CITY OF
LINCOLN
LIBRARIES

Lincoln City Libraries
136 S. 14th Street, Lincoln NE
LincolnLibraries.org
402-441-8500

Director's Report

July 2023

City Purchasing notified the library that the **RFP process for the bookmobiles** is ready to begin, below is the schedule:

ACTIVITY ITEM	DATE (TIME IF APPLICABLE)
Request for Proposal Issued	August 4, 2023
Pre-Proposal Meeting	N/A
Last day to submit questions for clarification	August 15, 2023
Proposal Submittal Deadline	September 1, 2023
Evaluation period	September 5-8, 2023
Short-list Notification (If applicable)	September 10, 2023
Oral Interviews (If applicable)	September 20, 2023
Final Selection	September 25, 2023
Scope of services, negotiations and fee	October 1, 2023
Projected Notice to Proceed – Contract Execution	October 15, 2023

The Mid-Biennium **Budget Adjustments** [Budget Resolution] and the CIP Transfer Ordinance are before City Council this month. The Library has no item adjustments on the budget resolution, but does have a few items in the CIP Transfer Ordinance. We are requesting to lapse the $200,000 in CIP set aside for purchasing the lot south of Bethany Library, and then have it transferred to Bldgs. and Grounds/ Engineering Services to cover architectural costs. The parking lot was purchased by a developer earlier this year. The Council's Budget Hearing is August 14, and will be voted on August 21.

Lincoln City Libraries has again received Gold Accreditation Level from the Nebraska Library Commission. The purpose of public library accreditation is to encourage excellence in library service in Nebraska communities. It also:

- establishes minimum standards for library service
- ensures that libraries adhere to certain standards
- offers libraries benchmarks
- allows eligibility to apply for grants through the Nebraska Library Commission, which include Continuing Education & Training Grants, Internship Grants, Library Improvement Grants, and Youth Grants for Excellence.
- Allows eligibility to apply for Community Development Block Grants from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development – for community facilities, and USDA Grants and Loans – for community facilities.

Coordinators, managers, and supervisors have been very busy all year interviewing for open positions. As staff transition, retire, or resign, opportunities open for advancement—a good thing—and as a result we have an ongoing succession of open positions and staff changes.

Bennett Martin will begin planning for the addition of new carpeting on the 1st floor, with an install goal of winter '24.

The library has created a helpful packet of information for interested patrons and residents on the library's important role in ensuring access to materials and its responsibility for upholding intellectual freedom principles. The packet is available on the library's website (currently on the FAQ page).

Kudos to Vicki Wood and all staff who had a role in this year's Summer Reading Challenge planner. Over 17,000 kids and adults registered this year with 7,200 fully completing the challenge.

The Library made positive news recently with the card design context winner announcement, the opening of the new Williams Branch, and the splash related to the partnership with the Lied Center for the "Page to Stage" programming. Great things!

Monthly Examples of the Strategic Plan in Action

Our Vision: The Library Experience—setting a distinctive tone in promoting and providing lifelong education for our entire community

Interactions

- Nancy P. [BMPL] pointed out that this time of year her first inclination when patrons are looking for book recommendations is to take them to the One Book One Lincoln (OBOL) display and share the flyer showing the top 11 finalists, as well as the flyer for programming for the top 3 finalists. It's such an easy way to promote OBOL while also helping someone find a book to enjoy.

- Araya W. shared this interaction: "I helped a woman at Gere find books about Diwali and Holi, which are Hindu holidays, and she was very excited to see the extent of books we had for both fiction and non-fiction. She was intending to teach her child about their culture and repeatedly thanked me – I think she did not expect us to have many materials about those subjects, especially in the picture book area."

- A mother/daughter duo came to the Walt Branch desk and proudly announced that the daughter had been promised a library card "just like her brothers" when she completed the summer reading program. All smiles, she was very happy to get her card and to show off her library card sticker to her older brothers. They in turn hyped her up and gave her high fives. It was exciting to see how they encouraged each other to read and how her family made registering her for a card a very special event to celebrate.

- Near the beginning of the month, Jodene G. [Walt] reported that a patron asking for a new card already had an account in WorkFlows. "They were quite nervous and shaking. I made a guess that it was because the name on their ID and account did not match their gender expression so I asked their preferred name. They relaxed some. As I explained we could add

this name to their library account, they smiled and thanked me. All are welcome at the public library."

Programming

- A local AARP chapter asked Jen J [BMPL] to present a program on library apps. Jen created and presented "Appy-Hour at the Library" for the group at Gere, with the assistance of Gere's Lane G. for the hands-on portion.

- Kim J. [BMPL] spent a lot of time this month preparing for her August program "Hidden Treasures: The Art of Bennett Martin Public Library." She collected all of the art and researched each artist, most of whom were members of the Lincoln Artists Guild. The display will be available on the 1st floor through August.

