

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: September 13, 2024
TO: Library Board, Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney
FROM: Ryan Wieber, Library Director
SUBJECT: Library Board Meeting

DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING: Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Bennett Martin Public Library
136 S. 14th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

STARTING TIME OF MEETING: 8:00 a.m.
CHAIR OF MEETING: Joe Shaw, President
PURPOSE OF MEETING: Monthly Business Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Announcement of Open Meetings Law
2. Approval of Agenda*
3. Public Comment on Agenda Items
4. Approval of August 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes*
5. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Administration
 - b. Committee on Buildings and Grounds
 - c. Committee on Finance
 - i. Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for August 2024*
6. Special Committee Reports
 - a. Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries Executive Director Report
7. New Business
 - a. Summer Reading Challenge Report
 - b. Incidents/Banning Report
8. President's Report
9. Assistant Library Director's Report
10. Library Director's Report
11. Public Comment – Anyone wishing to address the board on a matter not on this agenda may do so at this time.

*Action Item

Proposed agenda kept continually current and available for inspection at the Administrative Office of the Bennett Martin Public Library. The Board shall have the right to modify the agenda at said public meeting when convened.

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at 402-441-7624, or the City Ombudsman at 402-441-7511, as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request. *Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska posted in meeting room.*

Library Board Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, August 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
GERE BRANCH LIBRARY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Sloan, Rhonda Seacrest, Jackie Ostrowicki, Morgan Gerteisen, Patty Beutler, Nichole Bogen present.
A quorum was present. Lisa Hale and Joe Shaw arrived later.

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTING OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT

President Sloan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced the Open Meetings Law was posted and available for review.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sloan noted that the Agenda/Meeting Notice was posted according to the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska. Sloan asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as posted. Seacrest so moved. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF JULY 16, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Sloan noted that the July meeting minutes had been distributed and asked for a motion to approve. Ostrowicki so moved. Beutler seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

No report

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

No report

Committee on Finance

Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures for July, 2024

Treasurer Ostrowicki shared that expenditures from the Operational budget were \$772, 648.98, from the Heritage Room fund were \$2,626.96 and from the Polley Music Library fund were \$8,809.86, totaling \$784,088.80. Expenditures from other funds included \$10,836.50 in grants, \$157,061.19 from Keno funds and \$18,964.11 in miscellaneous library donations, totaling \$186,861.80 for Total Expenditures of

\$898,280.07. Ostrowicki moved approval of the report. Beutler seconded. Brief discussion followed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Sloan, Gerteisen – AYE. Motion carried 5-0.

Update on Year-end Projections and Media Spending

Accountant Ali Larson directed the Board’s attention to the attached reports, “FY 2023-24 Projected Expenditures” and “FY 2023-24 Estimated EOY C/O Reapprop.” She noted the estimated carryover of the projected budget surplus for expenses that stretch into the new Fiscal Year. Larson also shared information on the spending on Library Media, and Director Wieber added that changes were made to reduce downloadable costs to meet the annual budget. Because that resulted in a drop in circulation, ideas are being explored to use other funds to meet the demand. This year’s carryover will be used to fill the outstanding Request List for downloadable materials. Hale arrived at this time. Brief discussion followed.

Committee on Nominations

President Sloan shared the Committee was made up of Hale, Shaw and himself. Shaw arrived at this time. The committee is annually tasked with creating the new slate of officers for the upcoming year.

Approval of Slate of Library Board Officers

The committee’s decision was to recommend Joe Shaw to President, Jackie Ostrowicki to Vice President and Lisa Hale to Treasurer. Sloan moved approval of the new slate of officers. Seacrest seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation Executive Director Report

Gail McNair reported upcoming Pop-up Book Sale at Eiseley on Saturday from 10:00 a.m.--3:00 p.m. Proceeds from the Pop-up sales as well as the Book Nooks and sales to ThriftBooks will be turned over to the Library for new material. She reported that while the cost to hold the Pop-up sales is still high compared to the income, the sales are popular and growing more so, and will be continued. She also reported a resulting increase in Book Nook sales, as the public is introduced to that offering at the pop-ups. The next sale will be held on Saturday, October 26th at Gere branch library.

The annual Library Spelling Bee will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30th at Screamers. The staff and the Scarlet and Cream singers will perform. Spellers and Sponsors are welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of a Revision to “Minors in the Library” Policy

Wieber explained this revision will change the minimum age a child can be alone at LCL from six (6) years old to eight (8) years old. It was occasioned by a trend seen at some branches where some parents are either dropping off very young kids, or sending them in alone while adults wait outside. After reviewing the policies of several other library systems, the Management Team saw that the age of six was on the young end. Many systems use eight or 10 as the minimum, Omaha uses 11 years old, and the Team felt comfortable that the age of eight an appropriate age to expect youngsters to navigate the library alone, without excessive care provided by staff. Seacrest moved approval. Hale seconded. Brief discussion

followed. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of a Revision to “Library Rules” Policy

Director Wieber noted, the only revision to this policy is the change in language making a minor old enough to be in the library without supervision’s age from six to eight. Hale moved approval. Seacrest seconded. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Hompes Revenue Allocation

Wieber noted that end of fiscal year is the time to assign the allocation of funds from various revenue sources. The Hompes fund is a bequest held in trust by the City, restricted for purchase of adult library materials. The requested allocation of \$30,000 is to support primarily the Heritage Room and any other adult collections needs. Seacrest moved approval. Ostrowicki seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Allocation of Book Sales Funds

Wieber explained this includes all funds from Book Nooks, Pop-up Sales and Thriftbooks. This motion requests the full amount of this year’s funds (\$27,060.28) be allocated to library materials for customer use. Shaw moved approval. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Foundation Allocation

Wieber shared this is to allocate LCL’s annual Foundation distribution, totaling \$54,088.96. He recommended allocating \$10,000 to continued membership in the Urban Libraries Council – a professional association that provides staff development, \$20,000 for miscellaneous staff furnishing needs, and the remaining \$24,088.96 for programming and outreach support. Beutler moved approval. Shaw seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Beutler, Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of State Aid

Wieber noted LCL gets State Aid every year. He requested this year’s \$52,993.00 be split with \$22,993.00 going to the purchase of library materials, \$15,000 to technology purchase and \$15,000 for staff attendance at conferences. Hale moved approval. Gerteisen seconded. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ostrowicki, Seacrest, Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler – AYE. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Resolution in Honor of Rhonda Seacrest’s Service

President Sloan read the following Resolution into the minutes:

WHEREAS Rhonda has served the library community diligently for the greater part of the past decade, even acting as a community volunteer in 2016 before being appointed to the Library Board in 2017,

WHEREAS Rhonda has served the Library Board on multiple committees, including Buildings and Grounds, Nominations, Bylaws, Foundation Liaison and on multiple committees revolving around the Central Library project, notably Marketing, Community involvement, and Chairing the

Central Library Position Paper committee,

WHEREAS Rhonda has focused her considerable experience, acumen and common sense on making the library a better, ever more accessible and vibrant resource for Lincoln,

WHEREAS Rhonda can ever be counted on for astute and incisive questions at critical moments,

WHEREAS Rhonda has consistently made time to actively advocate for the library, amongst her many other community endeavors and,

WHEREAS Rhonda has faithfully, generously, and with the kindest of wit worked towards fulfilling big dreams for Lincoln City Libraries,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln City Libraries Board of Trustees expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Rhonda Seacrest and adopts this resolution in recognition of and in tribute to her contributions and support of the Lincoln City Libraries.

