<b># of Outreach Programs</b>	19	1	76	27				
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>19,510</b>	<b>16,520</b>	<b>144,339</b>	<b>122,901</b>	<b>80,000</b>	64,339	On Target	
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>600</b>	94	On Target	
<b>Social Media</b>								
Website Hits/Pageviews	31,101	26,768	206,574	147,879	32,500	174,074	On Target	
e-Newsletter Subscribers	(28)	(9)	10,592	10,910	11,000		Off Target	
Facebook Page Followers	6	11	3,570	3,410	4,200	(630)	Off Target	
TikTok Followers^	58	77	1,095	973				
Instagram Followers	29	9	2,512	2,289	3,000	(488)	Off Target	

\*Residents include people who live, work, or own property in our service area of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and the City of Bloomfield Hills

^As of December 2022

Visitors incl. Terrace Door as of 4/2023

~WiFi stats have changed with new equipment installation

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## Key Metrics & Strategic Plan Status Report

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### Programs & Services

*Strategic goal: Adapt programs and services to meet the needs of the changing population*

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#### *COVID tests*

MDHHS continues to distribute free COVID tests via libraries, and Baldwin made them available for pickup during the weeks of January 21 and January 27. While we do not monitor how many tests people are taking home, we do ask people to limit themselves to 1-2 boxes in order to distribute tests to as many households as possible.

#### *Tax Forms*

Both Federal and State forms for 2024 are now available for pickup in the Birkerts area until May. If we do not have the printed copy, patrons can request that individual forms are printed at the reference desk.

#### *Youth Magazines – New*

Youth Services has begun offering 10 new magazines for our youngest audience.

- Cobblestone
- Faces
- Highlights Brainplay
- Humpty Dumpty
- Jack and Jill
- Ranger Rick Cub
- Ranger Rick Dinosaurs
- Chirp
- Owl
- Scout Life

#### *Winter Reading Challenge*

Our 2024-25 Winter Reading Challenge wrapped up on January 31. We had 153 registrants, of which 95 completed a Bingo on the game card. Participants wrote 116 Reviews and read for a total of 100,247 minutes. Congrats to our winners: Elif W., Aiming M., and Emory O.

#### *Snow Crash Nebula After Hours DJ Party*

Baldwin hosted an after-hours techno party on Saturday, February 8 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. Art Night Detroit applied for a liquor license and hosted the cash bar. David Bloom coordinated all of the musicians and personally funded the sound engineering, lighting, and décor for the event. Three staff members stayed after the event from midnight until 1:30 p.m. to clean up the event and reset the library for the next day.



In total, about 50 people attended the event over the course of 5 hours. Baldwin we collected \$410 in door sales at \$10 per person. Our expenses totaled \$2,171 for food (\$147), security (\$580), liquor liability insurance (\$373), and staffing (\$1,071). The event cost the library a net total of \$1,761, or \$35 per attendee.

The event was well-received by attendees and many people were happy to experience a non-traditional library event. The evening attracted a wide variety of attendees, many of whom are not regular visitors to libraries.



### *Idea Lab Projects*

The staff in the Idea Lab continue to work with patrons to create an amazing variety of items using tools in the Lab, proving that "It may be weird, but it IS possible!"



An interesting laser engraved six-sided photo cube made by one of our newer users.



Our increasingly bizarre database of laser engraver settings now includes citrus fruit! A patron brought in a bag of oranges to engrave for the lunar new year.



An impressive embroidery undertaking! Hours of work preparing the design, and hours of machine time resulted in this impressive jacket.



One of our patrons works in ceramics. She used our die cutting machine to make vinyl stencils, then applied those stencils as a glaze mask for her ceramic pieces. She gave us this lovely mug, the product of that process!

The latest acquisition for our Format Conversion Suite is the much sought-after Sony U-Matic player, an old broadcast format used by television production studios from the 70s to the 90s. In this particular case, we had a patron whose departed relative was an actor. The actor's audition tapes and demo reels were on U-Matic tape. With this new machine, we were able to recover that precious footage for our patron.

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## Facility

*Strategic goal: Create a welcoming, safe, and accessible building that meets the needs of our staff and users.*

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### *Grams Discovery Room Door Alteration*

Due to the failure of the original push bar on the GDR door, which would have resulted in a costly and temporary repair, a wall switch was installed which now allows Library staff to unlock the door at that switch and open and close the door to the GDR without worry that the lock will remain engaged. The cost for this repair was \$800.

### *New Library Card Design*

In serendipitous timing, the Phase 3 photos coordinated by the architects at MCD were completed at the same time we ran low on our library card supply. New cards were ordered, including a new design showcasing the Phase 3 addition. Now, all three projects have their own Library card to commemorate the full renovations.



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## **Diversity and Equity**

*Strategic goal: Provide and promote equitable and inclusive resources and opportunities for all populations*

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### *IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access) Task Force*

The group continues to meet monthly to accomplish the goals set forth by the Library Board. The Committee is working together to implement action items from the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Action Plan.

### *Project READY*

The Youth Department continues to meet monthly to work through this curriculum. In February, they met to discuss Module 22: Assessing Your Current Practice.

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## **Community Outreach and Partnerships**

*Strategic goal: Develop and strengthen BPL connections within the community.*

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### *City of Birmingham*

- Craft has attended weekly City of Birmingham staff meetings. Miller submits content for the monthly and quarterly newsletter and Craft submits an update to the City Manager to be discussed as part of her report during the last Commission meeting of each month.
- The Library served as a warming center for Oakland County during a recent frigid weather stretch, on January 19, 21 and 22.
- Youth Services Librarian Caroline Salucci presented story time at the Brrrmtingham Blast on January 25.

### *Beverly Hills*

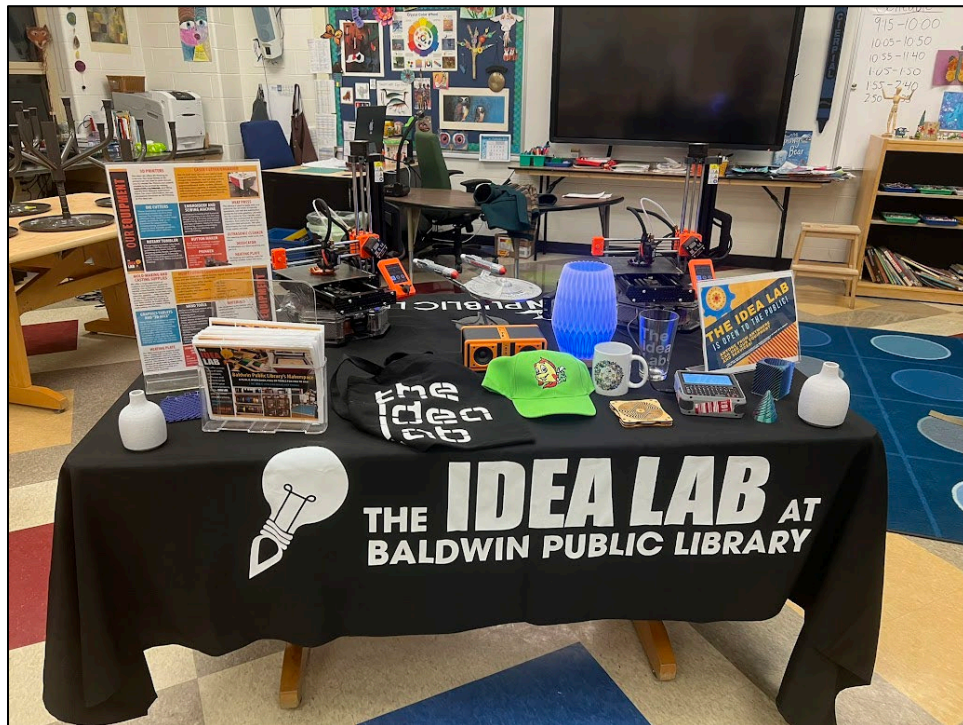
Miller submitted information to the Village of Beverly Hills for inclusion in its weekly email and monthly newsletter.

### *Bingham Farms*

Miller submits monthly Board Meeting updates to the Library Liaison.

### *City of Bloomfield Hills*

Miller submits monthly Board Meeting updates to the Library Liaison.



### *Birmingham Public Schools*

- Jeff Jimison took the Idea Lab on the road and shared some fun projects at the Greenfield STEAM Night on January 28. About 70 people stopped by the Idea Lab table to learn more about the tools offered and create their own items of interest with the 3D pens.
- Birbery (Birmingham Newbery) kicked off on January 27, and titles became available on January 31 for checkout. In May, middle school students who have earned the chance to participate will attend a special meeting to choose the winner of the award. The nominees are:
  - *The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman* by Gennifer Choldenko
  - *The Enigma Girls* by Candace Fleming
  - *First State of Being* by Erin Entrada Kelly
  - *Faker* by Gordon Korman
  - *Medusa (Myth of Monsters #1)* by Katherine Marsh

- *The Sherlock Society* by James Ponti
- *The Last Dragon on Mars* by Scott Reintgen
- *The Bletchley Riddle* by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin
- *Deep Water* by Jamie Sumner
- *A Royal Conundrum (The Misfits #1)* by Lisa Yee

*Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber Morning Coffee Group*

BPL had the pleasure of welcoming about 70 members of the BB Chamber on Thursday, January 24 at 8:00 a.m. Attendees enjoyed coffee and breakfast treats in the Atrium and Jaclyn gave them a quick update on the highlights from Phase 3, new resources, and how to get a Library card.

*Birmingham Next*

Rebekah Craft continues to host the Popular Reads book club on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The group meets in a hybrid format at Next and on Zoom. Jaclyn Miller moderates the Library’s non-fiction book club, which meets virtually on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. Contact [Rebekah.craft@baldwinlib.org](mailto:Rebekah.craft@baldwinlib.org) to request the book and join the next discussion. Rebekah created posters for the lobby to showcase the customs and cultures of the countries in Africa.





### *Friends of the Baldwin Public Library*

The Friends met on February 11. Lobby sales continue to generate steady cash and Venmo sales each month. The Friends discussed further reallocation of roles and planning for their ever growing lobby sales, and will try to recruit additional help in these new tasks. The Friends also agreed to provide vouchers to the Friends' Bookshop as prizes for the Adult Summer Reading program in 2025. They are planning a mailing before their April Book sale and Annual Meeting on May 13.

### *Storytime Guild*

On February 20, Head of Youth Services Stephanie Klimmek presented new picture book titles that are good for sharing aloud, along with new titles of interest in Adult Fiction to a group of about 20 local storytellers.

### *Marketing*

Michelle Hollo continues to work with Jaclyn Miller designing projects and marketing materials for the Library, including:

- *Learn.Connect.Discover* newsletter drafts
- Youth Program posters and fliers
- Promotional fliers for new Teen programs

### *eNewsletters*

Robert Stratton has compiled and distributed the Library's four monthly eNewsletters (Adult Events, Teen Events, Youth Events). These newsletters promote upcoming programs and spotlight a library service each month. Rebekah continues to send a monthly "Welcome to Baldwin" email to all new cardholders with follow-up information about the library and its services.

### *Student Representative to the Board*

Cranbrook student and Birmingham resident Marina Awad will be serving as the 2025-26 Student Representative to the Library Board.

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## **Personnel and Organization**

*Strategic goal: Train, empower, and equip members of the organization to best support users and each other.*

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### *Staff Appreciation Lunch*

Staff enjoyed lunch together courtesy of the Paul R. Francis Endowment Fund for Staff Appreciation. Each year on the anniversary of the birthday of Paul Francis, staff celebrate with pizza. The fund was established in 1997 in memory of the former BPL staff member. Many members of our team asked to pass along messages of thanks to Paul's mother for her support of

staff over the years through the establishment of an endowment to fund staff appreciation events.



### *Staff Communications*

An All Staff meeting was held on January 28. The next All Staff meeting will be held on February 25. Recordings of each meeting are sent to all staff.

### *Staff Anniversaries*

**Sofia Dabrowski**, Substitute Adult Librarian, reached 3 years of service on February 6.

**Julia Eisenstein**, Substitute Librarian, will reach 1 year of service on February 28.

**Carlton Elam**, Library Assistant II, reached 5 years of services on February 3.

**Joel Felsenfeld**, Library Assistant I, will reach 1 year of service on February 28.

**Theresa Hart**, Library Assistant I, reached 29 years of service on February 12.

**Syntha Green**, Youth Librarian II, will reach 9 years of service on February 28.

**Angela Shinozaki**, Youth Librarian, reached 8 years of service on February 8.

### *Volunteer Hours*

69 volunteer hours were utilized in the month of January.

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## **Financial Stability**

*Strategic goal: Maintain and improve financial health.*

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Craft continues to monitor both the Library's budget and the performance of its Trust funds in order to ensure fiscal responsibility.

Craft presented the FY2025-26 budget to the City's Managers and Finance Department on February 6 and will present the final budget to the Library Board at the Budget Hearing on Monday, March 17, 2025.

Robert Stratton submitted Baldwin's Annual State Aid Report to the Library of Michigan on January 24, 2025.

<b>Baldwin Public Library: Friends Funds</b>	
<b>January 2025 Expenditures</b>	
<b>Adult Services</b>	
Book Club	\$ 4.49
Presenters: Tea, Pierogis	\$ 1,000.00
Seed Library seeds and supplies	\$ 168.49
Books Unboxed	\$ 251.11
Winter Reading Prize	\$ 50.00
Wolved program supplies	\$ 13.99
Making a Mix Tape Program Supplies	\$ 39.98
Total	\$ 1,528.06
<b>Teen Services</b>	
Study Night Pizza and Supplies	\$ 163.96
Pizza and Pages & TAB pizza	\$ 132.42
General program supplies	\$ 53.98
Book club books	\$ 230.16
Winter Reading Prize	\$ 50.00
Blind Date with a Book	\$ 53.66
Total	\$ 684.18
<b>Youth Services</b>	
Rubber Duck Day	\$ 63.13
Winter Reading Prizes	\$ 50.00
25 in 52 Challenge prizes - 3	\$ 150.00
Filament	\$ 81.16
No Bake program supplies	\$ 25.23
Ceramic and Diamond painting program supplies	\$ 90.13
Kids Library Society	\$ 13.94
General program supplies	\$ 29.97
Total	\$ 503.56
<b>Idea Lab</b>	
Total	\$ -
<b>Outreach &amp; Equipment</b>	
Total	\$ -
<b>Total Expenditures \$ 2,715.80</b>	
<b>January 2025 Balances</b>	
Adult Services	\$ 9,584.23
Teen Services	\$ 5,024.02
Youth Services	\$ 7,599.14
Idea Lab	\$ 564.86
Outreach & Equipment	\$ 5,171.01
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>\$ 27,943.26</b>
<b>January In-Library Book &amp; Button Sale Cash Donations</b>	
	\$888.62
Submitted by Jaclyn Miller for February 10, 2025	



## NEW BUSINESS

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## Baldwin Public Library 2022-25 Strategic Plan Accomplishments

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**Mission:** The Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, Michigan enriches lives by providing opportunities and resources for everyone to learn, connect, and discover.

**Vision:** The Baldwin Public Library will be an essential part of the community and the first choice for access to cultural, recreational, and learning opportunities.

### Core Values:

- **Intellectual Freedom** - Providing unfettered access to all points of view
- **Equitable and Inclusive Access** - Offering a wide variety of diverse resources for everyone
- **Education and Lifelong Learning** - Empowering individuals personally and professionally by facilitating the acquisition of credible and viable information
- **Innovation** - Anticipating changing customer needs with creative, relevant, and timely offerings
- **Welcoming Environment** - Ensuring a respectful and safe space
- **Integrity** - Demonstrating responsible stewardship, transparency, ethical behavior, and honesty
- **Collaboration** - Meeting community needs by working together, seeking input, and offering assistance
- **Commitment to Excellence** - Delivering high quality service in all we do

### Strategic Goals

**Programs & Services** - Adapt programs and services to meet the needs of the changing population (Goal champion: H Jennings and Stephanie Klimmek)

1. *Determine the wants and needs of users for library services and programs and adjust services and programs in response to feedback*
  - a. Staff members gathered feedback from the public using paper forms, QR codes, and/or email links to surveys.
  - b. Elisabeth Phou, Teen Librarian II, regularly surveys the Teen Advisory Board members to collect feedback on teen programs and collections and responds to their feedback to improve the Teen collections and programs.
  - c. Rosemary Isbell, Youth Librarian II, surveys the Kids Library Society members to collect feedback on programming and collections and responds to their feedback to improve Youth collections and programs.

- d. All Battle of the Books coaches received a follow-up survey after the 2024 Battle of the Books event. Stephanie Klimmek, Head of Youth Services, has used this feedback to help make improvements to the 2025 program.
  - e. Staff regularly evaluate usage of each collection based on circulation and turnover statistics. Based on these metrics, they remove low use items and purchase items that better meet the requests and usage patterns of patrons.
  - f. Staff in Adult and Youth Services reduced the size of the DVD, CD, and Book on CD collections after seeing trends that patrons prefer accessing these materials digitally.
  - g. Youth Services staff adjusted and streamlined the story time registration process to make it more convenient for attendees and to allow for the highest number of participants to attend each session.
  - h. Youth Services staff adjusted their programming schedule based on survey results from attendees and attendance at weekly programs. This led to adding a weekly evening story time, adding monthly outdoor Saturday story times, holding the Books & Boogie story time at a more popular time period, and adding more STEAM programs for early elementary students.
  - i. Several new collections were added to meet patron requests and needs, including the Skill Builders backpack collection to assist in teaching skills to preschool and elementary students and the Best Bets collection, which provides patrons with easy access to popular and well-liked materials.
  - j. All program attendees in November 2024 were presented with an online survey about their experiences. Staff used feedback collected to make adjustments to program content, times, and formats.
  - k. The Adult Services department reallocated staff and added a part-time librarian who focuses on services to middle school students. With this new staff member, they expanded our programming schedule to include Teen Culinary Club, Animanga Club, Cozy Teen Writing Club, Teens Night Out, Paperbacks & Snacks, and Dungeons & Dragons.
  - l. After receiving multiple requests from local authors, Stephanie Klimmek and Alyssa Mandell hosted Baldwin's first Bibliophile Bonanza, a local author fair, in November 2024 to promote local talent.
2. *Ensure library materials, programs, technology, and services are available, relevant, and welcoming to all abilities and backgrounds*
- a. Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director, regularly promotes the library's databases through social media posts and videos.
  - b. Technology Trainer Bart Gioia, visits local senior living facilities to provide technology instruction to seniors.



- c. The Home Delivery service continues to provide patrons who are unable to come to the library with physical access to books and media. We have 65 patrons who are enrolled in this service and use it monthly.
- d. Baldwin served as an overnight warming center during an extended power outage in Birmingham in February 2023.
- e. Library staff and volunteers deliver materials and book club selections to local senior living facilities as needed.
- f. Our Curbside Pickup service remains popular with patrons and we are able to deliver materials to patrons' vehicles.
- g. The Idea Lab hosts a monthly Grand Tour to introduce interested users to the services it provides.
- h. Rebekah Craft, Library Director, hosts a monthly Behind the Scenes tour to share about the library's history, services, and programs.
- i. Youth Services staff improved the discoverability of the Toy Collection by photographing each toy, updating the catalog, and making the collection visually accessible to patrons.
- j. Library staff worked to improve signage for various collections throughout the building.
- k. Librarians Ethan Cronkite and Jen Hassell introduced the Library of Things collection in December 2024 after developing the collection based on research and conversations with other libraries and catalogers.
- l. Access Services staff created an additional holds pick-up location at the City of Bloomfield Hills Offices in December 2024. If successful, staff will contact additional contract communities to set up the same delivery system.

3. *Develop a technology plan to support existing programs and services*

- a. Though a written plan is still in the works and will be completed by November 2025, the following improvements were made to better support library programs and services.
- b. Expanded staffing in the IT department to offer full IT coverage during all of the library's open hours. The department now has two full-time employees and three part-time employees.
- c. Access Services staff regularly upgrade the Polaris ILS system when new upgrades are available.
- d. Bart Gioia, Technology Trainer, developed a thorough step-by-step tutorial for using the new microfilm reader.
- e. Bart Gioia, Technology Trainer, expanded the number of digital literacy classes for patrons. Currently offered courses include accessing Digital Newspapers, Smart TV, Value Line and the Investing Center, Using Peer-to-Peer Payment apps, Protecting

- Yourself in the Digital World, using Instagram, Using Canva, Photoshop, Artificial Intelligence, and Checking out eBooks from the Library.
- f. All library servers have been upgraded and a mirrored backup server was installed in August 2022.
  - g. The digital projector and audio system in the Jeanne Lloyd Room was upgraded.
  - h. The IT department purchased a new Envisionware LDS touchscreen unit to provide patrons with a more user-friendly interface for scanning, faxing, and printing.
  - i. All public computers were replaced with upgraded machines in September 2023.
  - j. The public Wi-Fi network was upgraded in December 2023.
  - k. A new firewall was installed in June 2024.
  - l. The security cameras were upgraded in January 2025 to provide higher resolution images and more coverage of the building.

**Facility** - Create a welcoming, safe, and accessible building that meets the needs of our staff and users (Goal Champion: Jaclyn Miller)

1. *Develop and plan for long-term facility needs*
  - a. Jaclyn Miller developed a schedule for regular cleaning and maintenance of the carpet, furniture, and windows in the building.
  - b. Baldwin eliminated the use of annual flowers planted in beds around the building in favor of sustainable native perennials. Many of these plants were purchased with local grant funding.
  - c. Craft worked with staff to identify areas of the building that will need to be updated once the Phase 3 Renovation is complete. Areas to be addressed include adding shades on the north wall of the Youth Room, replacing picture book shelving in the Youth Room, adding new single use soundproof study pods in the Adult Services study carrel hallway, replacing carpet in the lower level, painting the lower level, purchasing deeper desks in the IT, Access Services, Youth Services and Adult Services offices, and installing new restroom partitions in the lower level.
2. *Develop and complete expansion and renovation of front entrance and circulation area*
  - a. The Phase 3 Addition and Renovation was completed in July 2024 at a cost of \$4,050,163, which was \$100,000 under the projected budget.
  - b. Baldwin now has a fully accessible street level entrance with a snow melt system, automatic and touchless doors, an indoor ramp, and a passenger elevator.
  - c. A new 2,000 square foot atrium includes a small vending machine café and 10 tables and 40 chairs for collaborative use.
  - d. The Information Desk, holds shelving, new books shelving, and self-check machines are now located in a central location adjacent to the entrance.
  - e. Exterior and interior lighting of the library's entrance was improved.