- The Alpaca Program on July 12 at Gere was hosted by Corey G., Sam R. and Chad S. Corey reported that Romeo & Mila, the alpacas, graciously allowed 217 and then 158 folks to feed and/or pet them. Lincoln Journal Star joined in the fun for the Alpaca program and took a wonderful photo of one of our young attendees feeding an Alpaca that showed up in the paper.

- Gere had two Camp Build Its this month one on the 6th and 20th with both hosted by Melanie N. and Ronda H. On the 20th they had 141 attending where kids could play with Legos, Sqquibz, Strawbees, monster feet and other building materials. There was also a butterfly craft and coloring pages. The big hit of the day was the Sphero Mini Robot Balls. They had a blast using them to play tag, knock over little bowling pins, and race around cones. Total attendance at both sessions was 213.

Outreach

- Back-To-School Nights: NESU Librarian Karrie S. has been communicating with several elementary schools near Anderson and Bethany Branch Libraries – with a particular focus on Title I schools, which have high numbers of low-income students. Karrie has arranged for 7 NESU staff members to participate in 4 Back-To-School Nights on Thursday, Augustv 12

Collections

- Marie' M. at Anderson Branch Library reported recently "When a patron asked me if we had an LGBT section, I told him we didn't have a section per se, but we did indeed have ample LGBT-friendly books that we circulate, and I printed off our list from the L: drive for him. He said, "Wow, this is awesome that you guys have so many of these!" I did a catalog search and showed him what we had readily available at Anderson, as well as placed a few system-wide holds and looked up some titles that were specifically interesting to him. The titles he was looking for were to better support his LGBT son. It was wonderful that I could be a part of that!

Collaboration

- We have partnered with the Lied Center for Performing Arts to do Page-to-Stage programs correlating with this season's literature-based performances. The first program to be held in August will be a Q&A with members of the Hamilton cast/crew. The Lied Center provided 6 Hamilton posters

and bookmarks that we put up, along with a small display of Hamilton-related material for check out.

Community Engagement

- Pat Sloan coordinated the Lincoln City Libraries t-shirt sale from the 25th – 31st at Gere. She reported that at least 60 t-shirts were sold, and a number of people bought two.

- Gere had 17 adult volunteers that provided 190 hours of service this month, and 20 Volunteens completed 135 hours of service, and 7 long-term teens contributed 84.5 hours of service.

Technology

- Ronda H. [Gere] shared this Tech Time experience: "I had a couple attend one of my Tech Time sessions. The gentleman had made the appointment to have help getting Libby on his new Kindle Scribe. I helped him download Libby to his cell phone and showed him how to send it to his Kindle Scribe. I also talked to him about audiobooks. We then also downloaded Hoopla to his cellphone. He was all excited since they are going to take their RV camping for several weeks and he wanted to get prepared with ebooks and audiobooks.

- Vicki C. [Walt] helped a mom and son who drove from Greenwood to print out documents they needed that day after losing power at home due to a storm. They were grateful they could quickly and easily print what was needed. The mom said it was also a learning moment for her son in not putting things off until the last minute.

Facilities

- As Laura N. was watering in the Bennett Martin courtyard, a patron who sits out there regularly thanked her for keeping the courtyard so beautiful. She said, "It's like a sanctuary."

Additional Areas of Focus—in these, the library usually collaborates with other organizations

Celebrating the diversity of our city

- Ali B [Youth Services] highly recommends that LCL attends the Disability Pride event again next year. "Almost every attendee we interacted with was so glad to see the library represented. Folks were interested in learning about what the library had in terms of collection but also how/if we were accessible."

Refugee and Immigrant services

- Anthony V. (BMPL) had an interaction with a mother and her young son, having quite the impact on the customers as well as the staff involved, "I was working at PS1 at the time and could tell they were struggling and had limited resources. I got to know the patron a little more, she only spoke little English but needed to seek shelter, food and possibly government assistance. I was reminded of my parents who came over to America as refugees. It's easy to write people off but it takes heart to genuinely listen and understand people's situation. I helped put together a cheat sheet of all the resources she needed. Luckily the library had resources, numbers and outreach programs we could

call as well. English wasn't her first language so I talked on the phone for her and communicated what her and her son need."

Arts and Music

- NESU Librarian Karrie S. reported "At a meeting this spring, the teen librarians had an idea to make a Teen Friendship Quilt. I asked Kim S. if she would help me organize the event and make the quilt when it was all over. Kim was so excited about this program that she really took the idea and ran with it. She pre-cut over 100 squares, bought all the supplies, and traveled to each location to host the Teen Friendship Quilt event. Some locations had better turn-out than others, but in the end, we had 26 squares made by teens in our community. Kim then spent her own time piecing, quilting, and binding the project together. The quilt should be done in time to enter into the Lancaster County Super Fair! It will make its rounds through the branches this upcoming school year so the public can see what the Teens came together to make.

