



Agenda: Board of Trustees  
April 3, 2025, at 4 pm  
Conference Room, Downtown Library

***Literacy, Access, & Inclusion***

Library Board President – Monica Challenger

- A. Call to Order
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
  - Minutes: March 6, 2025
  - Special Event Application
- C. Public Comments and Communications
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
- F. Board Education: Urban Libraries Council Teen Consortium Update – Meredith Crawford
- G. Library Board Committee Reports
  - Advocacy Committee – Elisabeth Hepworth, Committee Chair
    - No Action
  - Building Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
    - No Action
  - Finance Committee – Chris Casey, Committee Chair
    - No Action
  - Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
    - No Action
- H. Library Director's Report
- I. Old Business
- J. New Business
- K. Adjournment

The next Board of Trustees meeting is **May 1, 2025 at 4 pm**, in the Conference Room, Downtown Library.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Jessica Musil, Library Administrative Assistant, at 319.261.7323 or email [musilj@crlibrary.org](mailto:musilj@crlibrary.org) as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**Cedar Rapids Public Library**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**March 6, 2025**

**Board members in attendance:** [President] Monica Challenger, [Vice President] Jeremy Elges, Chris Casey, Jade Hart, Susie McDermott, Ana McClain, Elisabeth Hepworth (in person); Hassan Selim, Rafael Jacobo (via Zoom)

**Staff in attendance:** Dara Schmidt, Jessica Musil, Kevin Delecki, Erin Horst, Amber McNamara (in person); Patrick Duggan (via Zoom)

**Others:** Charity Tyler, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation (in person); Libby Slappey, President, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library (via Zoom)

- A. Call to Order
  - Ms. Challenger called the meeting to order at 4 pm.
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
  - Minutes: February 6, 2025

*Ms. Hart moved to accept the consent agenda. Ms. McClain seconded. The action carried with unanimous approval.*
- C. Public Comments and Communications
  - There being none, the meeting continued
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
  - Ms. Tyler reported. The Foundation continues to work hard on the capital campaign as well as planning the annual fundraiser, Literary Vines, which is on April 17. Library Lager will be canned ahead of the launch on April 9. Invitations to campaign donors will be emailed next week for this event.
  - Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Tyler visited Alliant Energy as part of their gong tour. It turned into another opportunity to receive support. Alliant committed to a sponsorship opportunity at Literary Vines while being celebrated for their contributions for the Westside Library project. The tour has been going well and the excitement with staff has been infectious – staff have loved participating.
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
  - Ms. Slappey reported. She pulled together statistics on the continuing success story of the donated railroad books that the Friends put for sale on Amazon. Over the last three months, the Friends has sold 37 books to 35 individual buyers that live all over the country.

Mr. Elges joined the meeting at 4:08 pm

- Pricing is based on books available elsewhere on Amazon to stay competitive. Books sold ranging from \$10 to 150 each for a total profit of \$1,227, with more books still available to purchase. The Friends will highlight the donation and sales in the upcoming Spring newsletter.
- F. Board Education: State Legislative Process – Amber McNamara
    - Ms. McNamara reported on the 2025 legislative session process. Tomorrow is the first funnel date for the session, which marks a deadline for legislative action. Bills must be voted out of the House or Senate to be debated beyond this date. Some bills are exemptions to this, such as those that are budget related. The next funnel date is April 4, which behaves similarly to the first funnel date. If a bill is tabled, it can continue through the funnel. The last day of the session is May 2, which is the 110<sup>th</sup> day of the session; though lawmakers may continue working if necessary.

- The library is watching bills that impact libraries and posting information on our website and sharing via email advocacy alerts. Ms. Schmidt noted we're watching companion bills that will make it through the first funnel: restrict libraries' ability to join professional organizations and removal of obscenity exemptions for public libraries. A bill limiting materials' purchases that contain a sex act appears will not move past the first funnel.
- Ms. McNamara noted that state lawmakers don't seem to have the same standard for announcing committee dates and agendas. Governing boards are required to post agendas no less than 24 hours in advance and action items have to be on the agenda. This does not appear to be true for the legislative process. Subcommittees are posted ahead of time, usually 24 hours in advance, but the full committee can post agendas on the same day. In addition, it doesn't have to be on the actual agenda – it can state: Any other bills to be brought forward. The public is allowed to speak at a subcommittee meeting and not at a full committee hearing.
- Ms. Casey noted that trustees and other library supporters have about four weeks to contact lawmakers regarding these bills that could impact libraries' funding and access to materials.

#### G. Library Board Committee Reports

- Advocacy Committee – Elisabeth Hepworth, Committee Chair
  - Ms. Hepworth reported. The current legislative session is a bit component of the committee's efforts. As it was primarily discussed in Board Education, Ms. Hepworth wanted to discuss the success of the Corridor Libraries Staff Day. The event was a great way to make community connections with other libraries within the Linn and Johnson counties, and hosted by Cedar Rapids. Ms. Hepworth felt it was a point of pride for our library. She believes now is a good time for libraries to support each other and learn together in order to impact our communities. She shared kudos to Jessica Musil for her efforts to organize the event – she heard many positive things about the day. Ms. Casey asked about feedback from staff. Ms. Schmidt shared that we have only heard good things and it was amazing to see our staff interact with the other libraries. The other libraries and their staff also had great feedback. Ms. Casey shared a story about how it was clear that staff were excited to learn and talk with each other. Ms. Hepworth loved the keynote, Shola Richards, for his presentation. He was well received across the library professionals and City staff alike. Ms. Challenger wanted to personally thank Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Musil for their effort and pulling together a wonderful staff day.
- Building Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
  - Ms. Hart reported. The Westside Library projects continues to progress now that the weather is warming up. She showed an aerial photo of the building site. In it, you can see the enclosed basement and concrete walls and footings that will eventually be the adult collection and meeting room sides. The basement is roughly the center of the building. Contractors continue to find some natural springs throughout the land, which needs mitigation. It is an inconvenience but it is not a concern to the overall project's cost and timeline.
  - Progress continues with the Urban Plaza refresh at the downtown library. We've gone back and forth with the contractor, and hope to share a drawing soon. Ms. Casey asked about a general timeline and completion. Ms. Schmidt hopes it'll be complete in the fall.
- Finance Committee – Chris Casey, Committee Chair
  - Ms. Casey reported on the January 2025 financials. We're seven months into the fiscal year. Our expenses and revenues are evening out as we had anticipated with no concerns at this time. At the last meeting, the board approved the budget, and since then, City Council also approved the budget. The City has also set aside \$300,000 to repair the downtown library's roof.

- **Action:** Purchase Order and Payment Approval - new chairs for the downtown library Payment in the amount of \$55,207.18 to Pigott. The soft seating at the downtown library needs replacement. The quote will replace all the furniture in most areas of the library, except children's and young adult. The cost to replace versus re-upholster was within \$5,000 and replacement adds a warranty.

*The committee recommendation to accept the Pigott quote for new chairs at the downtown library for \$55,207.18 as presented in the packet carried with unanimous approval.*

- Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
  - Ms. McDermott noted that the committee did not meet and does not have any business for the full board.

#### H. Library Director's Report

- Ms. Schmidt reported. February was busy with preparations for staff day and providing public comment at the state legislative session. Her goal is to bring back strategic planning conversations with the board. Staff sessions are now done. We're still on track to write a plan in the spring. The goal is to schedule conversations over the next four to six weeks.
- During his visit, Shola Richards shared with Ms. Schmidt that he noticed the board of trustees' engagement and support of the library and staff. He spoke at the Public Library Association (PLA) conference in 2024 and he's been at more libraries since then. He feels like Cedar Rapids has great trustees, and Ms. Schmidt wanted to share that their efforts are noticed.
- This year, we had the most successful winter reading challenge ever. Two City Council members shared a post promoting the challenge on their respective social media and that they were participating. It resulted in a big sign-up bump over the next 48 hours. Ms. Schmidt shared with them the impact of their posts and thanked them. Both wrote back to thank the library. It's truly amazing that we have support from City Council members. Along that same vein, it's been fun to meet with campaign donors – it's also a long-term advocacy effort. While things seem heightened, Ms. Schmidt is looking for ways to show libraries are not the enemy.
- In April, Ms. Schmidt has the opportunity to lobby in Washington, DC and will miss the next board meeting. Ms. Hepworth loves to use the *OPEN+* magazine in advocacy conversations as it's a great resource to leave with people and share what the library does in our community. Ms. Hart shared a story about how someone in her hometown posted a question on social media about the relevance in libraries today and he received hundreds of posts, pushing back.

#### I. Old Business

- There being no old business, the meeting continued.

#### J. New Business

- There being no new business, the meeting continued.

#### K. Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

**The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 4 pm in the Conference Room, Downtown Library**



## Special Event Application

This application must be submitted for special events requiring alcohol at least **60 days** prior to the date of the event. An approved certificate of liability (including additional documentation if required) must be received 30 days prior to the event date. Events requesting alcohol are subject to Board of Trustees approval and guidelines in the Board Policy 3.08 – Special Event Alcohol Use. Board meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 4 p.m.

Please return the completed application to: Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401; email [events@crlibrary.org](mailto:events@crlibrary.org).

Name of Contact Person: Wes Shirley

Name of Organization: CR Songwriter Series

Address: 1627 7th Ave SE; Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Phone: 319-573-0776

Email: wesley.d.shirley@gmail.com

Name of Event: CR Songwriter Series

Date of Event: 6/6/2025

Location of Event: Whipple Auditorium ☐

Time of event start: 6:30pm

End: 9:00pm

Setup start: 5:30pm

Cleanup end: 9:30pm

What type of audience is this intended for: General Public; Adult

Number of attendees/participants: 100

Will there be a fee to attend? Yes ☐

Will you serve alcohol at the event? Yes ☐

Who holds the liquor license for your event? The Traveling Tapster

Applicants Signature: 

Date: 3/31/2025

Applicants Printed Name and Title/Organization: Wes Shirley, Organizer



# INSIGHT

## The Gazette Editorial Board

Todd Dorman, Insight editor, columnist;  
Zack Kucharski, executive editor;  
Quinn Pettifer, manager of brand initiatives

## Letters guidelines

Length limit: 250 words  
Email: editorial@thegazette.com  
Mail: 116 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
Questions?: (319) 398-8262

GUEST COLUMN | PARKER WILLIAMSON

# My home no longer calls me one of its own

What happens when the place you love stops loving you back?