Rhonda was enthusiastically applauded, and gave brief comments. Sloan moved approval of the Resolution. Shaw seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Shaw, Sloan, Gerteisen, Hale, Beutler, Ostrowicki – AYE. Seacrest abstained. Motion carried 6-0 with one abstention.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sloan expressed his gratitude to Seacrest for her support and advocacy. Sloan then introduced Terri Dunlap, the newly approved Library Board member. Dunlap greeted the Board and shared her excitement to begin the work.

ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director Glaesemann shared that while the month after Summer Reading is often light on programming, staff continue their Outreach to the community, including storytimes at Morrill Hall and Irving Pool, National Night Out collaboration with the Air Park Community Center and Arnold Heights Pool, LPS Social Workers Resource Fair, Educare back-to-school night, Vision Youth back to school bash, six elementary school back to school nights, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska's family early literacy event, Pius X picture and locker day to sign up students and family members for LCL cards, and Legacy book club events.

She also reported on a partnership with the Cultural Centers of Lincoln, participating in the National Welcoming Week event, in an effort to bring people from all over Lincoln, immigrants and citizens, together to share stories. LCL is holding relevant events based on the themes of Welcoming Week and those will be promoted on their website. Those include storytimes, two Transparent Languages programs with Lincoln Literacy, a Lotería program at Walt, and a cultural exchange/training event at Library Staff In-service Day. She then provided a staffing update. Brief discussion followed.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wieber introduced Cally O'Brien, Librarian at Gere/South Branch Libraries, and asked for a report of Summer Reading activity at Gere. O'Brien reported that despite being down three full time staff and some part time, the Summer Temps and existing staff created a good system of shared responsibility and participation. Storytime attendance was up all summer, In July over 1,700 people attended a storytime at Gere. At the final Toddler Time of the month 95 toddlers were in attendance. The total number of patrons through the door at Gere in July alone exceeded 25,000. Gere's Teen Advisory Board and 22 *Volunteers* did 387 hours of service over the summer. Gere has seen growth in Teen programs as well. South Branch also got high numbers for big events in the summer – Jeff Quinn, Magician drew 158 attendees. Staff are already gearing up for Fall programming and storytimes. A brief discussion followed.

Wieber provided an update on Strategic Planning process, which will wrap up and the final product will be posted on the website the first part of September. The first new Bimonthly Newsletter, "One More Chapter" will be delivered this week - print copies at branches and on the website. It will have a special emphasis on special programming, showing compelling infographics, and sharing other great information to tell the library's story. The new Calendar software will go live next week, giving patron the option to reserve meeting rooms and study rooms from the website. The lot adjacent to Bethany is closer to being acquired by the City, and as soon as possible the parking area will be improved for use by Bethany, and hopefully soon a green space can be added very soon for outdoor programming. We've accepted a quote for new carpet on the Bennett Martin fourth floor meeting rooms. The Local History Resource Hub opening was last weekend, City Council Chair Sandra Washington, Genealogist Judi Cook, Historians Ed Zimmer and Jim McKee all gave remarks. Wieber asked for board members to volunteer for a special panel at staff Inservice to answer staff questions. There was no discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



LINCOLN

City Libraries

Memo to the Library Board

September 2024

Please note: this month's Board meeting is at **Bennett Martin Library, at 8am.**

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET: The actual percent of budget expended year to date is 91.39%, compared to the budgeted 100%. Annual adjusted expenditures to date are 92.04%.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Administration

The Committee did not meet.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

The Committee did not meet.

Committee on Finance

**Approval of Monthly Recap of Expenditures—Action Item*

Reports are attached. Treasurer Jackie Ostrowicki will bring forward a motion to approve.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Foundation Executive Director Report: Gail McNair

One Book One Lincoln Report: TBD

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Reading Challenge Report: Ali Bousquet, Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator

Ali Bousquet will provide a wrap-up report for the 2024 SRC, with some recommendations for next year.

Security Incidents and Bannings 2023-2024 Annual Report: Sarah Dale

A portion of Sarah Dale’s role is to facilitate any ban processes and communicate between staff, admin, and legal. She will present an overview of the past year’s incidents and bans and highlight any trends or concerns.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Jodene Glaesemann will provide a staffing update, and other operational news.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

I’ll speak on the recent MOU amendment with the County for placement of video cameras on ballot boxes, upcoming Facilities projects and address items from my written report.

CONTRACTS FILED

Business Name	Description	Date Received
Gray Communications	This amends the Presenter Agreement approved by Directorial Order No. 32458 dated June 5, 2024 to include an additional program on September 3, 2024 under the same terms and conditions of the original Agreement.	8/16/2024
Ashley Olson, Exec. Dir., The National Willa Cather Center	To give remarks at the Willa Cather 150th Celebration event at Gere Branch Library 2400 S. 56th St., Lincoln, NE on September 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at no cost.	8/20/2024
Larksong Writers Place	An amendment to the Service Agreement, approved by Directorial Order No. 32768 on July 29, 2024, regarding presenting a program for Lincoln City Libraries, to add one additional reader for an additional \$30.00, total cost not to exceed \$180.00.	8/9/2024
Steve Shively	To give a brief talk at the Willa Cather 150th Celebration event at Gere Branch Library on 9/21/24 at no cost.	8/20/2024
Cultural Centers of Lincoln	To work cooperatively with Lincoln City Libraries to provide and advertise programming associated with CCL’s Welcoming Week related goals at no cost through September 22, 2024.	8/22/2024
Matt Mason	To give a presentation on the cultural relevance of poetry at the Lincoln City Libraries Inservice on 9.20.24 at the time and place in the agreement at a cost not to exceed \$450.00	8/14/2024
Jim McKee	For providing a talk on local history as part of the opening celebration of the Local History section of Bennett Martin Public Library on Saturday, August 17th at 11:00 a.m. at no cost.	8/5/2024
Judi Cook	For providing a talk on local history/genealogy as part of the opening celebration of the Local History section of Bennett Martin Public Library on Saturday, August 17th at 11:00 a.m. at no cost.	8/9/2024
Ed Zimmer	To give a talk on local history as part of the opening celebration of the Local History section of Bennett Martin Public Library on Saturday, August 17th at 11:00 a.m.	8/5/2024
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission - Monica Macoubrie	To provide a presentation of the “Creature Comforts: Crafting Homes for Wild Neighbors” workshop, to manage registration for the event, and provide all needed supplies to create a 'Frog and Toad Abode,' on Thursday, September 26, 2024 at Walt Branch Library, 6701 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68512 at no cost.	8/2/2024



LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES
136 S. 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1899

MEMORANDUM

TO: Library Board

FROM: Ali Larson, LCL Business Office

RECAP OF EXPENDITURES - AUGUST 2024

Library Operational Budget - FY 2023-24	\$	738,160.98	
Library Enc/Reapp - From FY 2022-23	\$	-	
Heritage Room Fund - FY 2023-24	\$	2,404.56	
Polley Music Library - FY 2023-24	\$	10,147.74	
Total Operational Expenditures		-	\$ 750,713.28
Grants	\$	2,684.34	
Hompes Fund	\$	22,192.42	
Keno	\$	206,866.42	
Miscellaneous Library Donations Funds	\$	35,210.77	
Capital Improvements	\$	6,856.71	
Total Expenditures - Other Funds			<u>273,810.66</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			<u><u>\$ 1,024,523.94</u></u>



LINCOLN

City Libraries

Director's Report for August 2024

Interview processes for open positions continues to occupy many supervisors' time and slowly but surely those vacancies are getting filled. Teams across the system have dedicated many hours toward thoughtfully and diligently filling positions with excellent applicants and I am thankful for everyone's extra efforts to complete that work as well as keep public desk shifts filled.

The **"Celebrating Willa Cather" event** takes place Saturday, September 21, 11AM at Gere Branch. Please join us as we hear from several speakers including Ashely Olson of the National Willa Cather Center, local Cather expert Steve Shively, and noted Omaha sculptor Littleton Alston. The occasion for the event is the dedication of the new Cather statuette, a smaller version of the Alston sculpture placed in Washington D.C.'s Statuary Hall in June 2023. The statuette was donated to LCL by Glenda Pierce and Jeff Kirkpatrick.

Also on Saturday, September 21 at 2PM at Walt Branch, Jen Jackson will present **"Exploring the Works of Amy Tan"** to complement the author's visit to the Lied Center on September 24 as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

We are pleased to bring in the 2024 **One Book One Lincoln (OBOL)** winning author Amanda Peters (*The Berry Pickers*) for a special evening on Monday, **October 14, 7PM** at Lincoln High School Auditorium. Peters is travelling from Nova Scotia and will also participate in day-of activities at Francie & Finch and Lincoln High. The evening presentation will be formatted in a sit-down discussion with Librarian Jen Jackson, followed by a Q and A with the audience and a book-signing.

Local artist **Chloe Burgett** was chosen from 40 applicants as the winner for the South Branch Mural project. Chloe is a children's book illustrator. An announcement will go out immediately to announce her selection and highlight a special "Help Paint the Mural" activity on Sunday, September 22 from 1PM-3PM at Westminster Church. Coordinated by the Lux Center for the Arts, participants can help paint the background colors for the mural, which we expect to be installed by the first week of October and then dedicated during a Mayoral press conference shortly after.

We made the move at the end of the month from Evanced to **LocalHop** for provider of our online events calendar and room reservation system. Evanced discontinued their product and was no longer supporting it and LocalHop has many advanced features that present a friendlier and modern user interface and allow patrons and outside organizations to link easier to calendar events, which was important in meeting one of our new priorities to address promotion and communication needs. We're working out a few bugs and adjusting procedures for the room reservation feature which is a fully new capability for patrons.

The staff committee led by Brenda Ealey to coordinate our September 20 **Staff Inservice Day** at the Nebraska Extension building has done an excellent job preparing a day with useful and rewarding presentations and activities, including panel sessions with Board members, Cultural Center leaders, and a talk from the Nebraska Poet Laureate, Matt Mason.

You'll notice in the below items a brief report on **Bookmobile service** from Rebecca Hueske. A series of repairs in Omaha had it off-road the past month and Rebecca and her counterpart Harris. L maintained an important level of service by delivering "hold" items to bookmobile stops. We're grateful for their extra attention given to patrons during that pause in service.

Vision: LCL: Literacy, Community, and Lifelong learning

Mission: Lincoln City Libraries provides access to information, ideas, books and lifelong learning opportunities that inform, enrich and empower every individual in our diverse community.

Priorities:

- 1. Maximizing Access**
- 2. Communicating our Offerings**
- 3. Strengthening our Potential**
- 4. Growing our Support**

Examples of the Library's Vision and Mission in our daily work:

- Megan M. at Walt Branch reports that the Circle of Friends had a boost in numbers with 110 attendees throughout August. The first session of the month had an Olympics celebration that included ring toss, bean bag throw, cup stacking, tower building and a version of bocce. Always adapting to meet needs, the second half of the room was reserved as a quieter working space for those not interested in participating in the Olympic adventures. The other sessions featured Lego day and a leaf rubbing project that resulted in creative outcomes.
- Catherine S. and Lisa O (Eiseley-Williams) participated in National Night Out at the Air Park Pool. This is an annual event hosted by Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. They provided library information and free children's books, and heard from several families who really appreciated the expanded summer reading programming at Williams. There were 115 participants.
- Ronda H. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "After the big storm in Lincoln, we had many people calling to see if we had internet and checking to see if it would be okay to come to the library and charge their phones. One mother called checking to see if we were open. She said that she lived a block away, and that they still had no power. She was thrilled that we were open and that she would be able to bring her one year old over to play."
- From Kim S. at NESU: "On behalf of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, Lincoln City Libraries continue to serve as distribution sites for free COVID testing kits. During the past month, library staff members have noticed a definite increase in requests

from the public for this offering. On 8/23/2024, Bethany Branch Library distributed **29** test kits – And that is just one day at one of LCL's smallest locations.