- Polley Librarian Scott C. presented a guitar program for teens at Walt this month. It was a class aimed primarily at beginners and making sure they have appropriate resources to get started on the right foot, but they also had a couple of more skilled teen guitarists as well. There were four

Ryan Wieber, Library Director
August 11, 2023

Location	Print Checkouts 2023	2022	Print Loan Change	Non-Print Checkouts 2023	2022	Non-Print Loan Change	Total Checkouts 2023	2022	Total Loan Change
BMPL	14,491	12,973	**11.70%**	3,226	3,061	**5.39%**	17,717	16,034	**10.50%**
Anderson	12,940	11,730	**10.32%**	2,498	2,612	**-4.36%**	15,438	14,342	**7.64%**
Bethany	8,750	8,421	**3.91%**	1,238	1,209	**2.40%**	9,988	9,630	**3.72%**
Eiseley	25,724	24,739	**3.98%**	4,164	3,573	**16.54%**	29,888	28,312	**5.57%**
Gere	66,640	66,286	**0.53%**	9,553	9,352	**2.15%**	76,193	75,638	**0.73%**
South	9,840	9,401	**4.67%**	1,655	1,528	**8.31%**	11,495	10,929	**5.18%**
Walt	50,160	46,048	**8.93%**	6,645	6,951	**-4.40%**	56,805	52,999	**7.18%**
Williams	354	738	**-52.03%**	76	172	**-55.81%**	430	910	**-52.75%**
Lied Bookmobile	1,183	1,387	**-14.71%**	126	154	**-18.18%**	1,309	1,541	**-15.06%**
InterLibrary Loan	160	246	**-34.96%**	0	0	**0.00%**	160	246	**-34.96%**
Subtotal Checkouts	190,242	181,969	**4.55%**	29,181	28,612	**1.99%**	219,423	210,581	**4.20%**
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	**0.00%**	41,316	35,044	**17.90%**	41,316	35,044	**17.90%**
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	**0.00%**	33,670	28,980	**16.18%**	33,670	28,980	**16.18%**
Stream Video	0	0	**0.00%**	839	910	**-7.80%**	839	910	**-7.80%**
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	190,242	181,969	**4.55%**	105,006	93,546	**12.25%**	295,248	275,515	**7.16%**

Location	Youth Checkouts 2023	2022	Youth Loan Change	Adult Checkouts 2023	2022	Adult Loan Change	Visits 2023	Visits 2022	Visits Change
BMPL	7,629	6,888	**10.76%**	10,088	9,146	**10.30%**	11,974	11,017	**8.69%**
Anderson	8,886	8,272	**7.42%**	6,552	6,070	**7.94%**	6,696	5,677	**17.95%**
Bethany	6,388	6,135	**4.12%**	3,600	3,495	**3.00%**	4,012	3,885	**3.27%**
Eiseley	20,886	19,627	**6.41%**	9,002	8,685	**3.65%**	10,798	10,522	**2.62%**
Gere	47,814	45,744	**4.53%**	28,379	29,894	**-5.07%**	24,971	22,692	**10.04%**
South	7,184	6,583	**9.13%**	4,311	4,346	**-0.81%**	4,302	4,368	**-1.51%**
Walt	41,575	37,835	**9.89%**	15,230	15,164	**0.44%**	16,842	15,510	**8.59%**
Williams	290	739	**-60.76%**	140	171	**-18.13%**	120	824	**-85.44%**
Lied Bookmobile	862	806	**6.95%**	447	735	**-39.18%**	409	198	**106.57%**
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	**0.00%**	160	246	**-34.96%**	0	0	**0.00%**
Subtotal Checkouts	141,514	132,629	**6.70%**	77,909	77,952	**-0.06%**	80,124	74,693	**7.27%**
Download/Stream Audio	5,721	4,915	**16.40%**	35,595	30,129	**18.14%**	0	0	**0.00%**
Download/Stream eBook	5,781	4,512	**28.13%**	27,889	24,468	**13.98%**	0	0	**0.00%**
Stream Video	0	0	**0.00%**	839	910	**-7.80%**	0	0	**0.00%**
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	153,016	142,056	**7.72%**	142,232	133,459	**6.57%**	80,124	74,693	**7.27%**

