



**Vision**  
*MPL is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee.*

**Mission**  
*Inspiration starts here – we help people read, learn, and connect.*

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Washington Park Branch**  
**2121 N. Sherman Park Blvd.**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53208**  
**Community Room**

### **WELCOME & ROLL CALL**

4:00 – 4:05

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

4:05 – 4:15

### **BOARD EDUCATION**

4:15 – 4:25

1. **Washington Park Branch Introduction.** Library Services Manager Melissa Prentice will share a brief introduction of Washington Park branch.

### **SPECIAL COMMUNICATION**

4:25 – 4:55

2. **Budget Outlook.** Budget & Management Director of Budget and Management Nik Kovac will provide an overview of the 2027 budget and the Board will discuss budget priorities.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

4:55 – 5:00

3. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes, May 26, 2026.**
4. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Building & Development Committee – June 4, 2026
  - b. Executive Committee – June 10, 2026
  - c. Innovation & Strategy Committee – June 11, 2026
5. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, June 2, 2026.**
6. **Administrative Reports**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director's Report
  - c. Statistics

Attachment A, page 3

## CLOSING REMARKS

5:00 – 5:05

### 7. Closing Remarks and Adjournment.

**REMINDER:** Next scheduled meetings are:

July 1, 2026 Library Services & Programs Committee – Virtual Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

July 28, 2026 Finance & Personnel Committee – Virtual Meeting, 8:30 a.m.

July 28, 2026 Board Meeting – Central Library, 4:00 p.m.

### Trustees

Michele Bria, *President*, Teresa Mercado, *Vice-President*, Michael Morgan, *Financial Secretary*,  
Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold,  
Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson, *Secretary*,  
Rebecca Schweisberger, *Secretary's Assistant* (414) 286-3021

***The Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees is an informed, dedicated group of citizens who represent a cross-section of the city of Milwaukee and are committed to supporting, developing, and advancing the library for the benefit of all residents of Milwaukee and others throughout Milwaukee County, the State of Wisconsin, and beyond. In their role as advocates and advisors, they serve the library's many patrons, its staff, the common good of the community, and this critical and enduring institution.***

*Persons engaged in lobbying as defined in s. 305-43-4 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances are required to register with the City Clerk's Office License Division. More information is available at [www.milwaukee.gov/lobby](http://www.milwaukee.gov/lobby) or by calling (414) 286-2238.*

*Please be advised that members of the Milwaukee Common Council who are also members of this body may attend this meeting. In addition, Common Council members who are not members of this body may attend this meeting to participate or to gather information. A quorum of the Common Council or any of its standing committees may be present, but no formal Common Council action will be taken at this meeting.*

*Reasonable accommodations provided upon request. Contact the ADA Coordinator at: 414-286-3475 or [adacoordinator@milwaukee.gov](mailto:adacoordinator@milwaukee.gov).*

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 26, 2026**

**Central Library  
Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Room  
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

- PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Neil Albrecht, Ald. Milele Coggs, Matthew Kowalski, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Felicia Saffold, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Sup. Kathleen Vincent, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson
- EXCUSED:** Venice Williams
- STAFF:** Sarah Finn, Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Mary Lopez, Kimberly Luedke, Tammy Mays Wilder, Amanda McGillivray, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger, Kelly Wochinske, Jessica Wolf
- OTHER:** Budget & Management Division: Nathaniel Haack  
Milwaukee Public Library Foundation: Sam McGovern-Rowen

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President Bria called the meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 4:04 p.m. on May 26, 2026 with a quorum present. Trustees Coggs, Pratt, and Vincent attended virtually.

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**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION**

1. **Introduction of New Trustee.** President Bria welcomed new Trustee Missy Zombor, MPS Board President. Trustee Zombor gave a brief overview of her professional background and shared she is excited to be part of the MPL Board. Informational item.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. **Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 28, 2026**
3. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Finance & Personnel Committee – April 28, 2026
  - b. Building & Development Committee – May 7, 2026
4. **Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board Meeting, May 5, 2026.**
5. **Administrative Reports**
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Library Director’s Reports
  - c. Statistics

Chair Bria asked the Board if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda, presented as attachment A, pages 3-44 of the agenda. Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was approved.

## REPORTS

6. **Library Services & Programs Committee.** Trustee Saffold presented action items from the May 6, 2026 meeting.