- f. An outdoor plaza was created to connect Baldwin with Shain Park. A Nanawall was added to the building to offer an indoor/outdoor space for visitors to use.
  - g. Four study rooms holding 1-2 people were added to meet the high demand for private study space.
  - h. The Friends of the Baldwin Public Library Friends' Bookshop now has a fully renovated, built-in sale space accessible to the public.
3. *Maintain a safe and accessible environment*
- a. Overhead shelf lighting was added in the Legacy Room to increase visibility.
  - b. Additional outlets were added to study tables so that patrons can charge and use personal devices.
  - c. IT staff created a charging station so that anyone in need of a cable can charge their personal device while in the library.
  - d. Additional lighting was installed in the Youth Room to make materials on the shelves easier to view when it's dark outside.
  - e. Staff have inventoried and rebalanced library collections to ensure they are easy to browse and locate in the building and in the online catalog.
  - f. All desk chairs in the Birkerts addition were replaced with safer and identical desk chairs with a 500-pound weight limit.
  - g. Library staff removed items from the tops and bottom shelves of most stacks to make materials available at an easier to access height.
  - h. Staff purchased a low rolling stool so that people with mobility concerns can sit and reach lower shelves.
  - i. We purchased two chairs with higher seats to make it easier for people with hip mobility limitations to sit and rest.
4. *Continue to monitor and make improvements to facility*
- a. The roof over the Youth Room was replaced and the ceiling was repaired after several ongoing leaks caused mold growth in the ceiling and an umbrella punctured several holes in the roof during a summer storm.
  - b. The periodicals shelving in the Grand Hall was replaced with lighter metal shelving and staff installed plexiglass newspaper covers with knobs designed for people who might struggle with grip.
  - c. Staff are using microfiber towels to clean tables, screens, white boards, new books, and surfaces instead of paper towels. The towels are washed and reused on a regular basis.
  - d. We have reduced the amount of single use plastic we use in programs. Cookbook club members use personalized glass plates instead of disposable plates. Ceramic mugs are used in place of disposable beverage containers.

***Diversity & Equity*** - Provide and promote equitable and inclusive resources and opportunities for all populations (Goal Champion: Rosemary Isbell)

1. *Prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion practices*

- a. Staff members conducted a diversity audit of FY2023-24 programs, the adult book club collection, and youth J Fiction books to identify areas where we need more representation in our materials and programs.
- b. Staff have created monthly thematic displays in Adult and Youth that feature underrepresented groups and showcase a variety of materials available in the library's collections. A monthly calendar has helped staff to create programs and displays surrounding each month's feature. Book clubs for all ages discuss books related to the monthly theme.
- c. Craft completed in the yearlong Public Library Impact, Communication, and Responsiveness in Times of Uncertainty Group training with Michigan library directors from September 2022 through August 2023.
- d. 25 staff members attended restorative practices training in October 2023.
- e. Youth Services staff have started offering a visual schedule in story times to provide children with a preview of what to expect during each session.
- f. Staff have updated shelf signage to help improve the discoverability of physical collections.
- g. Staff members offered the following programs to patrons covering a wide variety of cultures, histories, and backgrounds:

Birmingham's Connection to The Underground Railroad

Dive into Dearborn: A Food Adventure with Zahir

Travel The World: India

Minoru Yamasaki and Asian Americans in Birmingham

Early Abolitionists and The Local Underground Railroad Network

Midnight: Detroit and The Underground Railroad

Frederick Douglass

The Levinsons, First Jews in Birmingham

In Search of the Amazons: Warrior Women of the Past

Travel The World: France & Francophone Cultures

Behind The Scenes of History: The Straits of Mackinac

Untold Stories of the American Revolution

Travel The World: Spain

Negro Motorist Green Book

The Second Middle Passage: America's Domestic Slave Trade

A Shifting Landscape: How Immigration Shaped Birmingham

The Civil Rights Movement in The 1970's and Birmingham's CREEM Magazine

Suffragettes at The DIA: The Changing Role of Women in America

Into No Man's Land: An Evening with Holocaust Survivor Irene Miller  
Curtis Chin Everything I Learned, I Learned in A Chinese Restaurant  
How The Saginaw Trail Became Woodward and Shaped Birmingham  
English Language Learners Talk Time

- h. The Policy Committee worked with library staff to revise all library policies and ensure that no policies were inadvertently creating unfair circumstances for patrons. The focus for staff is on treating individuals fairly and directly addressing the behavior in question. All policies are reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed.
  - i. Access Services staff eliminated charges to non-residents for Hot Picks and video games.
  - j. Access Services staff worked with the Youth Services department to create a student card so that any person attending Birmingham Public Schools is eligible for a Baldwin library card and can use Baldwin's study rooms.
  - k. Staff reviewed web pages to ensure that all pages use accurate, inclusive, and clear language to describe library practices, services, and programs.
  - l. Access Services staff updated book labels to be accessible to people with colorblindness.
2. *Develop and implement a training and education plan*
- a. The Inclusion, Equity, Diversity, and Access Task Force developed an annual staff training program through the Beanstack software. The training module features 12 different free online resources and part-time staff members have one year to complete two modules while full-time staff members have one year to complete four modules.
  - b. The IDEA Task Force hosted Safe Zone training for staff. The Safe Zone provides education on effective LGBTQ awareness and ally training.
  - c. The IDEA Task Force developed a quarterly staff book club to read and discuss books about people with different backgrounds, cultures, and histories.
  - d. The Youth Services librarians meet monthly to work through and learn from the Project READY (Reimagining Equity & Access for Diverse Youth) curriculum and apply it to departmental practices.
  - e. The IDEA Task Force created a quarterly discussion group for staff to discuss library matters, brainstorm solutions, and share best practices with each other.
  - f. The IDEA Task Force maintains a centralized location on the staff intranet to share webinars and training opportunities of interest.
3. *Review and improve recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion methods*
- a. The Inclusion, Equity, Diversity, and Access Task Force reviewed the education requirements for many job postings to accept candidates with applicable experience in libraries or a related field.

- b. The IDEA Task Force revised and updated the job application to make it more inclusive. The form is now fillable online.
- c. The IDEA Task Force created an online form for staff to offer anonymous feedback and suggestions. Feedback sent through this form is addressed in a timely manner.
- d. The IDEA Task Force and Management Team created new job positions (Librarian Intern, Reference Assistant, Teen Assistant, and Librarian II) to provide a transparent pathway to promotion within the organization.
- e. Changes to the library's internal operations has contributed to Reduced staff turnover, year over year. (16% turnover in 2022, 15% turnover in 2023, 14% turnover in 2024).
- f. **In progress:** The Management Team has updated job descriptions but needs to finalize these descriptions by December 2025.
- g. **In progress:** Craft is working to create onboarding training for all staff using the Beanstack platform and will be rolling this out to staff starting in July 2025.

***Community Outreach & Partnerships*** - Develop and strengthen BPL connections within the community (Goal Champion: Jaclyn Miller)

*1. Identify and develop new community relationships and partnerships*

- a. The Outreach Committee reviewed non-profit organizations in the area and then Library Board members reached out to each organization to assess needs and potential partnerships.
- b. Library staff hosted programs featuring BeSmart gun storage and the Oakland Literacy Council.
- c. Rebekah Craft and Melissa Mark served as members of Birmingham's ad hoc Aging in Place committee.
- d. **In progress:** The Outreach Committee has developed and planned a local non-profit fair, the Community and Resource Engagement Fair, which will be held on April 12, 2025 in the library's atrium.

*2. Maintain and strengthen existing community relationships and partnerships*

- a. Library staff participate in various annual local events, including the DPS Open House, Celebrate Birmingham Parade, Beverly Hills Memorial Day Parade, Birmingham Farmers Markets, Summer Movie in the Park nights, Bingham Farms Family Fest, Bloomfield Hills Open House, Healthy Kids Day at the Y, Halloween Hoot, and Winter Markt.
- b. Since February 2022, staff have hosted or participated in 443 outreach programs reaching 30,851 people.

- c. Baldwin purchased a Book Bike with a donation from the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library. This bike, often mistaken for an ice cream bike, has been used as an outreach tool at a myriad of community events since the summer of 2023.
- d. Baldwin has hosted several supply drives in the lobby to support local organizations. Organizations benefitting from the drives include Toys for Tots, Lighthouse of Oakland County, Oakland County Children’s Village, Diapers to Mamas, and Beyond Basics.
- e. Baldwin staff have worked closely with Birmingham Public Schools to support their events and programs. Baldwin staff regularly collaborate with BPS on the following programs:
  - i. First Grade First Card
  - ii. Second Grade Tours
  - iii. Battle of the Books
  - iv. Fifth Grade virtual book talks
  - v. Summer Reading school visits for all students in grades K – 11
  - vi. Seaholm and Groves library card signup table during orientation
  - vii. Early literacy nights in elementary schools
  - viii. STEAM nights in elementary schools
  - ix. BPS PTA meetings
  - x. School Librarian staff trainings
- f. Teen librarians have hosted a library card signup table at Cranbrook schools during their orientation period.
- g. Youth librarians host regular story times for preschool students at St. James, The Community House, BPS Early Childhood Center, WeeCare, and the Goddard School.
- h. Craft serves on the Birmingham Shopping District Tourism Advisory Board.
- i. Adult Services librarians work with librarians from West Bloomfield Township Public Library, Bloomfield Township Public Library, and Troy Public Library to host twice yearly Speed Dating with a Book events at The Village Club.
- j. Baldwin regularly collaborates with the Birmingham Museum on programming and moved items from Baldwin’s local history collection to the Museum to improve preservation of these historic materials.
- k. Miller attended the Birmingham Shopping District Retailers meeting in September 2023 to discuss library programs and services that are helpful to merchants.
- l. Miller hosted the Chamber of Commerce Coffee Talk in January 2025 to share about the recent addition and discuss library programs and services that can benefit member organizations.
- m. Adult Librarian Vicki Sower is on the board of Birmingham Youth Assistance and partners with this organization on behalf of the library.

- n. Stephanie Klimmek works with the Beverly Hills Lions Club to host monthly Project Kindsight vision screenings in conjunction with popular youth programs.
  - o. Bart Gioia has provided technology classes and assistance at All Seasons and Story Point senior living facilities.
  - p. Rebekah Craft, Mick Howey, Jaclyn Miller, and Bart Gioia have partnered with Birmingham Next to provide two monthly book clubs for seniors, a quarterly computer class, and grant support for thematic programming units.
  - q. Youth Services staff have partnered with the Birmingham YMCA to host summer campers in the Youth Room five days each week.
3. *Develop an external marketing and communication plan*
- a. Jaclyn Miller and designer Michelle Hollo developed and implemented a new library logo on all library marketing materials, including signage, clothing, and promotional swag.
  - b. Jaclyn Miller produces a monthly social media calendar and works with staff in each department to feature different aspects of the library's programs and services.
  - c. The Teen Assistant (currently Shoshana Loomer, previously Faith Whitted and Sinjin Green) produces a weekly TikTok video highlighting an aspect of library life at Baldwin.
  - d. Jaclyn Miller and Kristen Tait updated Polaris email notices to be more aesthetically pleasing and customizable and to add program reminders and registration buttons for more visibility.
  - e. Rosemary Isbell and Caroline Salucci highlight Youth databases in social media posts each month and have updated fliers and signs to advertise databases available at the library.
  - f. Jaclyn Miller sends press releases to local papers to advertise new programs and services.

***Personnel & Organization*** - Train, empower, and equip members of the organization to best support users and each other (Goal Champion: Rebekah Craft)

- 1. *Support a learning culture that encourages innovation and risk-taking to develop new services and programs that meet the unique character of the communities we serve*
  - a. Rebekah Craft and Jaclyn Miller host monthly all staff meetings to share library-wide and departmental updates, celebrate staff anniversaries, and discuss current issues. Recordings of the meetings are shared with staff unable to attend.
  - b. Baldwin subscribes to Ryan Dowd's Homelessness Training program, which offers monthly webinars on a variety of mental health and customer service training topics.



- c. Baldwin provides staff access to trainings from Niche Academy webinars through the Library of Michigan, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services trainings, and The Library Network (TLN) webinars. Staff are encouraged to attend any relevant trainings.
  - d. Each department created service desk guides with relevant and easy-to-access information about daily operations and popular questions asked of staff.
  - e. The Access Services Department has created and maintained an in-depth Wiki and supplemental video training modules to share detailed instructions for acquiring and processing items, making changes to the catalog, weeding items, paging, and providing customer service at the Information Desk.
  - f. Craft provides transparency on the budgeting process so that all employees can share feedback on needed items during the planning stage and then view how the budget is allocated. The annual salary ranges for each position are shared with staff in July.
  - g. Craft allocates \$25,000 in each annual budget to provide staff with professional development training opportunities.
  - h. All department heads meet with their employees at least once a month to check in, track progress, answer questions, and troubleshoot concerns. This has led to more open communication in all levels of the organization.
  - i. Jaclyn Miller sends a recap of each Library Board meeting to staff members the morning after the meeting.
  - j. Craft shares a presentation on national and international library trends with staff each year to maintain awareness of the profession.
  - k. Department Heads have increased weekend staffing to provide backup in case of illness or emergency and to offer staff less time on the service desks to help reduce burnout.
2. *Attract and retain well-qualified staff who are inclusive and welcoming to all*
- a. Director Craft evaluates staff pay compensation using comparisons from local libraries and has adjusted the pay and benefits schedule every year in order to be more competitive with area libraries.
  - b. Staff are provided with a variety of training opportunities, both internally and externally, to improve skills.
  - c. Staff members regularly meet with supervisors to share feedback and receive mentoring and guidance.
  - d. The Personnel Committee updated the Personnel Handbook to make library employment information and procedures more accessible to staff.
  - e. The Shine Committee for staff appreciation plans after-hours hangouts, coordinates the staff shout out board to celebrate staff members going above and beyond, publishes an internal newsletter 6 times per year, and offers regular

refreshments and goodies for staff in the staff lounge. These efforts are funded by the Paul Francis endowment fund for staff appreciation.

- f. Rosemary Isbell sends out a weekly email that shares feel good patron stories and patron compliments with staff.
- g. When incidents occur between patrons and staff, members of the management team check in on staff after the incident to provide care and assistance. If needed, library practices are adjusted after major incidents to reduce reoccurrence.
- h. Staff turnover has reduced to 14% in 2024 with the addition of staff forward practices.
- i. **In progress:** Department Heads are creating and refining documents and checklists for the hiring and training of new employees.

### 3. *Identify and provide opportunities for staff growth*

- a. The Circulation Services Department and Technical Services Department were combined into the Access Services Department. Staff in this combined department are able to collaborate better on tasks and customer service and processing speed and accuracy has improved.
- b. Baldwin's Management Team worked to create several new positions to promote staff within the organization, including the Librarian II, Reference Assistant, Teen Assistant, and Library Intern.
- c. Staff have the opportunity to attend a wide variety of regional and national conferences, including the Public Library Association conference, Michigan Library Association conference, Midwest RepRap Festival, MLA Spring Institute, Computers in Libraries conference, Innovative Users Group conference, Back in Circulation conference, and the Association for Library Service to Children conference.
- d. Baldwin hosted Staff Development Days in September 2023 and September 2024. These days served not only as team building opportunities, but also included dedicated training time on a variety of topics. Staff learned about the Unattended Children Policy, patron behavior management, active shooter training, eBooks, Ingram Purchasing, HR Benefits for FT employees, Toy Collection & Library of Things training, Book Bike Training, and maintenance operations training. Staff also worked together in groups to discuss deescalating an angry patron, providing backup to coworkers during a patron conflict, combatting disinformation with patrons, advocating for the library in the community, and AI and its uses and implications in the library.
- e. Library staff served on local library committees (Kristen Tait – TLN Circulation committee chair, Mick Howey – MetroNet Electronic Services committee chair, Elisabeth Phou – TLN Teen Services committee secretary, Rebekah Craft – MLA 2023 Annual Conference Committee and MetroNet Director's Secretary).

- f. Staff presented at statewide and national conferences (Jeff Jimison – MLA Annual Conference in 2023, 2024 and MLA Spring Institute, Kristen Tait – Innovative Users’ Group conference & Back in Circulation conference).

***Financial*** - Maintain and improve financial health (Goal Champion: Rebekah Craft)

1. *Analyze current and future expenses and identify cost-saving opportunities*
  - a. Expenditures are evaluated on an annual rolling basis.
  - b. In the last three years we have saved money by eliminating the \$20,000 annual Bibliotheca service contract, the \$2,000 Hootsuite social media software subscription, the \$800 Tumblebooks subscription, and the \$8,000 LinkedIn Learning subscription.
2. *Analyze current and future revenue and identify potential revenue streams*
  - a. Revenues are evaluated on an annual rolling basis.
  - b. 17 staff members have received \$1,600 stipends, totaling \$27,200, from the Library of Michigan for continuing education attendance at national conferences.
  - c. Baldwin received a \$10,000 grant from the Birmingham Area Cable Board in September 2022 to fund improvements to the Jeanne Lloyd Room audio system and digital projector.
  - d. Baldwin received a \$450 grant in December 2022 and a \$1,000 grant in December 2023 from the Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association Bloomfield Chapter in December 2022 and December 2023.
  - e. Baldwin received a \$2,000 grant in May 2023 and a \$1,350 grant in May 2024 from the Michigan Architecture Foundation to purchase equipment to be used at STEAM nights at Birmingham Public Schools and for architecture programs in the Idea Lab.
  - f. Baldwin received a \$22,435 grant from the Birmingham Area Cable Board in January 2025 to fund a new accessible library website.
3. *Maintain awareness of economic trends*
  - a. Paul Gillin, Bookkeeper, regularly monitor market rates, interest rates, Kiplinger’s Economic Forecast, and the Consumer Price Index.
  - b. Baldwin’s Finance Committee reviews the Trust fund allocations with Raymond James financial advisor Jim Cummins twice per year.
  - c. Plante Moran conducts a yearly audit of the budget.
  - d. Craft regularly reviews trade journals, Michigan Library Association updates, and national library headlines.

**INFORMATION ONLY**

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

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### **Idea Lab Event: City Skyline Architectural Shadowbox**

*Wednesday, February 26 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm*

Visit The Idea Lab to make your own Skyline Shadowbox. These impressive art pieces showcase the beauty of a city, and the importance of architecture. Choose from dozens of famous city skylines, and use our large-format plotter cutter (generously provided by the Michigan Architecture Foundation), to cut the shape from sleek black paper. Then mount your skyline in a handsome, backlit shadowbox for an impressive wall-mounted work. **Limit one per household.**

### **Pokémon Day: Grades 1 to 6**

*Thursday, February 27 from 4:30pm - 5:30pm*

Registration opens one month before the program.

Grades 1 to 6. Caregivers must stay in the building during the program if the participant is ten years old or younger. It's National Pokémon Day! Celebrate with Pokémon cards, crafts, and activities! Registration required.

### **Teeny Tiny Art Show**

*Saturday, March 1 – All day pick-up*

Grades 7-12. Starting March 1, pick up a kit with a mini canvas, paints, and paintbrush. Create your masterpiece, then bring it back by April 1 to be displayed in our tiny art show! Public voting will take place to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize winners. Limit one kit per teen. By taking a kit, you agree to enter your artwork in the show. If you wish to keep your artwork after the art show, please pick it up by May 31.

### **Lifelong Learning Spring Lecture Series**

*Wednesday, March 5 from 10:00am - 12:00pm*

Join us for coffee and the pursuit of knowledge! Our Lifelong Learning program is aimed at retirees with an interest in learning and meaningful dialogue. Lifelong Learning members research a topic and present their findings in a series of weekly lectures on Wednesday mornings in March and April. Join us for these edifying presentations as an active member or drop-in as a guest each Wednesday morning. The topic this session is: Unrecognized Women in History. In person event.

### **Dungeons & Dragons**

*Saturday, March 8 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm*

In this classic role-playing game, choose how your character interacts with the story, using dice to decide the outcome. All players are welcome to join, no experience necessary. Each session will be a one shot adventure. Snacks will be provided. Grades 7-12. Registration required for each session.

### **Mario Day: Grades K to 3**

*Monday, March 10 from 4:30pm - 5:30pm*

Registration opens one month before the program. Grades K to 3. Caregivers must stay in the building during the program if the participant is ten years old or younger. Celebrate Mario and Company with a make-your-own Yoshi egg craft and a coloring activity or take a turn with some Mario Video Games. You

are welcome to dress up but please leave your Nintendo Switch at home. Registration required.

**Value Line and the Investing Center at BPL**

*Tuesday, March 11 from 7:00pm - 8:15pm*

Learn more about using these library resources to research investments and financial information.

**Birmingham Museum: Stagecoaches to Muscle Cars, 200 Years of Cruising Woodward**

*Thursday, March 13 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm*

Historical Lecture series provided by the Birmingham Museum. Woodward has been more than just a road to the people of the Birmingham area since the beginning. Classic cars aren't the only thing that has raced up and down Woodward in the last 200 years. Registration required. Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.



Application for

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE to Baldwin Public Library Board

Please print in ink or return via email delivery Due: Thursday, January 9, 2025

Name: Marina Grace Awad Preferred Name: Marina

Address: [Redacted]

City or Village: [Redacted] Zip Code: [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Home phone: N/A Cell phone: [Redacted]

School: Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School Grade: Junior Age: 16

What school activities and/or classes have you participated in which would qualify you to serve as the Student Representative?

Relevant Teams/Clubs:

-Speech and Debate Team: I have competed in Public Forum debate since Middle School. This exposes me to political issues and the impacts that large scale policy has on specific communities, which has created my desire to make even a small impact on my community. It also has developed my ability to engage in unique arguments and extensively research. I also compete in Impromptu (a speech category), which enables me to communicate my ideas without needing a lot of time to formulate them.

-Economics Club and Math Club: I compete in both math and economics competitions. Notably, last year I qualified as one of the finalists for MathCON, and placed 26th at the finals in Chicago out of over 1000 in my age group. These competitions have taught me how to be efficient with my time and organized while solving problems. Particularly, they have helped me pay attention not only to large concepts/ideas but the specific mechanics of them— because in (nearly) all of these competitions, doing well depends not just on understanding the concepts, but on being able to execute the idea and get the correct answer. Additionally, these

contests have helped me operate under pressure even in the face of difficulty—because before I was good at competition math, I was bad. I was able to persevere through the learning curve instead of letting it discourage me. This is essential to the role of Student Representative on the Library Board because I need to be able to carry out a project and will inevitably encounter challenges that I will be prepared to face in a calm, organized way.

**-U2H Club:** U2H club is a volunteering club, where once a month we volunteer to pack supplies for hospitals. Participating in this club has helped me nourish a desire to help others, and fostered immense gratitude for the privilege that is my health. Exposure to volunteering has made me want to seek out opportunities to do more of it.

**-Varsity Sports:** I have competed in a sport both spring and fall season all of my high school years. I do 2 varsity sports (rowing and swim), and winter intramural boxing. Competing in sports has improved my collaboration abilities, and has empowered me to seek challenges. Rowing specifically (my main sport) has greatly improved my ability to work consistently and stretch my comfort zone. My double placed 6th at states last year.