Iowa is my home. I grew up poor, non-white, and queer, so it was never a picture-perfect place to me, but I always considered myself lucky. Iowa has been a better place for people like me than other surrounding states, historically speaking.

We used to lead the charge on civil rights. In 1839, seven years before Iowa was even a state, the Territorial Supreme Court proclaimed that “No man in this territory can be reduced to slavery.” In 1851, we became the third state to allow interracial marriage. In 1868, the Iowa Supreme Court held that “separate” was not “equal,” effectively desegregating our schools 86 years before Brown v. Board of Education. Same-sex marriage was legalized when I was eight, and sexual orientation and gender identity was added to the Iowa Civil Rights Act two years prior, in 2007.

Iowa is my home, and I used to be proud of that.

Oh how far we’ve fallen. I came out in 2011, in sixth grade, with support from family, friends, teachers, and many in my community. Sure, there was bullying, dirty looks, and the rare call to school to complain, but overall, I was accepted and safe. I knew a lot of people in Iowa hated me for being me, but there was rarely direct confrontation. Maybe that was “Iowa Nice.”

In the 2022 election, there was no question Gov. Kim Reynolds was going to win. She still punched down, releasing an ad stating “Iowans know right from wrong, boys from girls.” This year, legislation has been proposed that would technically make it a felony for me, in plain clothes, to speak in front of children. Worst of all: Iowa is now the first state to ever remove civil rights protections from a group of people.

It’s possible some of the discrimination we worry about won’t be allowed. There will be costly legal battles,

humiliation, fear, and laser-focused hatred. But what we are scared of is what the other side wants to be reality. Iowa is my home, but why would I want to call a place home when lawmakers want me to be discriminated against — in housing, employment, wages, credit practices, public accommodations, and education?

It has nothing to do with protecting women. Sex is already a protected category under the Iowa Civil Rights Act. Rather than protecting anyone, this opens the door to invasive policing of peoples’ identities and risks subjecting many to harassment and public humiliation based solely on appearances.

While unsure of the actual legal impacts of what many are calling the Civil Rights Removal Act, some things we know. According to research from the Trevor Project, anti-transgender laws cause significantly increased suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth, by as much as 72 percent. It also finds that 90 percent of LGBTQ+ young people said their well-being is negatively impacted by recent politics. Lawmakers here don’t care if their actions make kids like the kid I once was feel isolated and ostracized, even if it pushes them to take their own lives. So much for protecting children.

Iowa is my home, and I deserve to belong here just as much as anyone else.

Leading up to the day of the final public hearing and passage of the bill, I was only angry. My mom would start the day by texting to check in on how I was feeling, and later she would tell me how sorry she was that I have to deal with all of this. I was so angry about the people it would hurt that I almost felt annoyed she kept making sure I was OK.

Then, after chanting at the top of my lungs with over 2,500 other Iowans, I went home. Mother knows best, it seems. It hit me hard. I called her and couldn’t hold myself together because I realized I am not only angry.

“Mom, it hurts so bad,” I admitted.

She listened, and when she replied all I could focus on was how much sadness and fear I heard in her voice. How must she feel fearing her son will face discrimination, legally, for living as his true self, something she always encouraged?

Iowa is my home, and I want it to be a place worth fighting for. A place that takes care of ALL its people.

Republican supermajorities could’ve put this amount of urgency and effort into passing any other legislation. They *could* be seeing to it that every child in this state gets a high-quality education instead of bleeding our public schools dry. They *could* be protecting our water, ensuring it’s clean enough to drink, safe for us to swim in. They *could* be confronting rising cancer rates, investing in health care access, making it easier — not harder — for Iowans to get the care they need. They *could* actually protect women by strengthening reproductive freedoms instead of stripping them away. The possibilities are endless.

They could be doing anything else, but they insist on making life harder for people like me. They insist on making an already vulnerable community a target for discrimination and hatred.

Iowa is my home, but is the future here worth fighting for?

Home is a place where you are known, where you are accepted, where you can breathe without fear. Home is where you grow, where you stumble, where you are allowed to exist fully as yourself without apology. It’s not just four walls and a roof, not just a town on a map. Home is community. It’s the people who show up for you, who see you, who stand beside you. Home is where you should feel protected, not persecuted. Where you should be nurtured, not pushed out.

Iowa was my home, and now I just live here.

Parker Williamson is Progress Iowa’s press secretary. He grew up in rural southwest Iowa. His writing can be found at ruralroutes.substack.com



GUEST COLUMN  
BRUCE LEAR

# The Golden Dome party must end

We’ve all attended parties living beyond when it should die. The conversation ends, the chip dip separates, there’s more empty beer cans than full. But there’s always someone trying to keep it alive.

As yawns drown out the music, he shouts, “Let’s play a drinking game.”

There’s a mad dash for the door. It’s time to leave.

It’s time for the Iowa Legislature to end the party under the Golden Dome. It’s as moldy as that half sandwich forgotten in the car, and it’s twice as dangerous.

They’re proposing extreme legislation never mentioned in their never-ending campaigns. Did anyone hear about Bible study and chaplains for public schools? Did any candidate mention public libraries were a dire threat?

For a party that once preached small government and local control, there’s a whole lot of big government proposed. Here’s what I mean.

Senate File 138 allows schools to offer Bible study as an elective course in social studies. When I taught literature, I often referenced the Bible since American literature is full of Biblical imagery.

There’s no law against referencing the Bible or any other religious document. But apparently, that’s not enough.

They want teachers who they once claimed were “pornographers, groomers, and woke” to teach public Sunday School. The bill doesn’t mention any other religious books as part of the social studies elective. It’s not about teaching the Bible as literature. This IS force-feeding public school students one brand of Christianity.

House File 334 would allow public schools and charter schools to hire chaplains or allow them to volunteer. There are no requirements for the chaplains and there’s no explanation about their role. The only requirement is to pass a background check.

Are parents required to be notified when their child goes to visit the chaplain?

There’s a two-pronged attack on public libraries. Senate File 235 removes the Iowa Code section exempting educational institutions and public libraries from obscenity laws. The strangest explanation for passing this bill came from Rep. Bob Henderson at a League of Women Voters forum in Sioux City. Without evidence, he claimed, when the legislature cracked down on obscene material in public schools, public libraries were the recipients of that material.

This bill opens the door for costly lawsuits debating if a book is obscene. Every local library has policies allowing community members a process for objecting to a book. This bill robs communities of local control and tries to force a one size fits all approach.

The second attack on public libraries is Senate File 238 and its companion House File 284. Under these bills, local libraries are ineligible for the Enrich Iowa aide program if they are dues paying members of a state or federal advocacy organization. So, if a local library is a part of a group advocating library freedom, it must be a sinister place.

It is, as the song says, “Closing time, you don’t have to go home, but you can’t stay here.”

Bruce Lear lives in Sioux City, taught for 11 years and represented educators as an Iowa State Education Association Regional Director for 27 years until he retired. BruceLear2419@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY LETTERS

### DOGE decisions affect everyone

I have been represented in Congress by both parties. While I disagree with my GOP representatives on many issues, we can find common ground to solve the problems only the government can solve. Jim Leach impressed me with his selfless advocacy for good government and his tireless work to help his constituents.

But our representation in D.C. (Miller-Meeks, Nunn, Hinson, Feenstra, Ernst and Grassley) are fully committed to the current president’s agenda. Nearly every day, Rep. Miller-Meeks fawns on the president and advocates for his policies on Facebook. No one in our delegation has uttered even the meekest criticism of the president’s actions.

I understand party loyalty, but an unelected billionaire now assaults the government’s effective operation. DOGE is indiscriminately firing career government employees who did their work without regard to politics. DOGE seeks to eliminate whole agencies whose smooth operation is essential to safeguard



X@Ramireztoons

michaelpramirez.com

Michael Ramirez is a syndicated cartoonist distributed by Creators Syndicate. Comments: creators.com

Americans and maintain our prosperity.

Farmers are being denied promised payments. They have gutted VA’s service to veterans. They want to close local Social Security offices.

They’ve trashed the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, gutting vital medical research, and leaving us vulnerable to future epidemics.

By remaining silent while the president and his unelected “efficiency” expert seek to ruin the institutions that ordinary Americans depend on, our representatives in Wash-

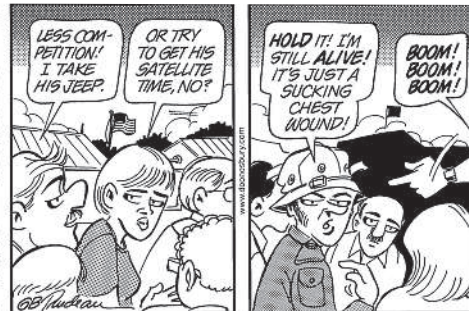
ington are abdicating their responsibilities.

This is not about ideology, it is about decisions that affect us all.

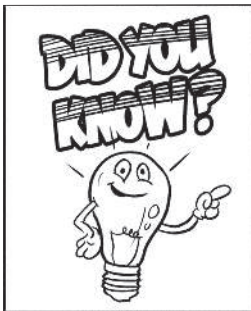
If our congressional delegation refuses to honor their oaths of office, what are they for?

Kent Williams  
Iowa City

## DOONESBURY | GARRY TRUDEAU



## MALLARD FILLMORE | BRUCE TINSLEY





# INSIGHT

GUEST COLUMN | BEDASSA TADESSE



A truck drives past the passenger entry point at the United States and Canada border in Surrey B.C., on Tuesday. (The Canadian Press via AP)

# Tariffs:

## A \$110 billion economic hit

How President Donald Trump’s tariffs could mean rising costs for families, strain for states

Get ready to pay more for avocados, maple syrup and — well — almost everything.