- There were four weekends for Polley radio programs in August (the fifth weekend was labor day, which KZUM uses for their "Blues Blowout each year), which featured a book about 90s popular music hits, a book connecting post-punk music with philosophy movements, a book about the history of electronic music in the UK, and a book about the many ways that humor is incorporated into music. We officially crossed the 250 program mark this month, and have featured around 350 music books on the program in five years!
- A couple took their engagement pictures at Gere on the 4th. Pat Sloan said the couple looked very happy and thanked staff for providing the space. The bride to be had used Gere as she was growing up and had good memories.
- Vicki C. at Walt collaborated with a Pius X Librarian to provide a library card sign-up day for students. Doing so allows them to access our books and digital resources such as HelpNow for Homework, Hoopla, Libby, Transparent Languages, and Peterson's Test and Career Prep services. Having the above available helps to support students in pursuing academic success. Our apps have been approved for installation on student's iPads which they can log on to using their personal LCL card numbers. Vicki attended the Picture, Locker, Schedule Pick-up Day on August 7th, where 34 students and one adult registered for new or updated cards. The school administration sent a very supportive letter to parents in advance which helped generate interest.
- Selena S. (Eiseley-Williams) staffed a library table at Educare's Back to School program. She met many families getting ready for the new school year and shared library information with them. She visited with 97 people.
- Jessica S. at Walt led a Splish and Splash Storytime at Irvingdale pool on August 2nd as part of the end of the Summer Reading Challenge. Geared toward our storytime families, many from Walt's Toddler and Preschool classes took part as well as several from Baby storytime. 63 people attended in all.
- Cally O. (Gere-South) hosted Lincoln Community Playhouse's last summer youth production of *Imagine a Dragon* at Gere on the 9th with 42 attending.
- On 08/08/2024, five NESU employees (Jodi R., Nate H., Nancy E., Lisa V., and Karrie S) represented LCL at area Back-To-School events. Karrie S. reports, "We visited five local elementary schools: Brownell, Pershing, Riley, Norwood Park and Robinson. We handed out information about upcoming library events and (at most locations) gave each child a free book to take home. We talked to 880 people in less than two hours." According to Nate H., the principal at Pershing Elementary told him, "Thank you so much for doing this. Our families absolutely love when you are here for these Back-to-School nights."
- Behind the scenes, August was a busy month for the Virtual Services team as Rod C. and Andrew I. worked on deploying new media PCs and Magic Desktop PCs at most LCL locations; and Randy R. and Andrew updated self-check machines with new on-screen

keyboards and colors. Peter J. and the team were also very involved in the LocalHop calendar transition and setup.

- Leanne D. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: “This month, I was reminded of a passage in Neill Gaiman’s *The View from the Cheap Seats* when one day at Gere I observed a young boy see the Captain Underpants books for the first time and try to convince his mom—who was reluctant at first—to let him check some of them out. She kept showing him other, less sassy j books, but he was having none of it. This kid remained entranced with the Underpants, devouring page after page until he finished an entire book in under ten minutes. Watching this scenario play out, I knew this was this child’s “aha!” moment, and that from that moment on he would be in love with books.”
- From the Lied Bookmobile, Rebecca H. reports “What we thought was going to be a simple compressed nitrogen gas (CNG) tank inspection and a few repairs at the end of July turned into a bigger deal and the bookmobile has been at Truck Center Companies of Omaha for over a month now. So far, minor repairs have been made to a headlight and wheel covers. In addition, moderate but important repairs include replacing two leaking brake air lines and spark plugs to hopefully help with some "dead spots" when starting the vehicle. Last on the list was the generator backfiring, which seems to be a much more involved repair. Harris and I have been taking holds to customers by car when it is warranted, and luckily for us, customers continue to place holds – which, thankfully, lets us know they haven't given up hope yet. We haven't either, but our patience is getting quite a workout now that school has started. We were originally scheduled to have some body work done after the mechanical repairs were finished, but we have decided to push that back to October in hopes of getting some time back on the road first.”
- Each year, after the Summer Reading Challenge concludes, children’s materials come flooding back into the libraries. With overflowing shelves, it is a great time for staff to perform routine maintenance and weeding of youth collections. NESU Librarian Karrie S. weeded picture books at Bethany Branch Library in order to make shelf space for incoming new materials. At Anderson Branch Library, Marie’ M. weeded a sizeable number of board books that were old and/or in poor condition.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director
9.13.24

**Lincoln City Libraries
August 2024 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	August 2024 Total Use	August 2023 Total Use	CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	14,826	12,782	1,280	1,574	30,462	32,100	-5.10%
Anderson Branch	12,749	5,955	954	893	20,551	22,053	-6.81%
Bethany Branch	8,143	3,179	216	27	11,565	11,708	-1.22%
Eiseley Branch	23,354	10,352	1,572	106	35,384	38,850	-8.92%
Gere Branch	59,409	21,114	1,253	186	81,962	90,026	-8.96%
South Branch	9,539	4,529	622	14	14,704	15,343	-4.16%
Walt Branch	40,934	14,322	1,246	300	56,802	62,734	-9.46%
Williams Branch	884	1,054	202	122	2,262	3,311	-31.68%
Lied Bookmobile	1,099	59	0	46	1,204	1,578	-23.70%
InterLibrary Loan	198	0	0	0	198	238	-16.81%
SUBTOTAL	171,135	73,346	7,345	3,268	255,094	277,941	-8.22%
DownloadStream Audio	46,599	0	0	0	46,599	41,280	12.89%
Download/Stream eBooks	31,939	0	0	0	31,939	31,383	1.77%
Stream Video	1,063	0	0	0	1,063	981	8.36%
Download SUBTOTAL	79,601	0	0	0	79,601	73,644	8.09%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	250,736	73,346	7,345	3,268	334,695	351,585	-4.80%

WiFi Sessions	143,803	140,617	2.27%
WiFi Users	9,855	10,979	-10.24%
Website Users	80,230	98,895	-18.87%
Website Sessions	130,785	99,945	30.86%
Database Use	5,937	9,173	-35.28%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2024	2023	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	370,083	325,966	80,599	33,736	810,384	Active			
Added	2,368	3,190	230	412	6,200	Resident	148,182	147,154	0.70%
Withdrawn	-303	35	21	-4	-251	ConnectED	51,856	46,437	11.67%
Current	372,148	329,191	80,850	34,144	816,333	County	8,960	9,094	-1.47%
						NonResident	957	938	2.03%
						Reciprocal	493	477	3.35%
						Limited Use	9,783	8,893	10.01%
						Total Active	220,231	212,993	3.40%