### **Relevant Classes:**

This year I am taking Multivariable Calculus as my math class (and Linear Algebra next semester). This is an advanced track, and all of our tests are graded on a curve. As such, the class is rigorous and the students in it are competitive, since getting a high individual score depends on a low class average. Being surrounded by this level of competitiveness often feels corrosive and has shown me that I much prefer support. I much prefer activities that are not about individual gain, but rather collaboration and helping others. This gives me a unique approach to community service in that I understand both sides and am likely to be able to pull others into a sense of community. Additionally, I took a Speech class last year that improved my ability to receive criticism then expose myself to more criticism (then rinse and repeat)—since we often gave peer evaluations of speeches, and performed them several times. This experience has helped me grow to shamelessly seek feedback and view critiques more positively.



Please list your involvement in non-school activities:

**-Research Paper:** I designed a study, recruited, and wrote a research paper analyzing gender's role in informant reports of personality for 3 months with a research mentor. This paper was accepted to the National High School Journal of Science and is currently out for formal peer review.

**-Coaching debate at BCS:** I co-coach the Speech and Debate team at BCS. There was no team last year, and in just 2 seasons we formed a team, taught the middle schoolers the structure of debate, helped them prepare for the topics, and helped them enhance their speaking skills enough to have one of our teams place 2nd at the MIFA State Tournament. This has enhanced my management and leadership skills.

**-Homework Help at BCS:** I supervise a choice hour (optional hour for students to attend after the school day) where my friend and I help middle-schoolers with their homework and tutor them if they are struggling with concepts. This has enhanced my patience and leadership skills.

**-Church/Missionary Work:** I am currently in the process of organizing a mission trip for teens at my church to help Coptic orphans in Egypt. I'm heavily involved in my church community: I have participated in camps every summer (for >10 years), I do volunteer events through my church, and I attend Liturgy and Sunday School weekly. This has helped foster my desire to help my community, and taught me the importance of seizing opportunities to do so.

**-Lifting Instagram:** I created and run an instagram account where I post about my hobby of lifting. I use it to track my progress and entertain others while educating/inspiring them. I have grown it to 11.7 thousand followers. This has taught me how to manage and scale social media. It has also taught me the importance of consistency and experimentation.

**-Summer Jobs:** I worked as a lifeguard at Troy Family Aquatic Center (in 2024) and as a Caddy at Birmingham Country Club (in 2022). These jobs have helped made me more responsible, and better about managing conflict.

What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good representative?

A skill I possess that would make me a good representative is that I am a strong speaker. I am on the Debate team at my school, and also compete in the Impromptu category of MIFA Forensics (where I am given a prompt, and then allowed one minute to prepare a four minute speech to give). Both of these activities have enhanced my ability to effectively, politely, and concisely communicate my opinions. Additionally, in debate, before every round we do a coin flip for the side of the issue that we will argue. This has helped me strengthen my ability to understand multiple perspectives and integrate them into my own thinking. I also tutor middle schoolers at the Birmingham Covington School, so I have learned how to show patience and reframe my thinking when I am struggling to explain something well. Additionally, I have strong problem solving skills. I compete in math competitions and am taking Multivariable Calculus as a junior in high school. These experiences expose me to complex problems that I must persevere through and often approach from different angles— as is true when implementing a service project or program. Lastly, I am organized. I've been consistently keeping a journal since I was in 8th grade, and use time-blocking to help me dedicate appropriate amounts of time to my personal goals. This level of organization will keep me accountable for my responsibility and allow me to consistently invest in the position.

What ideas do you have to encourage more teen participation at library events?

The main thing I would suggest for increased teen participation at library events would be more promoting of those events. I think the issue of a lack of teen participation could be solved by making more clear what/when events are offered. The Baldwin Instagram is a great start, but encouraging more library patrons to follow and promote library social media (via something like a QR code in the library that takes people to the instagram when scanned) would be helpful in terms of outreach. I, for one, love the library and use it multiple times a week, but was not aware that there were consistent events being held until I explored the website (which not many people that frequent the library do)-- my experience means that other teens are likely in the same situation. As such, continuing to use the library social media account to promote library events would be helpful. Additionally, a

social media account would allow teens and adults to repost when there are library events, therefore exposing greater numbers of people, and allowing knowledge of the events to ripple outward. Alternatively, given that a lot of teens use the library to study, signs/posters in obvious places, or even emails that go out to people with library cards (and that consent to receiving emails), could go a long way in promoting activities. The other thing I would say is that offering more specifically high school geared programs would be helpful to teens. I'll touch on a specific program in my essay, but programs that help ease the load of school by offering opportunities to give relative skills would be helpful to teens and therefore more popular.

## Signatures

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**From Principal or School Counselor:**

I believe that this student would responsibly serve as a member of the Birmingham Baldwin Public Library Board for a one-year term.

Principal's Printed Name and Signature Date  
Principal's Printed Name and Signature: *Noel Dougherty* Date: *11/7/25*

**Guardian or Parent Permission:**

I give my permission for my child to seek the position of Student Representative to the Birmingham Baldwin Public Library Board for a one-year term.

Guardian or Parent Printed Name and Signature Date  
Guardian or Parent Printed Name and Signature: *Jon Am* Date: *11/7/25*

**Applicant Confirmation:**

I confirm that I am interested in volunteering to serve as the Student Representative on the Birmingham Baldwin Public Library Board, and can commit to attending 10 of the 12 meetings during my term, in addition to time spent on a library related project.

Student Printed Name and Signature Date  
Student Printed Name and Signature: *Marina Awad* Date: *11/5/25*

## Essay

A specific program I want to implement with Baldwin would be organized study times that are group-oriented. For example, a time-slot on Saturdays (or even after the school day) where there is a room solely for teens who are studying. This would be helpful because it would foster collaboration, and a sense of community. Additionally, a large portion of the teens who use the library use it almost solely to study. Giving them that space and allowing them to be surrounded by other like-minded teens would create a sense of inclusivity.

The presence of other teens engaged in similar academic challenges fosters a sense of accountability, which makes it easier to stay focused. Teens who struggle with certain subjects could also use these sessions to ask peers for help, creating opportunities for organic collaboration and knowledge-sharing. This study session time could be scheduled to align with midterm and final exams.

Troy Public Library does this during exam season, and I find that it is helpful. Even when simply studying alone, being in a room with other teens who are studying for their exams motivates me to stay focused. However, the study environment during exams is intense: a lot of high schoolers, such as myself, find it very stressful. A similar program at Baldwin could replicate the Troy program while also incorporating other elements that help alleviate stress. For example, short breaks could be encouraged during study sessions, or the library could offer snacks/beverages to help teens maintain energy. We could also play quiet instrumental music to help contribute to a more relaxed atmosphere. In addition to the academic benefits, these study times would help reduce the stress of exams, foster a sense of community among teens who do not typically interact with one another, and motivate students. This could, over time, create a lasting network of students and serve as not only a time to study but also a collaborative, personal growth, and de-stressing space.

## Recommendation Letters

I asked my recommenders to email their letters to you. My two recommenders are:

1. Gordon Thompson ([GThompson@cranbrook.edu](mailto:GThompson@cranbrook.edu)) - my English teacher this year.
2. Chris Samul ([CSamul@cranbrook.edu](mailto:CSamul@cranbrook.edu)) - one of my coaches.

520 Lone Pine Road  
Mail Correspondence to:  
P O Box 801  
Bloomfield Hills  
Michigan 48303.0801  
USA

Cranbrook Campus  
Office 248 645. 3600  
Fax 248 645. 3081

Kingswood Campus  
Office 248 645. 3400  
Fax 248 645. 3053

CRANBROOK  
KINGSWOOD  
UPPER SCHOOL

To whom it concerns,

I am writing to you on behalf of Marina Awad. I have worked with Marina as a rowing coach for the last three years. She is tremendously motivated and independent young woman. Besides being tremendously fit and strong, which are obviously beneficial in rowing, Marina is very mature. She works out a lot on her own outside of the rowing season because she likes it and because she realizes the benefit to her ability to compete in rowing. Regarding Marina's general demeanor and actions as a team member, she is wonderful. While Marina is substantially more fit and strong than her teammates, she maintains a healthy and positive friendly outlook with all her peers, not getting frustrated with the challenges of rowing alongside them. Her easy-going commitment to doing the work the right way is a wonderful example to others. She is never rude or demeaning to her peers. To me, the biggest strength of Marina relative to her peers is her ability to take on an appropriate amount of challenge for the right reasons. She does things that she likes and her goals are challenging but realistic, whereas many of her peers do things to "pad a resume" or have an unrealistic sense of what they are capable of better or worse. I have no doubt that Marina's expression of interest in participating in the Library Board Student Rep Position reflects a genuine interest in having an impact on her community and think she would be a great addition.



From,  
**Christopher Samul**  
*Upper School Mathematics Faculty*  
*Head Varsity Rowing Coach*  
*Kingswood Dorms House Advisor*  
*Residence Hall Council Mentor*



For further information, email me at [csamul@cranbrook.edu](mailto:csamul@cranbrook.edu).

# CRANBROOK

ACADEMY OF ART  
ART MUSEUM  
BROOKSIDE LOWER SCHOOL  
CRANBROOK KINGSWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CRANBROOK KINGSWOOD UPPER SCHOOL  
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

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Mail Correspondence to:  
P O Box 801  
Bloomfield Hills  
Michigan 48303.0801  
USA

Cranbrook Campus  
Office 248 645. 3600  
Fax 248 645. 3081

Kingswood Campus  
Office 248 645. 3400  
Fax 248 645. 3053

CRANBROOK  
KINGSWOOD  
UPPER SCHOOL

January 2025

Greetings:

I am writing in support of Marina Awad's application for library representative. Marina is my student in American Literature, the junior English class; she was also in my crew of sophomores on the annual Wilderness expedition.

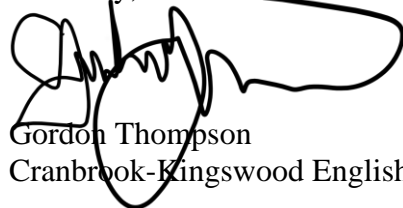
"Barnstormer" may seem an odd word to describe a student in English class, but it seems apt in Marina's case, as she's excelled at nearly everything so far. It's very rare for a student to earn a superlative grade in this class straight-up, without any rounding, but she's done it. She asked to meet about the personal essay she was "almost done with" some two weeks before it was due, and simultaneously pursue the possibility of revising her just-graded short story essay. During class Marina is one of the most reliable, energetic, and insightful participants.

I've also gotten to know Marina beyond the classroom through our Wilderness program, a ten-day minimalist backpacking expedition in the Smokey Mountains in early March. Marina cast a big shadow with her perpetual willingness to get her hands dirty, and an uncommonly big voice with which she nudged her peers toward greater focus, higher effort, and deeper introspection. Whether in the classroom or the woods, Marina may well be the proverbially "sharpest tool in the shed."

I am confident that Marina will make an excellent addition to any program; her intelligence, character, and perseverance are strong assets indeed.

Please contact me with any questions: 248-645-3448, [gthompson@cranbrook.edu](mailto:gthompson@cranbrook.edu).

Sincerely,



Gordon Thompson  
Cranbrook-Kingswood English Department



# LEARN CONNECT DISCOVER

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

- 2 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
- 4 PROGRAMS FOR TWEENS & TEENS, ADULT BOOK CLUBS
- 5 COMPUTER CLASSES  
IDEA LAB
- 6 PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS
- 7 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE  
LIBRARY BOARD



*Cover image courtesy of Laszlo Regos*

## SPRING INTO THE LIBRARY!



**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY** ► SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BIRMINGHAM, BEVERLY HILLS, BINGHAM FARMS, & BLOOMFIELD HILLS



# SPRING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

BABIES TO GRADE 6

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK THE WEBSITE ([BALDWINLIB.ORG/CALENDAR](http://BALDWINLIB.ORG/CALENDAR)) FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION AND LOCATIONS BEFORE HEADING TO ANY EVENT.

Program registration opens one month in advance.

## MARCH



### MARIO DAY

GRADES K TO 3

MONDAY, MARCH 10 AT 4:30 P.M.

Celebrate Mario and Company with a make-your-own Yoshi egg craft and a coloring activity or take a turn with some Mario video games. *You are welcome to dress up but please leave your Nintendo Switch at home.*

**Registration required.**

### FAMILY FORT FUN

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)

MONDAY, MARCH 24 AT 4:30 P.M.

Come build a blanket fort at the Library with your family! Bring your blankets and flashlights and we will provide the books and snacks. **Registration required.**



### PLANT A SEED

GRADES K TO 2 WITH GROWN UP(S)

TUESDAY, MARCH 25 AT 2:30 P.M.

Decorate a planter, learn about how plants grow, and plant a seed to bring home with you.

**Registration required.**



### VIDEO GAME CLUB: JUST DANCE

GRADES 4 TO 6

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

AT 2:30 P.M.

All gaming abilities are welcome to meet up with other gamers and play together.

**Registration required.**



### AXOLOTL PAPER SHADOWBOX

GRADES 3 TO 6

FRIDAY, MARCH 28 AT 2:30 P.M.

Assemble layers of pre-cut paper to create a fun axolotl design.

**Registration required.**

### SENSATIONAL STICKERS

AGES 4 AND UP WITH GROWN UP(S)

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 AT 11:00 A.M.

Decorate a sticker notebook and fill it with a plethora of stickers, provided by us, to use at home, trade, or give away!

**Registration required.**

## APRIL



### STORY TIME YOGA

AGES 5 & UNDER WITH GROWN UP(S)

MONDAY, APRIL 7 AT 10:30 A.M.

Join Ashley Goldberg, owner of Born Yoga, for this fun and unique approach to storytime. Stories are brought to life through yoga poses, puppets, and songs. *Please bring a yoga mat or towel.* **Registration required.**



### PROTECT YOUR PEEPS

GRADES 4 TO 6

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

AT 7:00 P.M.

How many Peeps can you protect? Use provided materials to create a raft and see how many Peeps you can keep afloat. We will also have a taste test to determine our favorite flavor of Peeps. **Registration required.**



### STORY/ARTS

GRADES 1 TO 3

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 AT 4:30 P.M.

Create pieces of art using different techniques and learn about the artists who made them. *No art experience needed.* **Registration required.**



## KIDS LIBRARY SOCIETY

GRADES 3 TO 6

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

MARCH 20 · APRIL 17 · MAY 15

Do you want to be more involved with the Library, hang out with friends and play some games? Join us for monthly meetings to talk about Library programs and play games. **Registration required.**

## 1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Encourage reading and help prepare your child for kindergarten. Earn prizes for every 250 books you read with your child before they enter Kindergarten! *Sponsored by the Bob and Jean Kelly Endowment.* Go to [baldwinlib.beanstack.org](http://baldwinlib.beanstack.org) to register.

## MAY



### FREE COMIC BOOK DAY AND MAY THE 4TH

ALL AGES

SATURDAY, MAY 3 AND SUNDAY, MAY 4

Celebrate comics and Star Wars with free comics, a vote for your favorite comic book character, a scavenger hunt, and a take home activity kit. Dress up in your best Star Wars or comic book hero costume, or just wear your favorite graphic t-shirt to support the characters you love. **First come, first served. One per person.**



### NO BAKE KIDS RECIPES

GRADES 3 TO 6

MONDAY, MAY 12 AT 4:30 P.M.

All skill levels are welcome in this beginner cooking lesson. Learn how to make layered bean dip to enjoy with some tortilla chips. **Registration required.**



### STORY TIME BATTLE: BUNNIES VS BUGS

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)

THURSDAY, MAY 22 AT 10:30 A.M.

Two librarians will battle it out through stories, songs, and activities. Who will win? Vote for your favorite at the end of the program. Weather permitting, we will be outside on the Baldwin Plaza. **No registration required.**

## SAVE THE DATE

### BALDWIN BOOSTER ORIENTATION

AGES 11 TO 18

TUESDAY, JUNE 3 AT 7:00 P.M.

Find out how you can earn community service hours by joining our Summer Reading Youth Volunteers, the Baldwin Boosters. Applications will be available Thursday, May 1 and are due Sunday, June 8. Head to [baldwinlib.org/youth](http://baldwinlib.org/youth) for the application. **Registration required for the orientation.**



# MONTHLY PROGRAMS

## WIGGLE WORMS DROP IN

BIRTH TO 2 YEARS WITH GROWN UP(S)  
FRIDAYS FROM 10:30 TO 11:30 A.M.  
MARCH 14 • APRIL 11 • MAY 2

Drop in for open-ended, unstructured play with your child and to socialize with other families. **No registration required.**

## BOOK EXPLORERS

GRADES K TO 1  
WEDNESDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.  
MARCH 19 • APRIL 16

Enjoy stories and activities at this program designed to encourage a love of books and reading. **Registration required.**

## FAMILY BOARD GAME CLUB

GRADES K TO 6 WITH GROWN UP(S)  
SATURDAYS AT 2:30 P.M.  
MARCH 22 • APRIL 12 • MAY 31

Kids and caregivers are invited to play a variety of fun children's board games at the Library. We have games for a wide variety of ages and skills. **No registration required.**

## RUFF READERS

AGES 6 & UP  
TUESDAYS AT 6:30 P.M.  
MARCH 25 • APRIL 15 • MAY 20

Sign up for a ten minute time slot to read to a registered Alliance of Therapy Dogs dog. **Registration required.**

## BRICK BUILDERS

GRADES 1 TO 3  
MONDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.  
MARCH 31: BUILD A MEGAFIG  
APRIL 28: BUILD A CASTLE  
MAY 19: BUILD A BRIDGE WEIGHT HOLDING CHALLENGE  
Junior builders are welcome to join in the fun of building with LEGO bricks. Create your own unique idea or participate in a building challenge. **Registration required.**

## PROJECT KIDSIGHT VISION SCREENING FOR KIDS

MONDAY, MARCH 24 FROM 4:00 TO 6:00 P.M.  
MONDAY, APRIL 7 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON  
SATURDAY, MAY 3 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON

This free vision screening for ages 6 months and older is fast, non-invasive, and has an accuracy rating of 98%.

**Sponsored by the Beverly Hills Lions Club.**

## BOOKS UNBOXED

GRADES 4 TO 12  
Join our three month subscription book service and receive a surprise library book tailored to your preference each month. Visit [www.baldwinlib.org/youth](http://www.baldwinlib.org/youth) to subscribe now.

# BOOK CLUBS FOR CHILDREN

Visit our Book Clubs page at [baldwinlib.org/book-clubs](http://baldwinlib.org/book-clubs) for more upcoming book selections.

## Adventures IN BOOKS

GRADES 1 TO 3  
WEDNESDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.  
MARCH 12: *MYSTERY ON THE OSTRICH EXPRESS*  
BY LAURA JAMES  
APRIL 9: *DORY FANTASMAGORY* BY ABBY HANLON  
Email Syntha at [syntha.green@baldwinlib.org](mailto:syntha.green@baldwinlib.org) to register.

## BEYOND the Book

GRADES 1 TO 3  
THURSDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.  
MARCH 27: *LIVING IN MEXICO* BY CHLOE PERKINS  
APRIL 24: *ALIEN OCEAN ANIMALS*  
BY ROSIE COLOSI  
Email Rosemary at [rosemary.isbell@baldwinlib.org](mailto:rosemary.isbell@baldwinlib.org) to register.

## KIDS GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

GRADES 3 TO 6  
MONDAYS AT 4:30 P.M.  
MARCH 17: *ART CLUB* BY RASHAD DOUCET  
APRIL 21: *THE STONEKEEPER* BY KAZU KIBUISHI  
Email Josh at [josh.campeau@baldwinlib.org](mailto:josh.campeau@baldwinlib.org) to register.

## mother/DAUGHTER

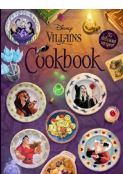
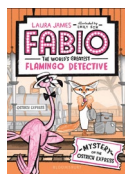
GRADES 4 TO 6 AND MOMS  
TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.  
MARCH 11: *WHEN SEA BECOMES SKY* BY GILLIAN MCDUNN  
APRIL 8: *LASAGNA MEANS I LOVE YOU*  
BY KATE O'SHAUGHNESSY  
Email Susan at [susan.dion@baldwinlib.org](mailto:susan.dion@baldwinlib.org) to register.

## BOOKS AND BAGELS

GRADES 4 TO 6  
TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.  
MARCH 18: *THE NIGHT GARDEN*  
BY POLLY HORVATH  
APRIL 22: *THE SUPERTeacher PROJECT*  
BY GORDON KORMAN  
Email Susan at [susan.dion@baldwinlib.org](mailto:susan.dion@baldwinlib.org) to register.

## Kids COOKBOOK club

GRADES 3 TO 6  
MONDAY AT 6:30 P.M.  
APRIL 7: *THE DISNEY VILLAINS COOKBOOK*  
BY DISNEY BOOKS  
Email Syntha at [syntha.green@baldwinlib.org](mailto:syntha.green@baldwinlib.org) to register.



# STORY TIMES

Story times use a first come, first served ticketing system starting 15 minutes before the story time begins. Visit [baldwinlib.org/storytime](http://baldwinlib.org/storytime) for dates and more information. **No weekly story times the week of April 7 or May 19 through June 13.**

## SING & TELL

2.5 YEARS TO 3.5 YEARS WITH GROWN UP(S)  
MONDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. OR 11:15 A.M.

## WIGGLE & RHYME

BIRTH TO 1.5 YEARS WITH GROWN UP(S)  
TUESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. OR 11:15 A.M.

## TODDLER TALES

1.5 YEARS TO 2.5 YEARS WITH GROWN UP(S)  
WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. OR 11:15 A.M.

## BOOKS & BOOGIE

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)  
THURSDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. OR 11:15 A.M.

## BEDTIME TALES

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)  
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15 P.M.

## MOVE & GROOVE

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)  
TUESDAYS AT 6:15 P.M.  
MARCH 4 • APRIL 1 • MAY 6

## MUSIC & MOVEMENT

ALL AGES WITH GROWN UP(S)  
SATURDAYS AT 10:30 A.M. AT THE LIBRARY  
MARCH 8 • APRIL 19 • MAY 10

## BOOK CLUBS continued

## WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

GRADES 4 TO 6  
THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.  
APRIL 3: *WHERE IS AREA 51?* BY PAULA MANZANERO  
Email Rosemary at [rosemary.isbell@baldwinlib.org](mailto:rosemary.isbell@baldwinlib.org) to register.

## moms BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.  
APRIL 30: *HOW CAN I HELP YOU*  
BY LAURA SIMS  
Email Susan at [susan.dion@baldwinlib.org](mailto:susan.dion@baldwinlib.org) to register.