The U.S. officially imposed new 25 percent tariffs on Canada and Mexico on Tuesday, following through on a long-delayed pledge from President Donald Trump. American consumers and businesses are now bracing for higher costs and potential supply disruptions.

*(This past week, Trump postponed some tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports for a month. They are still expected to take effect in April.)*

Although tariffs, or taxes on imports, are a pillar of Trump’s economic policy, the move still surprised many observers, since Mexico and Canada are among the U.S.’s traditional allies and top trading partners. The administration further rattled global supply chains by doubling existing tariffs on Chinese goods to 20 percent.

As an economist who studies global trade, I wanted to know how the 25 percent import duties on Canada and Mexico would affect different parts of the country. So I conducted a state-by-state impact analysis.

What I found is alarming: The U.S. economy could face an annual loss of \$109.23 billion. This shortfall would mean rising costs of everyday goods for American families and would disproportionately affect certain states. My analysis focused exclusively on the



President Donald Trump’s new tariffs are expected to increase the price of Mexican avocados, beer and tequila — all very popular imports. (Los Angeles Times/TNS)

effects of U.S. tariffs, so it didn’t take retaliation from Canada or Mexico into account. If it did, the losses would be even greater.

**UNEQUAL BURDENS FOR STATES, HIGHER PRICES FOR FAMILIES**

Imagine your grocery bill surging by 17.5 percent to 25 percent, car parts costing hundreds of dollars more, and your favorite local restaurant raising prices as imported ingredients become unaffordable. Because tariffs drive up

consumer prices, these scenarios, or others like them, will soon become reality across the U.S.

But not all Americans will be affected equally, I found. States that are deeply connected to North American supply chains will suffer the biggest economic blows. Texas, with its strong trade ties to Mexico and key role in energy, would lose \$15.3 billion. California’s diverse economy would take a \$10.2 billion hit.

► TADESSE, PAGE 10C



24-HOUR DORMAN  
TODD DORMAN

## The righteous right takes aim at Iowa’s public libraries

In 2023, the Republican-controlled Iowa Legislature came after school libraries, passing a law that barred them from offering any books that describe a sex act.

Now, the righteous right is coming for Iowa’s public libraries. Who could have predicted it?

“When you start taking books out, where does it end? Is it going to end with the school district or is the public library going to be the next here in Iowa that will be asked to remove materials?” asked Janette McMahon, the library director at the DeWitt Community Library in a Gazette article in July 2023.

“This is a snowball that’s going to be very hard to stop,” she said.

Previously on Iowa Legislature, we learned the lawmakers will not maintain our rights. With the attack on public libraries, they’re taking aim at the liberties we prize.

Do you recall the quaint notion we learned in school that our constitutional freedom of speech means even unpopular speech is shielded from government censorship? We also have individual rights the majority can’t take away. Separation of church and state was a thing. Those were the days.

Public libraries are monuments to how much we care about knowledge, creativity and free expression. Now, they’re just the latest target assailed by the perpetually outraged.

No rights matter if “Gender Queer” is on a library shelf. Have you seen those illustrations? If not, Republicans would love to show you. It’s like they carry them around just in case someone has the audacity to resist banning books.

It’s bad enough to ban school library books. But we’re talking about public libraries that serve all of us. Taking our books from shelves is an offense against our liberties. You can read all about it, at least for now.

The Republican bill is very simple.

In Iowa law, there is a definition of obscene material.

*“Obscene material” is any material depicting or describing the genitals, sex acts, masturbation, excretory functions or sadomasochistic abuse which the average person, taking the material as a whole and applying contemporary community standards with respect to what is suitable material for minors, would find appeals to the prurient interest and is patently offensive; and the material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, scientific, political or artistic value.*

But current law also carves

► DORMAN, PAGE 10C



TO A CANDID WORLD | ALTHEA COLE

# SNAP assistance must change. How to do it is the hard part

When it comes to nutrition, there can be uncertainty about what the role of government should be in ensuring that the poorest Americans have access to healthy, affordable food.

Many Americans, however, are certain about one thing: Our federal government — and our states — must reform how governments deliver food assistance.

**IOWA ATTEMPTS REFORM — IT’S CLUNKY**

The latest move by the Iowa Legislature is to enhance the Double Up Food Bucks program, a federal program

administered state-by-state to provide a dollar-for-dollar match up to a certain amount on purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables at grocery stores and farmers markets. Double Up is available to anyone who participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, a federal benefit formerly known as food stamps to provide food assistance to low-income Americans.

Legislation introduced in the Iowa House of Representatives that cleared last week’s first “funnel” deadline would give an additional \$1 million in state Double Up

funding for fiscal 2026. It’s contingent, however, on a federal waiver to reduce the items on the SNAP eligibility list to “healthy food based on necessary nutrition for good health.” The list includes “healthy grains, dairy, meat, eggs, peanut butter and nuts, pasta, rice, legumes, and fruits and vegetables.”

Done in the name of cutting out junk food with little to no nutritional value, it’s a steep reduction in eligible foods for SNAP beneficiaries. I’m not convinced it’s the right move. But when viewed in light of the problems with the current SNAP setup, some might

not be quick to call it a wrong move, either.

That’s because SNAP as we know it today is immensely different from what it was at its inception over 60 years ago, when it was known as the food stamps program, a nod to a Depression-era project in which people used stamps provided by the government to exchange for surplus food.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF SNAP**

Piloted by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, eligible food stamps program participants purchased coupons up front to exchange for any food item sold for home consumption,

provided the food was not imported. At the time, most food was purchased at either mom-and-pop grocers or supermarkets.

Legislation signed in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson made the program permanent. Its original version introduced in the House of Representatives intended to ban soft drinks, but the Senate version, which ultimately passed, removed that restriction — partly out of belief that food stamps would not be used for sugary beverages.

In 1977, after the program

► COLE, PAGE 10C



# Cedar Rapids Public Library offers hands-on STEAM activities for Maker Fest

The Gazette

**C**EDAR RAPIDS — The public is invited to the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. today for the second annual Maker Fest. This open house will feature an afternoon of hands-on, family-friendly STEAM activities with both the library and community partners.

Staff will be on hand in the Technology Classroom demonstrating the library’s 3D printers and giving patrons a chance to try their hand at making their own 3D object with a Doodle Pen.

Attendees will be able to make personalized buttons using the library’s button makers or visit the Maker Room to watch the library’s laser cutters create unique items out of wood, metal and acrylic. Examples of what other creators have made will be on display in the library’s Skywalk Gallery.

The library also will host a Fix-It Cafe. Handy library volunteers will give live demonstrations of how to patch drywall, put in a new electric box and basic toilet repair. Patrons will be able to ask questions of people with years of home repair experience, get lists of materials and tools, and informational resources that will empower them in doing minor home repairs.

“The Maker Fest is a fun way for families to see how the library and other community



The Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Ave. SE, will host Maker Fest from 1 to 3 p.m. today. (Cedar Rapids Public Library)

members are part of the STEAM movement in preparing our community for the future,” said programming librarian Jen Eilers.

Community partners will provide the activities noted below:

### NERDS IN A BLANKET — PRAIRIE ROBOTICS

The First Tech Challenge robotics team from Prairie High School will promote STEM in the community through a variety of activities, including driving exploration with their competition season robot, coding and programming exploration with Makey Makeys, coloring sheets for young artists, and other STEAM activities.

The McKinley STEAM Academy Robotics Team

also will attend.

### COLLINS AEROSPACE

Use electrical engineering principles to build a greeting card from scratch that lights up and can be taken home and given to a loved one.

Older students will be given the opportunity to add a musical or voice components to their greeting card in addition to lights.

### 4H ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

Join Linn County 4-H to create a glowing LED light with a fun Squishy Circuit.

This hands-on activity is perfect for parents and elementary school kids to explore basic elec-

tronics together. Using Play-Doh as a conductor, children can easily build simple circuits to power an LED light.

### JOHNSON STEAM ACADEMY

Join students from Johnson STEAM Academy to learn about and experiment with circuits. Learn how to build basic circuits and test objects to determine if they are conductors or insulators.

### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Parents and students can take home STEM kits to learn about what a civil engineer does.

With five different hands-on activities that can be done at each family’s own pace, these

kits are geared toward elementary and middle school kids to help them explore different aspects of civil engineering.

### TANAGER EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Ever wondered what it’s like to paint doughnuts on the moon or be an underwater saxophonist?

Join Tanager Expressive Arts for The Silly Dice Artist Chronicles. Kids roll a giant dice to discover their artist role — painter, dancer, photographer — and draw a prompt to inspire their persona.

Then, they improvise answers to fun questions in a talk show setting, sharing their “wild” creative process and art stories.

### IOWA CERAMICS CENTER AND GLASS STUDIO

Roger Bergen will be throwing pottery demonstrations all day — feel free to ask questions and learn about the process.

Then the real fun starts at the “Spring Community Clay Creation Station,” where participants will create a collaborative spring scene. They also will hand out coupons for their upcoming multiday Summer Camp Youth Program.

### IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Create a beautiful butterfly to add to a collaborative art display using Iowa City Public Library’s Cricut machine.

Staff will be on hand demonstrating the machine’s capabilities. Learn more about the Digital Media Lab’s open workspace with technology for editing photos, creating movies with transitions, credits and soundtrack, digitizing VHS or cassette tapes, designing unique graphics, making quality sound recordings and more.

**MATTHEW 25**

The Matthew 25 Tool Library will demonstrate how to create an account with the Tool Library and how to rent tools online and in their showroom.

They also will discuss the various categories of volunteers at the Tool Library, as well as how to contribute.

## Submissions now open for 2025 Iowa Music Awards

The Gazette

**C**EDAR RAPIDS — Submissions for the 2025 Iowa Music Awards are officially open for artists and professionals of all genres in the local music industry.

The Iowa Music Awards, founded by Tone Da Boss, is an annual black-tie, red-carpet event celebrating the best in Iowa’s diverse music scene. Recognizing artists, producers and industry professionals across multiple genres, the event continues to grow, bringing networking opportunities, performances and recognition to Iowa’s thriving music culture.