Expansion of Sunday Service. Library Director Joan Johnson presented a request to modify the expansion of Sunday service at Martin Luther King and Mitchell Street branch libraries. As part of the hours of operation approved by the Board in January, Sunday service was slated to begin at Martin Luther King and Mitchell Street in July. Based on several factors, including implementation of new scheduling software and staffing models, staff feedback, and increased operational demands during the summer, Director Johnson requested authorization to use a phased approach to open Martin Luther King and Mitchell Street branches for Sunday service. The Committee voted to authorize the phased schedule, with Martin Luther King open for Sunday service beginning July 12<sup>th</sup> and Mitchell Street open for Sunday service beginning September 13<sup>th</sup>.

To the full Board, Trustee Saffold moved to approve using the phased approach, as described, to add Sunday hours at the two additional branches. Trustee Pratt seconded. Motion passed.

Patron Ban Appeal Hearings. Under the Wisconsin State Statutes 43.52(2) and Article V Section 1 of the MPL Board of Trustees Bylaws, the Committee gave appeal hearings in the matters of the library banning of Ivan Kruslin and Donell Parker, respectively.

Kruslin appeal: Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez and patron Ivan Kruslin testified to the events that led to the ban. All parties and the Committee were able to ask clarifying questions.

Parker appeal: Mr. Parker was not in attendance. Library Security Manager Carlos Lopez presented the allegations leading to the ban.

The Committee moved into closed session to deliberate the appeals. The Committee voted unanimously to uphold the 1-year bans for Ivan Kruslin and Donell Parker.

Trustee Saffold moved to uphold the ban of Ivan Kruslin, ending February 4, 2027 and Donell Parker, ending December 13, 2026. Trustee Pratt seconded. Motion passed.

## NEW BUSINESS

7. **Officer Election.** Trustee Kowalski reviewed the slate presented by the Nominating Committee: Michele Bria for President, Teresa Mercado for Vice-President, and Michael Morgan for Financial Secretary; the Past President seat is vacant. No other nominations were presented. Trustee Kowalski moved to approve the slate and Trustee Albrecht seconded. Motion passed.
8. **Summer Reading Program.** Library Public Services Area Manager Kelly Wochinske presented an update on Summer With MPL: The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge. The program encourages patrons of all ages to read, explore, and continue learning throughout the summer. Participants can log their reading time in the new gameboard tracker, complete activities to gain points, attend library programs, and participate in the bookmark contest. The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge will focus on boosting confidence and curiosity, which are key factors to learning. Children and teens will receive a free book at sign up. Deliveries of books and DIY kits have begun for summer reading partners and child care centers. The summer reading kickoff celebration will be held at Central

Library on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Wochinske thanked library staff for supporting the program and the MPL Foundation for their ongoing financial support of the summer reading program. Informational item.

9. **Closing Remarks.** Library Director Joan Johnson shared information about upcoming Civic Bites sessions. Civic Bites is a monthly series, through the One MKE project, that focuses on civic literacy and information about city services. The series highlights City workers and the next session will feature Kayla Schultz, City Parks Coordinator. Informational item.

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With no further business, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees meeting of May 26, 2026 was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

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**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 4, 2026**

**Video Conference via Microsoft Teams**

**PRESENT:** Michael Morgan, Ald. Larresa Taylor, Matt Kowalski, Teresa Mercado, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Joan Johnson

**STAFF:** Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Yves LaPierre, Tammy Mays Wilder, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Chris Schabel, Rebecca Schweisberger, PJ Woboril, Jessica Wolf

**OTHERS:** Common Council: Ald. Sharlen Moore

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Chair Michael Morgan called the MPL Board of Trustees Building and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. on June 4, 2026 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video or audio conference.

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1. **Approval of the Minutes.** Chair Morgan entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the May 7, 2026 meeting. Trustee Taylor moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Mercado seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Naming Policy.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented a brief update on library spaces naming. Library Administration is reviewing previous drafts of the naming policy and researching the policies of comparable institutions. Recommendations from the fundraising feasibility study will inform an updated naming policy. Informational item.
3. **2027 Budget Capital Request.** Deputy Library Director Jennifer Meyer-Stearns reviewed the 2027 City budget capital request. MPL is currently preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for projects included in the 2026 capital budget, including masonry repairs at Central Library. Capital project requests for 2027 include: window replacement at Zablocki Branch; repairs to the Central Library tiers and Wells Street deck infrastructure; upgrades and replacement of cameras and door controls. MPL will request approximately \$5M in capital funding for these three projects. Informational item.

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The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Building & Development Committee was adjourned at 8:28 a.m. on June 4, 2026.

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MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

**PRESENT:** Michele Bria, Teresa Mercado, Michael Morgan, Joan Johnson

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** MPL: Rebecca Schweisberger

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Chair Bria called the MPL Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. on June 10, 2026. All Trustees participated by video conference.