# SPRING PROGRAMS FOR TWEENS & TEENS

\*PLEASE NOTE THAT PARENTS AND YOUNGER SIBLINGS MAY NOT ATTEND THESE PROGRAMS UNLESS NOTED.  
\*\*CONTACT [TEEN@BALDWINLIB.ORG](mailto:TEEN@BALDWINLIB.ORG) TO SPECIFY ANY FOOD ALLERGIES OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

## SPRING PROGRAMS

**TEENY TINY ART SHOW** GRADES 7-12  
Starting March 1, pick up a kit with a mini canvas, paint, and paintbrush. Create your work of art, then bring it back by April 1 to be displayed in our art show! Public voting will take place to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize winners. **Limit one kit per teen. Registration required.** *If you wish to keep your artwork after the art show, please pick it up by May 31.*

**INSIDE HIGHLY SELECTIVE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 10 AT 7:00 P.M.**  
Join Samantha Joustra from Collegewise to uncover the influence of admission rates on applicants, what admission officers at top-tier colleges are genuinely seeking, and strategies to make your teen's application stand out amidst the competition. **Teens and parents welcome. Registration required. Hybrid event.**

**PICKY PAD PARTY** GRADES 7-12  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 24 AT 7:00 P.M.**  
School or life got you feeling stressed out? Come to the library to make a picky pad, a reusable sensory fidget toy that can be helpful for anxiety relief. **Registration required.**

**TEEN CULINARY CLUB** GRADES 7-12  
**QUARTERLY ON MONDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**APRIL 28:** Prepare a dish from the book *The Anime Chef Cookbook: 75 Iconic Dishes from Your Favorite Anime* by Nadine Estero and share it with fellow food lovers. *Register by March 15 for a chance to win the book. If you have additional questions or need assistance acquiring a copy, please contact [teen@baldwinlib.org](mailto:teen@baldwinlib.org).*

**STUDY NIGHT WITH THERAPY DOGS** GRADES 9 TO 12  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 7 FROM 5:30 TO 7:30 P.M.**  
Is school stressing you out? Maybe petting some dogs will help! After the Library closes to the public, high school students will have the whole Library to themselves! Pizza will be provided. **Registration NOT required.**

**SUMMER VOLUNTEERING**  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SEE BALDWIN BOOSTERS ORIENTATION ON PAGE 2

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

**ANIMANGA CLUB** GRADES 6-12  
**3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**MARCH 19 • APRIL 16 • MAY 21**  
Join us for anime watch parties, fandom discussions, new manga recommendations from fellow readers, and snacks. **Registration required.**

**COZY TEEN WRITING CLUB** GRADES 7-12  
**3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 4:30 P.M.**  
**MARCH 17 • APRIL 21 • MAY 19**  
Learn the basics of storycrafting, meet other teens who like to write, and hone your skills. Hot tea, hot chocolate, and cookies will be provided. **Registration required.**

**TEENS NIGHT OUT** GRADES 7-12  
**1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 P.M.**  
**MARCH 5 • APRIL 2 • MAY 7**  
Spend an evening hanging out with other teens who love the library as much as you do! There will be video games, board games, crafts, food, and other shenanigans. **Registration required.**

**TEEN ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS** GRADES 7-12  
**3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 P.M.**  
**MARCH 20 • APRIL 17 • MAY 15**  
Have some ideas for the Library? Share your opinions on teen programs, books, prizes, trends, and more while eating pizza and making friends. *Attendance can be used for volunteer hours!* **Registration required.**

**DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS** GRADES 7-12  
**SATURDAYS FROM 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M.**  
**MARCH 8 • APRIL 5 • MAY 3**  
In this classic role-playing game, choose how your character interacts with the story, using dice to decide the outcome. All players are welcome to join, no experience necessary. Snacks will be provided. **Registration required.**

## FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

**SATURDAY, MAY 3**  
Free Comic Book Day 2025 is on Saturday, May 3rd at local comic shops and at BPL! Swing by the library, pick up a comic and vote for your favorite comic book character. *We'll have comics for kids, teens, and adults on a first come first serve basis throughout the day until they are gone.* **One per person please.**

## BOOK CLUBS FOR TEENS & TWEENS

**PIZZA AND PAGES** GRADES 7 TO 12  
**1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 P.M.**  
**MARCH 6:** *THE SUNBEARER TRIALS* BY AIDEN THOMAS  
**APRIL 3:** *THE NATURALS* BY JENNIFER LYNN BARNES  
**MAY 1:** *AS LONG AS THE LEMON TREES GROW* BY ZOULFA KATOUH  
*The first 10 to register will receive a free book to keep, courtesy of the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library. Pizza will be provided.* **Registration required.**

**PAPERBACKS AND SNACKS** GRADES 6 TO 8  
**2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 7:00 TO 8:00 P.M.**  
**MARCH 12:** *CODE GIRLS: YOUNG READERS EDITION* BY LIZA MUNDY  
**APRIL 9:** *YUSUF AZEEM IS NOT A HERO* BY SAADIA FARUQI  
**MAY 14:** *FRONT DESK* BY KELLY YANG  
*The first 10 to register will receive a free book to keep, courtesy of the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library. Pizza will be provided.* **Registration required.**

## BOOK CLUBS FOR ADULTS

BPL BOOK CLUBS MEET ON ZOOM OR HYBRID (IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM). FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO ONE OF THE MEETINGS, PLEASE EMAIL [ADULT.REFERENCE@BALDWINLIB.ORG](mailto:ADULT.REFERENCE@BALDWINLIB.ORG).

**NEXT POPULAR READS**  
**FIRST MONDAY AT 1:00 P.M.**  
**GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR GROWNUPS**  
**FIRST THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**NEXT NONFICTION**  
**SECOND TUESDAY AT 10:00 A.M.**  
**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON**  
**SECOND WEDNESDAY AT 2:00 P.M.**  
**PAGE TO SCREEN**  
**SECOND THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**THIRD TUESDAY**  
**THIRD TUESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**COOKBOOK CLUB**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 AT 6:30 P.M.**

# SPRING COMPUTER CLASSES

FOR ADULTS

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL COMPUTER CLASSES. VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A ZOOM LINK ONE HALF HOUR BEFORE CLASS.

[FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO REGISTER FOR THESE CLASSES, VISIT BALDWINLIB.ORG/COMPUTER-CLASSES](http://BALDWINLIB.ORG/COMPUTER-CLASSES)

## MARCH

### SELLING ONLINE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1 AT 3:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### WORD: AN INTRODUCTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 AT 7:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### VALUE LINE AND THE INVESTING CENTER AT BPL

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 AT 7:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### GOOGLE DOCS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 AT 3:00 P.M.

Online event.

### ADOBE PHOTOSHOP: AN INTRODUCTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 18 & 25 AT 7:00 P.M.

@ THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

In person event.

### CHECK OUT EBOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 AT 3:00 P.M.

Online event.

## AI TOOLS

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 AT 3:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

## APRIL

### SMART TV

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 AT 7:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### EASY AND SAFE: A GUIDE TO USING PEER-TO-PEER PAYMENT APPS

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 AT 3:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### CANVA

THURSDAY, APRIL 17 AT 3:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### BUILD A WEBSITE

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 & 29 AT 7:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR: AN INTRODUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 3:00 P.M.

@ THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

In person event.

## MAY

### POWERPOINT: CREATE A PRESENTATION

TUESDAY, MAY 6 AT 7:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### NYT & WSJ FROM HOME

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 AT 3:00 P.M. Online event.

### EXCEL: CREATE A BUDGET

TUESDAY, MAY 13 AT 7:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### GOOGLE SHEETS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 AT 3:00 P.M. Online event.

### GOOGLE SLIDES

TUESDAY, MAY 20 AT 7:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### STAYING SAFE ONLINE: PROTECTING YOURSELF IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

THURSDAY, MAY 22 AT 3:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

### INSTAGRAM 101: CONNECTING AND SHARING SAFELY

SATURDAY, MAY 31 AT 3:00 P.M.

Hybrid event. Attend in person or online.

## THE IDEA LAB: CLASSES·KITS·LIVE

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE!** TO ENSURE EVERYONE HAS AN EQUAL CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE, WE USE A LOTTERY-BASED SYSTEM. INSTEAD OF FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED REGISTRATION, YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR THE CHANCE TO BE RANDOMLY SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PROGRAMS. THIS CHANGE HELPS US MANAGE HIGH DEMAND AND OFFERS EVERYONE A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OUR EVENTS.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL IDEA LAB CLASSES, KITS AND EVENTS.**

### EVENT: THE GRAND TOUR

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

MARCH 5 · APRIL 2 · MAY 7

Jeff will take you on a tour of the Idea Lab, including a quick demo of our exciting equipment.

### KIT: LEARN TO SEW BY HAND

MONDAY, MARCH 10

This kit includes everything you need to sew your own adorable stuffed creature, and gain valuable knowledge in the process. **Limit one per household.**

### LIVE & IN PERSON: APPLE THINGS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 AT 7:00 P.M.

In this episode of Idea Lab Things, Jeff will talk about all kinds of neat 3D printed and Laser-Cut accessories for your Apple Computer products! **Registration required for in-person attendance.** Simultaneously broadcast on Instagram Live.

### EVENT: DECKED OUT: BUILD YOUR OWN CYBERDECK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 AT 7:00 P.M. OR

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 AT 7:00 P.M.

Join us for a DIY Cyberdeck workshop! Inspired by William Gibson's iconic vision in Neuromancer, cyberdecks are portable, custom-built computers with a retro-futuristic flair. Using a Raspberry Pi, you'll build your own unique cyberdeck to channel your inner console cowboy.

### CLASS: PLOTTING AND SCHEMING: USING THE PLOTTER CUTTERS IN THE IDEA LAB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 AT 7:00 P.M.

Learn the basics of using plotter cutters! We'll explore the essentials of operating the Idea Lab's Silhouette Cameo and Graphtec cutters, including loading materials, setting up designs, and cutting with precision.

### KIT: STAR WARS DAY!

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Celebrate Star Wars Day by building your own 3D printed R2-D2 kit! Comes with all the parts you need to make your own model of everyone's favorite astromech droid, 3D printed in The Idea Lab! **Limit one per household.**

### EVENT: OPEN LASER DAY!

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Do you have an object that you'd like customized? Bring in your thing and we will laser engrave it for you! Many materials are compatible, including wood, leather, glass, coated/anodized metals, and more! We'll be in the lab all day, ready to engrave on your objects. **See our website for sizing and material requirements. Registration required. Limit one per household.**

WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG  
248-647-1700

5

# SPRING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

## MARCH

### THE DETROIT LIONS AN ILLUSTRATED TIMELINE

MONDAY, MARCH 24 AT 7:00 P.M.

It took three failed attempts before professional football stuck in Detroit, and when it finally did, the City had itself a winner. Freep reporter Dave Birkett joins us to vividly recount the most important moments in the Franchise's first 90 seasons including this year's run for Super Bowl.

**Registration required. Hybrid event.**

**Attend in person or online.**

## HISTORICAL LECTURE SERIES

SECOND THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.  
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM

### MARCH 13: STAGECOACHES TO MUSCLE CARS: 200 YEARS OF CRUISING WOODWARD

Woodward has been more than 'just a road' to the people of the Birmingham area since the beginning. Classic cars aren't the only thing that has raced up and down Woodward in the last 200 years.

**Registration required. Hybrid event.**

**Attend in person or online.**

## SOCRATES CAFE

MARCH 16 • APRIL 27 • MAY 18

This group meets at the library on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2:00 P.M. for thoughtful conversation on different topics. Contact the group's facilitator, Annis Pratt at [avpratt@aol.com](mailto:avpratt@aol.com).

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS TALK TIME

TUESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

Join us to practice English conversation skills. We'll meet every Tuesday at the library. All levels are welcome. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.

**Registration required. Attend in person only.**

## APRIL

### COMMUNITY AND RESOURCE ENGAGEMENT (CARE) FARE

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 FROM  
11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

#### LIBRARY ATRIUM

Drop in for this open-house style event to speak with representatives from local organizations seeking volunteers. Learn more about their missions, activities, and how you can help these organizations achieve their goals.

### WILDFLOWERS IN MICHIGAN GARDENS: BRING NATURE INTO YOUR HOME GARDEN WITH NATIVE PLANTS

MONDAY, APRIL 14 AT 7:00 P.M.

Often considered too wild and crazy for the average gardener, Advanced Master Gardener Cheryl English joins us to show how wildflowers can thrive and provide years of beauty even in a small urban garden. **Registration required. Hybrid event.**

**Attend in person or online via Zoom.**

### DISINFORMATION: DON'T BE FOOLED!

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 AT 7:00 P.M.

Join us as University of Michigan School of Information Professor Kristin Fontichiaro speaks about research focusing on misinformation and disinformation, how it spreads - intentionally or not - along with the adverse effects it has on individuals and society. **Registration required. Virtual event.**

**Attend online only.**

## LIFELONG LEARNING

SPRING 2025  
WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH AND APRIL

Join us for coffee and the pursuit of knowledge! Lifelong Learning is aimed at retirees with an interest in learning and meaningful dialogue. Members research a topic and present their findings in a series of weekly lectures on Wednesday mornings in March and April. Join us for these edifying presentations as an active member or drop-in as a guest each Wednesday morning. *Contact the group's facilitator, Jim Suhay, at [lifelonglearning.baldwinlib@gmail.com](mailto:lifelonglearning.baldwinlib@gmail.com) for more information about the event.*

100

## MAY

### FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Free Comic Book Day 2025 is on Saturday, May 3rd at local comic shops and at BPL! Swing by the library, pick up a comic and vote for your favorite comic book character. *We'll have comics for kids, teens, and adults on a first come first serve basis throughout the day until they are gone.*

**One per person please.**

### PAINT POURING WORKSHOP

MONDAY, MAY 12 AT 7:00 P.M.

Leave the brushes at home and join us for a fun-filled relaxing evening of paint pouring! Everything is supplied to create your colorful and unique masterpiece. Paint pouring is pouring acrylic paints on a canvas and letting the colors swirl and marble together to create an entirely unique design. It is a fun, messy, and surprisingly very relaxing technique.

**Registration required. Attend in person only.**

### SHRINKING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

TUESDAY, MAY 13 AT 7:00 P.M.

Want some suggestions on easy or small steps you can take to help our planet? Come hear some ideas and see some options from Tessa of Ferndale's Walking Lightly. **Registration required. Attend in person only.**

## GENEALOGY LECTURE SERIES

MAY 8 AT 7:00 P.M.

### FAMILY HISTORY THROUGH INTERVIEWS

Oral histories can provide invaluable family information and are treasured keepsakes. This session will teach the basics of a good interview and how to preserve it long-term.

**Registration required. Virtual Event.**

**Attend in person only.**

## GREAT BOOKS

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
AT 6:45 P.M.

This group meets at the library on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:45 P.M. to discuss celebrated classics of the Western canon. *Contact the group's facilitator, Deborah Savoie ([savoie.law@gmail.com](mailto:savoie.law@gmail.com)) for more information about the event.*

# SPRING DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

## WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR FRIENDS

We hope you've had a chance to stop by and visit the new and improved Baldwin Public Library! We have received so many wonderful responses to our new entrance and atrium and are pleased to finally be finished with our three-phase renovation plan. As the days get warmer and the spring blooms begin to pop, we look forward to opening up our large NanaWall doors on pleasant days to create an indoor/outdoor seating area in the plaza at the corner of Bates and Merrill streets.

This spring, we will be presenting our first ever Community and Resource Engagement (CaRE) Fair on Saturday, April 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the atrium. We encourage you to stop by the library to speak with representatives from local non-profit organizations seeking volunteers. Learn more about their missions, activities, and how you can help these organizations achieve their goals. It's a great way to give back to the community and learn more about the great resources available in this area.

In April, we celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Month and I'd like to highlight the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library, a non-profit organization now in its 75th year, whose mission is to support services and programs at Baldwin. They recently donated over \$23,000 to Baldwin to support our upcoming summer reading program, our expanding programming lineup for middle school students, the printing of this newsletter, and all of the programs you see listed in this newsletter. The Friends raise funds through memberships, their Bookshop next to the Idea Lab, and semi-annual book sales in the lower level. We definitely could not do all that we do here without their generous and ongoing support!

In March, we will be developing our next three-year Strategic Plan. This plan is an important tool to help us prepare for the future, stay focused on goals, and track progress toward meeting goals. Be on the lookout for a community survey in late March. We want to hear your feedback and suggestions on what you'd like to see changed, updated, or maintained at Baldwin in the next three years.

When the weather warms up a bit and the sun sets later each night, be sure to join our ongoing Books on Foot program. With monthly themes, book suggestions, and prizes, this program will help keep you active and engaged in the coming months.

Wishing you an upcoming season of new growth, new opportunities, and fresh starts.

Rebekah Craft, Library Director [rebekah.craft@baldwinlib.org](mailto:rebekah.craft@baldwinlib.org) 248-554-4681

## BEHIND THE SCENES LIBRARY TOURS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20 AT 11:00 A.M.**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 AT 4:00 P.M.**  
**MONDAY, MAY 19 AT 6:00 P.M.**

Join Director Rebekah Craft for a behind the scenes tour of the library. You'll visit staff areas, learn how items are added to the collection, and hear about new programs and services. The tour will meet in the atrium.  
**Registration required.**

## BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST DONORS

OCTOBER 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024

### TRIBUTE AND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

**VALERIE MENDELL**  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF BRENDEN ISABELL

**ILEANE AND BRUCE THAL PHILANTHROPIC FUND**  
FOR THE ILEANE THAL ENDOWMENT

**DAVID AND LINDA UNDERDOWN**  
FOR LINNE HAGE UNDERDOWN FORESTER ENDOWMENT

### GENERAL DONATIONS

ELENA ALAOUI

ANONYMOUS

THERESE AND PAT COSTELLO

ROBERT AND CHRISTINE ERLANDSON

CATHERINE E. HELLER

VALERIE MENDELL

PEO SISTERHOOD CHAPTER CG

PIETY HILL CHAPTER 4-044 MI

DAVID AND LINDA UNDERDOWN

## LIBRARY BOARD



### Board Members:

Danielle Rumble, Karen Rock, Melissa Mark, Wendy Friedman, Jennifer Wheeler, Frank Pisano

**THE LIBRARY BOARD WILL MEET AT 7:30 P.M. ON:**

**MARCH 17, 2025**

**APRIL 21, 2025**

**MAY 19, 2025**

## PROGRAM Calendar



## LIBRARY HOURS:

**MONDAY TO THURSDAY**

9:30 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

9:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.

**SUNDAY:** 12:00 TO 5:00 P.M.

## LIBRARY CLOSED:

**APRIL 20:** EASTER

**MAY 24 TO 26:** MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

## CONTACT US:

**WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG**

**MAIN PHONE:** 248-647-1700

**ADULT SERVICES:** 248-554-4650

**CIRCULATION/RENEWALS:** 248-554-4630

**YOUTH SERVICES:** 248-554-4670

**IDEA LAB:** 248-554-4659

## PARKING:

2 Hours FREE Parking in the  
Chester Street Deck

**SUNDAYS:** All Parking is Free

\*Please note that all programs and events  
may be transitioned to virtual, at the  
discretion of the Library.



**BALDWIN**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

300 West Merrill  
Birmingham, MI 48009

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BIRMINGHAM  
MI 48009

Time-sensitive content enclosed

**THANKS TO THE FOBPL FOR SPONSORING THE SPRING 2025 ISSUE OF THE  
LEARN.CONNECT.DISCOVER NEWSLETTER AND MANY OF OUR PROGRAMS!**

### JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:**  NEW MEMBER  RENEWING MEMBER  
 \$15 INDIVIDUAL  \$25 BUSINESS/ASSOC.  
 \$20 FAMILY  \$50+ SUSTAINING

**PLEASE PRINT**

**FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

### BOOK SALES:

#### SPRING BOOK SALE

- SATURDAY, APRIL 26
- SUNDAY, APRIL 27

#### FALL BOOK SALE

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

FOR HOURS AND SALE  
INFORMATION, VISIT  
**BALDWINLIB.ORG/  
BOOK-SALES**

### SHOP

FRESH INVENTORY IN THE  
LOBBY AT THE FRIENDS'  
BOOKSHOP DURING LIBRARY  
BUSINESS HOURS

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MAIL WITH THIS FORM TO  
FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 300 W. MERRILL, BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009.**



**LEARN.CONNECT.DISCOVER.**

**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY** 300 WEST MERRILL, BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

# THRIVE

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE  
**Birmingham  
Bloomfield**  
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**2025**

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Bloomfield Hills  
Bloomfield Township  
Franklin

[www.bbcc.com](http://www.bbcc.com)



# LIBRARIES



## BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Baldwin Public Library, located in downtown Birmingham, is your place to learn, connect and discover. Baldwin serves as the information hub for our community.

If you're a resident, a property owner, a K-12 student or are employed in Baldwin's service area of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms or the City of Bloomfield Hills, you're eligible to get a BPL card. Residents of other communities are often eligible to use their card at Baldwin Public Library through reciprocal borrowing. Before your visit, please fill out Baldwin's application, which can be accessed at [baldwinlib.org/get-library-card](http://baldwinlib.org/get-library-card).

Your BPL card gives you access to over 70 databases and newspapers, test preparation materials, BrainFuse live online tutoring, Mango Languages, Morningstar and Value Line. Your card also gives you access to e-books, e-audiobooks, magazines, music and movies from Baldwin's selection of digital services.

The library houses books for all ages, along with toys, video games, DVDs, audiobooks and resources for students, parents and teachers.

Librarians offer an array of story times, programs, take-and-make crafts, computer classes and book clubs. Baldwin strives to offer a diverse slate of programs for patrons of all ages. Find the current schedule listed in the Calendar of Events at [baldwinlib.org/calendar](http://baldwinlib.org/calendar).

Visit Baldwin's expanded Idea Lab and watch the laser cutters or 3D printers in action. Find out more at [baldwinlib.org/idealab](http://baldwinlib.org/idealab).

If your organization needs meeting space, BPL has several rooms available to rent for your next gathering. Rooms can accommodate both small and large groups. Visit [baldwinlib.org/rent-a-room](http://baldwinlib.org/rent-a-room).

### Baldwin Public Library

300 W. Merrill St, Birmingham, MI 48009  
(248) 554-4681 | [www.baldwinlib.org](http://www.baldwinlib.org)



## BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bloomfield Township Public Library sparks curiosity and imagination by connecting the community to resources, technology and support. With nearly 320,000 items in our collection, visitors will find both the familiar and the unexpected.

Library cardholders enjoy 24/7 access to a wide range of digital content, from books and audiobooks to newspapers, magazines, music, and movies—available through multiple apps. Our online databases provide expert resources for crafts, investing, business, genealogy, historic archives, and even homework help.

We offer themed kits for all ages and abilities, filled with games, toys, adaptive devices, and educational materials designed to enhance learning, quality of life, and independence. Librarians are always available to guide you in finding the perfect resources.

The Library connects the community through a variety of programs, including story times, book clubs, arts and crafts, concerts, and lectures. Check our online calendar or follow us on social media for upcoming events. Meeting rooms are available for organizations, and study rooms are available for individual or small group study.

Residents of Bloomfield Township enjoy full library services, and nonresidents with a valid card from reciprocal libraries in The Library Network can register to enjoy many of our offerings as well.

Visit us seven days a week or connect online at [btpl.org](http://btpl.org), through Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, or via the BTPL Mobile app.