Submissions will be accepted until Sept. 16. This year’s awards ceremony is slated for 4 to 9 p.m. Oct. 26 in Des Moines, Davenport or Burlington.

For submission details and event updates, visit [iowamusicawards.com](http://iowamusicawards.com).



Hip-hop artist Antonio “Tone Da Boss” Chalmers at the 2024 Iowa Music Awards on Oct. 27 at Bien VenU in Cedar Falls. (Submitted photo)

# Business Breakfast Series


*Presented by The Gazette*

## AI AND SMALL BUSINESS

What are the potential benefits and challenges of artificial intelligence and small businesses? We’ll look at practical applications and things every small business owner should be aware of.





**TUESDAY, MARCH 25 • 8 A.M.**  
**MERGE - IOWA CITY**

TICKETS \$5 — INCLUDES COFFEE AND A LIGHT BREAKFAST




[thegazette.com/business-breakfast](http://thegazette.com/business-breakfast)

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**LUTHER COLLEGE** | **TORGERSON CENTER FOR NORDIC STUDIES**

# Rick Steves

Sunday, April 27  
2:30 p.m.  
Luther College

[tickets.luther.edu](http://tickets.luther.edu)





ADVERTISEMENT

# Bill could cut funding to public libraries



Libraries in Iowa could soon lose state funding if they continue to be members of groups like the Iowa Library Association.

By [Jackson Valenti](#)  
Published: Mar. 24, 2025 at 10:21 PM CDT  
✉️

ELY, Iowa (KCRG) - Libraries in Iowa could soon lose state funding if they continue to be members of groups like the Iowa Library Association.

Within the Ely public library is a room funded by the American Library Association.

“Last year we received \$20,000 and this year we’re in the running for \$10,000,” said Tracy Clair, Ely Public Library librarian.

This fiscal year the library is also getting more than \$9,000 from the state’s Enrich Iowa Program, which is meant to help libraries improve their services.

A bill in the Iowa legislature would pit those two sources of funding against each other.

"No libraries work on a large budget where there's a lot of extra room," Clair said.

House File 880 says for libraries to receive money from Enrich Iowa, they cannot be dues-paying members of groups like the American Library Association.

For American Library Association president-elect Sam Helmick, it's the latest hurdle in a series of anti-library legislation.

"They write legislation that could potential under fund us, un fund us, remove our library levies, try to penalize us because we don't understand the line, the jot, and the tittle of murky written law, and when you ask for some clarifications, you're attacked," Helmick said.

Helmick's worried the bill would force public libraries to leave the American Library Association, which would cause them to lose access to the group's grant money and education programs.

Helmick said libraries losing any more money could be crushing.

"We're already trying to make bricks without clay, and now they're trying to take away the mold of the bricks," Helmick said.

Meanwhile, the Ely Public Library feels like it's at an impasse.

Either forfeit thousands of dollars in state funding each year, or give up the chance to get grant money and extra programs from professional nonprofits.

"There's no reason why we should have to choose one or the other, we haven't done anything wrong," Clair said.

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# Cedar Rapids Public Library teams up with local brewery to celebrate Westside Library project



Cedar Rapids Public Library teams up with local brewery to celebrate Westside Library project (Cedar Rapids Public Library)

By [KCRG Staff](#)

Published: Mar. 26, 2025 at 3:25 PM CDT

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[in](#)

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (KCRG) - Cedar Rapids Public Library teamed up with Lion Bridge Brewing Company to release a limited-edition beer in celebration of the Westside Library project.

The beer, Library Lager, will be released April 9 during National Library Week and can be purchased at the Lion Bridge Taproom or at stores that carry Lion Bridge products.

The beer is meant to raise awareness of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation and their Westside Library project.

The project is currently under construction and is set to open in 2026.

To learn more about the foundation or support the \$25 million project, check out the library's [Inspiring Big Dreams campaign](#).

# Federal cuts to library and museum services will impact Eastern Iowa



By [Becky Phelps](#)

Published: Mar. 26, 2025 at 2:14 PM CDT



CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (KCRG) - Iowa libraries and museums are worried about their future, after President Donald Trump signed an executive order to cut the Institute of Museum and Library Services. That agency provides grant money and helps fund programs across the country.

Those grants have a direct impact helping museums and libraries in Eastern Iowa. For example, the African American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids got a \$60,000 grant in 2023 that helped them update the shelving that stored their collections, improve technology, and hire an intern to help with inventory.

Curator and Collections Manager Felicite Wolfe says it was disheartening to hear about cuts to the IMLS. "Probably more than half of our funding comes from grants," says Wolfe. "Your local museum, cultural institution, libraries, they're there to serve the public, and they're for the public good, and to maintain the history of the area. And we can't do that if we don't have grants."

At the Iowa City Public Library, Katie Roche with the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation says the agency IMLS helps them with a long list of programs, including hosting summer reading programs, and get access to collections in other libraries. "The state library, through the IMLS funding, also helps us to collect data that helps us understand who we're reaching, how we're reaching them, and why that matters. It helps to inform libraries about how they can do a better job of reaching members of the public," says Roche.



These cuts to federal funds make the future uncertain for many libraries and museums.

"I think one of the most concerning things with this defunding and dismantling of the IMLS is the access to continuing education for library workers and the state accreditation for libraries," says Roche. "[The IMLS is] providing guidance and tools from the state library to help them reach those goals."

TV9 reached out to Iowa Senators about the concerns over the cuts to the IMLS.

Sen. Chuck Grassley said in a statement "Iowa's libraries play a key role in promoting literacy and accessing information, and our museums are valuable cultural assets that enrich lives and promote tourism. I'm closely monitoring the situation as it unfolds, and as Iowa's U.S. Senator, I'm passing on Iowans' questions and concerns to the administration."

A spokesperson for Sen. Joni Ernst said in a statement "DOGE is doing due diligence to ensure taxpayer dollars are actually serving Iowans. Reviews like this are working to stop waste and fraud. As programs are under review, Senator Ernst is continuing to meet with Iowans to hear directly from them and working with the administration to stand up for her constituents."

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To: Chris Casey, Finance Committee Chair  
 From: Dara Schmidt  
 Date: 3/27/2025  
 Subject: April Meeting Financial Report

### February Financials:

- At least 1/12 of revenue will be received per month (66.7% thru Feb).
- Total Revenue is currently at 75%.
- Total Expenses are at 67%

### Budget Amendments

In May, the Board will be presented with budget amendments for 151 Operations and 316 Capital Improvements accounts. The changes have been reported throughout the year but will require an action item once finalized. Current expected changes include:

#### Budget Amendment – Operations 151

|                                 |     |        |  |  |  |             |  |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------|--|--|--|-------------|--|
| City Accounting Services        | 151 | 151000 |  |  |  | (89,775.00) | To adjust Fiscal Year 2025 budget for the change in process for General Services Charge relating to Finance, Information Technology and Administrative Charges |
| City Information Tech Services  | 151 | 151000 |  |  |  | (6,542.59)  | To adjust Fiscal Year 2025 budget for the change in process for General Services Charge relating to Finance, Information Technology and Administrative Charges |
| reallocate to 571100            | 151 | 151300 |  |  |  | (20,000.00) | To adjust budget for Library and Facilities to fund new library project management   |
| to FMS Ops 081-Const Mgmt       | 151 | 151000 |  |  |  | 20,000.00   | To adjust budget for Library and Facilities to fund new library project management   |
| reallloc to 511100 for pos 3011 | 151 | 151000 |  |  |  | (52,887.77) | To adjust budget for Library personal service reallocation from discretionary  |
| Pos 3011 incr to 1 FTE          | 151 | 151000 |  |  |  | 52,887.77   | To adjust budget for Library personal service reallocation from discretionary  |

#### Budget Amendment – CIP 316

|           |           |        |           |   |      |             |        |                        |     |        |  |        |             |  |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|---|------|-------------|--------|------------------------|-----|--------|--|--------|-------------|--|
| 7/10/2024 | BUDRRJ103 | Posted | 7/31/2024 | 1 | 2025 | 3 Not Chk'd | 485001 | reallocate fr 3601006  | 316 | 316000 |  | 316757 | (55,000.00) | To adjust debt needs for Library roof capital project coming from Facilities                           |
| 9/5/2024  | BUDPJW103 | Posted | 8/31/2024 | 2 | 2025 | 1 Not Chk'd | 483002 | Trf frm 3601006        | 316 | 316000 |  | 316757 | (51,000.00) | To adjust budget for transfer of project funds from Facility capital projec to Library capital project |
| 9/5/2024  | BUDPJW103 | Posted | 8/31/2024 | 2 | 2025 | 3 Not Chk'd | 552000 | incr to cover estimate | 316 | 316000 |  | 316757 | 147,105.50  | To adjust budget for transfer of project funds from Facility capital projec to Library capital project |

- TBD amount for Books and Materials budget to move from 316 to 151 based on an updated opinion from City Bond Attorney.