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth 2023	2022	P&O Att - Youth Change	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult 2023	2022	P&O Att - Adult Change	Computer Use 2023	2022	Computer Change
BMPL	2,757	3,404	**-19.01%**	401	767	**-47.72%**	2,370	2,762	**-14.19%**
Anderson	621	662	**-6.19%**	63	5	**1160.00%**	713	759	**-6.06%**
Bethany	312	283	**10.25%**	25	32	**-21.88%**	273	250	**9.20%**
Eiseley	1,159	1,333	**-13.05%**	25	20	**25.00%**	1,269	1,171	**8.37%**
Gere	2,558	2,037	**25.58%**	73	236	**-69.07%**	1,543	1,395	**10.61%**
South	545	584	**-6.68%**	5	0	**0.00%**	482	536	**-10.07%**
Walt	1,869	2,294	**-18.53%**	107	73	**46.58%**	1,248	1,001	**24.68%**
Williams	107	314	**-65.92%**	0	0	**0.00%**	8	33	**-75.76%**
Lied Bookmobile	0	217	**-100.00%**	41	469	**-91.26%**	0	0	**0.00%**
TOTAL	9,928	11,128	**-10.78%**	740	1,602	**-53.81%**	7,906	7,907	**-0.01%**

July 2023 Use Compared to July 2022
Lincoln City Libraries

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Lied Bookmobile	0	217	-100.00%	41	469	-91.26%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	9,928	11,128	-10.78%	740	1,602	-53.81%	7,906	7,907	-0.01%

Lincoln City Libraries
July 2023 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report

Location	Loans FY 22-23 YTD	Loans FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	Visits FY 22-23 YTD	Visits FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	Computer Reservations FY 22-23 YTD	Computer Reservations FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 22-23 YTD	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	Total Use FY 22-23 YTD	Total Use FY 21-22 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	151,402	157,631	-3.95%	119,473	98,231	21.62%	26,105	24,278	7.53%	14,108	16,083	-12.28%	311,088	296,223	5.02%
Anderson Branch	135,310	125,300	7.99%	59,618	50,677	17.64%	7,697	8,522	-9.68%	7,583	3,227	134.99%	210,208	187,726	11.98%
Bethany Branch	94,601	92,299	2.49%	34,804	31,765	9.57%	2,775	2,576	7.73%	3,218	1,581	103.54%	135,398	128,221	5.60%
Eiseley Branch	272,972	252,633	8.05%	99,824	88,213	13.16%	12,974	11,590	11.94%	16,667	11,750	41.85%	402,437	364,186	10.50%
Gere Branch	711,113	694,331	2.42%	209,762	187,339	11.97%	14,215	13,834	2.75%	17,923	7,782	130.31%	953,013	903,286	5.51%
South Branch	107,701	106,151	1.46%	38,820	37,024	4.85%	4,983	5,358	-7.00%	3,790	2,799	35.41%	155,294	151,332	2.62%
Walt Branch	474,465	459,330	3.30%	140,450	121,964	15.16%	11,505	10,627	8.26%	13,526	7,912	70.96%	639,946	599,833	6.69%
Williams Branch	7,762	8,492	-8.60%	6,296	6,240	0.90%	569	498	14.26%	1,005	646	55.57%	15,632	15,876	-1.54%
Lied Bookmobile	17,839	23,262	-23.31%	4,804	1,920	150.21%	0	0	0.00%	2,701	12,006	-77.50%	25,344	37,188	-31.85%
InterLibrary Loan	2,124	2,760	-23.04%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	2,124	2,760	-23.04%
SUBTOTAL	**1,975,289**	**1,922,189**	**2.76%**	**713,851**	**623,373**	**14.51%**	**80,823**	**77,283**	**4.58%**	**80,521**	**63,786**	**26.24%**	**2,850,484**	**2,686,631**	**6.10%**
DownloadStream Audio	405,203	342,528	18.30%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	405,203	342,528	18.30%
Download/Stream eBooks	320,068	280,457	14.12%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	320,068	280,457	14.12%
Stream Video	9,374	8,935	4.91%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	9,374	8,935	4.91%
Download SUBTOTAL	**734,645**	**631,920**	**16.26%**	**0**	**0**	**0.00%**	**0**	**0**	**0.00%**	**0**	**0**	**0.00%**	**734,645**	**631,920**	**16.26%**
TOTAL LOANS	**2,709,934**	**2,554,109**	**6.10%**	**713,851**	**623,373**	**14.51%**	**80,823**	**77,283**	**4.58%**	**80,521**	**63,786**	**26.24%**	**3,585,129**	**3,318,551**	**8.03%**

	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	420	0	0.00%
Overall Registrations	13077	13383	-0.022864829

	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change
WiFi Sessions	1,278,167	1,049,568	21.78%
WiFi Users	115,007	106,565	7.92%
Website Users	713,854	679,746	5.02%
Website Sessions	1,289,610	1,337,997	-3.62%
Database Use	120,073	124,104	-3.25%