

Agenda: Board of Trustees August 7, 2025, at 4 pm Conference Room, Downtown Library

Access, Connection, & Service

Library Board President - Monica Challenger

- A. Call to Order
- B. Consent Agenda Action
 - o Minutes: July 3, 2025
- C. Public Comments and Communications
- D. Foundation Report Charity Tyler
- E. Friends of the Library Report Libby Slappey
- F. Board Education: Strategic Plan Dara Schmidt
- G. Library Board Committee Reports
 - Advocacy Committee Elsabeth Hepworth, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - Building Committee Jade Hart, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - Finance Committee Chris Casey, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - o 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 **September 4, 2025 at 4 pm**, in the Community Room, Ladd Library.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes Cedar Rapids Public Library Board of Trustees July 3, 2025

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

Board members unable to attend: Hassan Selim

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

Others: Charity Tyler, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation (via Zoom)

- A. Call to Order
 - Ms. Challenger called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. She noted that there is a slight adjustment to the agenda. Ms. Schmidt is unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency and would like to present on the strategic plan next month.
- B. Consent Agenda Action
 - Minutes: June 5, 2025
 - Special Event Application

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. Three new members were welcomed to the Foundation board; the new terms start on July 1. The Foundation staff continues to follow-up on capital campaign requests for support. They are getting closer to an announcement. Ms. Tyler hopes it'll come by the end of summer.
 - The Foundation is planning two events for this August and September. On August 9, from 10 am-noon, the team will host a Back to School Social. Families are invited to mark the milestone of starting kindergarten. As children age out of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) by turning five, kids can ride a real school bus and enjoy activities. DPIL partners will also be there to interact with families. The annual Van Vechten Society Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 7. The event honors those who left estate gifts to the library or for individuals whose memorial gifts generated over \$1,000 in gifts to the library. Trustees will be invited to the event.
 - Ms. Challenger asked about the specific partners who will attend the Back to School Social. Foundation Development Associate Jess Netolick has the final list. Ms. Tyler does now that several have committed and will assist with story times, games, and crafts throughout the morning.
- E. Friends of the Library Report Libby Slappey
 - Ms. Tyler reported for Ms. Slappey, who was unable to attend the meeting. Summer is in full swing for the Friends with their Farmers Market sales. In June, both sales raised over \$5,000 with another six remaining this season. Amazon sales continue to have done well this month with over \$1,200 earned last month. Of those, ten were railroad books.
- F. Library Board Committee Reports
 - Advocacy Committee Elsabeth Hepworth, Committee Chair
 - Ms. Hepworth reported. The committee has no action items. Right now, they are monitoring what's happening at the federal level for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS); there is nothing new to report. Ms. Hepworth noted it's a

good time to celebrate libraries with local representation and prepare for the next legislative session with initial research for correspondence and advocacy. For those looking for a specific advocacy, it'd be a good time to share great stories highlighting the importance of the library with lawmakers over the summer. For example, share tangible and positive impacts versus 'don't do...' statements. Ms. Hepworth encouraged people to look at the quarterly OPEN+ magazine for ideas of stories to share.

- Building Committee Jade Hart, Committee Chair
 - Ms. Hart reported. At the Downtown Library, roof replacement will start on Friday, July 11 with T&K Roofing, who won the bid. We expect to see T&K daily with some weekend work, with an estimated completion of August 15. T&K will use a crane to move materials and waste to and from the roof; any crane work will be done before the library opens. For the Urban Plaza, a pre-bid meeting is scheduled for July 16 for contractors to see the site, discuss the project, and ask questions. Bids will be opened August 4 followed by approval of the bid winner at the August 12 City Council meeting. An official start date will be determined as a contractor is selected. At the Westside Library, the high roof structural steel has been completed and the crews will continue working on the low roof structural steel and masonry walls. Storm sewer installation for Sandberg Lane started, concrete in the basement and first floor areas. In addition, the Building Committee and library staff started meeting with Mindy from OPN to review and select furniture. At last week's meeting, the committee reviewed furniture for staff areas and patron-use seating in the collection areas. Meetings will occur every other week through the fall.
- Finance Committee Chris Casey, Committee Chair
 - Ms. Casey reported on the May 2025 financials. At this time, we are 92% of the way into the fiscal year. We have received 90% of revenues and have spent 93% of the budget. Revenues should meet budget so long as the Contributions/Donations line is fulfilled. Ms. Tyler clarified that this money is checks from the Foundation on behalf of donors in support of the library's programs and services. Ms. Casey discussed the flexibility within our accounts, such as 7010, to offset any overages. She also showed line 531103 Books and Subscriptions gained \$200,000 due to lost funding in CIP for digital materials in order to make the budget. Ms. Casey anticipates we'll need to amend the FY26 budget in the future.
- Nominating Committee Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - Action: Slate of Officers. The committee recommends keeping Monica Challenger as President and Jeremy Elges as Vice President. Each will have served two years in those roles.