| Library<br>2025-02-28             |                                | Library Operations Summary |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                   |                                | Prior FY<br>2024<br>Actual | Current FY<br>2025<br>Adjusted<br>Budget | Current FY<br>2025<br>Actual | Favorable<br>(Unfavorable)<br>Variance | Percent of<br>Budget<br>Received/<br>Spent | Current Month<br>FY<br>2025<br>Actual | Current FY<br>2025<br>Adopted<br>Budget | Budget<br>Change                             |
| Account                           |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
| Revenues                          |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
| Taxes                             |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
|                                   |                                | -                          | -  | -                            | -                                      | 0%   | -                                     | -                                       | -  |
| Licenses & Permits                |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
|                                   |                                | -                          | -  | -                            | -                                      | 0%   | -                                     | -                                       | -  |
| Intergovernmental Revenue         |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
| 422001                            | State Operating                | 101,472.58                 | 115,000.00                               | 96,778.19                    | (18,221.81)                            | 84%  | -                                     | 115,000.00                              | -  |
| 423000                            | Local Govt Grants and Reimb    | 199,278.31                 | 300,000.00                               | 270,401.94                   | (29,598.06)                            | 90%  | 79,161.50                             | 300,000.00                              | -  |
|                                   |                                | 300,750.89                 | 415,000.00                               | 367,180.13                   | (47,819.87)                            | 88%  | 79,161.50                             | 415,000.00                              | -  |
| Charges for Services              |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   | more than FY24 but expect to not meet budget |
| 431006                            | Printing & Duplicating of Form | 20,249.63                  | 25,000.00                                | 21,981.42                    | (3,018.58)                             | 88%  | 2,952.14                              | 25,000.00                               | -  |
| 431012                            | Dept Charges-External to City  | 134,624.34                 | 259,792.00                               | 158,961.20                   | (100,830.80)                           | 61%  | 30,069.68                             | 259,792.00                              | -  |
| 431201                            | Library User Fees - Not Fines  | 19,029.14                  | 10,600.00                                | 27,116.52                    | 16,516.52                              | 256%                                       | 1,114.55                              | 10,600.00                               | -  |
|                                   |                                | 173,903.11                 | 295,392.00                               | 208,059.14                   | (87,332.86)                            | 70%  | 34,136.37                             | 295,392.00                              | -  |
| Fines & Forfeits                  |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
|                                   |                                | -                          | -  | -                            | -                                      | 0%   | -                                     | -                                       | -  |
| Proceeds of Long Term Liabilities |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
|                                   |                                | -                          | -  | -                            | -                                      | 0%   | -                                     | -                                       | -  |
| Other Revenue                     |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
| 461001                            | Building Rental                | 23,485.60                  | 43,455.00                                | 28,505.10                    | (14,949.90)                            | 66%  | 2,305.70                              | 43,455.00                               | -  |
| 471001                            | Postage / Handling             | 7.00                       | -  | -                            | -                                      | 0%   | -                                     | -                                       | -  |
| 471002                            | Contributions & Donations      | 22,085.82                  | 70,000.00                                | 17,137.75                    | (52,862.25)                            | 24%  | -                                     | 70,000.00                               | -  |
| 471003                            | Sale of Inventory              | 226.33                     | 2,000.00                                 | 612.15                       | (1,387.85)                             | 31%  | 94.65                                 | 2,000.00                                | -  |
| 471004                            | Damage Recoveries              | 25.00                      | -  | -                            | -                                      | 0%   | -                                     | -                                       | -  |
| 471005                            | Other Miscellaneous Revenue    | 75.00                      | 3,500.00                                 | -                            | (3,500.00)                             | 0%   | -                                     | 3,500.00                                | -  |
| 471007                            | Cash Over (Under)              | (6.51)                     | -  | 0.81                         | 0.81                                   | 0%   | 4.05                                  | -                                       | -  |
|                                   |                                | 45,898.24                  | 118,955.00                               | 46,255.81                    | (72,699.19)                            | 39%  | 2,404.40                              | 118,955.00                              | -  |
| Transfers In                      |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
| 483001                            | Operating Transfer In - Inter  | 14,718.96                  | -  | -                            | -                                      | 0%   | -                                     | -                                       | -  |
|                                   |                                | 14,718.96                  | -  | -                            | -                                      | 0%   | -                                     | -                                       | -  |
| Total Revenues                    |                                | 535,271.20                 | 829,347.00                               | 621,495.08                   | (207,851.92)                           | 75%  | 115,702.27                            | 829,347.00                              | -  |
| Expenditures                      |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
| Personal Services                 |                                |                            |  |                              |  |  |                                       |   |  |
| 511100                            | Regular Employees              | 2,743,215.20               | 4,432,751.77                             | 2,940,275.64                 | 1,492,476.13                           | 66%  | 340,074.96                            | 4,399,864.00                            | 32,887.77                                    |
| 511200                            | Temporary/Seasonal Employees   | 7,759.50                   | 43,368.40                                | 17,828.00                    | 25,540.40                              | 41%  | -                                     | 43,368.40                               | -  |
| 511300                            | Overtime                       | 47,097.66                  | 114,773.40                               | 55,678.93                    | 59,094.47                              | 49%  | 7,133.69                              | 114,773.40                              | -  |
| 511400                            | Other Special Pays             | 15,085.84                  | 17,158.00                                | 19,137.31                    | (1,979.31)                             | 112%                                       | 2,858.06                              | 17,158.00                               | -  |
| 512100                            | Group Insurance                | 436,030.24                 | 818,207.00                               | 508,053.49                   | 310,153.51                             | 62%  | 65,819.88                             | 818,207.00                              | -  |
| 512200                            | Social Security Contributions  | 202,998.73                 | 348,485.00                               | 230,299.94                   | 118,185.06                             | 66%  | 25,797.41                             | 348,485.00                              | -  |
| 512300                            | Retirement Contribution        | 257,018.66                 | 431,057.00                               | 291,125.61                   | 139,931.39                             | 68%  | 32,836.88                             | 431,057.00                              | -  |

|                        |                                |              |              |              |              |       |            |              |             |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 512500                 | Workers' Compensation          | 46,396.15    | 61,747.00    | 40,099.76    | 21,647.24    | 65%   | 4,466.02   | 61,747.00    | -           | unbudgeted Tuition Reimb |
| 512600                 | Other Employee Benefits        | 5,404.78     | 3,162.00     | 5,277.90     | (2,115.90)   | 167%  | 1,156.69   | 3,162.00     | -           |                          |
|                        |                                | 3,761,006.76 | 6,270,709.57 | 4,107,776.58 | 2,162,932.99 | 65.5% | 480,143.59 | 6,237,821.80 | 32,887.77   |                          |
| Discretionary Expenses |                                |              |              |              |              |       |            |              |             |                          |
| 521100                 | Advertising & Marketing        | 11,156.67    | 5,000.00     | 5,970.29     | (970.29)     | 119%  | 11.71      | 5,000.00     | -           |                          |
| 521104                 | Consulting & Technical Service | -            | 10,000.00    | -            | 10,000.00    | 0%    | -          | 10,000.00    | -           |                          |
| 521105                 | External Contracted Labor      | 105,760.14   | 72,578.23    | 32,272.07    | 40,306.16    | 44%   | 5,139.68   | 125,466.00   | (52,887.77) |                          |
| 521107                 | Legal Services                 | 12,348.86    | -            | 20,503.29    | (20,503.29)  | 0%    | 1,676.00   | -            | -           |                          |
| 521108                 | Other Professional Services    | 908.27       | 9,523.63     | 1,516.52     | 8,007.11     | 16%   | -          | 9,523.63     | -           |                          |
| 521109                 | External Banking/Financial Fee | 11,306.58    | 20,700.00    | 11,091.57    | 9,608.43     | 54%   | 1,570.62   | 20,700.00    | -           |                          |
| 521110                 | Security Services              | -            | 5,000.00     | 348.77       | 4,651.23     | 7%    | -          | 5,000.00     | -           |                          |
| 521115                 | Other Inter Department Charges | -            | -            | 975.00       | (975.00)     | 0%    | -          | -            | -           |                          |
| 522100                 | Computer Hardware              | 37,709.64    | 35,000.00    | 31,238.44    | 3,761.56     | 89%   | -          | 35,000.00    | -           |                          |
| 522101                 | Computer Software Maintenance  | 182,352.45   | 222,220.00   | 194,737.48   | 27,482.52    | 88%   | 537.05     | 222,220.00   | -           |                          |
| 522102                 | IT Services - External         | 24,830.42    | 75,500.00    | 26,800.58    | 48,699.42    | 35%   | -          | 75,500.00    | -           |                          |
| 522104                 | Building & Grounds Services    | 11,007.60    | 15,000.00    | 17,056.68    | (2,056.68)   | 114%  | 12,300.00  | 15,000.00    | -           |                          |
| 522105                 | Equip/Furniture/Fixtures Serv  | 495.00       | 9,000.00     | 22,996.95    | (13,996.95)  | 256%  | 8,881.16   | 9,000.00     | -           |                          |
| 523107                 | Phone Services                 | 19,955.68    | 35,950.00    | 20,648.58    | 15,301.42    | 57%   | 2,493.14   | 35,950.00    | -           |                          |
| 524101                 | Rental of Equip & Vehicles     | 4,288.45     | 500.00       | -            | 500.00       | 0%    | -          | 500.00       | -           |                          |
| 525102                 | Printing, Binding, & Duplicate | 8,560.74     | 15,950.00    | 12,336.19    | 3,613.81     | 77%   | 3,121.58   | 15,950.00    | -           |                          |
| 531102                 | Awards & Recognition           | -            | 250.00       | -            | 250.00       | 0%    | -          | 250.00       | -           |                          |
| 531103                 | Books & Subscriptions          | 146,893.66   | 109,171.80   | 156,128.75   | (46,956.95)  | 143%  | 31,805.21  | 109,171.80   | -           |                          |
| 531105                 | Cleaning & Janitorial Supplies | 46.94        | 1,250.00     | 1,420.52     | (170.52)     | 114%  | 411.29     | 1,250.00     | -           |                          |
| 531106                 | Computer Supplies              | 1,508.70     | 5,000.00     | 887.69       | 4,112.31     | 18%   | -          | 5,000.00     | -           |                          |
| 531109                 | Equipment/Furniture/Fixtures   | 4,876.11     | 11,500.00    | 12,936.69    | (1,436.69)   | 112%  | -          | 11,500.00    | -           |                          |
| 531110                 | Photography Supplies           | -            | 300.00       | -            | 300.00       | 0%    | -          | 300.00       | -           |                          |
| 531114                 | Miscellaneous Supplies         | -            | 2,000.00     | -            | 2,000.00     | 0%    | -          | 2,000.00     | -           |                          |
| 531116                 | Office Supplies                | 10,805.80    | 15,320.00    | 6,946.04     | 8,373.96     | 45%   | 447.70     | 15,320.00    | -           |                          |
| 531117                 | Paint Supplies                 | 267.28       | -            | 1,547.28     | (1,547.28)   | 0%    | -          | -            | -           |                          |
| 531118                 | Program Supplies               | 22,654.87    | 37,000.00    | 22,648.43    | 14,351.57    | 61%   | 570.41     | 37,000.00    | -           |                          |
| 531119                 | Shop Supplies                  | 888.16       | 250.00       | 983.45       | (733.45)     | 393%  | 106.69     | 250.00       | -           |                          |
| 531120                 | Sign & Signal Supplies         | 113.78       | -            | 149.02       | (149.02)     | 0%    | -          | -            | -           |                          |
| 531123                 | Uniforms                       | -            | 1,694.00     | -            | 1,694.00     | 0%    | -          | 1,694.00     | -           |                          |
| 531124                 | Personal Protective Gear       | 458.49       | -            | 1,497.94     | (1,497.94)   | 0%    | 347.94     | -            | -           |                          |
| 532103                 | LP Gas                         | -            | -            | 33.54        | (33.54)      | 0%    | -          | -            | -           |                          |
| 533100                 | Building & Grounds Supplies    | 12,416.70    | 34,241.28    | 1,248.60     | 32,992.68    | 4%    | 34.79      | 34,241.28    | -           |                          |
| 533101                 | Equip/Furniture/Fixtures Parts | 748.22       | -            | 3,178.16     | (3,178.16)   | 0%    | 663.96     | -            | -           |                          |
| 542102                 | Conferences, Training, Travel  | 16,248.04    | 23,200.00    | 14,663.01    | 8,536.99     | 63%   | 197.80     | 23,200.00    | -           |                          |
| 542103                 | Dues & Memberships             | 4,060.54     | 10,000.00    | 2,377.50     | 7,622.50     | 24%   | 1,500.00   | 10,000.00    | -           |                          |
| 542106                 | Licensing Fees                 | 30.00        | -            | -            | -            | 0%    | -          | -            | -           |                          |
| 542108                 | Postage & Freight              | 4,790.89     | 13,500.00    | 5,432.62     | 8,067.38     | 40%   | 553.57     | 13,500.00    | -           |                          |
| 542111                 | Mileage Reimbursement          | 1,048.29     | 3,000.00     | 1,486.96     | 1,513.04     | 50%   | 208.07     | 3,000.00     | -           | currently over spent by: |
|                        |                                | 658,536.97   | 799,598.94   | 632,058.61   | 167,540.33   | 79%   | 72,578.37  | 852,486.71   | (52,887.77) | (98,992.65)              |
| Other Expenses         |                                |              |              |              |              |       |            |              |             |                          |
| 521106                 | Health Services                | 374.65       | -            | 469.05       | (469.05)     | 0%    | 76.70      | -            | -           |                          |
| 521113                 | City Finance Dept Services     | 57,000.00    | -            | -            | -            | 0%    | -          | 89,775.00    | (89,775.00) |                          |
| 521114                 | Administrative Area Charges    | 225.00       | -            | -            | -            | 0%    | -          | -            | -           |                          |
| 522107                 | Routine City Facility Charges  | 115,986.75   | 325,603.18   | 174,738.68   | 150,864.50   | 54%   | 35,986.57  | 325,603.18   | -           |                          |
| 522108                 | Routine City Fleet Charges     | 431.81       | 1,150.00     | 1,935.56     | (785.56)     | 168%  | -          | 1,150.00     | -           |                          |



