

# City of Salem Salem Public Library

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
5:30p.m. via Zoom

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame  
503-588-6178

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### Board Members

Lois Stark; Francine Boullosa, Chair; Gretchen Coppedge; Sarah Bishop; Denise Duren; Mel Fuller; Joseph Romero; David Levy, Vice-Chair, Jackie Leung.

### Staff

Kim Carroll, City Librarian; Clarissa Maciel-Garibay, Staff Assistant

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and call to order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Public Comment - Appearance of persons wishing to address the Board on any matter other than those which appear on this Agenda
4. Information Items
  - Teen Advisory Board (TAB) update
  - Chair's report
  - City Librarian's report
  - Friends of SPL report
  - SPL Foundation report
5. Discussion Items
  - LAB Terms (Francine)
6. Action Items
7. Miscellaneous Board Items
8. Adjourn

**Next Meeting: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

This meeting is being conducted virtually. Interested persons may view the meeting online on [YouTube](#). Please submit written comments on agenda items, or pre-register to provide Public Comment on items not on the agenda, by 5 p.m. or earlier

one day prior to the day of the meeting at [spladmin@cityofsalem.net](mailto:spladmin@cityofsalem.net)

Special accommodations are available, upon request, for persons with disabilities or those needing sign language interpretation, or languages other than English. To request accommodations or services, please call 503-540-2371 (TTD/TTY 503-588-6439) at least two business days in advance.

It is the City of Salem's policy to assure that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and source of income, as provided by Salem Revised Code 97. The City of Salem also fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and related statutes and regulations, in all programs and activities.

# March 2023 City Librarian's Report

## Stats for March

Number of visitors to the library in

Main: 33710

WS Branch: 3414

Number of physical items checked out/renewals:

Main: 124483

WS Branch: 1507

Number of digital items checked out:

Overdrive: 23390

iCloud: 2541

## Staff News

The Library will be adding four new Program Aides (high school students) and four Library Interns (college students) before Summer Reading time.

Adrian Sanchez was the successful candidate for the Senior Library Assistant position and has joined the Adult Services team. Adrian's vacant Library Assistant position will be filled in April.

Shandra Smith has been acting in the capacity of the Senior Programming Librarian in Adult Services for the last five months due to a long-term medical leave. She was instrumental in launching a series of popular programs targeting the 20-40 year old age group which continue through the summer.

Rachel Collins, the new Learning and Development Supervisor attended the first in-person quarterly meeting of the Neighborhood Association Chairs in March and shared news of our expanding hours of operations starting May 1 and circulating Chromebooks and wifi hotspots.

## Projects and Programs

- Adult Party Game night was a hit. Pictionary, board games, and Jenga made for a lively evening event where adults were able to play, enjoy some snacks, and socialize.
- Loucks Auditorium rang with Celtic music celebrating the vernal equinox. More musical events are planned for the months ahead.
- The library received excellent feedback after the Stranger Things/80s inspired Escape Room. Teams worked together to solve puzzles in order to get back to 2023, after being

sucked into a time traveling pinball game. This event was held on two nights; one for adults and one for teens.

- The button art craft was a success. Adults enjoyed an afternoon of imagination and creativity when they were provided with blank canvases, buttons, sequins, and glue.
- The first iteration of Exploring Together, Death and Dying, explored end of life care. Patrons used the resources and space to share and express their thoughts on the topic. Both the zoom and in-person programs lead to intellectual and thought-provoking conversations.
- English as a Second Language classes taught by a teacher from Goodwill Industries started in March.
- The Charro Performance brought over 200 in attendance to learn more about the history of Charrería and saw a special performance of rope work and folkloric dancing. It was highlighted in the [Salem Reporter](#).
- Teens gathered to do fiber art, play online games, learn improv, and create builds for the 3D printer during Spring Break. The Teen Improv Workshop was a stand-out success, taught by partners from The Infinity Room. The workshop led to much hilarity and created new connections and increased confidence for the 21 participants.
- A call for donation for the Take What You Need project showed how much our community is willing to help! More than 40 packages were sent through the project's [Amazon Wish List](#), providing 840 tubes of lip balm, 400 hair brushes, 576 travel-sized tubes of toothpaste, 180 combs, 300 mini nail files, and much more. The project is very well stocked for many months to come.
- The Library of Things, a project funded by a grant from the State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and generously managed by the Foundation, is expanding at a rapid pace! In the last couple of weeks we've added really useful items patrons can use at home, like an array of handy tools, a sewing machine, a Cricut, and appliances for making bread, jellies and jams, non-dairy milk, and ice cream. We've also added a ton of fun and entertaining items: instruments (guitars, banjo, drum kits, harps, violin, keyboards), camping equipment (cookset, tents, lantern, kayaks), and over 20 family and outdoor games!

## Did You Know?

The library's new outreach van, purchased with an ARPA grant and upfitted in part with the generous support of the Salem Public Library Foundation, took its maiden voyage out of the garage bay and out into the community on March 15 to deliver books to pop-up library sites in senior living facilities, Center 50+, and a supportive housing center for people who have recently experienced homelessness.

The library has a new Adult Literacy collection! This collection was created with our community in mind: according to the Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), 24.2% of adults have a level 1 score or below in Marion county. Polk and Yamhill county only have slightly higher literary scores. Households with limited or no English speakers account for 6% of Marion county's population. After researching and collecting information from libraries around the country, materials were selected to help people learn to read English. This varied

collection will provide accessible resources to adults wanting to improve their literacy, new English speakers, adults with learning disabilities, and anyone at any literacy level. It focuses on removing stigma, increasing literacy, and fostering the joy of reading. We all start somewhere.