The motion to accept the Slate of Officers passed with unanimous approval.

- Personnel and Policy Committee Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - Action: Policy 1.00 Mission Statement. As discussed at the last board meeting, the committee reviewed the wording in the Vision Statement, and if the word should be: 'discovery' or 'curiosity'. The committee recommended keeping the word 'discovery'. Ms. McDermott shared that the other policies for review need to be changed because they previously cited the former mission and vision statements. The updates are strictly to update the language to reflect the new mission and vision and do not otherwise change the content of those policies. The policies below were reviewed and there was no discussion. The board agreed to vote on the policies in one motion.
 - Action: Policy 2.00 Collection Development
 - Action: Policy 2.05 Programming and Partnerships
 - Action: Policy 3.01 Library Cards and Customer Privileges

- o **Action**: Policy 3.05 Internet and Computer Usage
- o **Action**: Policy 4.00 Library as Place

The motion to accept the revised policies as in the packet passed with unanimous approval.

G. Library Director's Report

- Ms. McNamara reported for Ms. Schmidt. We are officially halfway through the summer reading challenge. We're seeing a lot of completions already. On social media, we posted that we've read 783,461 minutes at the moment data was captured. One thing to keep in mind: people like to bring their paper logs into the library in chunks, and we appreciate seeing the minutes no matter how and when they come. The messaging will now shift from signing up over to recording minutes and finishing the program. The Mega Readers program, which is designed to include day cares and kids' club for a shared reading experience, has enrolled over 800 kids. Ms. McNamara shared a message from the Freedom School at Tanager about how much they have appreciated the program and using the library.
- The Metro Library Network's respective library directors and City Attorneys will meet to discuss House File 856. The intention is to get a shared understanding and how it'll impact us as a consortium. Patrons don't necessarily understand that we're separate libraries as we share resources and move materials between buildings. It's critical for the three libraries to be united in major policies for a better patron experience.
- Issues in receiving materials from Baker & Taylor continue to a certain degree. Adult print
 is more difficult while children's materials are consistently arriving. We moved most of our
 adult print orders to Igram, another provider. Things are catching up with the alternate
 vendor. The vendors for library book materials is limited to a few.
- This past weekend, Ms. Schmidt along with Mayor O'Donnell presented on a panel with Kent Library District about the importance of relationship-building between libraries and cities. Their presentation was highlighted in an email from American Libraries magazine.
 Ms. McNamara read a portion of the article out loud. She noted that strong relationships are crucial and has been beneficial for both our library and our City.
- Ms. Challenger asked if the Mega Readers program would be extended to book clubs in the future. Mr. Delecki noted that it's not yet but it could be. However, individuals in book clubs tend to track their own reading instead of as a collective. We did extend the invitation to senior communities, and some are looking at how they can participate in the future. Ms. Challenger asked if the Mega Readers within the program at Tanager are reading their own books or the same book together. Most of the participants are reading their own books, though groups are welcome to read books as one.

H. Old Business

- There being no old business, the meeting continued.
- I. New Business
 - There being no new business, the meeting continued.
- J. Adjournment
 - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 4 pm in the Conference Room, Downtown Library

Funding uncertainty affects lowa program for interlibrary loans

Altered IA Shares delivery schedule aims to reduce costs

By Grace Nieland, The Gazette

Citing rising costs and the desired maximization of federal funding, the state of Iowa is making changes to the system that allows libraries across the state to share books with one another.