### Bloomfield Township Public Library

1099 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Township, MI 48302  
(248) 642-5800 | <https://btpl.org>

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Bloomfield Township Public Library THE PLACE TO DISCOVER  
1099 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Township, MI 48302 (248) 642-5800 [www.btpl.org](http://www.btpl.org)

## Experience techno music at Baldwin Library

January 31, 2025 - Municipal

Birmingham's Baldwin Public Library will offer an after-hours dance space for a techno music experience from 7 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, February 8, highlighting seven Detroit-based DJs and electronic musicians, a first-time event taking place in the library's new modern glass Atrium, creating a vibrant collision of art, music, and architecture.

Six of the featured artists contributed tracks to the recently released Snow Crash Double Vinyl Album, curated as a response to an 80-foot-long modular mural by Detroit artist Michael Andrews. The sculpture, visible through the library's east facing windows overlooking Shain Park, consists of 29 interchangeable glyphs and was inspired by software, science fiction, and exuberant color.

This project and all its programming were spearheaded by Birmingham residents David Bloom and co-producer Laura Whitesides Host, in cooperation with library staff. Bloom said he hopes the event will serve as a "vibrant celebration of Detroit's rich, dance music heritage, highlighting the library as an engaging venue—a welcoming space for creativity, community and cultural exchange."

### Event Lineup:

7 p.m.: DJ Introspektor

8 p.m.: Detroit, I-R (hybrid DJ/live set)

9 p.m.: Back-to-back set by NK Ultra and Petty Cash

10 p.m.: Augustus Williams, Movement performer and producer (hybrid set)

11 p.m.: Nuntheless and Duck Trash (back-to-back set)

Advance registration is requested. Attendees must be aged 21 and over. Tickets are \$10; refreshments will be available for sale, along with Snow Crash Double Vinyl sets.

Baldwin Public Library will also host an artist panel discussion online and in-person on Tuesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. to explore the creative processes behind the Snow Crash Nebula sculpture and double vinyl album. Attendees can hear from artist Michael Andrews, collaborators David Bloom and Laura Whitesides Host, and others who brought this innovative project to life. Visit [baldwinlib.org/calendar](https://baldwinlib.org/calendar) to register in advance for either event.

Just like the library's books, these items are free to rent out with a library card. Anyone checking out an item from the Library of Things is required to sign a waiver in case anything gets damaged or lost.

The Library of Things is made up of new items that the library purchased to be included in it. Craft said these items were purchased with money that was set aside in their budget and trust funds.

In addition to the Library of Things, people can also rent toys from the library's extensive toy collection of about 200 different toys in the youth room. This option could be useful to a grandparent whose grandchildren are coming into town, or if a parent wants their child to try out a toy before they buy it.

While not necessarily part of the Library of Things, the library also offers an "internet to-go kit," which comes with a Chromebook and a hot spot.

Learn more about the Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill St. in Birmingham, and its Library of Things by visiting [baldwinlib.org](http://baldwinlib.org) or by calling (248) 647-1700.

## **Techno music at Baldwin Library Saturday**

February 7, 2025 - Municipal

Birmingham's Baldwin Public Library will offer an after-hours dance space for a techno music experience from 7 p.m. to midnight this Saturday, February 8, highlighting seven Detroit-based DJs and electronic musicians, a first-time event taking place in the library's new modern glass Atrium, creating a vibrant collision of art, music, and architecture.

Six of the featured artists contributed tracks to the recently released Snow Crash Double Vinyl Album, curated as a response to an 80-foot-long modular mural by Detroit artist Michael Andrews. The sculpture, visible through the library's east facing windows overlooking Shain Park, consists of 29 interchangeable glyphs and was inspired by software, science fiction, and exuberant color.

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# Detroit Free Press

## Stepper's Ball and other Detroit weekend options that aren't the Super Bowl

February 6, 2025 – Duante Beddingfield

<https://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/arts/2025/02/06/steppers-ball-non-super-bowl-weekend-options-detroit/78255483007/>

This snowy weekend in metro Detroit will bring frigid temps but fun arts opportunities to the region. Here are six options to check out.



*A Stepper's Ball will be held at the Detroit Institute of Arts on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025. (Photo: Detroit Institute of Arts)*

### Get in the groove

Friday, Feb. 7, The Detroit Institute of Arts will host a Stepper's Ball in its Rivera Court. Founded in April 2008 by Jeff Clark, I Love Steppin' is an open community of dancers passionate about Chicago-style Steppin'. Members gather in cities nationwide to celebrate and raise awareness of this cherished tradition within Black communities. This

event welcomes dancers of all ages and includes a brief introductory lesson on Steppin' basics from 6-7 p.m., followed by 90 minutes of dancing to music curated by DJ Rod Edwards.

*Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [dia.org](http://dia.org). Free with general admission; general admission is free for residents of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.*

### **A mansion. A murder. A mystery.**

Murder and blackmail are on the menu when six mysterious guests assemble at Boddy Manor for a night they'll never forget! Was it Mrs. Peacock in the study with the knife? Or was it Colonel Mustard in the library with the wrench? Based on the fan-favorite 1985 Paramount Pictures movie and inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, "Clue – Live on Stage!" runs through Sunday, Feb. 9, at Detroit's Fisher Theatre. The original film celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and remains the ultimate whodunit that will leave you dying of laughter and keep you guessing until the final twist.

*Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. [broadwayindetroit.com](http://broadwayindetroit.com). Tickets start at \$55.*

### **Techno dance party ... at the library?!**

Saturday, Feb. 8, downtown Birmingham's Baldwin Public Library will offer an after-hours techno music dance party from 7 p.m. – midnight. Highlighting seven Detroit-based DJs and electronic musicians, this first-time event takes place in the Library's new modern glass Atrium, creating a vibrant collision of art, music, and architecture.

Entertaining for the evening will be DJ Introspektor; Detroit, I-R; NK Ultra; Petty Cash; Augustus Williams, Movement performer and producer; Nuntheless; and Duck Trash.

*Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill St., Birmingham. [baldwinlib.org](http://baldwinlib.org). Tickets \$10; advance online registration requested, attendees must be aged 21 or over.*

## **Daring contemporary art**

Wayne State University's College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts will present the exhibitions "Edge of Visibility" and "Origins" at the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery from Feb. 7 through April 26. An opening reception will be held on Friday from 5-8 p.m. "Edge of Visibility" will be featured on the lower level with works by Alia Ali, Hasan Elahi, Sahar Khoury, and Jordan Nassar. "Origins" will be featured on the upper level of the gallery and highlight works from Wayne State University's permanent collection that reflect the art and material culture of Detroit from the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

*Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, 480 W. Hancock St., on Wayne State University campus. [waynestategalleries.org](http://waynestategalleries.org). Free to attend.*

## **Timely and timeless**

Also on Wayne State's campus, through Sunday, the Department of Theatre and Dance presents Molière's "Tartuffe," a 1664 stage comedy that satirizes religious hypocrisy. The central character, Tartuffe, is a deceitful imposter who hoodwinks the wealthy Orgon with false piety. Despite Tartuffe's obvious fraudulence, Orgon remains blind to his faults. Orgon's family, particularly his wife Elmire, attempts to expose Tartuffe's true nature through comedic schemes. The play delves into themes of hypocrisy, gullibility, and the perils of blind faith. Gleefully skewering topics that remain front and center today, "Tartuffe" promises laughs for all audiences.

*Hilberry Gateway, 4715 Cass Ave., Detroit. [theatreanddance.wayne.edu](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu). General admission tickets \$27.*

## **A stay-at-home option**

Ontario's famed Stratford Festival's widely acclaimed 2023 production of Alice Childress' "Wedding Band" will be made available starting Friday on the festival's streaming platform, Stratfest@Home. The play is an emotional and revealing portrayal of interracial love, set in South Carolina in the shadow of the First World War and the 1918 flu epidemic. It tells the story of Julia, a Black seamstress, and her white partner, Herman, a baker. Directed by Sam White, the production was hailed on stage, with *The*

*New York Times* calling it a “revelation”, a sentiment echoed in the *Toronto Star*, which described it as “fresh and revelatory.”

[stratfestathome.ca](http://stratfestathome.ca). Monthly subscription \$7.99.

---Contact *Free Press* arts and culture reporter *Duante Beddingfield* at [dbeddingfield@freepress.com](mailto:dbeddingfield@freepress.com).

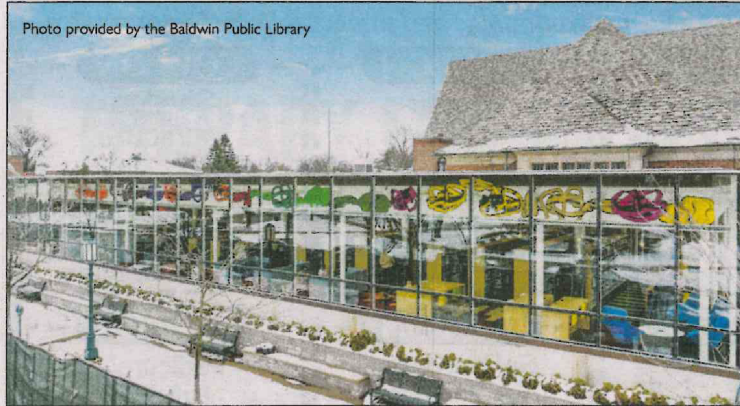


## NEWS & NOTES

OUR NEXT EDITION  
WILL DELIVER TO  
HOMES FEB. 19



7A/ BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD EAGLE • FEBRUARY 5, 2025



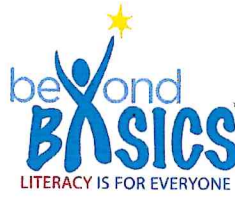
### LIBRARY HOLDS TECHNO MUSIC DANCE PARTY

BIRMINGHAM — Dance the night away at the Baldwin Public Library from 7 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, Feb. 8. The library will be hosting an after-hours, techno music experience for adults 21 and up.

“Join us in the atrium to experience the energy of curated DJ and live synth & drum machine performance sets from Detroit techno community creatives inspired by the Michael Andrews’ Snow Crash Nebula art installation in Baldwin’s Youth Room,” the library’s website states.

This project and programming is led by Birmingham residents David Bloom and Laura Whitesides Host. According to a press release, “Bloom hopes the event will serve as a ‘vibrant celebration of Detroit’s rich, dance music heritage, highlighting the library as an engaging venue — a welcoming space for creativity, community, and cultural exchange.’”

The library is requesting advanced registration for this event. Tickets cost \$10 and guests will be able to purchase refreshments. According to the library’s website, the event is for individuals 21 and older.



31700 Middlebelt Road, Suite 200, Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 918-3543 (mobile) good@beyondbasics.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Selam Sanders*  
Chairperson

January 8, 2025

*Pamela Krasula*  
President

*Antonio Pittiglio, CPA*  
Treasurer

Jaclyn Miller  
Baldwin Public Library  
300 W. Merrill Street  
Birmingham, MI 48009

*Patrick Rugiero*  
Roman Village Restaurant  
Group

*Gina Coleman*  
The PNC Financial Services  
Group

Dear Jaclyn and Employees of Baldwin Public Library,

*Ethan Gross*  
Globe Midwest Adjusters  
International

Thank you so much for your generous donation of 38 coats in support of our 2024 Coat Drive. We are extremely grateful!

*R. J. King, Editor*  
DBusiness Magazine

Thanks to the generosity of donors like all of you at Baldwin Public Library, many children will receive a warm coat this winter. This has a tremendous positive impact on the students we serve, as well as the schools and communities they are a part of. As you know, meeting basic needs is essential before students can truly excel academically.

**ADVISORY BOARD**

*David Farbman*  
HealthRise Solutions, Inc.

*Emily Ford*  
Neighborhood Villages Inc.

We firmly believe in addressing these fundamental needs while also striving to go "Beyond the Basics," helping students achieve the gift of reading at grade level. In fact, we can get students reading in as little as six weeks!

*Josh Linkner*  
Franklin, MI

*Linda Orlans*  
eTitle

We are truly grateful for your support. Your involvement uplifts us and plays a crucial role in changing the futures of countless children in need.

Gratefully,

Liz Burger  
Senior Manager- Partnerships and Volunteers  
Beyond Basics

*Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of so many children!*

2024  
*Caring for Kids Partner*

Presented to:

**Baldwin Library**

For Your Generous Donation of  
Children's Coats to our Coat Drive

*Pamela Good*

*Pamela Good, Cofounder and CEO*



## Accounting errors have cost Wayne County libraries millions

February 13, 2025 – Nushrat Rahman

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2025/02/13/accounting-errors-cost-wayne-county-libraries-millions-detroit-public-library/78188575007/>

[Over the last decade](#), 18 libraries in Wayne County have been shorted as much as \$1.9 million, while 11 saw an influx in cash, all because of staff turnover at the county level and subsequent accounting errors.

The money at issue flows through the state and comes from [penal fines](#), which are paid to courts in criminal and some civil violations, including most traffic fines. County treasurers collect and distribute the fines to libraries. This funding is baked into state law and it can account for anywhere between 3% to 70% of public libraries' annual budgets, [according](#) to the Library of Michigan.

Wayne County lost the employee who calculated penal fines and the county did not replace that position, according to a [report](#) the Library of Michigan prepared for public library directors and boards.

Staff who took on the job did not have the proper training and already had other tasks, the report said, noting that they were "stretched thin." The report, and [accompanying corrected penal fine calculations](#), were prepared by the Library of Michigan in consultation with the county treasurer's office.

**LIVE IN WAYNE COUNTY?** [See if your library was underpaid or overpaid](#)

Of 29 Wayne County public libraries eligible for penal fines, 11 received more and 18 got less than they should have, according to Library of Michigan calculations. Libraries were underpaid anywhere from about \$18,000, in the case of Wayne Public Library, to more than \$1.9 million for Detroit Public Library. Romulus Public Library received about \$1.4 million more than it should have, while Ecorse Public Library got an additional \$26,700

or so. In all, it appears libraries were underpaid about \$3.6 million in total, according to a spreadsheet from the Library of Michigan.

Now libraries are figuring out what to do next.



Historic books and documents part of the Burton Historical Collection are seen inside of the Detroit Public Library on Monday, August 14, 2023. *Sarahbeth Maney, Detroit Free Press.*

### **What the Wayne County treasurer's office has to say**

Wayne County bears the most responsibility for the miscalculation, according to the [report](#). The Library of Michigan said it didn't find evidence of intentional or criminal behavior. The Library of Michigan said in its report that the "situation seems clearly the result of negligence, poor communication, failure to replace departed employees, and lack of proper training."

In a statement to the Free Press last week, the Wayne County Treasurer's Office acknowledged "an ongoing miscalculation of the formula for disbursing penal fines that rests with our office."

"Once we determined the error, our office contacted the State Library to assist with a solution. By law, the Treasurer's office has the authority to immediately withhold funds from any future penal fines payments from those overpaid libraries and to transfer those funds to the underpaid libraries. This would substantially shorten the time for repayment and recoupment. However, we are actively working with all parties to explore other solutions to mitigate any potential budgetary issues this option could create," the county treasurer's office said in its statement.

County treasurers [collect and distribute penal fines](#) to a [list of eligible libraries](#), provided by the Library of Michigan. Each county has its own [process for doling out penal fines](#).

### **What Wayne County libraries have to say**

Public library boards and commissions across Wayne County have been [discussing the issue](#) and are determining their next steps.

- Northville District Library was underpaid \$88,368, according to a spreadsheet provided to Wayne County libraries by the Library of Michigan, said Laura Mancini, director of Northville District Library. The library's board of trustees in collecting more information to determine next steps, Mancini said in an email.
- Grosse Pointe Public Library — estimated to have been underpaid \$139,627 — is working with its attorney and other libraries to resolve the issue, according to director Jessica Keyser.
- Redford Township District Library director Garrett Hungerford said the library board "is committed to recovering the funds owed to the library in the most effective and efficient manner." Redford Township District was underpaid \$97,541.
- The Library of Michigan found that the Livonia Public Library was overpaid \$228,493. Kristen Edson, library director of Livonia Public Library, said her library would work with other area libraries to come up with a "fair and equitable resolution."

- Mary Jo Suchy, director of Belleville Area District Library, said the library board is interested in a settlement solution with other libraries and Wayne County. Belleville Area District Library was overpaid \$139,087.

### **What's next**

The Library of Michigan, part of the Michigan Department of Education, learned of the issue involving Wayne County public libraries and had asked the institutions if they'd like to find an "amicable resolution" with other libraries and the Wayne County Treasurer, according to a letter provided to the Free Press, signed by state librarian Randy Riley.

"Having made all the information in its possession relating to the Wayne County penal fine distribution public and having advised the recipients of this letter that Wayne County Public Libraries are interested in further discussions, the Library of Michigan will take no additional action relating to this matter," Riley said in the Feb. 5 letter, directing libraries to consult an attorney and reach out to the Wayne County Treasurer's Office.

The Michigan Department of Education referred questions about next steps to the Wayne County libraries and directed a reporter to a [Library of Michigan webpage](#), regarding clarification on its overview report and calculations of overpaid and underpaid libraries. Library directors [indicated they want to work together](#) to fix the issue.

"The public libraries in Wayne County have a long history of working cooperatively with each other, and I am confident that we can arrive at a solution," Suchy said in an email last week.

*Contact Nushrat Rahman: [nrahman@freepress.com](mailto:nrahman@freepress.com). Follow her on X: [@NushratR](#).*

## Bonnie Jo Campbell, Gretchen Whitmer and Lions land on Michigan Notable books list

January 19, 2025 – Julie Hinds

<https://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/arts/2025/01/19/michigan-notable-books-20-of-the-states-best-offerings-from-2024/77692288007/>

The Washington Post review of Bonnie Jo Campbell’s 2024 novel “The Waters” cautioned, “Once you get thoroughly sunk into the story, you’ll resent ever having to leave this matriarchal family that insists on preserving its own peculiar ways in a world determined to move on.”

In other words: This is such a great read, you won't want it to end.

Unfolding in the lush, somewhat mystical setting of the fictional Great Massasauga Swamp in southwest Michigan, "The Waters" focuses on herbalist healer Hermine (Herself) Zook; her enchanting, estranged youngest daughter, Rose Thorn; and her determined, quirky granddaughter, Donkey.

Loaded with family secrets, undying passions, extraordinary women and threats posed by toxic masculinity and human impact on the environment, “The Waters” is one of 20 works chosen for Michigan Notable Books 2025. The annual list compiled by the Library of Michigan celebrates books published the previous year that are about Michigan or the Great Lakes or are written by a Michigan author.

This is Campbell's fifth time on the list. According to the award-winning author whose novels and short stories about life in rural Michigan have made her a national figure on the literary scene, it is always "a big thrill" to be featured there.

“It’s all well and good if New Yorkers like my book, but what really matters to me is that my own people, my Michigan people, understand and value my work,” Campbell, who lives in the Kalamazoo region, told the Free Press by email. “I’m so grateful that the Library of Michigan created this award series. And I’m so glad that they choose to honor a big group of writers —



"It's all well and good if New Yorkers like my book, but what really matters to me is that my own people, my Michigan people, understand and value my work," says Bonnie Jo Campbell, who lives in the Kalamazoo area. *Provided by Fran Dwight.*



that is much better and more egalitarian and more fun than focusing on one book as an award winner.”

Michigan Notable Books cover a wide variety of categories, from history to memoir to all sorts of fiction. This year’s choices include “Listening to Workers: Oral Histories of Metro Detroit Autoworkers in the 1950s” by Daniel J. Clark, which tells the complex stories of factory workers from that era, and “My Black Country: A Journey Through Country Music's Black Past, Present, and Future” by novelist, educator and songwriter Alice Randall, which looks at the impact of Black artists in that musical genre.

A graphic novel biography made the list, “We Live Here: Detroit Eviction Defense and the Battle for Housing,” by Jeffrey Wilson and Bambi Kramer. It focuses on the housing justice movement and the activists and ordinary people who fight against efforts to evict Detroiters from their homes.

There's a book about the Detroit Lions' remarkable comeback on the list ("The Lions Finally Roar: The Ford Family, the Detroit Lions, and the Road to Redemption in the NFL") and a memoir by Michigan’s top elected official (Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s “True Gretch: What I've Learned About Life, Leadership, and Everything in Between”).

Campbell's “The Waters” made news in January 2024 when it was announced as a pick for the "Today" show's Read with Jenna Book Club in January. "This is an incredible novel about exceptional women. ... It is so beautiful. It's about what we inherit," said Jenna Bush Hager, host of NBC’s “Today with Jenna & Friends” and founder of the book club, at the time.

The novel won praise from numerous sources, including the Los Angeles Times, which cited its depiction of “eccentricity and of all different kinds of love — familial love, romantic love, love of knowledge, love of animals and love of one’s own environment, even when it is a difficult place to live.”

"The Waters" presents a deeply observed, riveting portrait of the Zook women (who include Primrose and Molly, two other daughters of the formidable matriarch, Herself). The narrative is interwoven with descriptions of their swamp retreat that makes nature an almost palpable character, along with vivid appearances by the townsfolk of nearby Whiteheart, who treat the Zooks with equal amounts of reverence, resentment and fear.

Did the epic sweep of “The Waters” feel different to Campbell from her previous work? “Yes and no. 'The Waters’ explores the same themes and people and neighborhoods as my previous books (e.g, poor white rural communities), but I found that the political and social events and problems of our time were inserting themselves into my story of a town with a troubled soul, creating a larger story than I had intended,” said Campbell.

“The problems the women of the swamp are facing feel very much like the problems that many women are facing nowadays, with issues of reproductive rights, pollution and ecological issues, violence. And there’s something about writing with an omniscient narration that makes any story more operatic. “

Campbell, a graduate of the University of Chicago, has been recognized for her work through the years. She reached the finals of the National Book Award and the National Book Critic's Circle

Award with her 2009 short fiction collection “American Salvage,” published by Wayne State University Press. She also is the winner of the 2009 Eudora Welty Prize and was a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow. Her best-selling 2011 novel, “Once Upon a River,” was adapted into a movie.

For the Kalamazoo native, Michigan has been and remains an inspirational locale for writing. “Isn’t it funny that some people still think writers should live in New York City! I do think that living away from home in Chicago, Boston, Milwaukee and Los Angeles, for a number of years helped me see my home state more clearly, but until I moved back home, I wasn’t an inspired writer,” she said.

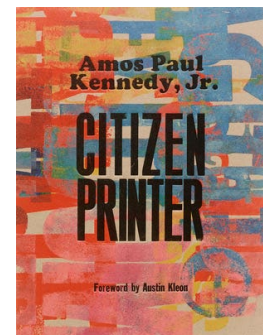
“Nowadays I’m inspired by everyone I talk to. It’s nice to feel so at home in my home. Faulkner said that the subject of literature is the human heart, and I can’t imagine seeing the human heart better somewhere else.”

Said Campbell, "I like seeing the human heart right here.”

Here is the complete list of works included on Michigan's Notable Books 2025, with descriptions provided by the Library of Michigan and lightly edited by the Free Press.