**August 2024 Use Compared to August 2023
Lincoln City Libraries**

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Loan Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	11,783	13,127	-10.24%	3,043	3,197	-4.82%	14,826	16,324	-9.18%
Anderson	10,612	11,273	-5.86%	2,137	2,711	-21.17%	12,749	13,984	-8.83%
Bethany	7,195	7,056	1.97%	948	966	-1.86%	8,143	8,022	1.51%
Eiseley	20,832	23,259	-10.43%	2,522	3,737	-32.51%	23,354	26,996	-13.49%
Gere	52,117	59,222	-12.00%	7,292	8,657	-15.77%	59,409	67,879	-12.48%
South	8,424	9,154	-7.97%	1,115	1,591	-29.92%	9,539	10,745	-11.22%
Walt	36,007	41,437	-13.10%	4,927	5,707	-13.67%	40,934	47,144	-13.17%
Williams	694	965	-28.08%	190	208	-8.65%	884	1,173	-24.64%
Lied Bookmobile	1,015	1,084	-6.37%	84	125	-32.80%	1,099	1,209	-9.10%
InterLibrary Loan	198	238	-16.81%	0	0	0.00%	198	238	-16.81%
Subtotal Checkouts	148,877	166,815	-10.75%	22,258	26,899	-17.25%	171,135	193,714	-11.66%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	46,599	41,280	12.89%	46,599	41,280	12.89%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	31,939	31,383	1.77%	31,939	31,383	1.77%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,063	981	8.36%	1,063	981	8.36%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	148,877	166,815	-10.75%	101,859	100,543	1.31%	250,736	267,358	-6.22%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	5,414	6,086	-11.04%	9,412	10,238	-8.07%	12,782	12,201	4.76%
Anderson	6,318	7,213	-12.41%	6,431	6,771	-5.02%	5,955	6,110	-2.54%
Bethany	4,776	4,590	4.05%	3,367	3,432	-1.89%	3,179	3,332	-4.59%
Eiseley	15,559	18,201	-14.52%	7,795	8,795	-11.37%	10,352	9,923	4.32%
Gere	34,148	39,461	-13.46%	25,261	28,418	-11.11%	21,114	20,418	3.41%
South	5,479	6,308	-13.14%	4,060	4,437	-8.50%	4,529	4,109	10.22%
Walt	27,697	33,150	-16.45%	13,237	13,994	-5.41%	14,322	13,113	9.22%
Williams	613	861	-28.80%	271	312	-13.14%	1,054	1,734	-39.22%
Lied Bookmobile	503	692	-27.31%	596	517	15.28%	59	328	-82.01%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	198	238	-16.81%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	100,507	116,562	-13.77%	70,628	77,152	-8.46%	73,346	71,268	2.92%
Download/Stream Audio	6,742	5,768	16.89%	39,857	35,512	12.24%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	6,055	5,272	14.85%	25,884	26,111	-0.87%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,063	981	8.36%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	113,304	127,602	-11.21%	137,432	139,756	-1.66%	73,346	71,268	2.92%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	525	462	13.64%	1,049	571	83.71%	1,280	2,542	-49.65%
Anderson	893	869	2.76%	0	125	-100.00%	954	965	-1.14%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	27	34	-20.59%	216	320	-32.50%
Eiseley	97	241	-59.75%	9	242	-96.28%	1,572	1,448	8.56%
Gere	169	142	19.01%	17	47	-63.83%	1,253	1,540	-18.64%
South	10	0	0.00%	4	7	-42.86%	622	482	29.05%
Walt	152	1,021	-85.11%	148	299	-50.50%	1,246	1,157	7.69%
Williams	0	74	-100.00%	122	0	0.00%	202	330	-38.79%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	46	41	12.20%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	1,846	2,809	-34.28%	1,422	1,366	4.10%	7,345	8,784	-16.38%

**Lincoln City Libraries
August 2024 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report (End of Fiscal Year)**

Location	Loans			Visits			Computer Reservations			Program & Outreach Attendance			Total Use		
	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	172,561	167,726	2.88%	133,514	131,674	1.40%	26,762	28,647	-6.58%	13,814	16,241	-14.94%	346,651	344,288	0.69%
Anderson Branch	144,648	149,294	-3.11%	67,841	65,728	3.21%	9,321	8,662	7.61%	8,525	8,577	-0.61%	230,335	232,261	-0.83%
Bethany Branch	95,216	102,623	-7.22%	37,066	38,136	-2.81%	2,899	3,095	-6.33%	2,924	3,252	-10.09%	138,105	147,106	-6.12%
Eiseley Branch	278,520	299,968	-7.15%	115,884	109,747	5.59%	15,615	14,422	8.27%	15,865	17,150	-7.49%	425,884	441,287	-3.49%
Gere Branch	718,342	778,992	-7.79%	237,787	230,180	3.30%	13,695	15,755	-13.08%	19,866	18,112	9.68%	989,690	1,043,039	-5.11%
South Branch	112,626	118,446	-4.91%	45,639	42,929	6.31%	5,963	5,465	9.11%	3,203	3,797	-15.64%	167,431	170,637	-1.88%
Walt Branch	498,870	521,609	-4.36%	163,098	153,563	6.21%	12,952	12,662	2.29%	21,634	14,846	45.72%	696,554	702,680	-0.87%
Williams Branch	11,869	8,935	32.84%	17,533	8,030	118.34%	1,637	899	82.09%	2,033	1,079	88.42%	33,072	18,943	74.59%
Lied Bookmobile	17,746	19,048	-6.84%	3,747	5,132	-26.99%	0	0	0.00%	1,114	2,742	-59.37%	22,607	26,922	-16.03%
InterLibrary Loan	1,960	2,362	-17.02%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,960	2,362	-17.02%
SUBTOTAL	2,052,358	2,169,003	-5.38%	822,109	785,119	4.71%	88,844	89,607	-0.85%	88,978	85,796	3.71%	3,052,289	3,129,525	-2.47%
DownloadStream Audio	516,418	446,483	15.66%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	516,418	446,483	15.66%
Download/Stream eBooks	378,418	351,451	7.67%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	378,418	351,451	7.67%
Stream Video	11,750	10,355	13.47%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	11,750	10,355	13.47%
Download SUBTOTAL	906,586	808,289	12.16%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	906,586	808,289	12.16%
TOTAL LOANS	2,958,944	2,977,292	-0.62%	822,109	785,119	4.71%	88,844	89,607	-0.85%	88,978	85,796	3.71%	3,958,875	3,937,814	0.53%

	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	1216	596*	0.00%
Overall Registrations	17121	15167	12.88%