The State Library of Iowa is in the process of transitioning its IA Shares program to a once-weekly delivery service through a new partnership with the Iowa Area Education Agencies van delivery service.

IA Shares is a state-

wide program that enables public libraries to easily share materials with those in other parts of the state and facilitate interlibrary loans so cardholders can request and check out materials not available at their home library.

"I truly believe this is a win-win opportunity for the State Library, Iowa AEAs and public libraries," Interim State Librarian Brenda Hall said in a news release. "We've been working hard behind the scenes to get plans put into place, and it's exciting to see all of this work come to fruition."

IA Shares previously operated on a twice-aweek delivery schedule.

In an FAQ prepared for Iowa library workers, State Library staff wrote that library directors were made aware of the upcoming change to once-a-week delivery on May 16 "due to rising costs and federal budget uncertainty.'

Around that same time, the State Library entered into discussions with the AEAs about the feasibility of transitioning to their van delivery service to save additional costs and partner with another state entity.

To facilitate that transition and partnership, the IA Shares program was paused on July 23 with AEA van service expected to begin Monday, Aug. 4. Until then, the

delivery of interlibrary loans will be delayed.

However, the release states that the State Library "continues to look for effective and efficient weekly service models to avoid bottlenecks and keep materials moving.

A select group of highvolume lending libraries will retain their twice-aweek IA Shares schedule after the transition, as part of that process, including the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Residents with additional questions about the change and potential impacts to interlibrary loan delivery should contact their local library.

Comments: grace.nieland@ thegazette.com



Ashley Lind of Cedar Rapids reads a book as she waits for a friend April 4 at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in southeast Cedar Rapids. The state recently announced changes to the way lowa libraries can receive materials from one another for interlibrary loans. (Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette)

Abortions/378 in first five months of 2025

► FROM PAGE 1A

by a 4-3 decision in late June 2024 deemed the law constitutional.

After final legal procedures in the case, the law went into effect July 29, 2024.

ABORTIONS IN IOWA DROPPING

There were 2,771 induced, terminated pregnancies in Iowa in 2023, the last full year under the previous state law, and 1,196 in the first six months of 2024, before the law change, according to figures from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

There were 596 abortions in the final six months of 2024 — including the first five-plus months under the new state restrictions — according to preliminary HHS data.

And in the first five months of 2025, there have been 378 abortions in Iowa, according to preliminary state figures.

Those numbers average roughly 200 abortions per month in the first six months of 2024, 100 per month in the final that they needed.' six months of the year including the first fi months under the new law — and roughly 75 per month this year.

IOWANS TRAVELING TO OTHER STATES

The law also appears to be driving Iowans to seek abortions in neighboring states.

Planned Parenthood, which provides women's reproductive health care services, including abortions, said it had seen a 182 percent increase in Iowa women seeking abortions at its clinics in Nebraska and Minnesota.

According to data from Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services, 358 Iowans had an abortion in the western neighbor state in 2024 — an increase over the 149 Iowans who had an abortion there in 2022 and the 222 in 2023.

The Chicago Abortion Fund, in partnership with the Iowa Abortion Access Fund, saw a 200 percent increase in Iowans who obtained abortions in Illinois since the new law went into effect. In that time period, the fund connected with 870 Iowans overall, 360 of whom traveled to Illinois for abortions.

In Illinois, abortion is legal until fetal viability, which is roughly around 24 weeks of pregnancy.

In Nebraska, abortions are legal until 12 weeks after gestation with exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother.

Minnesota state law was changed in 2023 to effectively remove all restrictions on abortions.



Anti-abortion advocates walk around the Iowa Capitol Building during the lowa March for Life on June 21, 2025. (Maya Marchel Hoff/Quad-City Times)

In the first six weeks after the new law went into effect. Lenz said the **Iowa Abortion Access** Fund saw a significant drop-off in Iowans seeking help with abortions, going from receiving a couple of hundred calls every month to none.

"There was just absolute silence, and that was very concerning. And Chicago was seeing the same thing," Lenz said. "I think that speaks to a culture of fear. And that also, I think, reveals that there were a lot of people not getting the abortions

Since then, the IAAF as seen a 9 to 10 percent increase in Iowans reaching out to the organization for help.