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1. **Approval of the Minutes**. Chair Bria entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the June 11, 2025 meeting. Trustee Mercado moved to approve the minutes and Trustee Morgan seconded. Motion passed.
2. **2026 Progress Report**. Library Director Joan Johnson presented an update on the status of selected library goals. The report is attached at the end of these minutes.

**Goal: Increased Library Usage – Visits**: Increase library usage by previously underserved market segments, make additional investments for growth guided by findings from continued community engagement efforts. The annual target is 1.5 million total visits. A new promotional campaign, the Start Here Promise, will be launched later this year in response to community focus group feedback.

**Goal: Increased Library Usage – Circulation**: In addition to traditional materials circulation, there has been a considerable increase in patron use of print and scan services, spaces reservations, and wi-fi usage. Electronic materials circulation has increased significantly. Usage of Freegal Music, a library service for streaming and downloading music, has increased by 405%.

**Goal: Increased Library Usage – Registration/Renewals**: MPL will utilize the Start Here Promise to increase library card registration and renewal.

**Goal: Increase Digital Inclusion**: Wi-fi usage has increased 11% when compared to the same time last year. Usage is fairly consistent across all locations, with slightly less usage in the south cluster.

**Goal: Economic Outcomes – Business & Technology Department Programs & Services**: Contribute to economic and employment growth in Milwaukee that is inclusive and reaches a diverse patron base via its workforce development and business resources and programs. MPL is continuing the Entrepreneur-in-Residence program and participation is growing each year. Staff has received very positive feedback from local emerging business owners. Business and entrepreneurship programming has extended to branch libraries in addition to Central Library.

**Goal: Economic Outcomes – Teen Connected Learning & Early Literacy Programs & Services**: Support teens in learning 21<sup>st</sup> Century literacy skills; support early literacy skills and school-age services for younger children. Goals for teen services include: recruiting teens for jobs and internships via partnerships, continuing flagship programs like Teen Connected Learning, and fill at least 85% of

teen intern and makerspace positions. MPL is in the early phase of several new early literacy initiatives.

**Goal: Anchor in Neighborhoods as Third Place, Gathering Place, & Safe Space:** Create a community third place, safe spaces, and places for people to gather. All Security Officer positions were filled as of May 26<sup>th</sup>, with one recent vacancy. One of the goals was to decrease security incidents systemwide. However, having more officers on staff and changes to the banning guidelines have led to a higher number of incidents reported. The goal will be revised based on the new banning and reporting guidelines. The OneMPL service philosophy initiative is advancing and will help ensure patrons receive excellent service consistently, leading to an increase in usage at all locations. The MPL fundraising feasibility study is underway and will help inform a new capital campaign.

**Goal: Central Library as State-wide Resource and Service Revisions:** Advancing advocacy for Central Library to be formally designated as the state-wide resource library. MPL is meeting with State and local officials in support of this goal. Using the recommendations of the 2025 staffing study, MPL has realigned staffing to maximize coverage and meet community needs. Phone and Ready Reference services have been decentralized, and patrons can now call their local branch directly. The first phase of Sunday service expansion is complete. The remaining branches, Martin Luther King and Mitchell Street, will open for Sunday service in July and September, respectively.

The Committee thanked Director Johnson for her dedicated service and leadership.

Informational item

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The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Executive Committee was adjourned at 4:47 p.m. on June 10, 2026.