We are part of a larger consortium of libraries within Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties (CCRLS). This allows our patrons to borrow items from libraries and shares our own collection with people from other libraries. In March borrowers from other libraries borrowed 3,371 items from our collection.

## **What we are Looking Forward to!**

Resuming regular hours in May! Starting May 1st, the Salem Public Library will be resuming regular hours.

### **Main Library**

Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Thursday 10 am - 8 pm

Friday, Saturday 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday 12 pm - 6 pm

### **West Salem Branch**

Monday (Opening on Mondays again!) - Thursday 12 pm - 5 pm

Saturday 1 pm - 6 pm

Closed Fridays, Sundays

## **Strategic Plan Updates**

The "Position the Library to Sustainably Serve our Community" team met twice in March, to work on creating a plan with the first initiative as the focus. The team is currently creating a spreadsheet of all library tasks, services, and programs. The goal is to assess needs and prioritize current services with existing resources.

Other Initiative Teams have also been regularly meeting to create an Action Plan. The final Coraggio training is scheduled for April 13th.

April 2023 Chair Report:

**Deputy City Manager for Community Services Interview:**

There were 4 candidates for in-person sequential interviews, all with strong backgrounds in parks and recreation. I participated in the round of pre scripted questions, discussion and scoring answers. On my panel were Mayor Hoy, Council President Virginia Stapleton, and representatives from Center 50, Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Salem Public Art Commission, Salem Library Foundation, Downtown Advisory Board and Courtney Knox Bush, city staff, Kim was on a separate panel.

It impressed me that Salem City Manager Keith Stahley briefed the panel and that he and Deputy City Manager Enterprise Services Department Krishna Namburi met with the panel after the interviews concluded.

**Pull through Bus Stops**

Cherriots Board President Ian Davidson promptly emailed this response explaining the bus safety reasons the buses no longer use the pull throughs

*Hi Chair Boullosa,*

*Thank you for reaching out to me with your concerns; I'm happy to address them.*

*The overriding reason why Cherriots has not returned to running buses through the pull outs at the library is safety. The width of Liberty and Commercial make it very unsafe for bus operators (and by extension transit riders) to enter traffic from those pull outs. Transit operators had to look through the passenger windows of their buses to be able to judge the relative safety of entering traffic. The pull outs themselves are not designed optimally for buses or bus riders either. Buses regularly were halted by delivery trucks or were forced to drop riders off in the middle of the pull outs instead of on a raised curb.*

*The current location of the bus stops on both Commercial and Liberty are the safest locations for our transit riders given the current road design as they are near the rapid flashing beacon crosswalks. While the stops are not at the library's doorstep, they are anchored on the safest way to cross those dangerous streets. Additionally, the distance to the library from the current stops is not particularly far. The distance from my house to my local bus stop, for example, is much further. The 0.3 mile walk listed on our website relies on Google Maps, which appears to not realize that there is a sidewalk along the west side of the library. Someone dropped off at the bus stop on Commercial would likely not cross the street and then walk through the city's parking garage to Liberty to arrive at the library from the southeast. The actual walk appears to be 0.1 miles, which is very normal for bus stops.*

*I am also concerned about the safety of library patrons and transit riders, but I believe the real danger is the road design of Liberty and Commercial that results in far too many drivers speeding, thereby endangering anyone who does not happen to be in a car.*

*I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further if my email response doesn't provide the answers you are looking for. I will be out of town for the next week though, so any meeting would need to be in April. If we do end up meeting, might I suggest that we meet at the Downtown Transit Center and ride the bus together to the library?*

*Thank you,*

***Ian Davidson***

Board President

### **Opportunity for LAB input**

Gretchen agreed to participate in a one hour focused conversation on April 13 to identify what people most want to hear or learn about from the City, and how they want to hear about it. Among representatives invited are Human Rights Commission, SPRAB, Center 50+, SPAC, Library volunteers, and several more, There are other panels as well to get wide range of ideas,

## March 2023 Chair Report:

The following Chair's report was delivered collaboratively with Lois and David as all three met with Mayor Chris Hoy on February 17th

### 1. LAB involvement with selection of future library sites.

*Recommending to the Council sites for public library buildings or for the location of library facilities. (Ord No. 9-76; Ord No. 51-96)*

Mayor Hoy indicated he would see how to involve LAB

### 2. Council liaison to LAB

Mayor Hoy recognized the importance of having direct input from Boards and Commissions to Council and agreed to seeing which councilor he'd choose.

### 3. Plan for having Boards and Commissions report to Council

Mayor Hoy wants B&C to periodically come before Council and would see about scheduling LAB

### 4. Deputy City Manager for Community Services

Applications closed on February 5. After the meeting Mayor Hoy advised us that a LAB member would be on the interview team.

Note: As chair I've been added to the interview team for March 20 interview team

### 5. LAB members

Mayor Hoy was curious about the LAB vacancies that occurred during LAB terms. we reassured him that 3 of the 4 vacancies occurred because of health and personal reasons and a delay in filling of a term that ended in 6/22. We reassured him that the current LAB members are enthusiastic and engaged and his receptiveness in meeting with us will strengthen that engagement. Mayor Hoy explained the reappointment process.

### 6. Bus Stop

Mayor Hoy suggested LAB bring this up with the Cherriots board and LAB will followup.

### 7. Summer interns and Teen Summer Squad

David advised Mayor Hoy of work in progress on requesting LAB funds and described how bringing this forward has sparked discussion of 2 summer interns and a teen summer volunteer squad

### 8. Library Revenues - Strategic Plan

All agreed about the importance of seeking ways to leverage funds for supporting the library.