The number of Iowans going out of state for abortions also has spiked, which Lenz says is making the procedure more expensive for Iowans with the addition of wraparound care, or the cost of travel, lodging, taking time off work and, in some cases, finding child

Iowa's tightened window around abortion complicates things for those who don't know they are pregnant until after the ban's six-week time period and have to push their out-of-state abortions back further to save for travel costs, Lenz said. IAAF saw one Iowan whose travel expenses to receive an abortion in Washington, D.C., cost roughly \$20,000. Lenz said this was a rare circumstance but added that the organization was seeing more of them.

The Chicago Abortion Fund has seen a 100 percent increase in wraparound care costs it covers for Iowans traveling to the state for abortions, growing from \$40,000 in the year before the ban to over \$80,000 in the year since the ban, according to Executive Director Megan Jeyifo.

The number is staggering," Jeyifo said. "You think about, each one of those people has a really unique story and needed an abortion for their reasons that only they might know, and many of them having had to travel for that care, I think is devastating."

MEDICATION ABORTIONS LIKELY NEXT POLICY **DEBATE IN IOWA**

Since the new law went into effect, Lenz said Iowa Abortion Access Fund has seen an increase in the number of Iowans accessing medication pills by mail. This includes mifepristone, a medication that blocks a hormone called progesterone that is needed for a pregnancy to continue.

Lenz said the IAAF partnered with the Abortion Freedom Fund to help cover the costs and make the pills more affordable.

Nationally, there has been an uptick in medication abortions following the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision in 2022, overturning Roe v. Wade. The rate of medication abortions made up 63 percent of all abortions in the country in 2023 compared with 53 percent in 2020, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit that

supports abortion rights. Pulse Life Advocates and other anti-abortion organizations are teeing up a piece of legislation for next session called the "Black Market Abortion Pill Bill," which Pulse Life Advocates Executive Director Maggie DeWitte said would put safeguards around the medication, adding it is advocates'

"next logical step." 'What we're looking at as our biggest threat right now is the abortion pills, and particularly the online abortion. DeWitte told the Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau in June at the Iowa March for Life. "It (the bill) would really showcase what we know to be true is that these drugs are dangerous and that these women need to have information.

DeWitte said 1 in 10 women experience adverse effects after taking the abortion pill, citing a recently published study from the right-leaning Ethics and Public Policy Center. The study has not been peer-reviewed or published in a medical journal, and reproductive rights advocates have

criticized it, arguing it's not supported by science.

During the 2025 legislative session, Republican state lawmakers attempted to restrict the medication. House Study Bill 186 would've required health care providers in Iowa to tell patients that it may be possible to reverse the effects of a medication abortion. Reproductive rights advocates said the bill would mislead people into thinking medication abortions were unsafe and reversible. The bill made it out of committee but failed to make it to the House floor.

The FDA has found that performing abortions using mifepristone followed by misoprostol is safe and effective.

HOW IOWA'S ABORTION RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPACTING PROVIDERS

The state restrictions have led to changes at providers like Planned Parenthood. The organization in May announced its plan to close clinics in Cedar Rapids, Ames, Sioux City and Urbandale - leaving only clinics in Des Moines and

Planned Parenthood continues to perform abortions in compliance with the new state restrictions, said Dr. Sarah Traxler, chief medical officer of Planned Parenthood North Central

Meantime, Planned Parenthood has been expanding its facilities and services in neighboring states — in part to accommodate the increase in Iowans traveling to seek abortion services.

"Because we realize people need to travel across state lines, we have been making longterm regional investments to ensure that patients who are facing bans like the one in Iowa have some regional options," Traxler said.

Traxler said, for example, Planned Parenthood increased the number of exam rooms at its clinics in Mankato, Minn., and Omaha, Neb. — right across the Missouri River from Council Bluffs including tripling its patient capacity in Omaha.

The Emma Goldman Clinic in Iowa City says it continues to offer surgical and procedural abortions.

