

City of Salem

Salem Public Library

November 8th, 2023

5:30p.m. at the Salem Public Library Collaboration Studio

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

PARTICIPANTS

Board Members

Lois Stark, Chair; Francine Boullosa; Gretchen Coppedge; Sarah Bishop;
David Levy, Vice-Chair, Valerie Harris, Matthew Jobson

Staff

Bridget Esqueda, Interim 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
 - Update on December 6 meeting with other library support boards (Lois)
 - Brainstorm ways to support the library with funds and programs
6. Action Items
7. Miscellaneous Board Items
8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 10th, 2024

This meeting is being conducted at the at the Salem Public Library 585 Liberty St.

SE, Salem, OR 97301. 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

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.

October 2023 City Librarian's Report

Stats

Number of visitors

Main: 31,032

WS Branch: 2,849

Active cardholders: 39,012

Meeting/Study Room Reservations: 656

Reference/Directional Assistance: 7,947

Number of physical items checked out/renewals

Main: 106,375

WS Branch: 1,465

Number of digital items checked out

cloudLibrary: 6,454

Overdrive: 24,904

Library Value Calculator

<https://ilovelibraries.org/what-libraries-do/calculator/>

Staff News

Staff have had fun throughout the month by engaging in Staff Appreciation events. Starting the month with an Obscure Image Guessing Game, with the winner receiving a reverse coloring book. A Cereal Bar was made for staff to enjoy at the beginning of Spirit Dayz (24-26). Staff dressed in Fandom clothes (Tuesday), Pink or Black (Wednesday), and Tropical wear (Thursday).

All library staff participated in the Great Oregon Shake Out, a national campaign for earthquake preparedness. Joe Henderson, the City of Salem Emergency Manager led the drill on 10/19 at 9:19am. Emily Byers, Senior Librarian in Access and Acquisitions conducted two one-hour eBook training sessions for 21 staff members. She reviewed all aspects of our current platforms, CloudLibrary and Libby,

Collections

LearningExpress Library has been discontinued by the State Library and will no longer be available to our patrons starting November 1. This resource did not get a lot of usage but patrons have access to alternative free resources such as:

- Goodwill Community Foundation Learning's [Core Skills](#) modules covers basic skills in math, writing, reading, personal finance, and GED. They cover some technology such as Word and PowerPoint, cover some job search skills such as resume writing, and have resources in Spanish. See their [complete list](#) of topics.
- [Kaplan](#) and [Princeton](#) Review have a few free AP test prep resources. Each has some level of free ACT and SAT resources, too.
- The [GED Testing](#) Service has some free test samples.
- [Career OneStop](#) has a lot of great free resources for job seeking and career exploration.
- [Oregon Career Information System](#) (OCIS) has a variety of career exploration tools that are currently freely accessible with a guest account.
- WorkSource Oregon provides resources and support for job seekers and those seeking GED test support. See their [website](#) and [directory](#) for centers located across the state.

Best Books nominations list has opened! Please send in your nominations for the Staff and Patron Picks list for the annual Best Books list! Titles can be suggested here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScki50M9BaymqA7W3niUZxNR2rnX2w3Jkvrf7s5GQ3vIW5d3A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Only adult and teen books published in 2023 will be considered. The deadline is November 16.

Projects and Programs

Adults and teens had an exciting time making decorative hand brooms on October 14. Wrapping their broomcorn in beautiful colors made a fun design.

Youth Services resumed their school-year programs in late September, including the Early Readers Book Club for grades K - 2, Creative Kids after-school adventures for grades 3 - 5, and the Discovery Kids Early Literacy Adventures for preschoolers.

In October, Jessica Marie, Youth Services Senior Librarian, resumed the library's yearly R.E.A.D. 1st Grade Bookmobile outreaches to Salem-Area 1st graders in partnership with the Assistance League of Salem-Keizer who sponsor the program by providing funding and volunteers. Through the outreach, students check out a book from the bookmobile, receive a library card, and learn about books and activities available at the public library.

Dan Johnson, Youth Services Librarian, resumed HeadStart Preschool visits in which he provides a storytime, models early literacy practices, talks to preschoolers about the library, and provides each child with a take-home backpack containing a library card application, early literacy materials, and library information. Each class also receives a R.E.A.D. While You Wait Tiny Library tote filled with books for their class to share.

Youth Services staff created a Banned Book display in the Children's Corner during the month of October with book images, talking points, and questions to ponder regarding a variety of popular children's books that have been banned in parts of the country. Many families have been observed examining and discussing the books and questions posed in the display.

The Teen Advisory Board was honored to receive a Mayor's Youth Achievement Award at the annual City of Salem Volunteer Recognition. TAB members had a wonderful time dressing up and being recognized for the many projects they take on each year.