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# MPL Executive Committee

## *June 10, 2026*



**Inspiration Starts Here – Read • Learn • Connect**

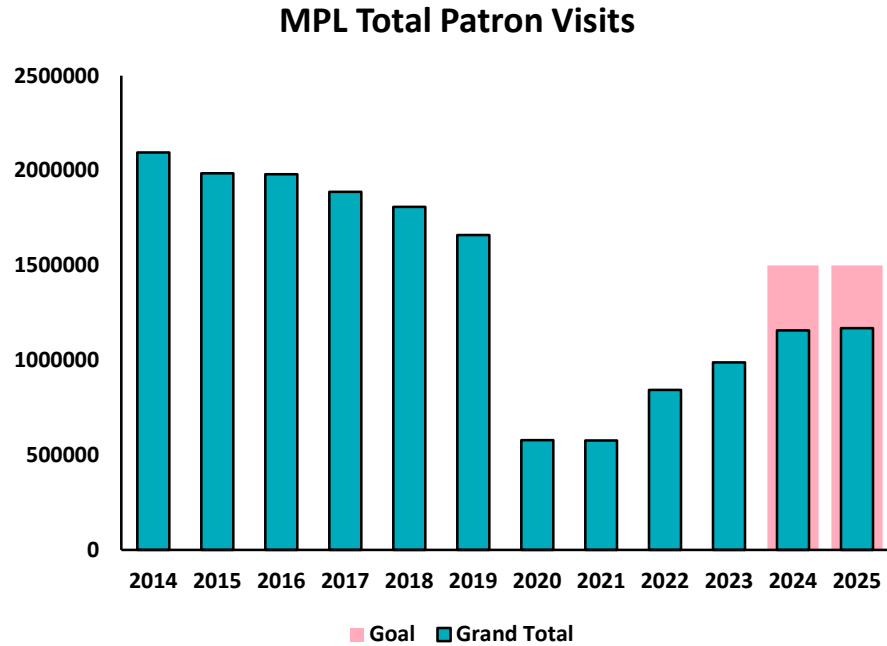


**MILWAUKEE**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

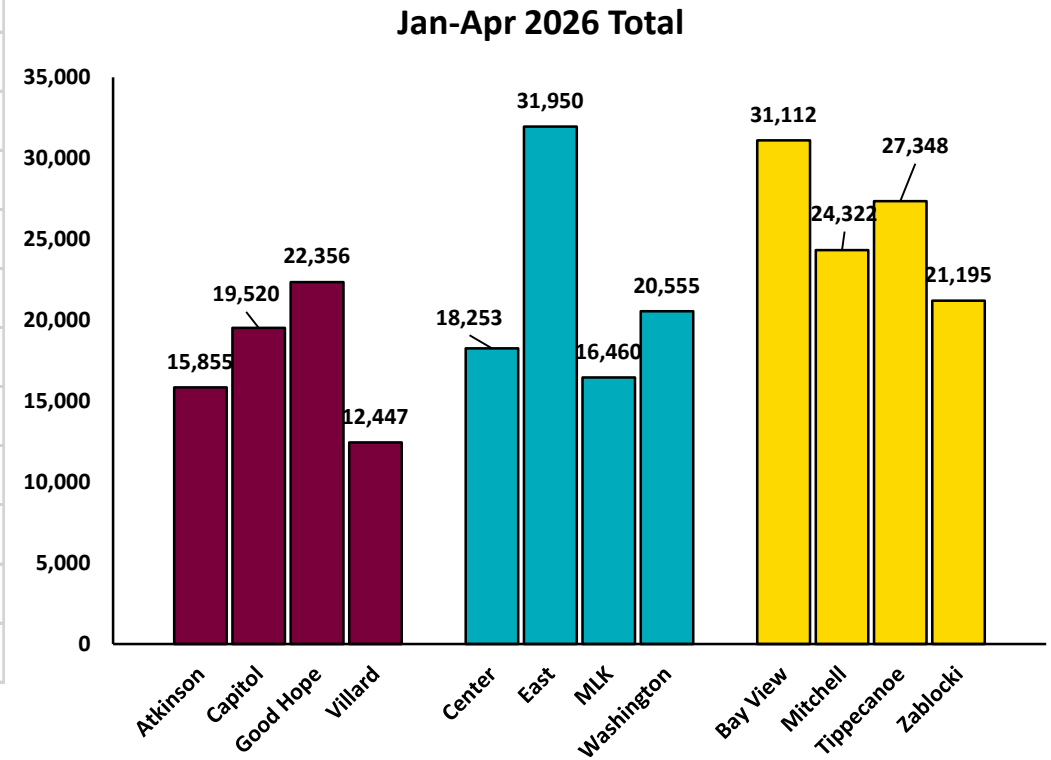
# MPL 2026 Action Plan Progress Report

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# Increase Library Usage - Visits



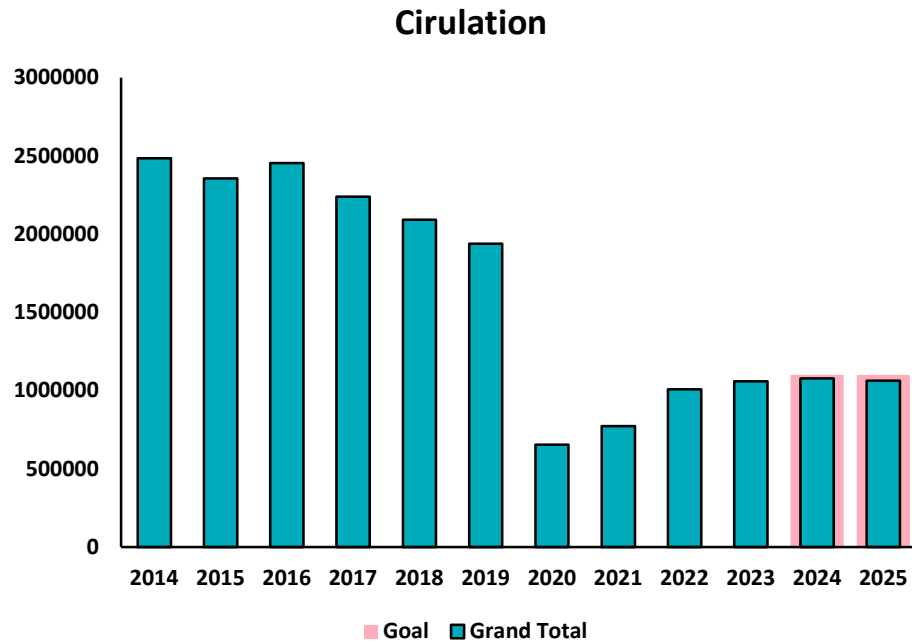
Atkinson	
Bay View	
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Center	
East	
Good Hope	
Mitchell	
MLK	
Tippecanoe	
Villard	
Washington	
Zablocki	