Even before the new restrictions were passed into law, Iowa had the nation's worst ratio of obstetrics and gynecologist specialists per population. According to a 2017 report from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, Iowa had 3.3 OBG-YNs per 10,000 women of reproductive age — the worst ratio in the U.S.

the national average is 4.5 OBGYNs per capita.

When the law was passed, critics argued it would make the situation in Iowa even worse by making it less attractive for OBGYN doctors to work or attend medical school here. Some Iowa physicians also expressed concern that the law's language was too vague and did not make clear how doctors were expected to consider women eligible for an abortion under the law's exceptions.

There has been no discipline related to abortion since Iowa's new law went into effect, a spokeswoman for the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing said.

The most recent state data on OBGYN doctors and residents in Iowa does not include the time period after the new state restrictions went into effect in 2024.

The number of OBG-YNs in Iowa decreased by 4.1 percent from 2019 to 2023, according to an Iowa Department of Health and Human Services report published early this year.

And the Univ of Iowa had 23 OBGYN residents in the 2023-2024 state budget year, according to the Iowa HHS report.

Both figures show the state of Iowa OBGYNs and residents before the new state restrictions went into effect in July of 2024 and thus do not reflect any potential impact of the new state law.

WHAT ABORTION **OPPONENTS ARE SAYING**

A vear after the sixweek abortion ban went into effect, anti-abortion advocates are still celebrating its enactment.

During this year's Family Leadership Summit in Des Moines, Susan B. Anthony Pro Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser commended the new law and the decrease in abortions across the state.

"These laws save lives," Dannenfelser said in her remarks. "We used to always say that, and now it's turning out to be true. We will know. We will meet the children.'

Jennie Bradley Lichter, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, told a crowd gathered in June in the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda for the annual March for Life that despite the closure of Planned Parenthood clinics and the state's abortion restrictions, Iowans should continue working toward limiting abortions.

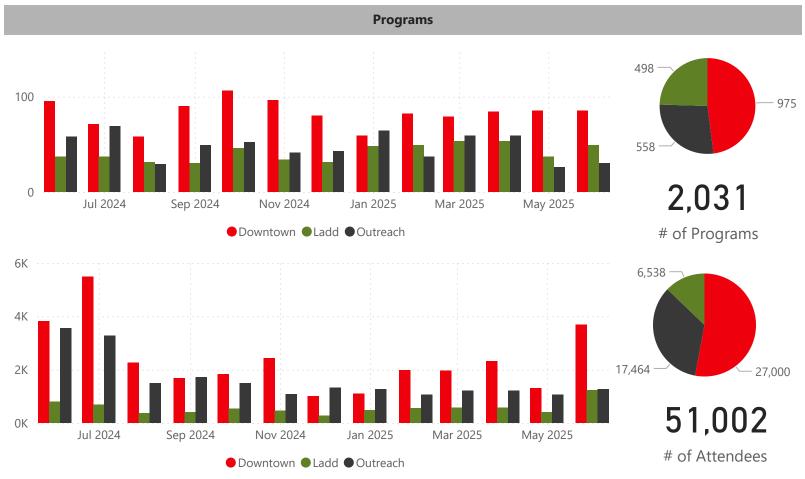
"Our political and our cultural leaders take notice of events like this one, which are unmatched opportunities to show in the flesh the persistence and the doggedness and the power of the pro-life movement here in Iowa" Bradley Lichter said. "Even here in Iowa, there's still a lot of work left to do, and today we have some specific policy goals to rally around ... all of us here know that women deserve real, compassionate health care and genuine pregnancy support, not dangerous pills that are misleadingly pushed on women as a quick fix.'

Comments: (515) 355-1300: erin murphy@thegazette.com Get the latest lowa politics and government coverage each $% \left\{ 1,2,...,2,...\right\}$ morning in the On Iowa Politics