Speaking of TAB projects, they again built and hosted a tremendously successful Thrills & Chills Haunted House, aimed at elementary-age youth. After a week of hard work and team building, the TAB members saw 632 visits through the Haunted House. They then stuck around to take it all down (with the help of a few parents) and had the Anderson Rooms back to their original condition in just an hour.

For the second year, Salem Public Library hosted a Día de Muertos Community Ofrenda on the Main Floor of the library from October 3-November 2. Community members were invited to view the ofrenda and also add items significant to their own loved ones to further build the display.



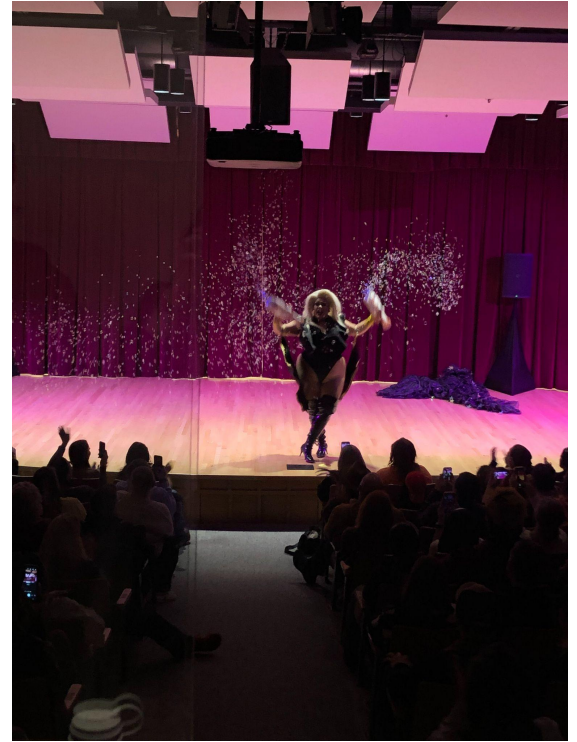
Also for the second year, we celebrated Día de Muertos with a Lotería Family Game Night on November 1 with fast-paced games, snacks, and lots of prizes. Community partners from the Salem Keizer School Board and Radio Poder joined the fun as game callers and members of the Teen Advisory Board volunteered at the snack and prize tables.

A Banned Books display on the 1st floor also went up with displayed books having “Challenged for...” bookmarks and the reasons for challenges specific to each material. The Freedom to Read Statement from the ALA, bookmarks of the Top 13 Challenged Books of 2022, an infographic handout on 2022 censorship, and “I Read Banned Books” pins from the ACLU were also included in the display. Patrons were happy to see us providing information and takeaways on censorship and challenged library books throughout the nation.

Haunted Game Night brought adults out for an evening of Jeopardy, old school Halloween games, snacks, and prizes. Teams competed by answering Halloween inspired questions during Jeopardy. Once a category was complete, a bonus round was triggered where each team participated in traditional Halloween activities. It ended up being an evening of laughter and friendly competition that allowed a space for socializing and meeting new people.

HallowQueen was a major success. 235 adults spent a two hour evening experiencing a Halloween inspired drag show. Devlin Lynn Phoenixx, Kharisma, Kwanzaa, and Carmen, from the Portland and Salem areas, performed three spooky numbers with the assistance of DJ QueerCub. Not only was the audience entertained with music and dance, but there were moments of audience participation including a costume contest. The entire event was exciting and filled with cheers and applause.





The library is hosting a local history exhibit, *Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years*, developed by the Oregon Black Pioneers from November 1, 2023 until February 1, 2024. This exhibit explores the experiences of African American people in Oregon during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s; there is an online version available here: <https://oregonblackpioneers.org/exhibit/racing-to-change/>. The exhibit rental and transportation costs are funded by a Sprinkles Grant from the Salem Public Library Foundation. Viewers are invited to complete an optional evaluation to help gauge the impact of the exhibit, as part of the grant process.

What we are Looking Forward to!

Gallery of Gratitude - a yearly tradition where patrons are welcomed to contribute to an online and in person celebration of all things, large and small, that improve quality of life. It will be at the Library from October 31 - December 3, as well as taking virtual submissions at that time. You can submit online at bit.ly/SPLThanks2023, and view the growing online gallery at bit.ly/SPLGallery2023

Strategic Plan Updates

This month we focused on our programming and staff capacity. Programmers planned out all their programs for the next quarter during an in-house programming summit. Programs were geared towards audiences who were underserved and not represented while focusing on the Strategic Goals. Programmers were tasked to:

- Focus on how to frame programming going forward
- Adjust times when we have more staffing
- Plan programs between specific times and days with more staff capacity and based off of gate count and patronage
- Have lighter programming load on evenings and Saturdays
- Avoid programs happening at the same time
- Add more passive programming
- Research traveling exhibits

This new programming strategy helps with the following imperatives:

- Position the Library to Sustainably Serve our Community
- Center Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Strengthen our Organizational Culture and Operations
- Continually Evolve Services to Increase Accessibility