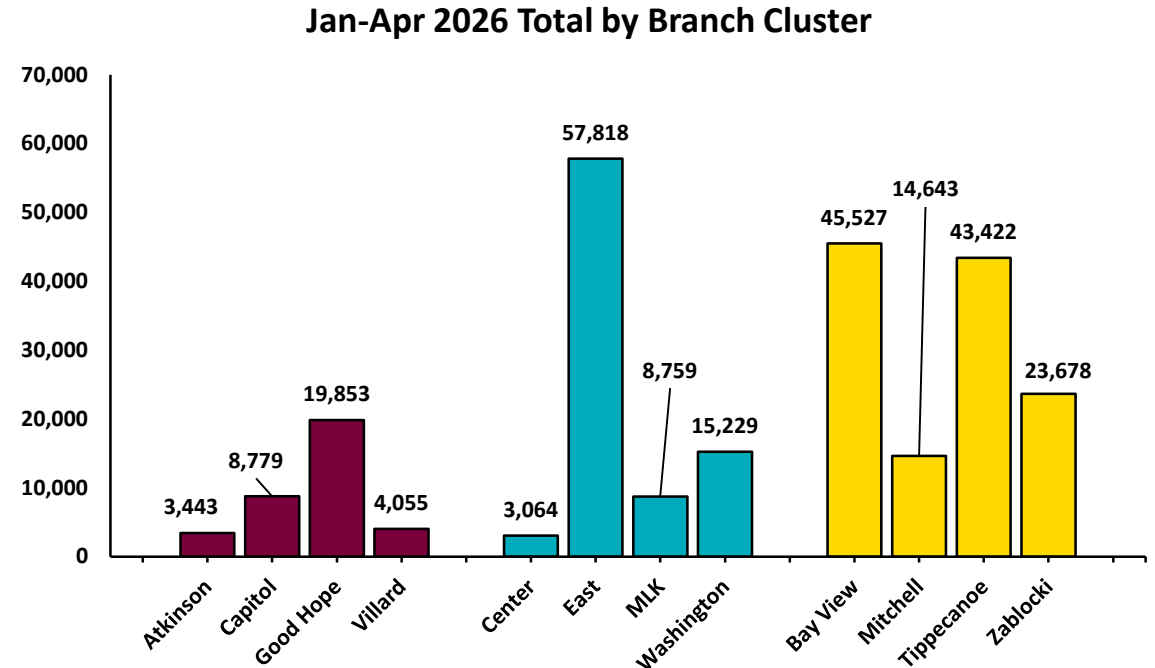
## 2026 Goal:

1,500,000 Patron Visits across all locations – Jan-Apr 2026: 423,412 (28% of goal) & 2% increase from 2025