WiFi Sessions	1,512,882	1,158,566	30.58%
WiFi Users	114,200	117,305	-2.65%
Website Users	1,061,969	747,375	42.09%
Website Sessions	1,459,991	1,469,267	-0.63%
Database Use	92,779	135,724	-31.64%

*Online registrations began mid-FY 22-23 so this reflects the total of online registrations created May, 2023 - August, 2023

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

Monthly Categorical Report

August 31, 2024

	Budget Amount	Budgeted Year-to-Date	Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
Administration-Div. 1					
Personnel	\$ 884,268.00	\$ 884,268.00	\$ 989,721.02	\$ (105,453.02)	\$ 69,793.90
Supplies	33,000.00	33,000.00	33,596.48	(596.48)	882.35
Services & Charges	93,474.00	93,474.00	90,173.93	3,300.07	1,905.14
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 1,010,742.00	\$ 1,010,742.00	\$ 1,113,491.43	\$ (102,749.43)	\$ 72,581.39
Percent Expended		100.00%	110.17%		
Buildings & Grounds-Div. 2					
Personnel	\$ 125,474.00	\$ 125,474.00	\$ 125,201.66	\$ 272.34	\$ 9,866.70
Supplies	25,000.00	25,000.00	44,290.84	(19,290.84)	8,694.36
Services & Charges	1,788,359.00	1,788,359.00	1,295,719.89	492,639.11	47,299.67
Other	90,900.00	90,900.00	139,724.60	(48,824.60)	26,896.47
Total	\$ 2,029,733.00	\$ 2,029,733.00	\$ 1,604,936.99	\$ 424,796.01	\$ 92,757.20
Percent Expended		100.00%	79.07%		
Public Service-Div. 3					
Personnel	\$ 5,847,868.00	\$ 5,847,868.00	\$ 5,467,455.71	\$ 380,412.29	\$ 412,993.64
Supplies	65,500.00	65,500.00	61,664.08	3,835.92	15,904.68
Services & Charges	146,750.00	146,750.00	92,397.65	54,352.35	6,015.69
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 6,060,118.00	\$ 6,060,118.00	\$ 5,621,517.44	\$ 438,600.56	\$ 434,914.01
Percent Expended		100.00%	92.76%		
Support Services-Div. 4					
Personnel	\$ 1,222,052.00	\$ 1,222,052.00	\$ 1,191,259.34	\$ 30,792.66	\$ 95,063.11
Supplies	63,500.00	63,500.00	49,363.17	14,136.83	6,155.91
Services & Charges	474,019.00	474,019.00	340,769.46	133,249.54	9,641.95
Other	955,000.00	955,000.00	877,078.23	77,921.77	27,047.41
Total	\$ 2,714,571.00	\$ 2,714,571.00	\$ 2,458,470.20	\$ 256,100.80	\$ 137,908.38
Percent Expended		100.00%	90.57%		
Total Library Operational					
Personnel	\$ 8,079,662.00	\$ 8,079,662.00	\$ 7,773,637.73	\$ 306,024.27	\$ 587,717.35
Supplies	187,000.00	187,000.00	188,914.57	(1,914.57)	31,637.30
Services & Charges	2,502,602.00	2,502,602.00	1,819,060.93	683,541.07	64,862.45
Other	1,045,900.00	1,045,900.00	1,016,802.83	29,097.17	53,943.88
Total	\$ 11,815,164.00	\$ 11,815,164.00	\$ 10,798,416.06	\$ 1,016,747.94	\$ 738,160.98
Percent Expended		100.00%	91.39%		
Other Library Fund Appropriations					
	Amount Appropriated		Expended Year-to-Date	Balance	Current Month Expended
FY 2022-23 Reappropriated	\$ 898,514.20		\$ 898,514.20	\$ -	\$ -

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES - FUND BALANCES
August 2024

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expended	Ending Balance
<u>GRANT FUNDS</u>				
Net Lender Fund	\$ 981.60	\$ 243.00	\$ -	\$ 1,224.60
NLC NE eReads Grant 2023	928.55	-	928.55	0.00
NLC Youth Grant 2023	789.35	-	789.35	-
State Aid 2022	(0.00)	-	-	(0.00)
State Aid 2023	22,302.75	-	102.38	22,200.37
State Aid 2024	52,993.00	-	-	52,993.00

DONATED FUNDS

Heritage Room	\$ 157,645.77	\$ 678.93	\$ 2,404.56	\$ 155,920.14
Polley Music Library	264,400.14	1,156.35	10,147.74	255,408.75
Joseph J. Hompes	142,471.51	577.58	22,192.42	120,856.67
Misc. Library Donations	726,853.05	50,193.23	36,971.26	740,075.02
Alice Nielsen	84,386.89	357.18	-	84,744.07
Dorothy Holland	121,386.56	513.79	-	121,900.35
Glennis Leapley	64,568.53	273.30	-	64,841.83
Lincoln Cares	28,792.47	475.25	-	29,267.72

APPROPRIATED FUNDS

	Budget	Expended		Balance
		Aug 2024	Exp-to-Date	
Heritage Room FY 2023-24	\$ 41,073.00	\$ 2,404.56	\$ 32,099.74	\$ 8,973.26
Polley Music Library FY 2023-24	99,169.00	10,147.74	115,347.87	(16,178.87)
Keno FY 2022-23	157,648.00	-	157,648.00	-
Keno FY 2023-24	1,010,930.00	206,866.42	828,535.35	182,394.65
Capital Improvement Projects				
FY 2020-21 Williams	945,455.34	-	941,175.97	4,279.37
FY 2021-22 Bookmobile	450,000.00	-	-	450,000.00
FY 2022-23 Bennett Martin Elevator 1-4	200,000.00	6,856.71	6,856.71	193,143.29
FY 2023-24 Bennett Martin Carpet	75,000.00	-	67,131.00	7,869.00

Summer Reading Challenge Report 2024
Ali Bousquet, Youth Services & Outreach Coordinator
August 9/6/24

The coordination of Summer Reading was done by several staff members this year due to the Youth Services Coordinator vacancy. Staff who stepped up to help did a great job but there are many parts that have to come together to make this systemwide program a success; having one main point person again next year will almost assuredly increase our success and participation. Having one person will allow for more transparent communication, clear point of contact, and ensure that all tasks are completed in a timely manner.