|  |                                |                |                |                |              |       |              |                |             |                                   |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|-------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 522109                                   | City Information Tech Services | 4,114.80       | -              | -              | -            | 0%    | -            | 6,542.59       | (6,542.59)  |                                   |
| 523100                                   | Electricity                    | 143,716.12     | 243,800.00     | 141,822.97     | 101,977.03   | 58%   | 2,013.14     | 243,800.00     | -           |                                   |
| 523103                                   | Natural Gas                    | 1,645.16       | 4,500.00       | 3,162.06       | 1,337.94     | 70%   | 1,087.56     | 4,500.00       | -           |                                   |
| 524100                                   | Rental of Land & Buildings     | 236,431.54     | 249,000.00     | 240,896.42     | 8,103.58     | 97%   | 3,382.50     | 249,000.00     | -           | has full year of rent posted      |
| 525104                                   | Liability Insurance            | 32,457.68      | 46,866.00      | 33,742.54      | 13,123.46    | 72%   | 3,905.50     | 46,866.00      | -           |                                   |
| 525107                                   | Property Insurance             | 90,618.64      | 162,212.00     | 108,141.36     | 54,070.64    | 67%   | 13,517.67    | 162,212.00     | -           |                                   |
| 525108                                   | Vehicle Insurance              | 866.64         | 1,500.00       | 1,000.00       | 500.00       | 67%   | 125.00       | 1,500.00       | -           |                                   |
| 532101                                   | Gasoline Fuel                  | 107.64         | 498.58         | 241.75         | 256.83       | 48%   | -            | 498.58         | -           |                                   |
|  |                                | 683,976.43     | 1,035,129.76   | 706,150.39     | 328,979.37   | 68.2% | 60,094.64    | 1,131,447.35   | (96,317.59) |                                   |
| Capital Outlay                           |                                |                |                |                |              |       |              |                |             |                                   |
|  |                                | -              | -              | -              | -            | 0%    | -            | -              | -           |                                   |
| Debt Service                             |                                |                |                |                |              |       |              |                |             |                                   |
|  |                                | -              | -              | -              | -            | 0%    | -            | -              | -           |                                   |
| Transfers Out                            |                                |                |                |                |              |       |              |                |             |                                   |
| 571100                                   | Transfer Out-Inter             | -              | 20,000.00      | -              | 20,000.00    | 0%    | -            | -              | 20,000.00   | This actual will occur before FYE |
|  |                                | -              | 20,000.00      | -              | 20,000.00    | 0%    | -            | -              | 20,000.00   |                                   |
|  |                                |                |                |                |              |       |              |                |             |                                   |
| Total Expenditures                       |                                | 5,103,520.16   | 8,125,438.27   | 5,445,985.58   | 2,679,452.69 | 67%   | 612,816.60   | 8,221,755.86   | (96,317.59) |                                   |
|  |                                |                |                |                |              |       |              |                |             |                                   |
| Net Revenues Over / (Under) Expenditures |                                | (4,568,248.96) | (7,296,091.27) | (4,824,490.50) | 2,471,600.77 |       | (497,114.33) | (7,392,408.86) | 96,317.59   |                                   |

**APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATE FOR PAYMENT**  
AIA DOCUMENT G702

PAGE 1 of 6

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>TO (OWNER):</b><br>CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS<br>101 1ST STREET SE<br>CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401   | <b>PROJECT:</b> Westside Library<br><br>3700 20th Ave SW<br>Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 | <b>APPLICATION NO:</b> 05<br><b>INVOICE NO:</b> 003420<br><b>PROJECT NO:</b> 54256<br><b>ARCHITECT PROJECT NO:</b> PUR0624-324<br><b>OWNER PO NO:</b> 54256 |
| <b>FROM:</b> Dale F DeMeulenaere<br><b>(CONTRACTOR)</b> Garling Construction, Inc.<br>1120 11th Street<br>Belle Plaine, IA 52208<br><b>CONTRACT FOR:</b> General Construction | <b>ARCHITECT:</b> OPN ARCHITECTS<br>200 5TH AVE SE 201<br>CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401   | <b>CONTRACT DATE:</b> 9/11/2024<br><b>FROM:</b> 2/1/2025<br><b>TO:</b> 2/28/2025  |

Distribution to:

|                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OWNER                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | ARCHITECT            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | LENDOR               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | GENERAL CONTRACTOR   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | CONSTRUCTION MANAGER |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | OTHER                |

**CONTRACTOR'S APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT**

Application is made for Payment, as shown below, in connection with the Contract.  
Continuation Sheet, AIA Document G703, is attached.

| Change Orders approved in previous months by Owner |               | APPROVED     | DEDUCTIONS   |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total  |               | \$129,296.31 |              |
| Approved this Month                                |               |              |              |
| Number   | Date Approved |              |              |
|  |               |              |              |
| TOTALS   |               |              |              |
| Net change by Change Orders                        |               |              | \$129,296.31 |

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>1. ORIGINAL CONTRACT SUM</b> .....                             | \$15,525,000.00 |
| <b>2. Net change by Change Orders</b> .....                       | \$129,296.31    |
| <b>3. CONTRACT SUM TO DATE (Line 1 +- 2)</b> .....                | \$15,654,296.31 |
| <b>4. TOTAL COMPLETED &amp; STORED TO DATE</b> .....              | \$2,386,750.75  |
| (Column I on G703)  |                 |
| <b>5. RETAINAGE:</b>  |                 |
| a. 5.00% .....  | \$111,564.79    |
| (Column F + G on G703)  |                 |
| b. ....   | \$7,772.75      |
| (Column H on G703)  |                 |
| Total Retainage (Line 5a + 5b or Total in Column L of G703) ..... |                 |
|   | \$119,337.54    |
| <b>6. TOTAL EARNED LESS RETAINAGE</b> .....                       | \$2,267,413.21  |
| (Line 4 less Line 5 Total)  |                 |

The undersigned contractor certifies that to the best of the Contractor's knowledge, information and belief the Work covered by this Application for Payment has been completed in accordance with the Contract Documents, that all amounts have been paid by the Contractor for Work which previous Certificates for Payment were issued and payments received from the Owner, and that current payment shown herein is now due.

CONTRACTOR: Garling Construction Inc

BY: Tam N DATE: 2-27-25

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>7. LESS PREVIOUS CERTIFICATES FOR PAYMENT</b> ..... | \$1,834,729.06  |
| (Line 6 from prior Certificate).....                   |                 |
| <b>8. CURRENT PAYMENT DUE</b> .....                    | \$432,684.15    |
| <b>9. BALANCE TO FINISH, PLUS RETAINAGE</b> .....      | \$13,386,883.10 |
| (Line 3 less Line 6)                                   |                 |

State of: IA  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of Feb, 2025

Notary Public:

Amy DeMeulenaere



My Commission Expires: 3-6-26

**ARCHITECTS CERTIFICATE FOR PAYMENT**

In accordance with the Contract Documents, based on on-site observations and the data comprising the above application, the Architect certifies to the Owner that to the best of the Architect's knowledge, information and belief the Work has progressed as indicated, the quality of the Work is in accordance with the Contract Documents, and the Contractor is entitled to payment of the **AMOUNT CERTIFIED**.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>AMOUNT CERTIFIED</b> .....   | \$ 432,684.15 |
| <b>Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Four Dollars and Fifteen Cents</b> |               |

(Attach explanation if amount certified differs from the amount applied for.)