# Increase Library Usage - Circulation



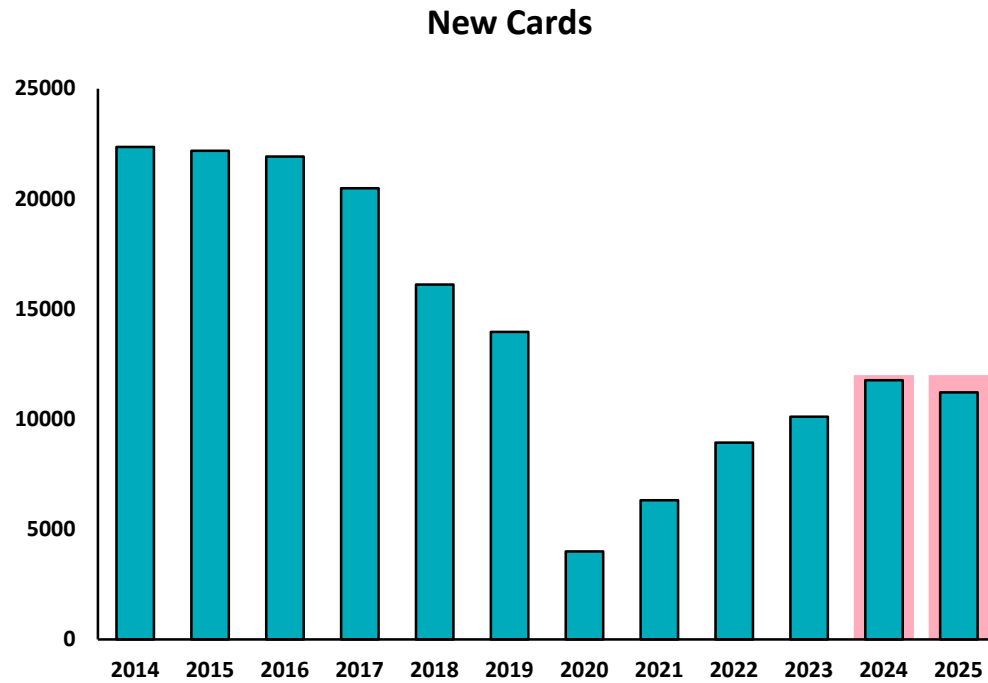
Atkinson	
Bay View	
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Good Hope	
Mitchell	
MLK	
Tippecanoe	
Villard	
Washington	
Zablocki	



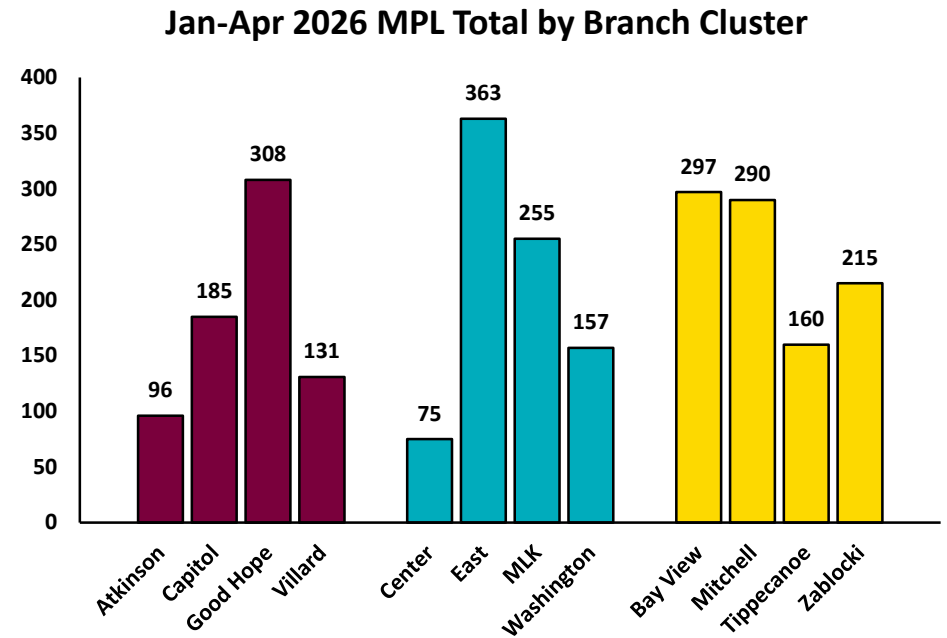
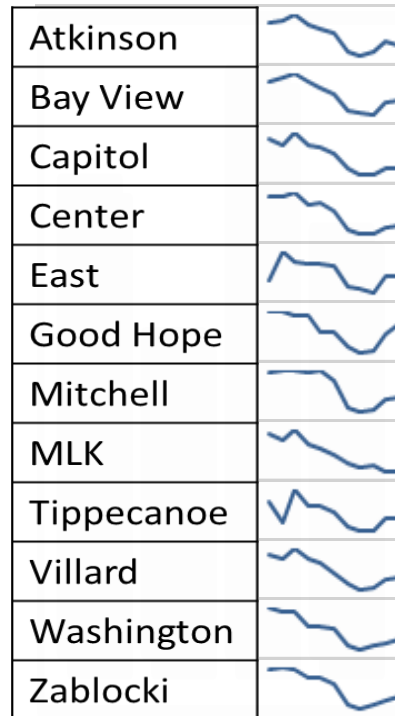
## 2026 Goal:

1,100,000 Physical Materials Circulated – Jan-Apr 2026: 350,961 (32% of goal) & 3% decrease from 2025  
 700,000 Electronic Materials Circulated – Jan-Apr 2026: 498,875 (72% of goal) & 92% increase from 2025