Training:

As in years past, we had Summer Reading Challenge Success Teams with a few staff from each branch responsible for assuring that every staff member could show they knew how to:

- Complete all of the basic functions in Beanstack
- Find the FAQ on the website
- Explain the basic rules of the challenge
- Find information about events and other schedule information
- Download and use the Beanstack app

Each staff member had to complete a checklist of the above listed tasks to demonstrate their ability. This was done rather last minute at the end of May instead of late April-early May, when it usually occurs. Unfortunately, some of the training sandboxes on the software weren't quite ready and Success Team staff didn't feel like they had enough time with ensure staff were trained/refreshed.

Narrative/Recommendation for next year:

Get the training out earlier. This will be a theme throughout the report.

We will also bring back those food incentives for branches who complete the training.

Sponsors:

All of our coupon sponsors were back with us again except for Scoops Ice Cream. We added Fleet Feet as a sponsor this year.

Narrative/Recommendation for next year:

We can always add more coupons. Staff would love to see more coupons that are entirely free—no percentage off or purchase required.

Other ideas for coupons:

- Jet Splash
- Ross Theater
- Lincoln Running Company
- Valentino's
- MW Climbing
- \$5 off coupon at Russ's or Supersaver.

Publicity and promotion:

We reused our promotional video from the previous year, will small edits to make it accurate for our 2024 theme and timeline. The video was staff created. This was made available to schools instead of school visits. It was also posted on our website.

The FAQ/landing page for SRC included step-by-step instructions for registering for the challenge, as well as information about coupon prizes, tickets prizes and other details.

We paid for 50 radio ads on Alpha Media (KFRX and KFOR). These ran from May 20th-June 3rd. This cost was \$2448.

SRC was promoted on:

April 30: First at Four - Summer Reading activities and prizes.

May 4: Parks and Rec Summer Reading Guide

May 23: City of Lincoln News Release: Summer Reading Challenge Begins May 24

May 23: WHO NewsRadio – Lincoln’s SRC has started at local libraries

May 23: KOLN – LCL kicks off summer with annual reading challenge

May 23: KFAB 1110 News Radio: Lincoln’s SRC started at local libraries

May 24: Lincoln Journal Star – LCL SRC underway

May 24: LCL starts 87th SRC

Narrative/Recommendation for next year:

We need to find ways to advertise directly to teens and adults without children.

Suggestions for promotion next year:

- KZUM/NPR radio spots
- 10-11 Public Service ads
- Daily Nebraskan

This year we did not advertise in the LPS Community News, Lincoln Kids Magazine, or have promoted ads on the Meta platform but we will hopefully bring back those ads in 2025.

Printing:

We have continued to print SRC booklets for all ages. Since everyone has to have a Beanstack account to participate, the booklets are mostly for children and families, though there are others who want a paper format for a more tangible way to track their progress. The booklet also has all of the rules, incentives, and important dates listed.

We printed flyers for the County Outreach/Bookmobile sites and 100 copies were mailed to each County outreach site. We used the yard signs from previous years in front of the county sites.

We printed three separate coupon sheets for each age group.

The Saltdogs printed their own tickets for the two Library Recognition games.

Parks and Rec printed their own coupons, with the exception of 200 or so, for the free pool entry prize used at registration.

Narrative/Recommendation for next year:

Continue to have one booklet with simple rules for completion. We will rethink the activity portion of the booklet. Are the activities necessary or are they a bonus part of the program—perhaps worth an extra raffle ticket. In any case, the activities have been the same for three years now and will need to be changed to keep participation interest.

Next year we will bring back the post cards with the QR code to the landing page. The landing page needs to be available, with all info, starting in early April.

We should be able to cut back on the number of event booklets, logging booklets, and coupon sheets next year. This is approximately what we will need next year:

Library Lineup: 2,000
Sticker Booklets: 13,000
Kid's coupons: 4500
Teen coupons: 1500
Adult Coupons: 1500

Money spent on in-house promotion + registration and completion prizes:

Posters, banners, bookmarks, coloring sheets with theme and stickers for SRC booklets:
Total: \$1,625.83

Incentives for logging on Beanstack:

We created 10 prize packages of \$100.00 each as incentive for logging time in Beanstack. We also had tickets from Pinewood Bowl as a prize package. Participants earn tickets for every five hours of reading logged, for completing 8 out of 20 activities and for completing the challenge. Here's how the tickets were distributed:

<u>Ticket Drawing</u>	<u>Number of tickets</u>
Haymarket Happy Time	2559
Scrapbooking and Sweets	1466
Film and frozen treat	22191
Pinewood Performing arts	2073
Mini Golf and Big Burgers	13682
Boba and Bop	2476
Comics and Coffee	1555
Posies after breakfast	2738
South of South Street	3080
Create and Dine	9835
Cycles and Crepes	2327

We tried to have five packages of most interest to children/families, two for teens, and three for adults. Pinewood Bowl donated an additional prize package.

Ticket Prize Total: \$1,000.00

Incentives for Completing the Program:

We purchased three grand prizes which were ticket credit of \$250.00 for events at the Lied Center.

Grand Prize Total: \$750.00

Cost for incentives overall this year:

Adult, teen and child registration incentives: \$11, 711.25

- Swim passes: \$4,000
- Registration bags: \$7711.25

Promotion SRC materials: \$1625.83

Ticket prize packages: \$1,000.00

Grand Prizes: \$750.00

Total: \$15,087.08

Narrative/Recommendation for next year:

All staff were very happy with the pool passes instead of small trinkets for registration prizes. This made the registration process much quicker and easier for staff. It seemed that SRC participants were happy with that change as well.

The bags were much costlier this year as they were a cinched backpack style. All Youth Services Librarians agreed that while it was a good change in theory, we would like to go back to the more cost-friendly and versatile tote bag style. We also hope to have those bags branded with the LCL brand, rather than the SRC theme that we get from the Collaborative Summer Learning Program that is used nationwide. This will allow our library "brand" to be seen further and makes the bags more easily reusable for future events if we have leftovers.

Registration and completion numbers:

All ages registration:

May 24-May 31: 8,625

June 1- June 30: 6,522

July 1-31: 973

We registered readers 16,113, which was an 6.1% decrease from last year.

6481 readers completed the program in Beanstack.

In 2023 42% of registrants completed the program. In 2024, 41% of registrants completed the program.

Problems with our registration/completion system:

Reports from Beanstack, our SRC software, can have some variance; reports can change slightly on the type of report ran, though the data itself should all be the same. We are basing our total registered participants number off the raw data we received from Beanstack, rather than the report totals which show a small discrepancy. We are choosing to select the number we believe is most accurate, which is slightly lower than the number from the overall Beanstack report that is listed below.