ARCHITECT:

By:

Katey Hays

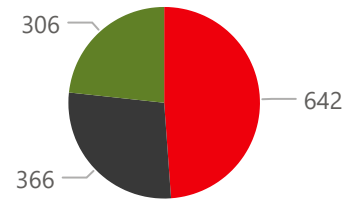
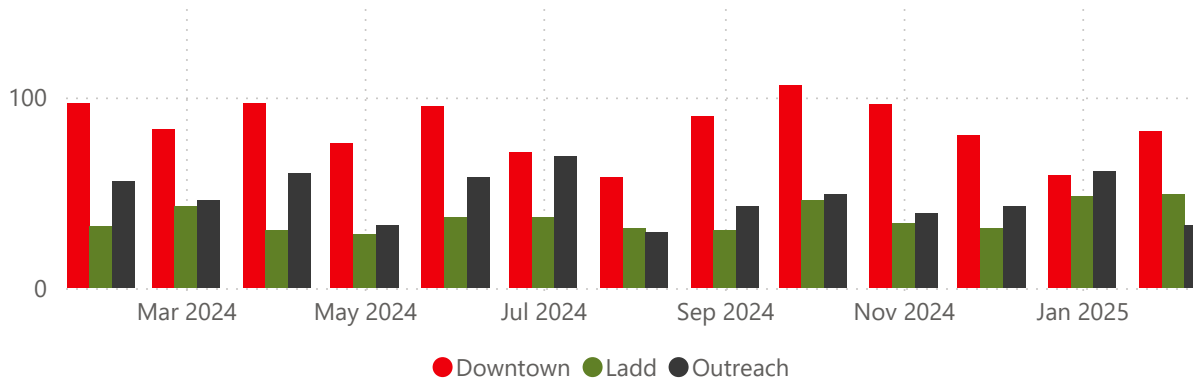
Date: 03/04/2025

This certificate is not negotiable. The AMOUNT CERTIFIED is payable only to the Contractor named herein. Issuance, payment and acceptance of payment are without prejudice to any rights of the Owner or Contractor under this Contract.

*Approved* [Signature]

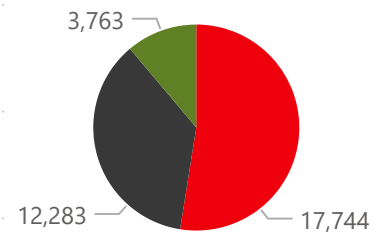
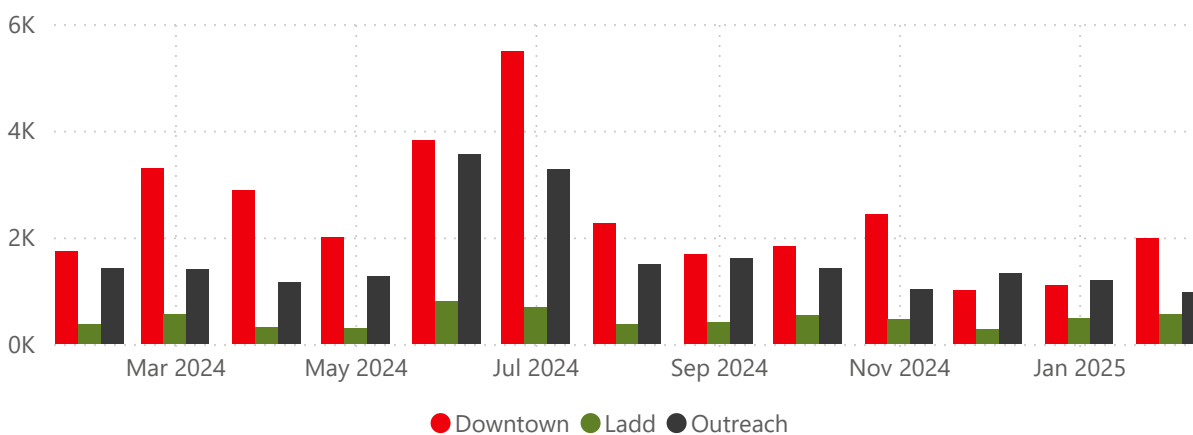


Programs



1,314

# of Programs



33,790

# of Attendees

Programming always enjoys when the weather starts to warm up because we see an uptick in new and returning patrons to many of our programs - meaning ongoing programs can sometimes grow in attendance by 25-50% compared to winter months! March started off with a very fun (and busy) sock-puppet workshop with local theater legend Joe Link, and also included very popular programs such as Art Exploration, LEGO and Keva block clubs, button making, and much more. We're also seeing a return to summer levels of attendance at our Downtown early learning opportunities, and a consistent growth in early learning programs at Ladd. Additionally, the entire Programming team worked together to host the second annual Maker Fest, pulling together multiple corridor-area organizations to create a building-wide celebration of making and technology, and drawing in 350 people in the middle of a very stormy afternoon. Planning for the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge is speeding up, as is planning for how we will adapt and shift programming to look forward to the opening of the new Westside Library in Fall 2026.

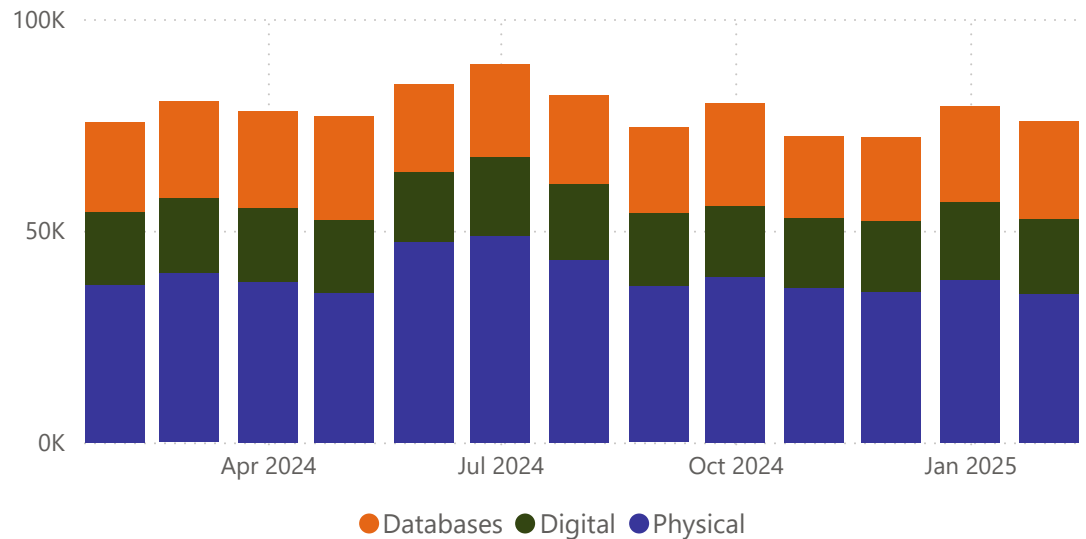
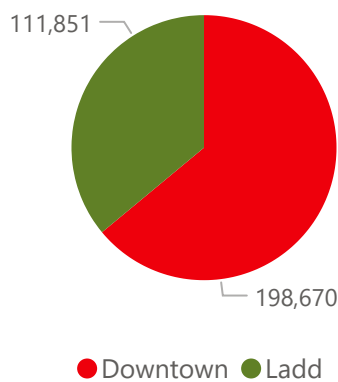
*I just want to say that it was really powerful to get to talk about some deep and more vulnerable topics at the Corridor All Staff Day. The speakers were so knowledgeable and positive, and getting to brainstorm and share in small groups with other library workers was really encouraging to me. I especially liked Wes's session on burnout and resilience, because we got to workshop what these things feel like and what being resilient can mean for us. Rather than just watching a training on my own, I found it so useful to bounce ideas off of my peers, and especially on a topic like this, to relate to one another and remember we have each other's backs! - Alyssa Telecky, Public Services Specialist*

*A mother was in the library with her young child. The child had lots of energy and didn't want to stay with his mom. She scooped the child up and set them on the counter so she could use the self-checkout. All the while the child was trying to escape again. I quickly drew a smiley face on a piece of scrap paper and handed it to the child. I asked the child if they could hold on to it for me. Stunned the child stared at the paper and face drawn on it, while the mother finished up. The mother thanked me for doing that and said she liked coming to the library in part because staff were always so kind. - Elysha Holley, Public Services Specialist*

### Borrowing & Collections

**171,882**      **140,367**      **310,521**      **2,786**      **625,556**  
Databases      Digital      Physical      Technology      Total

Physical Circulation, by Location

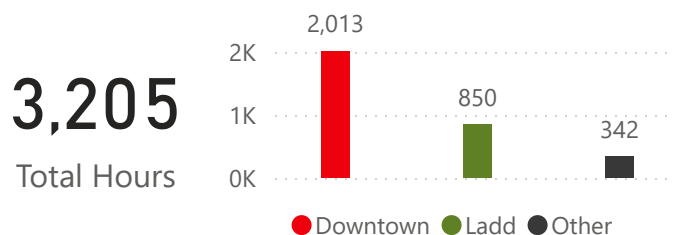


The Materials team is finalizing the contract and pricing for the ILS software. Now that this process is close to complete, the team is optimizing cataloging for more complicated materials like graphic novels and other series. These have historically been more difficult to search for in the library catalog due to having various subseries and reprints over the years. As graphic novel series continue to get more popular, especially among kids and teens, we want to make things easy for kids to find what they're looking for on the shelf. Planning for summer and the start of the next fiscal year are under way with potential updates to digital services as we continue to align with city initiatives to adjust to current financial realities.