# Increase Library Usage - Registrations/Renewals



### 10 year Trends by Branches

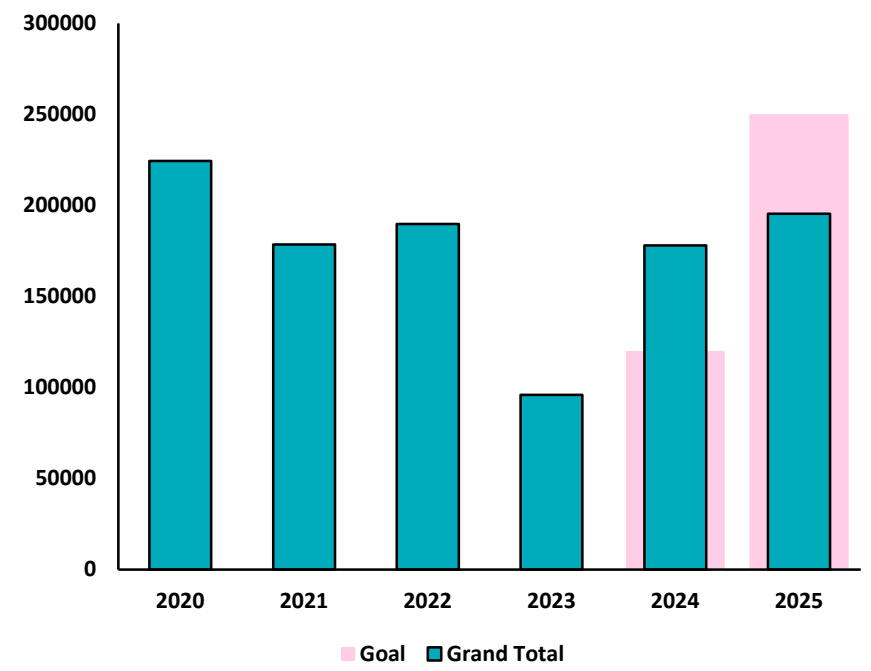


### 2026 Goal:

12,000 New Card Registrations– Jan-Apr 2026: 3,472 (29% of goal) & 4% decrease from 2025

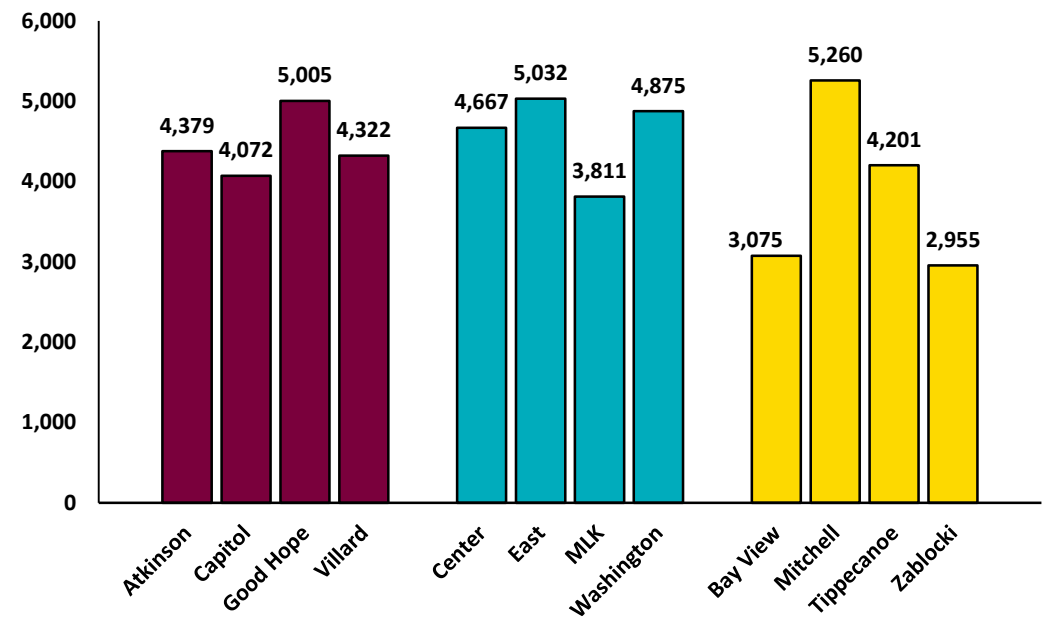
# Increase Digital Inclusion

Unique Devices



Atkinson	
Bay View	
Capitol	
Center	
East	
Good Hope	
Mitchell	
MLK	
Tippecanoe	
Villard	
Washington	
Zablocki	

Jan-Apr 2026 MPL Total by Branch Cluster



## 2026 Goal

250,000 Unique Devices – Jan-April 2026 69,032 (28% of Goal) 11% increase from 2025

# Economic Outcomes – Business & Technology Department

- Business and entrepreneurship programs continue to grow:
  - 361 participants Jan-May.
  - 90% towards goal of 400 participants, up 51% from last year.