Group registrations fall into two categories:

- Groups registered through City/County Outreach
- Camp/Daycare groups

Our city/county outreach staff register all groups and centers they visit. These staff are good at making sure their groups have the opportunity to complete the program.

The camps and daycare groups who are not visited by staff are also able to register whole classrooms and groups under one group leader. Oftentimes these groups lose steam with their participation and/or can miss completion dates.

LPS School registration:

Each year roughly 1000 children sign up for SRC through their LPS summer school library program. This year, LPS did not receive the same funding they had in the past, so only Title I schools had summer library open. This greatly impacted their summer reading number, going from the typical 1000 registrants down to just over 300.

2023 Summer Reading Challenge Numbers:

Name	Total Readers Not In Groups Enrolled In This Challenge	Total Readers In Groups Enrolled In This Challenge	Total Completions
Library Branch Total	14762	2409	7207
No Library Branch	3	0	0
All Locations	416	12	99
Anderson Branch	1560	119	492
Bennett Martin Public Library	482	62	220
Bethany Branch	1029	0	393
Bookmobile	92	50	43
City Outreach	5	689	667
County Outreach	34	57	61
Eiseley Branch	2112	80	791
Gere Branch	4086	139	1687
LPS School	87	1054	676
Off	26	45	4
South Branch	794	0	346
Walt Branch	3950	102	1695
Williams Branch	86	0	33

2024 Summer Reading Challenge Numbers:

Name	Total Readers Not In Groups Enrolled In This Challenge	Total Readers In Groups Enrolled In This Challenge	Total Completions
Library Branch Total	15130	1122	6579
No Library Branch	1	0	1
All Locations	630	0	177
Anderson Branch	1412	116	490
BMPL	512	99	252
Bethany Branch	1126	0	431
Bookmobile	83	0	34
City Outreach	1	573	550
County Outreach	40	61	70
Eiseley Branch	2097	27	766
Gere Branch	4120	84	1694
LPS School	311	0	15
Off	63	0	9
South Branch	789	25	335
Walt Branch	3846	137	1726
Williams Branch	99	0	29

Narrative/Recommendation for next year:

Looking at our registration by date, it looks like we have more people registering the first week of the SRC than the entire month of June. This reinforces the idea that we should allow registrations as soon as the school year ends for LPS.

We know that this year wasn't a typical year in terms of SRC rollout. There were any number of small issues that likely led to our slightly lower number this year. We know that City outreach numbers were lower due to later communication with outreach sites and LPS numbers were lower due to funding but there are other opportunities to grow our numbers like speaking with childcare providers and helping them sign up groups, printing postcards with QR codes to our Beanstack landing page, updating the landing page sooner, and more. I am confident we will see the return of registration growth next year.

Completion rates remain about the same and we continue to struggle to find a way to increase those. Staff had an idea of branch-specific prizes so that each branch would have a guaranteed raffle winner. The thought was that it might further incentivize completion. That is something we can look in to for 2024.

Events:

We had a full schedule of events this summer. Former Assistant Director Traci Glass scheduled the five systemwide events: Jeff Quinn (Magician), Wildlife Encounters, The Salt Dogs Visit, Edgerton Explorit, and the Heavy Equipment Encounter. Branch staff were given a small budget and planned a number of events to supplement the systemwide schedule.

Attendance at our SRC events for youth and families:

2023:

June: 48 events/4467 attendees (avg. 93 people per event)

July: 50 events/4028 attendees (avg. 80 people per event)

2024:

June: 96 events/4596 attendees (average of 43 people per event)

July: 116 events/4601 attendees (average of 40 people per event)

Events costs:

2023:

- \$8,138 on our events and room rentals.

2024:

- \$12,105 on events and room rentals.

Narrative/Recommendations for next year:

It looks like some branches could have used more help during busy times, especially during the first few weeks. I will make myself available next year to help fill in some gaps where extra staff are needed.

As you can see, while registration was down, overall attendance was up. We are still connecting to our community despite slightly lower SRC registration numbers. The number of events is higher but that is intentional, to create a better experience for our attendees. Some larger programs (like Jeff Quinn and Wildlife Encounters) were offered twice at high use branches in order to allow for smaller, more manageable crowds. These smaller crowds lead to more enjoyable experiences for staff and patrons alike. Staff also offered evening and weekend events to meet the needs of working parents, though these often lead to lower attendance numbers. I really can't highlight enough how hard staff work on SRC events. Staff are working at full capacity to provide fun, engaging, and educational programming for our community.

While storytimes are not typically listed in the SRC report, I do think it is important to note that we had a record number of storytime attendees this summer with an 20% increase in attendance over last year. Storytimes, which build early literacy skills, are a foundational service we provide at Lincoln City Libraries and our attendance numbers show that it is a service we excel at and that our community values.

Costs did rise from the previous year which is on trend with cost inflation overall. We had over 9,000 program attendees this summer, so a cost of \$12,105 seems like a bargain at roughly \$1.31 spent per attendee per event. I would guess that next year we would need a slight increase in our events budget to have the same or similar events.

City and County Outreach:

2023:

We had 24 city sites and seven county sites. We visited most sites a total of eight weeks.

City outreach: 165 visits/3463 “people visits”

County outreach: 56 visits/649 “people visits”

All of our city sites have a healthy number of children attend but some of our county sites have been attracting only a very few children each year.

2024:

We had 21 city sites and seven county sites. Sites were visited, with the exception of a few, eight times.

City Outreach: 132 visits/ 3057 attendees.

County Outreach: 51 visits/490 attendees

Narrative/Recommendations for next year:

We had a late start to planning city and county outreach this year due to the vacant coordinator position, and it did directly impact the number of sites and attendees at those sites. We need to start contacting sites in March of 2025 in order for both parties to successfully do the work next year.

County outreach continues to fall in numbers. First, communication was spotty with outreach sites and promotional materials weren't sent to sites on the typical timeline. We rely on county sites to advertise for us and unfortunately that didn't happen this year due to our late timeline.

As we consider our forthcoming bookmobiles which are smaller and will not require a CDL to drive, there's an opportunity to help our county outreach grow. My hope is that county bookmobile stops could coincide with summer county outreach visits—this would create a fuller experience for our county library users.

Due to staffing and training constraints, we did not have a summer intern. This impacted our city outreach numbers, as the intern was used as a helper at larger city sites. Because of that lack of help, we had to lower our capacity at a few city outreach sites. Having an intern again next year should be a priority.

Summer outreach staff did note that some sites were inconsistent with their staffing and availability of children to participate. Next year we should consider sending out an “outreach agreement” that outlines the responsibilities of summer outreach sites.