Director's Report



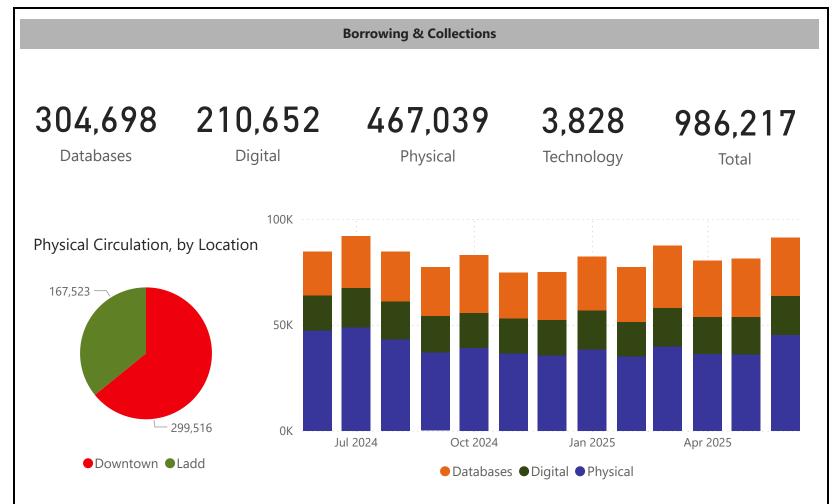


Programming is winding down a busy Summer Reading season and looking ahead toward fall! The Summer Reading Challenge was very successful again, seeing slight drops in participation from last year's record-breaking numbers, but still achieving participation well ahead of previous years. Patrons continued to enjoy the changes made to simplify the Summer Reading challenge, and really enjoyed the library-created prizes, with a number of new Maker Space users registering for their first appointment because of the prize. Patrons continued to attend the many programs and events held by the library, both in the building and out in the community, and continued to utilized the Opportunity Center and Maker Spaces on a regular basis.

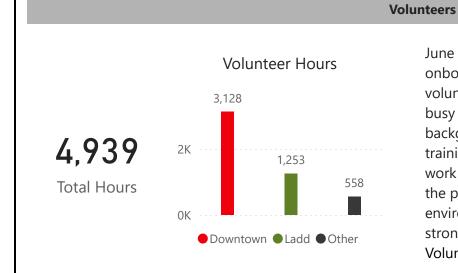
I have known one of our patrons since he was just turning 21. He had difficulties then, a lot of anger issues, but he was always glad to talk to me. he expressed amazement that I was willing to spend time with him, but he delighted me. He used very big words, spoke slowly, and was very definitive with actions and what he had to say. Then he had a few issues that resulted in his being out of the library for just over a year. I missed him. I would see him walking every so often and it was all I could do not to pull over and ask how he was doing. And then one day, he contacted me and we made a deal that allowed him back in. And he has changed for the better. Now he laughs, he tells jokes, and he stops by just to talk to me and tell me how life is going. He's 25 now and I am so happy to watch him grow into an astonishingly marvelous person. - Stephanie Hall, Branch Manager

Before exiting the library, a patron said to staff "A million thank yous, you all deserve even more than that." Another patron said "Libraries are the best invention of all. They're the greatest thing across the board. You are all my favorite people in my favorite place." - Joy Williams, Public Services Specialist





The Materials Team is starting on end of year statistics and working on introducing some new vendors and products. The State Library of Iowa has a new contract for ILL courier service through Grant Wood AEA. This will begin on August 4 and will include two days of deliveries/drop offs to and from all participating open access libraries. We're relieved this service is continuing as it is a much more efficient way to share materials then sending items through the mail. The State Library discontinued their contract for Foundation Directory Online and Metro Library Network is in the process of implementing a shared contract to continue the service for patrons.



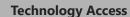
June and July have been exceptionally busy months for onboarding new volunteers. With over 33 new volunteers engaged in less than sixty days, we've been busy with processing applications, running background checks, interviews, orientations, and trainings. Volunteers continue to resonate with the work we do, the support and resources we provide, the programming we create, and the welcoming environment we foster. We are fortunate to have such strong support from our diverse volunteer community. Volunteer Hours in June 2025: 444

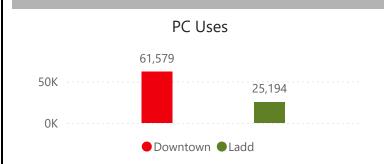




The Public Service Team continues to see a great summer season! The department, along with other areas in the city, witnessed an increase in large group teen issues towards the end of the school year. The Public Service Management Team brainstormed several solutions in the weekly meetings to implement over the summer. Based on trainings, research from other libraries, and collaboration with peer librarians, we implemented many new and successful strategies. The key take-aways, which we will continue to utilize as we move into the next school year, are: the importance of relationship building, getting to know names, interacting with the teens in positive situations, isolating issues to individual conversations, offering choices, and treating patrons with dignity/respect. Many staff in the department started utilizing these strategies not only with teens but with other patrons, which resulted in a summer with overall great experiences. We look forward to rolling these strategies over to the next school year.