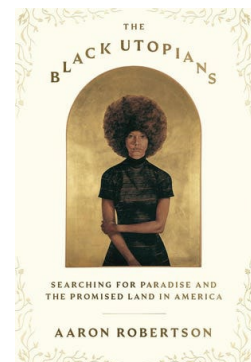
### **'Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr.: Citizen Printer' by Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr., Letterform Archive Books**

Detroit-based letterpress printer Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr. is celebrated for his type-driven messages of social justice and Black power, emblazoned in rhythmically layered and boldly inked posters made for the masses. "Citizen Printer" features 800 reproductions representing the breadth of Kennedy’s posters and prints. It highlights Kennedy’s inspiring story and contextualizes his important work — and offers readers tools for lifting their voices, too.



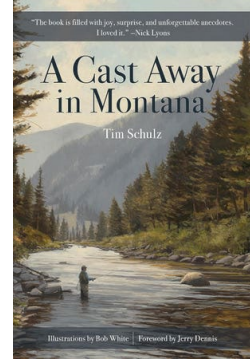
### **'The Black Utopians: Searching for Paradise and the Promised Land in America' by Aaron Robertson, Farrar, Straus and Giroux**

How do the disillusioned, the forgotten and the persecuted not merely hold on to life but expand its possibilities and preserve its beauty? What, in other words, does utopia look like in Black? These questions animate Aaron Robertson’s exploration of Black Americans' efforts to remake the conditions of their lives. Robertson reflects on a diverse array of Black utopian visions, from the Reconstruction era through the countercultural fervor of the 1960s and 1970s and into the present day. By doing so, he showcases the enduring quest of collectives and individuals for a world beyond the constraints of systemic racism.



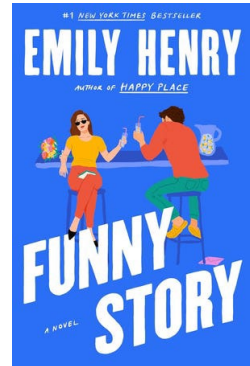
### 'A Cast Away in Montana' by Tim Schulz, Lyons Press

Upper Peninsula native and passionate angler Tim Schulz uses his first fishing trip to Montana to embark on a profoundly personal exploration of life, loss and self-discovery. Through humorous, insightful and reflective storytelling, this compelling narrative resonates with fly-fishing enthusiasts and those seeking a meaningful connection to nature as it weaves together engaging tales of adventure, friendship, regional history and reflection.



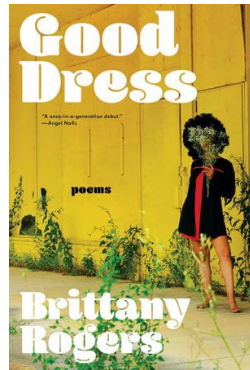
### 'Funny Story: A Novel' by Emily Henry, Berkley

Daphne's life takes an unexpected turn after her fiancé, Peter, falls in love with his childhood friend Petra, leaving her heartbroken. Stranded in Waning Bay, Michigan, with a new job as a children's librarian and no close friends, she agrees to share an apartment with Petra's ex, Miles, until she figures things out. As they bond over their mutual heartache, they concoct a plan to fake a perfect summer together, but the lines between pretend and real emotions start to blur, leaving Daphne questioning whether she's falling for the last person she ever expected.



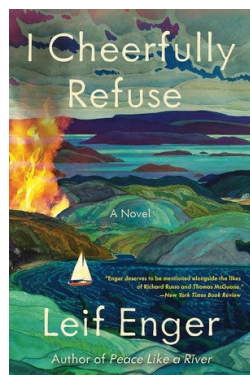
### 'Good Dress' by Brittany Rogers, Tin House Books

"Good Dress" documents the extravagant beauty and audacity of Black Detroit, Black womanhood, community, class, luxury, materialism and matrilineage. This coming-of-age poetry collection witnesses a speaker coming into her own autonomy and selfhood as a young adult, reflecting on formative experiences. With care and incandescent energy, the poems engage with memory, time, interiority and community. They also nudge tenderly toward curiosity: What does it mean to belong to a person, to a city? Can intimacy and romance be found outside the heteronormative confines of partnership? And in what ways can the pursuit of pleasure be an anchor that returns us to ourselves?



### 'I Cheerfully Refuse: A Novel' by Leif Enger, Grove Press

Set in a not-too-distant America, "I Cheerfully Refuse" is the tale of a bereaved and pursued musician embarking under sail on a sentient Lake Superior in search of his departed, deeply beloved, bookselling wife. Rainy, an endearing bear of an Orphean narrator, seeks refuge in the harbors, fogs and remote islands of the inland sea.



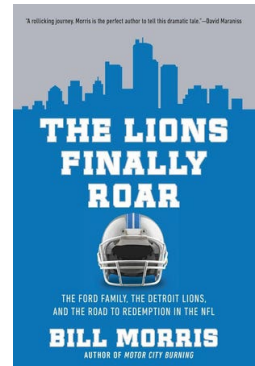
### **'The Lady with the Dark Hair' by Erin Bartels, Revell**

Esther's family members have always believed they were descended from a great, though scandalously underappreciated impressionist-era artist. But when questions arise about her ancestor's greatest work — "The Lady with the Dark Hair" — her once-solid family history rests on shaky ground as a search for the truth begins.



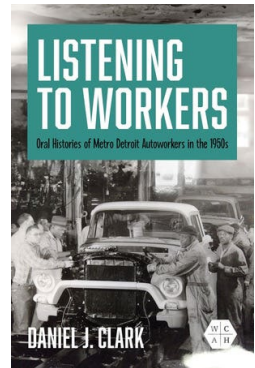
### **'The Lions Finally Roar: The Ford Family, the Detroit Lions, and the Road to Redemption in the NFL' by Bill Morris, Pegasus Books**

In 1963, William Clay Ford purchased the Detroit Lions for \$6 million, marking the start of a tumultuous era of mediocrity for the team. Despite a legacy of legendary players like Bobby Layne, Joe Schmidt, Calvin Johnson and the iconic Barry Sanders, the Lions struggled with poor management and missed opportunities for decades. However, under the leadership of Bill Ford's daughter, Sheila Ford Hamp, and key hires like GM Brad Holmes and coach Dan Campbell, the team has finally found success, signaling a hopeful new chapter in both their history and Detroit's transformation.



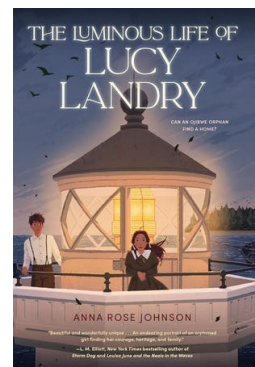
### **'Listening to Workers: Oral Histories of Metro Detroit Autoworkers in the 1950s' by Daniel J. Clark, University of Illinois Press**

Using interviews and archival research, "Listening to Workers" uncovers the personal and often overlooked lives of Detroit-area autoworkers in the 1950s. The book explores the complexities of their experiences, addressing issues like poverty, divorce, workplace dangers and personal struggles, challenging the notion of the 1950s as a time of widespread prosperity. Offering a humanizing perspective, the book presents workers as multidimensional individuals with rich, personal stories that go beyond traditional labor history.



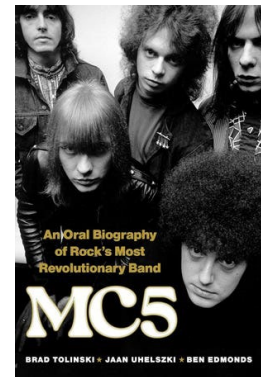
### **'The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry' by Anna Rose Johnson, Holiday House**

After losing her father at sea, spirited French-Ojibwe orphan Lucy is sent to live with the Martins, a large Anishinaabe family living on a lighthouse in the middle of stormy Lake Superior, where she hopes to find the legendary necklace her father spent his life seeking.



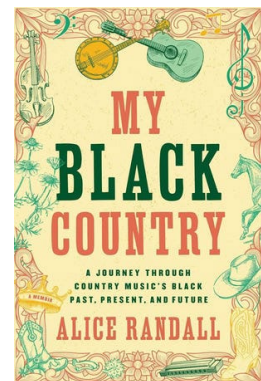
**'MC5: An Oral Biography of Rock's Most Revolutionary Band' by Brad Tolinski, Jaan Uhelszki and Ben Edmonds, Da Capo**

The MC5, managed by radical figure John Sinclair, fused activism with art to become a revolutionary force in rock music, promoting causes like racial equality and cannabis legalization. Despite its fame, the band faced severe backlash, including violent threats, arrests, and betrayal by its record company, all while its music gained popularity. "MC5: An Oral Biography of Rock's Most Revolutionary Band" offers a candid and powerful portrait of the band, featuring interviews with band members and influential figures of the era and showcasing their legacy as both uncompromising musicians and cultural pioneers.



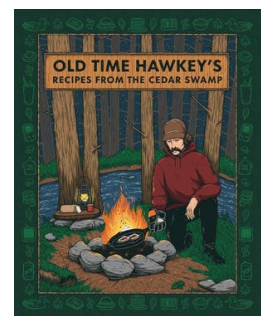
**'My Black Country: A Journey Through Country Music's Black Past, Present, and Future' by Alice Randall, Atria/Black Privilege Publishing**

Country music brought Alice Randall and her activist mother together and even gave Randall a singular distinction in American music history: She is the first Black woman to cowrite a No. 1 country hit, Trisha Yearwood's "XXX's and OOO's". Randall found inspiration and comfort in the sounds and history of the first family of Black country music: DeFord Bailey, Lil Hardin, Ray Charles, Charley Pride and Herb Jeffries. These performers rose through hard times to create simple beauty, true joy, and sometimes profound eccentricity.



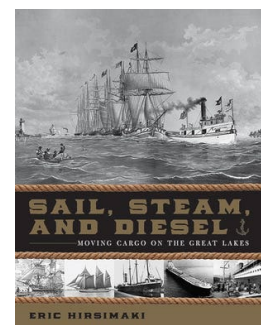
**'Old Time Hawkey's Recipes from the Cedar Swamp: A Cookbook' by Old Time Hawkey, DK**

"Old Time Hawkey's Recipes from the Cedar Swamp" invites readers into the cozy world of comfort, with more than 100 recipes inspired by northern Michigan. The book features a mix of indoor, campfire and companion recipes, including dishes like Pumpkin Pancakes and Dutch Oven Nachos. All evoke warmth and nostalgia. Through these recipes and stories, Old Time Hawkey, aka Fritz, and his dogs Donnybrook and Kris Draper take you on an adventure inspired by three generations of campfires, deer camps and family gatherings spent in northern Michigan.



**'Sail, Steam, and Diesel: Moving Cargo on the Great Lakes' by Eric Hirsimaki, Michigan State University Press**

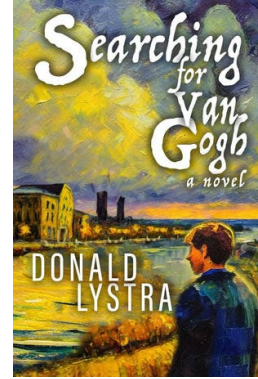
"Sail, Steam, and Diesel: Moving Cargo on the Great Lakes" explores the evolution of ships in the Great Lakes region, from early birch-bark canoes to today's massive freighters. The book examines the economic impact of these vessels and their role in America's industrial rise, highlighting both the technological advancements and the human cost involved in the shipping trade. Through stories of industry leaders and sailors, it underscores the significant but



often overlooked contribution of Great Lakes shipping to the economy and livelihoods of millions.

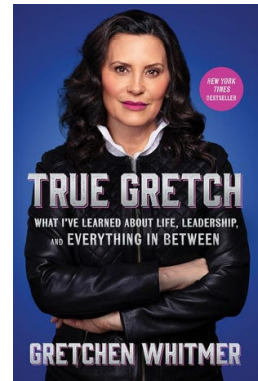
**'Searching for Van Gogh: A Novel' by Donald Lystra, Omena Hills Press**

"Searching for Van Gogh" follows Nate, a young man who, driven by grief over his brother's death, abandons his future in science to pursue painting. After he meets Audrey Brubaker, a fiercely independent woman ostracized by her community who becomes an unexpected mentor, she guides him through a journey of self-discovery and helps him confront the complexities of life. Together, they embark on a road trip to reclaim his brother's body from a military cemetery in northern Michigan and uncover deep emotional truths. Then, in a heartbreaking turn, Audrey seeks Nate's emotional insight, forcing him to confront his deepest fears and learn the power of empathy and courage.



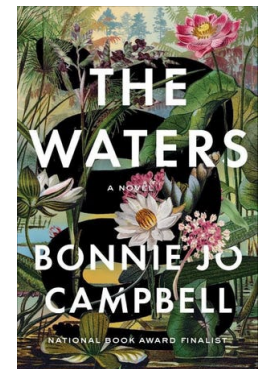
**'True Gretch: What I've Learned About Life, Leadership, and Everything in Between' by Gretchen Whitmer, Simon & Schuster**

From Michigan governor and rising Democratic star Gretchen Whitmer comes a personal and humorous account of her life and career, full of insights that guided her through a global pandemic, showdowns with high-profile bullies and even a kidnapping and assassination plot.



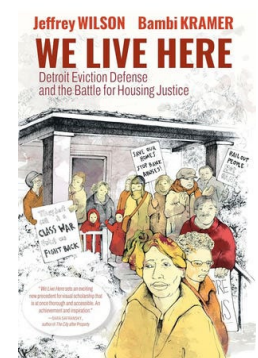
**'The Waters: A Novel' by Bonnie Jo Campbell, W.W. Norton & Co.**

In the Great Massasauga Swamp near Whiteheart, Michigan, the eccentric herbalist Hermine (Herself) Zook has long been a healer, inspiring both awe and fear in the local community and her three estranged daughters. Her youngest daughter, Rose Thorn, abandons her 11-year-old daughter, Dorothy (Donkey) Zook, who grows up isolated and searching for answers in nature and her math books. As tensions rise in the divided community, family secrets and violent men disrupt Donkey's childhood, with Rose Thorn acting as the only bridge between the two sides.



**'We Live Here: Detroit Eviction Defense and the Battle for Housing' by Jeffrey Wilson and Bambi Kramer, Seven Stories Press**

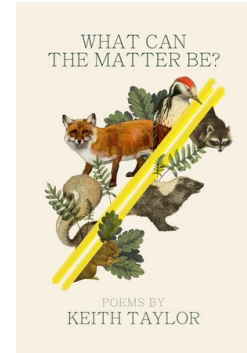
"We Live Here" is a graphic novel biography of the members of the local activist group Detroit Eviction Defense combatting — and beating — calls for their eviction. By illustrating the stories of families struggling against evictions, the book gives a voice to those who have remained in Detroit, showing the larger complexities at work in a beleaguered city. These are



everyday people fighting back, organizing with others, going into the streets and winning their homes back. What will Detroit look like in the future?

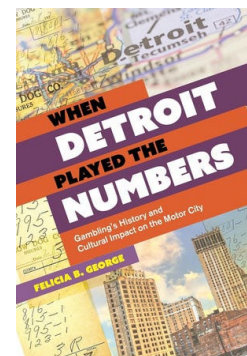
**'What Can the Matter Be?' by Keith Taylor, Wayne State University Press**

Keith Taylor's "What Can the Matter Be?" is a collection that explores themes of aging, death and place, offering reflections on both personal and global scales. Through poems and prose, Taylor showcases his keen observational skills and deep appreciation for nature, while balancing serious themes with moments of humor and joy. The work invites empathy and contemplation, urging readers to reflect on life's fleeting nature and the interconnectedness of all things.



**'When Detroit Played the Numbers: Gambling's History and Cultural Impact on the Motor City' by Felicia B. George, Wayne State University Press**

Felicia B. George's account examines how numbers gambling, once an illegal activity, became a vital community resource and symbol of solidarity in Detroit's Black neighborhoods during times of racial and economic struggle. The book explores the lives of Detroit's numbers operators, who, despite facing poverty, racism, and exploitation, provided employment and financial support for their communities. Through vivid storytelling, George links this underground gambling scene to key moments in local history, shedding light on the complex relationship between race, politics and community resilience.



*Contact Detroit Free Press pop culture critic Julie Hinds at [jhinds@freepress.com](mailto:jhinds@freepress.com).*

## A New Dawn for Birds at Chicago's McCormick Place

On a warm morning this past October, Dave Willard, the retired bird collections manager for Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, walked briskly along a glassy façade on the Lake Michigan shoreline looking for fallen birds. The building made of glass is McCormick Place, the convention center infamous to birders as the place where nearly 1,000 migrating birds met their deaths on Oct. 5, 2023 [See "After the Storm," Spring 2024].

Willard has taken walks like this on nearly every morning during migration seasons for the last 40 years, documenting birds that crash into the building's windows. He typically collects nearly 1,000 dead birds at McCormick Place over the course of a year, with most mortalities coming during fall migration. This past autumn, however, Willard says he found only 48 dead birds.

The difference appears to be the tiny white circles spaced every two inches along the entirety of McCormick Place's

120,000 square feet of glassy surface. The markers were applied as part of a \$1.2 million project last summer conducted by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, which owns and operates McCormick Place, to avoid another avian catastrophe.

"Every migration is different," Willard says, "but the prognosis is good."

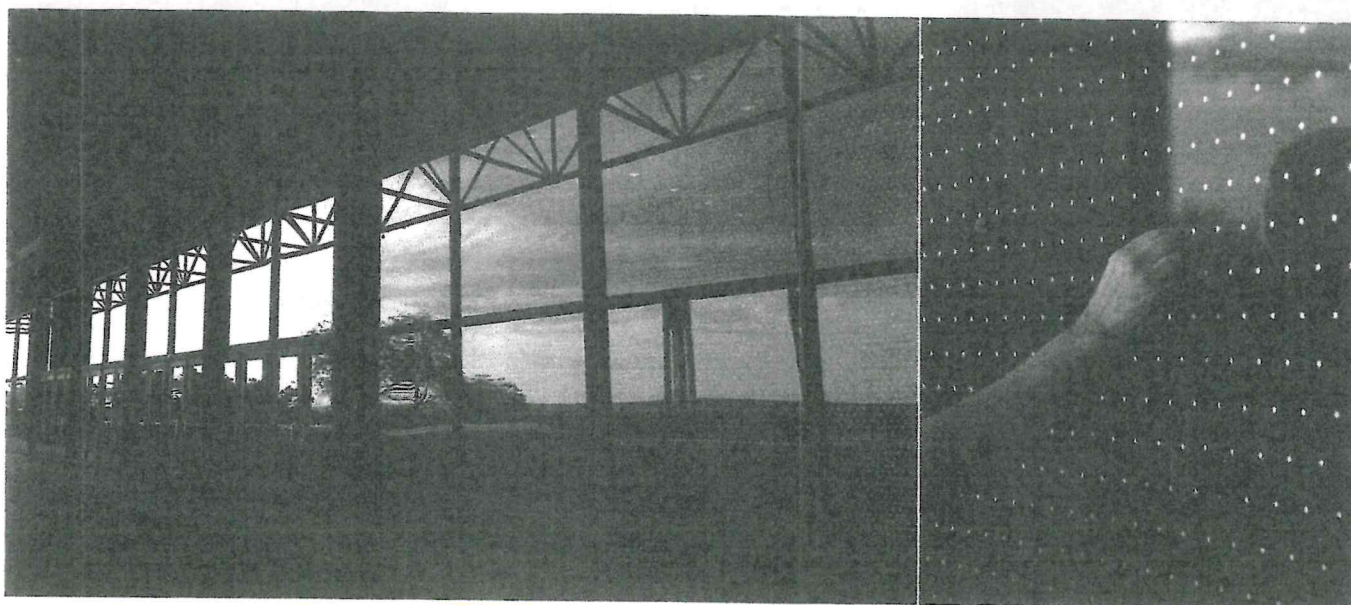
The markers appear to be doing what they're intended to do—keep birds from slamming into the glass. On a few heavy migration days in late August and early September, when well over 100 dead birds were collected at the base of skyscrapers across the city by the nonprofit group Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, Willard found only one or two dead birds at McCormick Place. One of the volunteers in Willard's survey effort even reported seeing a bird fly near the building and veer away as it got closer.

"If this really works here ... then let's go on to the next worst building, right?" says Willard.

McCormick Place has long had a reputation as one of the worst bird-killing buildings in Chicago. The building's location right on the lake-shore, in the middle of a migratory pathway, makes it particularly deadly to migrating tree sparrows, juncos, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and dozens of other migratory species that travel through the city by night.

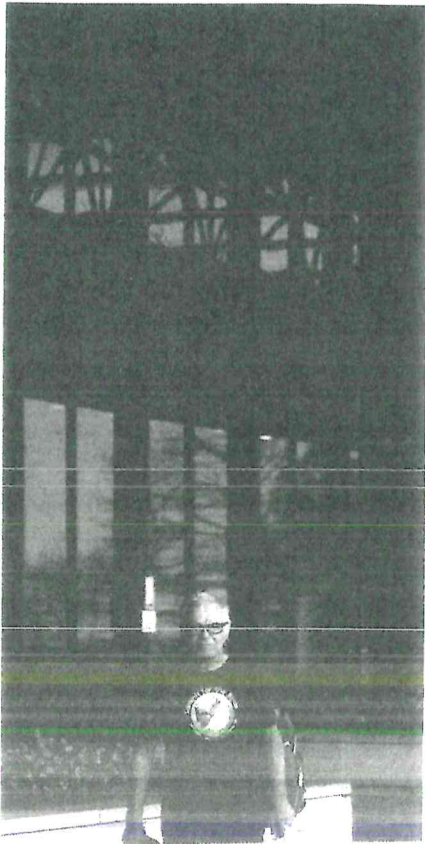
For several years MPEA has participated in Chicago's Lights Out program, a voluntary effort to reduce bird strikes by turning lights off during migration, but the convention center only went dark when no staff, visitors, or clients were present. After last October's disaster, McCormick Place officials drew the curtains inside the convention center to cover up the interior lights during bird migration. The markers are a more permanent solution.

"MPEA has always strived to be a good neighbor and environmental steward, both inside and outside our cam-



The McCormick Place convention center in Chicago has 120,000 square feet of glass surfaces that have killed thousands of migrating birds over the past four decades. New markers applied last summer are designed to increase the visibility of the glass so birds can avoid it, and they seem to be working. Dead bird recoveries at the convention center are down significantly this fall. Photos by Jessica Suarez / Cornell Lab Conservation Media.





to August, carefully transferring the markers from the film to the windows across the entirety of the exterior glassy surface on McCormick Place. Feather Friendly executives now say that other building owners in Chicago are coming to the company to ask about the product that MPEA put on McCormick Place.

“When we first started, it was hard to get anyone to even think about doing something like this,” says Feather Friendly Vice President Paul Groleau, who notes that the company sells products for residential buildings as well. “Awareness is at an all-time high.”

That recognition comes not a moment too soon, says Chicago Bird Collision Monitors Director Annette Prince. She notes that the city’s munic-

ipal codes currently do not require building owners and designers to make structures bird-friendly, and that a new development planned along the Chicago River—a new Bally’s Casino—includes plans for a massive glass façade.