*I was greeting a regular patron when she told me about a book I had recommended but she was unsure about. She said she ended up reading it and really liking it so she read the next book in the series. And while we talked she said she can't wait for the holds list for the third book. This was a fun interaction and goes to show you never know when it comes to books. Even the one that seems most unlikely and out of your "favorite" genre could change your world! - Tina McCullough, Patron Services Specialist*

### Volunteers

Volunteer Hours



**3,205**  
Total Hours

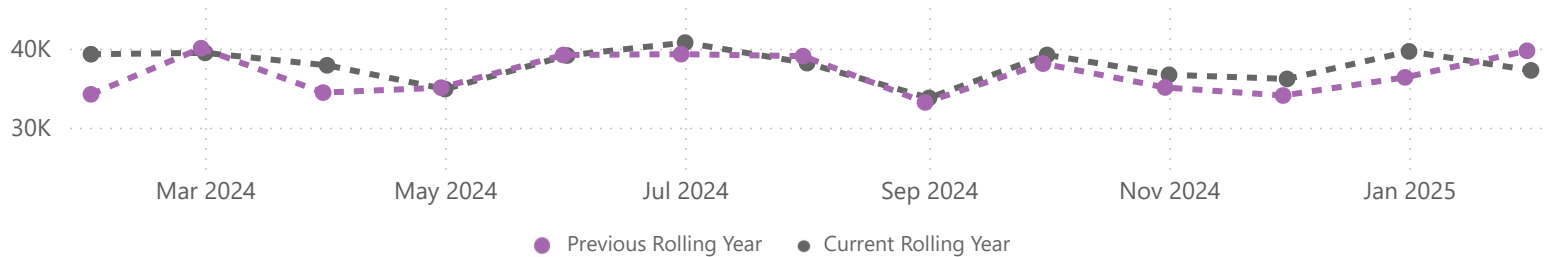
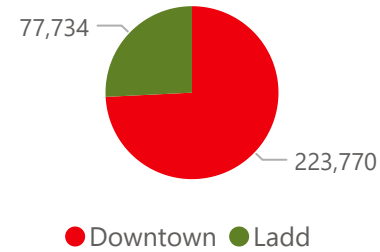
In March, we opened volunteer applications up to the general public once again. Volunteer opportunities are focused on the Adopt-A-Shelf, Clean Team, and Volunteer Corps roles. We spent much of the month processing applications that came in from our waitlist back in February. In the past month, we have processed over 28 applicants from application reviews and background checks to interviews and trainings/orientations. Administrative Assistant Ashley Burns recently celebrated her one-year anniversary with the library and has been instrumental in processing these new volunteers. We look forward to celebrating volunteers during National Volunteer Week, starting April 20. Volunteer Hours in February 2025: 363.



## Visits

**301,504**

Physical Visits



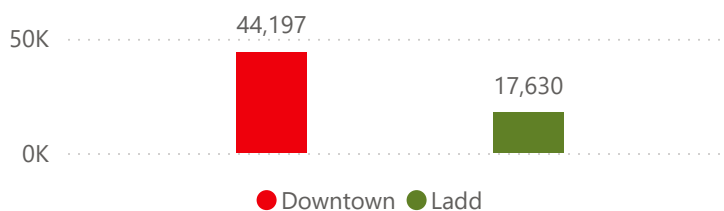
The Public Service team saw a very busy Spring Break this year. We saw an increase in visits among children and teens. Based on this data, we are expecting a busier summer with our teen population and the Public Service Leadership Team is busy looking at tools and trainings to help us have a successful summer. We also posted several open PSA positions and had a very talented pool of 89 applicants. It is great to see such enthusiasm and interest in working at the library!

*Today I'm operating solo in the Opportunity Center and VITA is here doing tax preparation by appointment. There is a social worker with Linn County that frequently brings her clients in for employment support, and a couple weeks ago she brought in a family for a VITA appointment that only speaks/understands Swahili. When they dropped their taxes off, one of the AmeriCorps members was here to help with translation (which was fabulous). When they came today, they were stuck with me (who does NOT speak or understand Swahili, whatsoever.)*

*This family has been struggling a great deal, and I was able to help communicate to them that they will be getting a tax refund of more than \$13K. We may not use the same language to communicate but the emotions and relief they had in receiving this news was overwhelming for everyone. Seriously, I think everyone cried a little. - Erin Norwood, Opportunity Center Program Coordinator*

## Technology Access

### PC Uses



**149,580**

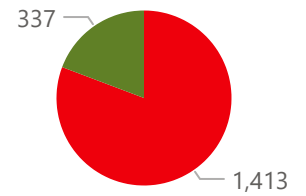
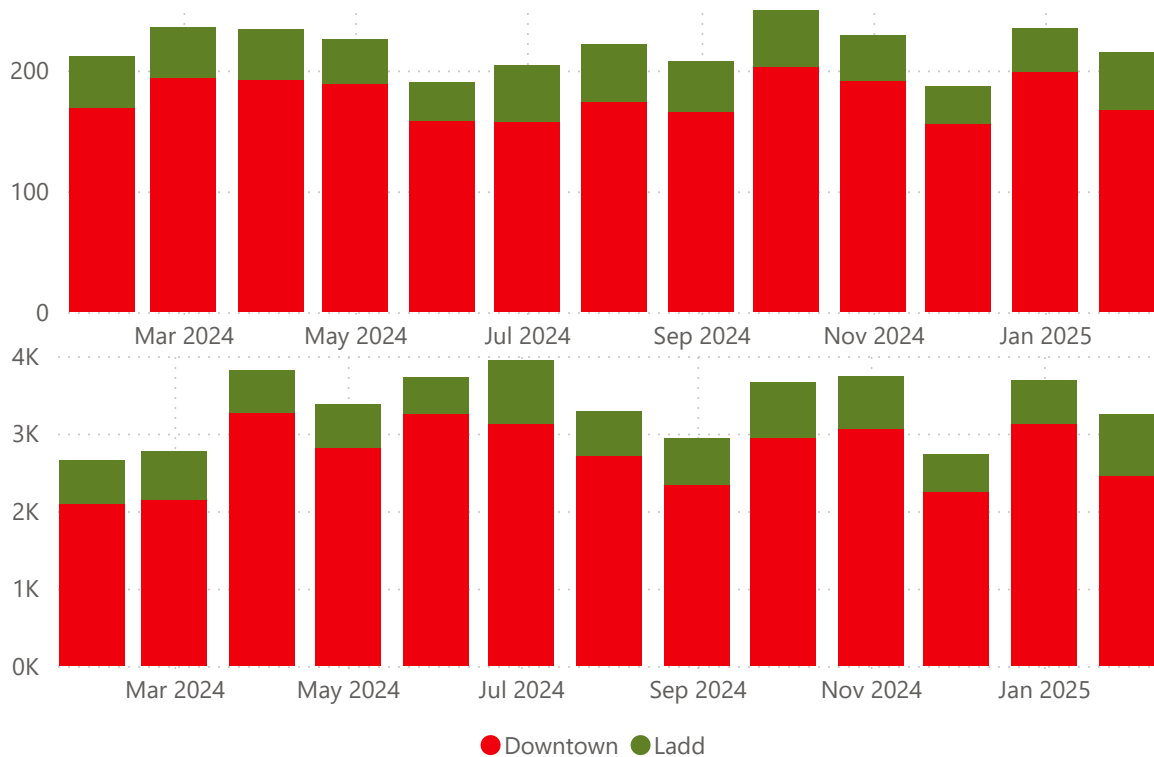
Virtual Visits

**73,503**

WiFi Sessions

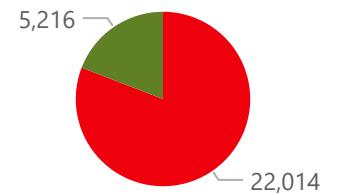
The Technology Solutions team completed security updates on the library voicemail system. All library systems get periodic updates to keep things secure. The team always works to minimize any downtime and often completes these updates after hours. The library moved the events calendar and room reservation system this month and IT created custom digital displays for the tablets outside the meeting rooms to show reservation times. This process went smoothly thanks to the partnership between IT, Programming, and Community Relations.

### Meeting Room Use



**1,750**

# of Reservations



**27,230**

# of Users

This month saw a variety of activities at the library, hosting 216 reservations and serving around 3,159 patrons. One particular celebration of note: an open house for a long-time Friends' Volunteer, celebrating her 100th birthday at the library. Other large-scale events included The League of Women Voters filling Whipple Auditorium for a panel of Iowa legislators. Area families came in waves to walk through the annual week-long Third Grade Clay exhibit in Beems Auditorium. VITA provided tax assistance at the Ladd Library's Opportunity Center. The City of Cedar Rapids Housing Services hosted an open house and began regular reservations for their FSS Orientation. Of final note is that the downtown library hosted to the Corridor Libraries Staff Day, a day-long event bringing over 200 professionals from across the area together for a day of continuing education and networking.

Community Relations continues work on preparing for the summer. This means reviewing the collateral we designed last year and making any necessary changes or updates, as well as finalizing any new pieces for 2025. We were very happy with the results from last year, so we plan to make minor adjustments overall. We are also working on plans for National Library Week and the opportunity for messaging and advocacy that comes with it. We're excited to use this as a chance to celebrate libraries and library staff.

*A man and two boys entered the children's library. I asked how I could help and the Dad asked for some books for his younger child with Down Syndrome. I found books he loved and noticed the elder boy seemed to be holding back from the shelves and the staff desk. I mentioned to Dad that both his boys might be very interested in a type of book that supports their reading. I guided him over to the Wonderbooks section and explained how they worked. He looked both thrilled and relieved. He said he thought it could support his eldest son, who occasionally struggles with reading, while the younger would also learn from the process. Dad and elder son came back to the desk with several Wonderbooks. As they were checking out, I attended to some computer tasks, when I felt two small arms encircle my neck. The youngest had raced behind me to give me hug and then blew me kisses all the way out of the library. - Andrea Jilovec, Patron Services Specialist*



**Calendar of Initiatives - FY23-25 Plan Year Three**

[illegible]