Two comments came in on Facebook about the Sam Rezz Circus Variety Show on Monday, July 7: "Such a fun show, thank you!" and "This got rave reviews and won best part of their day award from our kiddos!" - Alison Gowans, Content Writer





231,378

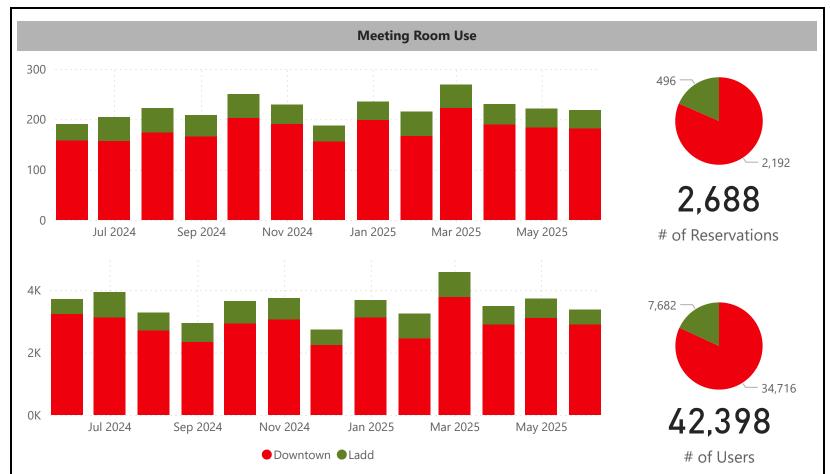
Virtual Visits

111,858

WiFi Sessions

The Technology Solutions team is implementing new digital signage software, which is used in the building to advertise programs or services to patrons. IT is also currently working on response times to IT tickets. IT staff uses a ticketing system to serve library staff in an organized way. Any staff member can submit an IT ticket for service on all of the technology in the buildings used by both patrons and staff. IT can respond directly to the person who submitted tickets as well as combine tickets for related issues and respond to a group. If there are more immediate urgent needs, staff can call the IT help desk to reach an IT staff member.





We welcomed approximately 3,380 patrons to our meeting rooms, coinciding with summer programming. It is noteworthy that quantitative numbers may seem "light," but it's an impressive use of space considering the impact that programming has on rooms during this time. Summer still brought education and enrichment to the library through proctoring various tests and practice tests for board exams, tutoring, YMCA's Summer Day Camp Staff Rally, and a location for Freedom School's field trips. Roasters Coffeehouse has closed for counter and catering service. They will remain in the space through September. The Library Director and Building Committee are considering future opportunities.

Community Relations is excited to shift focus to the fall and early winter programs and promotions. Summer was a busy time as our team worked to capture stories and images from all the great activities. We saw our social media presence and engagement skyrocket over June and July while our intern, Ella, was with us. We are sad to say her final day is August 8, but grateful for the opportunity to have her on our team.

We are finalizing the fall issue of *OPEN*+ magazine and have already started work on our annual report. Our team will be utilizing data from the Business Value Calculator developed by Urban Libraries Council to help us demonstrate the value of some of the work we do in a new way.

Juneteenth -- The whole thing was GREAT... the Library had a table to promote summer reading and resources. We updated accounts and registered new users -- maybe ten or so in total. But this is what made it an amazing day: It was the community engagement intern's first day -- his family had never been to Juneteenth and they came and participated in the festival; at one point there was an off-duty Linn County Sheriff that I knew through my work with the detention center who was at the table with his son, a mom that has a kid currently in detention that was expressing her gratitude for what the library does at the center because her son really enjoys the visits and and I feel like the world just came together in that moment and it was beautiful. - Meredith Ash, Community Engagement Librarian