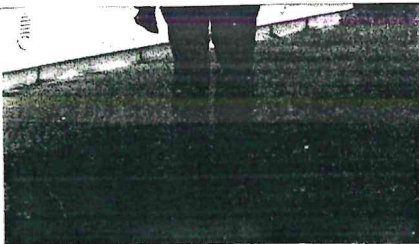
Prince says that any new buildings in Chicago should incorporate bird-friendly glass from the start.

“Other cities are doing it, and they haven’t collapsed into a pile of dust because they’re being bird friendly,” she says. “I think that we can have attractive architecture and bird safety. They don’t have to be mutually exclusive.”

—Susan Cosier

Susan Cosier is a Chicago-based freelance science writer.

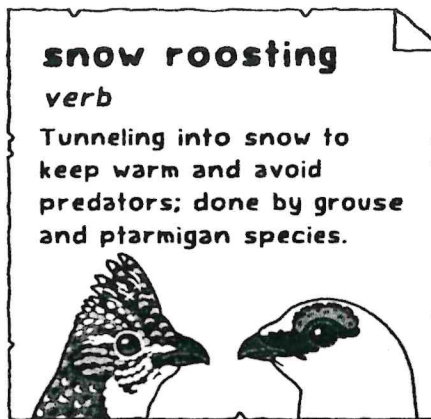
## BirdWord by Rosemary Mosco



Retired Field Museum Bird Collections Manager Dave Willard has been walking by McCormick Place to pick up window-collision victims for the past 40 years. Photo by Jessica Suarez / Cornell Lab Conservation Media.

pus,” said MPEA CEO Larita Clark in a press release. “When we learned of the reported mass collision event last year, we knew that we needed to quickly make additional improvements to protect local and migratory birds as they pass McCormick Place.”

The MPEA worked with Feather Friendly, a Toronto-based company that makes scientifically tested bird-deterrent products for glass, on the project. Installers worked from June



# *The Digital Librarian*

## **Library Tech Trends for 2025**

January 21, 2025 – Nick Tanzi

<https://the-digital-librarian.com/2025/01/21/library-tech-trends-for-2025/>



From AI disruption to increasing financial strain on our digital collections, the year 2025 promises to be filled with both challenges and opportunities for libraries. That said, what are the tech trends for libraries in 2025?

### **A Tipping Point for Library Digital Collections**

For years, library ebook and e-audiobook collections have grown in size, accounting for **both a larger percentage of material expenditures** and circulation numbers. Libraries have also added new material types, with recent investments in streaming video platforms. Even as these collections become increasingly critical to library lending, publishers' exorbitant pricing and unfair terms are rendering these collections financially unsustainable. Libraries throughout the United States and Canada are finding it necessary to throttle patron usage, reduce the number of titles purchased, and in some cases, even end some digital lending services.

While [past attempts at legislative solutions have failed](#), there is renewed optimism for new state-level bills in [Rhode Island](#) and [New York](#), which seek prevent exploitative industry practices and lower costs for libraries. Such legislation has been tailored to survive challenges on their constitutionality. If successful, one should expect other states to advocate for similar legislation.

### **Rise of Library-Specific AI Tools, and Evaluative Frameworks**

With the rise of generative AI, libraries should expect to be approached by traditional library vendors offering “AI-enhanced” services. [ScopusAI](#) being one such example. As fast as AI has progressed, there have been surprisingly few products brought to market, or as Marshall Breeding stated in his [2024 Library Systems Report](#)

“While many companies...have announced ongoing plans to add generative AI to their offerings, this technology has not yet been integrated in any significant way. As the industry continues to work on harnessing AI in ways that limit bias and error, libraries can anticipate more prominent use of this technology in products within the next year or so.”

Given the numerous points of friction that exist between generative AI and the librarianship, cautious development is not only good, but necessary! The companion piece to incoming library-specific AI tools, is the development of two broad frameworks; a staff AI literacy framework, and an AI tool evaluation framework. There is growing progress on both fronts! Some recent examples include:

- Sandy Hervieux and Amanda Wheatley’s [Six Frames for AI Literacy](#), and [ROBOT test](#) for evaluating tools.
- Susan Gardner Archambault and José J. Rincón’s [REACT Framework](#).

### **Navigating a More Treacherous Information Environment**

As with the rise of the world wide web, artificial intelligence represents a complication of our information environment—the quantity of info has increased, not necessarily its quality. Expect to see [AI generated content make its way to academic journals](#), library digital collections be flooded with [AI authored books](#) and [audiobooks of dubious origin](#), and [internet search results to battle SEO spam](#). This will all require that librarians and

other information professionals remain skeptical, vigilant, and determined in our pursuit and curation of accurate information.

Libraries will need to consider the place AI authored materials have within our acquisitions. Are new collection development policies necessary—and are they even enforceable? One can expect to see libraries putting pressure on distributors of both print and digital materials to, at a minimum, disclose when titles are AI-authored.

### **Reassessing What it Means to Be Computer Literate**

It's a fairly standard hiring practice to ask prospective employees “Are you computer literate?”. That being said, the definition of computer literate has changed over time. When we think of traditional computer literacy, we likely think of word processing software, the internet search, communication tools (such as email), and a general understanding of the Windows operating system. All of those rather core elements of computer literacy are now being impacted by AI, from the rise of [conversational/AI-powered search](#) to the integration of [generative AI into collaborative work suites](#) and operating systems, both [desktop](#) and [mobile](#).

In the year 2025, to be computer literate, one must be AI literate. As is often the case with new terminologies, different definitions abound. One good description from [Digital Promise](#) states that AI literacy

...includes the knowledge and skills that enable humans to critically understand, use, and evaluate AI systems and tools to safely and ethically participate in an increasingly digital world.

Library professionals should plan on making [AI literacy](#) a primary focus of both their individual and organizational professional development efforts.

### **Updating Our Approach to Internet Safety**

Libraries have provided critical community access to the internet, while promoting both [digital literacy](#) and [digital citizenship](#). As AI continues to insinuate itself in our online activities, new dangers have emerged, and we will need to redouble our efforts in this arena.

Looking at our young adult patrons, we have seen AI chatbots that may [encourage self-harm](#), [promote eating disorders](#), or otherwise impart bad information persuasively. Some AI Chatbots may be [addictive in nature](#)—perhaps by design! [There is ongoing scholarship exploring the relationship teens have with generative AI](#), but one thing seems clear—parents are largely unaware of their children’s activities, and libraries can help to fill this information vacuum.

Throughout the years, libraries have helped to educate our seniors, in order to protect them against financial scams—and [artificial intelligence now represents it’s bleeding edge](#). The National Council On Aging has assembled [a good resource](#) that can help form the basis of library-led instruction.

### **Until Next Time!**

Wishing everyone happiness and good health in 2025. This year promises to be an interesting one for us all! As always, if you’re seeking a keynote speaker for your library event, feel free to [reach out](#). In other news:

- I’ll be at the [2025 Computers in Libraries Conference](#) in Arlington, Virginia this March 24-27. I’ll be conducting a 3-hour pre-conference workshop “Getting Your Public Library AI-Ready,” along with a 45 minute session on navigating AI disruption. You can [view the full program here](#).
- I’ll be giving the keynote speech for the [2025 Evergreen International Online Conference](#). My talk will be “True to Our Mission: Libraries, Emerging Technologies, and the Road Ahead.” The event is set to take place on May 12-14.
- I was recently interviewed by the Library Journal of the Slovak National Library, where I talked about AI, technological change, and the value of libraries. You can [view the full journal here](#). My interview is in English, and starts on page 6.
- I was recently a guest on the [Adventures in Parenting Podcast](#), where I shared a parent’s perspective on engaging with generative AI.

# american libraries

## 2025 Youth Media Award Winners

Top books, video, and audiobooks for children and young adults announced at ALA's LibLearnX conference in Phoenix

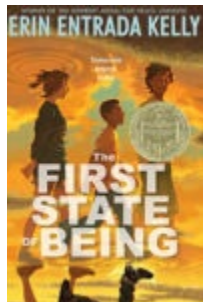
January 27, 2025

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/2025-youth-media-award-winners/>

On January 27, the American Library Association (ALA) announced the top books, digital media, video, and audiobooks for children and young adults—including the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Newbery, and Printz awards—at ALA's 2025 LibLearnX conference in Phoenix.

A complete list of the 2025 award winners follows.

**John Newbery Medal** for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature:

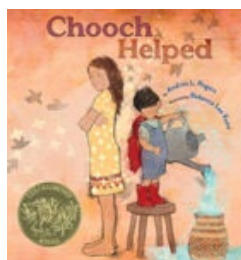


*The First State of Being*, written by Erin Entrada Kelly, is the 2025 Newbery Medal winner. The book is published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Four Newbery Honor Books also were named:

*Across So Many Seas*, written by Ruth Behar and published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House; *Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All*, written and illustrated by Chanel Miller and published by Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House; *One Big Open Sky*, written by Lesa Cline-Ransome and published by Holiday House; and *The Wrong Way Home*, written by Kate O'Shaughnessy, a Borzoi Book, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House.

**Randolph Caldecott Medal** for the most distinguished American picture book for children:



*Chooch Helped*, illustrated by Rebecca Lee Kunz, is the 2025 Caldecott Medal winner. The book is written by Andrea L. Rogers and published by Arthur A. Levine, an imprint of Levine Querido.

Four Caldecott Honor Books also were named:



*Home in a Lunchbox*, illustrated and written by Cherry Mo and published by Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Random House; *My Daddy Is a Cowboy*, illustrated by C.G. Esperanza, written by Stephanie Seales and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Abrams; *Noodles on a Bicycle*, illustrated by Gracey Zhang, written by Kyo Maclear, and published by Random House Studio, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House; and *Up, Up, Ever Up! Junko Tabei: A Life in the Mountains*, illustrated by Yuko Shimizu, written by Anita Yasuda and published by Clarion Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

**Coretta Scott King Book Awards** recognize an African American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults.

### **Coretta Scott King Author Book Award**

*Twenty-four Seconds from Now...*, written by Jason Reynolds, is the 2025 King Author Book winner. The book is published by Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

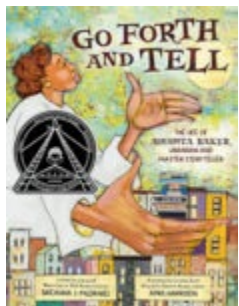
Three King Author Honor Books were selected:

*Black Girl You Are Atlas*, written by Renée Watson, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, and published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House; *Black Star*, written by Kwame Alexander and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group; and *One Big Open Sky*, written by Lesa Cline-Ransome and published by Holiday House.

### **Coretta Scott King Illustrator Book Award**

*My Daddy Is a Cowboy*, illustrated by C. G. Esperanza, is the 2025 King Illustrator Book winner. The book is written by Stephanie Seales and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Abrams.

Three King Illustrator Honor Books were selected:



*Coretta: The Autobiography of Mrs. Coretta Scott King*, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, written by Coretta Scott King with the Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds and published by Godwin Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company; *Everywhere Beauty Is Harlem: The Vision of Photographer Roy DeCarava*, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, written by Gary Golio, and published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers; and *Go Forth and Tell: The Life of Augusta Baker, Librarian and Master Storyteller*, illustrated by April Harrison, written by Breanna J. McDaniel and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

### **Coretta Scott King—John Steptoe New Talent Author Award**

*Kwame Crashes the Underworld*, written by Craig Kofi Farmer, is the Steptoe Author Award winner. The book is published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing.

### **Coretta Scott King—John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award**

*Jimmy's Rhythm & Blues: The Extraordinary Life of James Baldwin*, illustrated by Jamiel Law, is the Steptoe Illustrator Award winner. The book is written by Michelle Meadows and published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

### **Coretta Scott King—Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement**

Carolyn L. Garnes is the winner of the Coretta Scott King—Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. Garnes has spent more than 30 years as a practitioner championing books for Black children as a public and school library director and as the founder of the nonprofit Aunt Lil's Reading Room. The award pays tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton.

**Michael L. Printz Award** for excellence in literature written for young adults:



*Brownstone*, written by Samuel Teer, is the 2025 Printz Award winner. The book is illustrated by Mar Julia and copublished by Versify and HarperAlley, imprints of HarperCollins Publishers.

Four Printz Honor Books also were named:

*Bright Red Fruit*, written by Safia Elhillo and published by Make Me a World, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House; *Compound Fracture*, written by Andrew Joseph White and published by Peachtree Teen, an imprint of Peachtree Publishing Company Inc.; *The Deep Dark*, written by Molly Knox Ostertag and published by Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.; and *Road Home*, written by Rex Ogle and published by Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W. W. Norton & Company Inc.

**Schneider Family Book Awards** for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience:

The best young children's book is *A Little Like Magic*, written and illustrated by Sarah Kurpiel and published by Rocky Pond Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Two honor books for young children were selected: *Monster Hands*, written by Karen Kane and Jonaz McMillan, illustrated by Dion MBD, and published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House; and *You're So Amazing!"* written by James and Lucy Catchpole, illustrated by Karen George, and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group.

The best middle-grade book is *Popcorn*, written and illustrated by Rob Harrell and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Two middle-grade honor books were selected: *Louder Than Hunger*, written by John Schu and published by Candlewick Press; and *Shark Teeth*, written by Sherri Winston and published by Bloomsbury Children's Books.

The best young adult book is *Chronically Dolores*, written by Maya Van Wagenen and published by Dutton Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Two honor books for



teens were selected: *Light Enough to Float*, written by Lauren Seal and published by Rocky Pond Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House; *On the Bright Side*, written by Anna Sortino and published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

**Alex Awards** for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences:

*Beautiful People: My Thirteen Truths about Disability*, written by Melissa Blake, published by Hachette Go, an imprint of Hachette Books.

*Big Jim and the White Boy*, written by David F. Walker, illustrated by Marcus Kwame Anderson, and published by Ten Speed Graphic, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House.

*Daughters of Shandong*, written by Eve J. Chung, published by Berkley, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

*Dead Cat Tail Assassins*, written by P. Djèlí Clark, published by Tordotcom, an imprint of Tor Publishing Group, a division of Macmillan.

*How to Solve Your Own Murder: A Novel*, written by Kristen Perrin, published by Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

*I Feel Awful, Thanks*, written and illustrated by Lara Pickle, published by Oni-Lion Forge Publishing Group.

*I Was a Teenage Slasher*, written by Stephen Graham Jones, published by Saga Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster.

*The Witch of Colchis*, written by Rosie Hewlett, published by Sourcebooks Landmark, an imprint of Sourcebooks.

*The Witchstone*, written by Henry H. Neff, published by Blackstone Publishing.

*Woman, Life, Freedom*, created by Marjane Satrapi, translated by Una Dimitrijević, published by Seven Stories Press.

## **The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Children's Literature**

**The ALSC Children's Literature Lecture Award** is an annual event featuring an author, critic, librarian, historian, or teacher of children's literature. Author Cynthia Leitich Smith will deliver the 2026 ALSC Children's Literature Lecture. Smith is a *New York Times* bestselling author of more than 20 books for children and young adults. Her 2018 book *Hearts Unbroken* won the 2020 American Indian Youth Literature Award.

The **Children's Literature Legacy Award** honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children through books that demonstrate integrity and respect for all children's lives and experiences.

The 2025 winner is Carole Boston Weatherford. Her award-winning works include *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre*, which won the 2022 Coretta Scott King Author Award, and *BOX: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*, recipient of the 2021 Newbery Medal Honor, among other titles.

The 2025 winner of the **Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award**, given to a digital media producer that has created distinguished digital media for an early learning audience, is *Carl the Collector*, produced by Fuzzytown Productions and Spiffy Pictures. The committee selected two honor titles: *Lyla in the Loop*, produced by Mighty Space Picnic and Pipeline Studios; and *The Plate Show*, produced by The WNET Group and PRX.

The 2025 winner of the **Margaret A. Edwards Award** for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults is Tiffany D. Jackson. Jackson's books include: *Allegedly*, *The Awakening of Malcolm X*, *Grown*, *Let Me Hear a Rhyme*, *The Long Walk from Blackout*, *Monday's Not Coming*, and *White Smoke*.

**Mildred L. Batchelder Award** for an outstanding children's book originally published in a language other than English, in a country other than the United States, and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States:

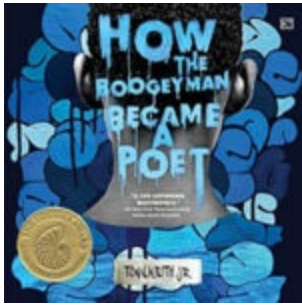
*John the Skeleton* is the 2025 Batchelder Award winner. Originally published in Estonian as *Luukere Juhani juhtumised*, the book was written by Triinu Laan, illustrated by Marja-Liisa Plats, translated by Adam Cullen, and published by Yonder, an imprint of Restless Books for Young Readers.

Four Honor Books also were selected:

*Home*, written and illustrated by Isabelle Simler, translated by Vineet Lal, and published by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, an imprint of William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.; *Johnny the Sea, and Me*, written by Melba Escobar, illustrated by Elizabeth Builes, translated by Sara Lissa Paulson, and published by Enchanted Lion Books; *Mr. Lepron's Mystery Soup*, written by Giovanna Zoboli, illustrated by Mariachiara Di Giorgio, translated by Denise Muir, and published by Candlewick Studio, an imprint of Candlewick Press; and *A Sleepless Night*, written by Micaela Chirif, illustrated by Joaquín Camp, translated by Jordan Landsman, and published by Transit Children's Editions.

**Odyssey Awards** for the best audiobooks produced for children and young adults, available in English in the United States:

*A Plate of Hope: The Inspiring Story of Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen*, produced by Andy T. Jones for Dreamscape Audio, is the 2025 Odyssey Award winner for children. The book is written by Erin Frankel, illustrated by Paola Escobar, and narrated by Luis Carlos de La Lombana.



*How the Boogeyman Became a Poet*, produced by Abigail Marks for HarperAudio, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, is the 2025 Odyssey Award winner for young adults. The book is written and narrated by Tony Keith Jr.

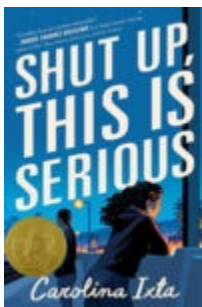
Four Honor Audiobooks also were selected:

*Black Girl You Are Atlas*, produced by Brian Ramcharan for Listening Library, an imprint of Penguin Random House, written by Renée Watson, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, and narrated by Renée Watson; *Dispatches from Parts Unknown*, produced by Almeda Beynon for HarperAudio, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, written by Bryan Bliss, and narrated by Joy Nash; *Girls Like Her*, produced by Abigail Marks for HarperAudio, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, written by Melanie Sumrow and narrated by Melanie Sumrow and January LaVoy; and *You Are Brave: A Book About Trying New Things*, produced by Paul Gagne and John Pels for Scholastic Inc., written by Margaret O’Hair and Sofia Sanchez, illustrated by Sofia Cardoso, and narrated by Sofia Sanchez.

**Pura Belpré Awards** honor Latinx writers and illustrators whose children’s and young adult books best portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience.

*Lola*, written by Karla Arenas Valenti, is the 2025 Pura Belpré Children’s Author Award winner. The book is published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books, a division of Penguin Random House.

Two Children’s Author Honor Books were named: *Cruzita and the Mariacheros*, written by Ashley Granillo and published by Carolrhoda Books, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group Inc.; and *Ultraviolet*, written by Aida Salazar and published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.



*Shut Up, This Is Serious*, written by Carolina Ixta, is the 2025 Pura Belpré Young Adult Author Award winner. The book is published by Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Two Young Adult Author Honor Books were named: *Libertad*, written by Bessie Flores Zaldivar and published by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House; and *Wild Dreamers*, written by Margarita Engle and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing.

*The Dream Catcher*, written and illustrated by Marcelo Verdad, is the 2025 Pura Belpré Youth Illustrator Award winner. The book is published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group.

Two Youth Illustrator Honor Books were named: *Abuelo, the Sea, and Me*, illustrated by Tatiana Gardel, written by Ismée Williams, and published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing; *A Maleta Full of Treasures*, illustrated by Juana Medina, written by

Natalia Sylvester, and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

The **Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal** for the most distinguished informational book for children:

*Life After Whale: The Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall*, written by Lynn Brunelle and illustrated by Jason Chin, is the 2025 Sibert Medal winner. The book is published by Neal Porter Books, Holiday House.

Four Sibert Honor Books were named: *Call Me Roberto! Roberto Clemente Goes to Bat for Latinos*, written by Nathalie Alonso, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez, and published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers; *The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II*, written by Candace Fleming and published by Scholastic Focus, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.; *The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival*, written by Estelle Nadel with Sammy Savos and Bethany Strout, illustrated by Sammy Savos, and published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing; *Wings of an Eagle: The Gold Medal Dreams of Billy Mills*, written by Billy Mills and Donna Janell Bowman, illustrated by S. D. Nelson, and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group Inc.

**Stonewall Book Award—Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Awards** are given annually to English-language children’s and young adult books of exceptional merit relating to the LGBTQIA+ experience.

*Lunar Boy*, written and illustrated by Jes and Cin Wibowo and published by HarperAlley, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, is the 2025 recipient of the Stonewall Book Award—Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s Literature Award.

Four children’s Honor Books were selected: *Marley’s Pride*, written by Joëlle Retener, illustrated by DeAnn Wiley, and published by Barefoot Books; *Murray Out of Water*, written by Taylor Tracy and published by Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *The Flicker*, written by H. E. Edgmon and published by Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group; and *What I Must Tell the World: How Lorraine Hansberry Found Her Voice*, written by Jay Leslie, illustrated by Loveis Wise, and published by Hillman Grad Books, an imprint of Zando.

*Canto Contigo*, written by Jonny Garza Villa and published by Wednesday Books, an imprint of St. Martin’s Publishing Group, is the 2025 recipient of the Stonewall Book Award—Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Young Adult Literature Award.

Four Young Adult Honor Books were selected: *Most Ardently: A Pride and Prejudice Remix*, written by Gabe Cole Novoa and published by Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group; *Navigating with You*, written by Jeremy Whitley, illustrated by Cassio Ribeiro, and published by Maverick, Mad Cave Studios; *Road Home*, written by Rex Ogle and published by Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W. W. Norton & Company Inc.;

and *Time and Time Again*, written by Chatham Greenfield and published by Bloomsbury YA, Bloomsbury Publishing Inc., part of Bloomsbury Publishing.

**Theodor Seuss Geisel Award** for the most distinguished beginning reader book:

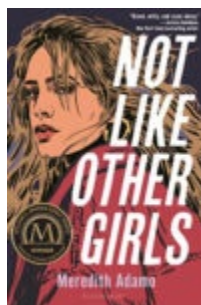


*Vacation*, is the 2025 Geisel Award winner. The book is written by Ame Dyckman, illustrated by Mark Teague, and published by Beach Lane Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing.

Two Geisel Honor Books were named:

*Fox versus Fox*, written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor and published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; and *Towed by Toad*, written and illustrated by Jashar Awan and published by Tundra Books, an imprint of Tundra Book Group, a division of Penguin Random House Canada.

**William C. Morris Award** for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens:



*Not Like Other Girls*, written by Meredith Adamo, is the 2025 Morris Award winner. The book is published by Bloomsbury YA, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Inc., part of Bloomsbury Publishing.

Four other books were finalists for the award:

*Aisle Nine*, written by Ian X. Cho and published by HarperCollins Children’s Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers; *Dead Things Are Closer Than They Appear*, written by Robin Wasley and published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing; *Shut Up, This Is Serious*, written by Carolina Ixta and published by Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; and *The Wilderness of Girls*, written by Madeline Claire Franklin and published by Zando Young Readers, an imprint of Zando.

**YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction** for Young Adults:

*Rising from the Ashes: Los Angeles, 1992. Edward Jae Song Lee, Latasha Harlins, Rodney King, and a City on Fire*, written by Paula Yoo, is the 2025 Excellence winner. The book is published by Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W. W. Norton & Company Inc.

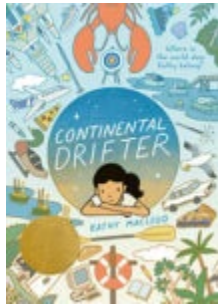
Four other books were finalists for the award:

*A Greater Goal: The Epic Battle for Equal Pay in Women’s Soccer—and Beyond*, written by Elizabeth Rusch and published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Homebody*, written and illustrated by Theo Parish and published by HarperAlley, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Shackled: A Tale of Wronged Kids, Rogue Judges, and a Town that Looked Away*, written by Candy J. Cooper and published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, a division of Astra Publishing House; and *The*

*Unboxing of a Black Girl*, written by Angela Shanté and published by Page Street Publishing Co.

**Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature** promotes Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage and is awarded based on literary and artistic merit. The award offers three youth categories—picture book, children’s literature, and youth literature—and is administered by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), an affiliate of ALA. This year’s winners include:

The Picture Book winner is *Aloha Everything*, written by Kaylin Melia George, illustrated by Mae Waite, and published by Red Comet Press. The committee selected one Picture Book honor title: *The Rock in My Throat*, written by Kao Kalia Yang, illustrated by Jiemei Lin, and published by Carolrhoda Books, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group Inc.



The Children’s Literature winner is *Continental Drifter*, written and illustrated by Kathy MacLeod and published by First Second Books, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing. The committee selected two Children’s Literature honor titles: *Mabuhay!*, written and illustrated by Zachary Sterling and published by Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.; and *Clairboyance*, written by Kristiana Kahakauwila and published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

The Young Adult Literature winner is *Everything We Never Had*, written by Randy Ribay and published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House. The committee selected two Young Adult Literature honor titles: *Lunar New Year Love Story*, written by Gene Luen Yang, illustrated by LeUyen Pham, and published by First Second Books, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing; and *Dragonfruit*, written by Makiia Lucier and published by Clarion Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

**Sydney Taylor Book Award** is presented annually to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience. Presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries since 1968, the award encourages the publication and widespread use of quality Judaic literature.

This year’s Gold Medalists include:

In the Picture Book category: *An Etrog from Across the Sea*, written by Deborah Bodin Cohen and Kerry Olitzky, illustrated by Stacey Dressen McQueen, and published by Kar-Ben Publishing, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group.

In the Middle Grade category: *The Girl Who Sang: A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival*, written by Estelle Nadel and Sammy Savos, with Bethany Strout, illustrated by Sammy Savos, and published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing.

And in the Young Adult category: *Night Owls*, written by A. R. Vishny and published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Silver Medalists include:

In the Picture Book category: *Amazing Abe: How Abraham Cahan's Newspaper Gave a Voice to Jewish Immigrants*, written by Norman H. Finkelstein, illustrated by Vesper Stamper, and published by Holiday House; *Joyful Song: A Naming Story*, written by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Susan Gal, and published by Arthur A. Levine, an imprint of Levine Querido; *Rising*, written by Sidura Ludwig, illustrated by Sophia Vincent Guy, and published by Candlewick Press; and *The Tree of Life: How a Holocaust Sapling Inspired the World*, written by Elisa Boxer, illustrated by Alianna Rozentsveig, and published by Rocky Pond Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House;

In the Middle Grade category: *Across So Many Seas*, written by Ruth Behar and published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House; *Finn and Ezra's Bar Mitzvah Time Loop*, written by Joshua S. Levy and published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; and *Just Shy of Ordinary*, written by A. J. Sass and published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Hachette Book Group.

And in the Young Adult category: *The Forbidden Book*, written by Sacha Lamb, published by Arthur A. Levine, an imprint of Levine Querido; and *Trajectory*, written by Cambria Gordon and published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.

Recognized worldwide for the high quality they represent, ALA awards guide parents, educators, librarians, and others in selecting the best materials for youth. Selected by judging committees of librarians and other children's experts, the awards encourage original and creative work. For more information on the ALA Youth Media Awards and notables, please visit [ala.org/yma](http://ala.org/yma).

# BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST

Trust Agenda

Trust Minutes

Trust Financial Reports

Gifts to Trust: Receipts

Check Register: Claims



# **Baldwin Public Library Trust Meeting**

Rotary Donor Room

Monday, February 24, 2025

Immediately following regular Board meeting

## ***Agenda***

Call to order and establishment of a quorum

I. General Public Comment Period

The Library Board values public meetings and welcomes your comments on Library issues. The Board respectfully asks that comments be made as concisely as possible. We welcome your comments but will not debate items not on the agenda. The maximum time for individual speakers should not exceed three minutes.

II. Consent Agenda

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and approved by a roll call vote. There will be no discussion of these items unless a board member or a citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered as the last item under new business.

- A. Approval of the January 22, 2025 minutes p. 145
- B. Acceptance of the January 2025 receipts of \$24,761.12 p. 152
- C. Approval of the January 2025 disbursements of \$8,971.38 p. 153

III. New and Miscellaneous Business

IV. Adjournment

The next Trust meeting will be held immediately following the next regular meeting of the Baldwin Public Library Board of Directors on Monday, March 17, 2025

***Motion:*** To adjourn the February 24, 2025 Trust Meeting.

Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the Library at the number (248) 647-1700 or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la biblioteca en el número (248) 647-1700 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



**BALDWIN LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES,  
TRUST MEETING  
January 22, 2025**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Danielle Rumble at 8:55 p.m.

Library Board present: Wendy Friedman, Frank Pisano, Melissa Mark, Karen Rock, Danielle Rumble, and Jennifer Wheeler.

Absent and excused: None.

Library Staff present: Rebekah Craft, Director, Jaclyn Miller, Associate Director, and Robert Stratton, Office Administrator.

Friends of the Library Liaison present: None.

Contract community representatives present: None.

Members of the public present: None.

**1. General Public Comment Period: None.**

**2. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the Trust minutes, as well as receipts and disbursements.**

**A. Approval of the December 16, 2024 minutes**

**B. Acceptance of the December 2024 receipts of \$7,326.26**

**C. Approval of the December 2024 disbursements of \$7,226.62**

1st Pisano

2nd Rock

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble, Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: None.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. New and Miscellaneous Business: None.**

**4. Adjournment:**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting.**

1st Mark

2nd Pisano

A voice vote was taken.

Yeas: Friedman, Mark, Pisano, Rock, Rumble.

Nays: None.

Absent and excused: Wheeler.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. The next Trust Meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025, following the regular meeting in the Rotary Tribute & Donor Room.

---

Jennifer Wheeler, Secretary

Date

DRAFT

## Baldwin Public Library Trust: January 2025

January receipts totaled \$24,761.12. January disbursements totaled \$8,971.38.

The current value of the Trust is \$2,155,054.32, divided up in the following way:

	<b>June 2024 - EOY</b>	<b>January 2025</b>
Total endowment investments*	\$ 1,130,701.05	\$ 1,233,338.56
Endowment funds distributed for use	\$ 218,537.84	\$ 174,404.20
<hr/> Total endowment funds	<hr/> \$ 1,349,238.89	<hr/> \$ 1,407,742.76
General spendable funds	\$ 514,855.26	\$ 559,589.49
Van Dragt fund	\$ 16,663.66	\$ -
Building fund	\$ 118,787.20	\$ 125,638.39
Restricted funds**	\$ 37,762.23	\$ 38,866.03
Naming rights for Rotary Tribute Room	\$ 9,337.89	\$ 7,832.00
Naming rights for Burnett Reference Desk	\$ 9,385.65	\$ 9,385.65
Naming rights for Thal Reference Desk	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
<hr/> Total non-endowment funds	<hr/> \$ 712,791.89	<hr/> \$ 747,311.56
Total endowment funds	\$ 1,349,238.89	\$ 1,407,742.76
Total non-endowment funds	712,791.89	\$ 747,311.56
<hr/> Total of all Trust funds	<hr/> \$ 2,062,030.78	<hr/> \$ 2,155,054.32

\* The principal of the endowment funds is \$889,697.04.

\*\*Includes memorials and donations from the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library

As of January 31, the amount of money in the Trust that is undesignated stands at \$735,630.35

**Baldwin Public Library Trust**  
**Endowment Funds Portfolio Performance Benchmarks**  
**As of January 31, 2025**

<u>Index</u>	<u>2025: YTD</u>	<u>2024: Entire Year</u>
S&P 500-Equity Benchmark	2.70%	23.31%
U.S. Aggregate-Bond Benchmark	0.53%	-0.13%
Blended Return of Both Benchmarks* <i>(S&amp;P 500: 75% and U.S. Aggregate: 25%)</i>	2.16%	17.45%
Baldwin Endowment Funds' Portfolio	2.60%	10.81%
<b>Endowment Funds' Performance Compared to Blended Return of Benchmarks</b>	<b>0.44%</b>	<b>-6.64%</b>

\*Since November 2017, the blended return has been calculated according to the Baldwin Endowment Funds' allocation of 75% equities and 25% fixed income, cash, and cash alternatives.

As of April 2020, this report was renamed "Endowment Funds Portfolio Performance Benchmarks," instead of "Portfolio Performance Benchmarks." The new title is more accurate, for it states clearly that the comparison between benchmarks and the Baldwin Trust's performance pertains only to the BPL Trust Endowment Funds Account at Raymond James. It does not take into account the BPL Trust General Funds Account at Raymond James or the Trust's Huntington Bank checking and money market accounts. The breakdown of the Trust's various accounts is shown on the "Balances by Financial Institutions Report," which follows this report in the Board packet. As of January 31, 2025, the breakdown was as follows:

Raymond James Endowment Funds Account	\$1,247,170.56
Raymond James Building Mutual Funds Account	\$521,004.67
Huntington Bank Checking Account	\$4,226.65
Huntington Bank Money Market Account	<u>\$382,652.44</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,155,054.32</b>

Our Huntington Bank checking account and money market account have no stock or bond investments at all, and are non-volatile.

**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST  
BALANCES BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS JANUARY 31, 2025**

Investment and Cash Report											
12_c	Prior Month Balance 12/31/24	Current Month Revenue	Year to Date Revenue	Current Month Expenses	Year to Date Expenses	Transfer In	Transfer Out	Change in Investment Value	Ending Balance 01/31/25		
<b>Huntington Bank Checking:</b>											
Endowment Money	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,141.66	\$45,641.96	\$6,141.66			\$0.00		
Van Dragt Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,663.66	\$0.00			\$0.00		
Restricted Funds - Memorials and Friends	\$4,226.45	\$0.20	\$1.59	\$2,715.80	\$22,806.81	\$2,715.80			\$4,226.65		
Restricted Funds - Building	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,999.07	\$0.00			\$0.00		
Restricted Funds - Covid and MAF Idea Lab	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$34.02)	\$0.00			\$0.00		
Subtotal - Restricted Funds	\$4,226.45								\$4,226.65		
General Spendable Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103.92	\$290.23	\$103.92			\$0.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$4,226.45	\$0.20	\$1.59	\$8,961.38	\$87,367.71	\$8,961.38	\$0.00		\$4,226.65		
<b>Huntington Bank Money Market:</b>											
Endowment Budgeted Funds	\$180,545.86	\$0.00	\$2.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$6,141.66)		\$174,404.20		
Endowment Investment Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		
Building Fund	\$999.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$999.75		
Van Dragt Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		
Restricted Funds	\$22,724.40	\$23,500.00	\$23,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$2,715.80)		\$43,508.60		
Restricted Fund - Covid	\$516.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$516.43		
Restricted Fund - Idea Lab MAF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		
General Spendable Funds	\$162,076.46	\$1,260.92	\$17,068.64	\$10.00	\$70.00	\$0.00	(\$103.92)		\$163,223.46		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$366,862.90	\$24,760.92	\$40,946.07	\$10.00	\$70.00	\$0.00	(\$8,961.38)		\$362,652.44		
<b>Raymond James &amp; Associates:</b>											
Endowment Fund Investments	\$1,196,659.79	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,102.25	\$1,229,762.04		
Endowment Cash	\$18,581.56	\$0.00	\$10,600.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,173.04)	\$17,408.52		
Sub-total Endowment Funds	\$1,215,241.35	\$0.00	\$10,600.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,929.21	\$1,247,170.56		
General Spendable Funds Cash	\$452.61	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$628.61)	(\$176.00)		
General Spendable Mutual Funds	\$387,143.15	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,905.47	\$396,048.62		
General Spendable Building Mutual Funds	\$122,319.80	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,812.25	\$125,132.05		
Sub-total General Spendable Funds	\$509,915.56	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,089.11	\$521,004.67		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,725,156.91	\$0.00	\$10,600.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43,018.32	\$1,768,175.23		
<b>Total All Funds</b>	\$2,096,246.26	\$24,761.12	\$51,547.66	\$8,971.38	\$87,437.71	\$8,961.38	(\$8,961.38)	\$43,018.32	\$2,155,054.32		

**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST  
ENDOWMENT BY INDIVIDUAL FUND  
JANUARY 31, 2025**

12d	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF FUND	PURPOSE	VALUE AS OF JULY 1, 2024	2024/25 DONATIONS	EARNINGS INCOME OUT	CHANGE IN VALUE		CURRENT VALUE OF ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS
						JULY 1, 2024 to JUNE 30, 2025	JUNE 30, 2025	
401	\$10,000.00	Adult Reading	\$13,252.14			\$1,034.48	\$14,286.63	
402	\$41,437.86	Large Print Books/Senior Citizens Programs	\$54,913.32			\$4,286.67	\$59,199.99	
403	\$68,770.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$86,978.61			\$7,114.13	\$94,092.74	
404	\$5,000.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$6,626.07			\$517.24	\$7,143.31	
405	\$10,500.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$13,791.80			\$1,086.21	\$14,878.00	
406	\$5,000.00	Youth Services	\$6,626.07			\$517.24	\$7,143.31	
407	\$10,000.00	Staff Appreciation	\$12,450.66			\$1,034.48	\$13,485.15	
408	\$32,000.00	Library Collections	\$42,407.14			\$3,310.34	\$45,717.48	
409	\$113,718.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$150,701.28			\$11,763.92	\$162,465.20	
410	\$50,000.00	Youth Services & Adult Reading	\$66,260.76			\$5,172.41	\$71,433.17	
411	\$6,350.00	Reference Collection	\$8,363.90			\$656.90	\$9,020.79	
412	\$10,508.00	Youth Services Programs	\$13,322.77			\$1,087.03	\$14,409.81	
413	\$25,000.00	Library Collections	\$33,130.40			\$2,586.20	\$35,716.61	
414	\$250,890.00	Reference Collection	\$332,403.09			\$25,954.11	\$358,357.19	
415	\$10,000.00	Baldwin Public Library	\$13,252.16			\$1,034.48	\$14,286.65	
416	\$11,700.00	Youth Services	\$14,462.93			\$1,210.34	\$15,673.28	
417	\$10,000.00	Audio Visual Material	\$13,252.16			\$1,034.48	\$14,286.65	
419	\$59,852.76	Professional Development	\$81,514.09			\$6,191.66	\$87,705.74	
421	\$10,000.00	Adult Reading Print Books	\$12,429.08			\$1,034.48	\$13,463.57	
422	\$49,998.98	Baldwin Public Library	\$47,571.48	\$10,000.00		\$5,172.30	\$62,743.78	
423	\$15,207.48	Adult & Youth Programs	\$18,370.39			\$1,573.19	\$19,943.58	
424	\$10,000.00	Architecture Books	\$12,474.55			\$1,034.48	\$13,509.04	
425	\$35,109.96	Professional Development	\$35,987.60	\$600.00		\$3,632.06	\$40,219.66	
426	\$10,000.00	Adult Reading Print Books	\$10,166.46			\$1,034.48	\$11,200.95	
427	\$18,554.00	Building Improvements	\$18,830.97			\$1,919.38	\$20,750.35	
428	\$10,100.00		\$11,161.15			\$1,044.83	\$12,205.98	
	\$889,697.04		\$1,130,701.05	\$10,600.00	\$0.00	\$92,037.51	\$1,233,338.56	

**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST  
ENDOWMENT FUNDS BY DESIGNATION  
JANUARY 31, 2025**

		Prior Month Balance 12/31/24	Current Month Revenue	Year to Date Revenue	Current Month Expense	Year to Date Expense	Transfer In	Transfer Out	Change in Investment Value	Ending Balance 01/31/25
12e										
<b>Gift &amp; Tribute Funds</b>	<b>Purpose</b>									
<b>General Spendable Funds</b>		\$550,014.77	\$1,260.92	\$17,068.64	\$113.92	\$360.23		\$8,427.72	\$559,589.49	
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>										
Building Fund		\$122,977.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,999.07		\$2,661.39	\$125,638.39	
Van Dragt Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,663.66			\$0.00	
Memorials/Tributes		\$9,906.14	\$0.20	\$376.59	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$9,906.34	
Covid Project		\$516.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$516.43	
Restricted Fund - Idea Lab MAF		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$34.02)			\$0.00	
Friends		\$6,412.29	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$1,528.06	\$7,134.05			\$10,084.23	
	Adult Services Programs	(\$391.80)	\$6,100.00	\$6,100.00	\$684.18	\$4,317.41			\$5,024.02	
	Young Adult Programs	\$402.70	\$7,700.00	\$7,700.00	\$503.56	\$3,448.38			\$7,599.14	
	Youth Services Programs	(\$1,435.14)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,931.24			\$564.86	
	Idea Lab Program Supplies	\$2,671.01	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,975.73			\$5,171.01	
	Outreach & Equipment	\$141,058.63	\$23,500.20	\$23,876.59	\$2,715.80	\$41,435.52	\$0.00	\$2,661.39	\$164,504.42	
	<b>Sub-total Restricted</b>									
<b>Rotary Room Fund</b>		\$7,832.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,832.00	
	Naming Rights-Principal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,505.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Maintenance Funds									
<b>Ileane Thal Reference Desk</b>		\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	
<b>Miranda Burnett Reference Desk</b>		\$9,385.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,385.65	
<b>Total Gift and Tribute Funds</b>		\$714,291.05	\$24,761.12	\$40,945.23	\$2,829.72	\$43,301.64	\$0.00	\$11,089.11	\$747,311.56	
<b>Endowment Funds</b>										
<b>Endowment Budgeted Funds</b>										
	General Funds	\$51,442.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$17,626.56			\$51,402.22	
	Adult Large Print	\$912.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$223.28	\$1,364.60			\$689.34	
	Adult Services Department	\$30,788.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,542.09	\$4,968.52			\$29,246.83	
	Adult Audio Visual	\$337.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$178.35	\$402.36			\$158.98	
	Adult Reference	\$49,170.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,594.80	\$2,594.80			\$46,575.26	
	Adult Programs	\$18,632.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$97.24	\$5,033.76			\$18,535.10	
	Architecture	\$1,045.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55.91	\$3,462.03			\$989.56	
	Youth Services Department	\$6,533.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,354.99	\$3,183.98			\$5,178.97	
	Youth Programs (Nix)	\$286.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,266.66			\$286.61	
	Professional Development	\$18,501.27	\$0.00	\$2.43	\$20.00	\$3,554.22			\$18,481.27	
	Staff Appreciation	\$2,178.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$410.66			\$2,143.04	
	Koschik Building Fund	\$717.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$267.92			\$717.02	
	<b>Sub-total</b>	\$180,545.86	\$0.00	\$2.43	\$6,141.66	\$44,136.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$174,404.20	
<b>Total Endowment Investments</b>	All Funds	\$1,201,409.35	\$0.00	\$10,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,929.21	\$1,233,338.56	
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>		\$1,381,955.21	\$0.00	\$10,602.43	\$6,141.66	\$44,136.07	\$0.00	\$31,929.21	\$1,407,742.76	
<b>Total All Trust Funds</b>		\$2,096,246.26	\$24,761.12	\$51,547.66	\$8,971.38	\$87,437.71	\$0.00	\$43,018.32	\$2,155,054.32	



**TRUST RECEIPTS**  
**January-25**

12f\_

**Trust Money Mkt General Funds:**

Money Market Interest Income	\$ 1,260.92	\$ 1,260.92
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**Friends of BPL:**

- Adult Programs	\$ 5,200.00	
- Teen Programs	\$ 6,100.00	
- Youth Programs	\$ 7,700.00	
- Idea Lab Program Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	
- Outreach and Equipment	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 23,500.00

**Trust Money Mkt Restricted Funds:**

	\$ -	
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**Memorial Book Fund:**

Checking Account Interest	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20
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**Trust Money Mkt Endowment Fund:**

	\$ -	
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**Total Receipts at Huntington Bank**

	\$ 24,761.12	\$ 24,761.12
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**Raymond James**

	\$0.00	
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**Total Trust Receipts (Before Bank Fees)**

	\$24,761.12	\$24,761.12
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**Monthly Banking Fee on Money Market Account**

	\$ (10.00)	\$ (10.00)
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**Total Trust Receipts (Net)**

	\$24,751.12	\$24,751.12
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Check Date	Bank	Check	Vendor	Vendor Name	Amount
Bank LIBRY BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST					
01/13/2025	LIBRY	6265	004867	BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUST	53.43
01/13/2025	LIBRY	6266	MISC	H DAVIS ASSOCIATES	500.00
01/13/2025	LIBRY	6267	001090	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	1,406.67
01/13/2025	LIBRY	6268	001090	VOID	0.00 V
01/13/2025	LIBRY	6269	000673	NEW YORK TIMES, THE	2,594.80
01/13/2025	LIBRY	6270	000757	SCHOLASTIC INC	108.61
01/31/2025	LIBRY	6271	000843	BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	725.05
01/31/2025	LIBRY	6272	000902	CENGAGE LEARNING INC	27.99
01/31/2025	LIBRY	6273	009315	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA	1,923.74
01/31/2025	LIBRY	6274	009315	VOID	0.00 V
01/31/2025	LIBRY	6275	004604	GORDON FOOD	241.84
01/31/2025	LIBRY	6276	001090	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	523.00
01/31/2025	LIBRY	6277	MISC	PIETRZYK FOODS LLC	500.00
01/31/2025	LIBRY	6278	000757	SCHOLASTIC INC	356.25

LIBRY TOTALS:

Total of 14 Checks:	8,961.38
Less 2 Void Checks:	0.00
Total of 12 Disbursements:	8,961.38