# Economic Outcomes – Teen Connected Learning/Early Literacy

- Makerspaces are open at Good Hope, Martin Luther King, Mitchell Street, and Washington Park branches.
- Key vacancies, including Makerspace Facilitator roles, have been filled. Holding only 2 Teen Intern vacancies, a robust program.
- Received a generous grant to advance several Early Literacy initiatives.



# Anchor in Neighborhoods as Third Place, Gathering Place & Safe Space

- All Security Officer positions filled as of 5/26 and trained to implement a robust security program.
- MLK branch celebrated grand opening 9/25 – 2026 increases in usage tops 1,281% - quickly established as a beloved anchor in the community.
- Advancing goals toward building a successful capital campaign as work on a fundraising feasibility study kicks off with MPL's consultant Changing Our World, now under contract.



# Central Library as State-wide Resource and Service Revisions

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- Advancing library funding advocacy with support of DPI Library Bureau leadership and COM Intergovernmental Relations team.
- Implementation of 2025 staffing study recommendations well underway
- Phone decentralization staff training and installation of technical infrastructure completed

Thank you!



**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
INNOVATION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Thursday, June 11, 2026**

**Video Conference via Microsoft Teams**

**PRESENT:** Matt Kowalski, Neil Albrecht, Ald. Andrea Pratt, Missy Zombor, Joan Johnson

**EXCUSED:** Ald. Larresa Taylor

**OTHERS:** Budget & Policy Division: Nathaniel Haack  
MPL: Tim Fluhr, Ha Hoang, Melissa Howard, Dan Keeley, Tammy Mays Wilder,  
Joey McMahon, Jennifer Meyer-Stearns, Karli Pederson, Rebecca Schweisberger,  
Emily Vieyra

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Committee Chair Matt Kowalski called the MPL Board of Trustees Innovation and Strategy Committee meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. on April 9, 2026 with a quorum present. All Trustees and presenters participated by video conference.

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1. **Committee Meeting Minutes Review.** Chair Kowalski entertained a motion to accept the minutes from the January 15, 2026 meeting. Trustee Albrecht moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Zombor seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Strategy Document Update.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented a progress report on updating MPL's strategic documents. Branch and Unit Managers analyzed statistical and community engagement data to determine how the findings can inform individual and system-wide work plans. Managers identified the most relevant strategic directions for their specific work plans. Library Administration is using this information to determine which strategic directions are most responsive to community needs. Currently, the principal strategic directions are: Community Third Place, Technology and Digital Inclusion, Reference and Readers' Advisory, Community Engagement, Teen Connected Learning, Workforce Development and Business Growth. Managers have recommended adding a new strategic direction in response to calls for social responsibility for improved outcomes in the areas of community health and well-being. This direction would include many factors that impact health, such as climate sustainability, and would position the library in city-wide efforts to build safer, healthier, and more equitable neighborhoods. It also reflects the library's role as a community anchor and helping connect people to resources, services, and opportunities that support well-being and quality of life for residents. MPL is currently offering robust health literacy programming. The Administrative team is reviewing recommendations from Managers and will incorporate the feedback into the updated language and documents. The next draft of the strategic documents will be presented at an upcoming meeting. Informational item.
3. **Technology and Innovation Update.** Library Director Joan Johnson presented an update on MPL's 2026 Technology and Innovation projects and initiatives.

Data collection and analysis: Communications and Community Engagement Director Melissa Howard presented a progress report on data governance and analysis. MPL currently collects a wide range of data via disparate systems, which requires a significant amount of work to aggregate. The Communications & Marketing team is reviewing data sources, collection processes, access, and governance to identify gaps in the available data and develop a consistent method for collecting and reporting data. The goal is to have data stored in a centralized location, with self-service dashboards

for staff system-wide. Joey McMahon, MPL Research and Policy Coordinator, will focus on outcomes and impact, identifying consistent and comparable evidence for the library's value to funders, legislators, and the community as a whole. Testing is currently underway to leverage existing software, including Microsoft BI, until a more robust solution is identified. In addition, MPL is reviewing data reporting and tools of comparable institutions to ensure best practices are followed. Metrics for success include: implementing one trusted source of data, self-service for staff and leaders, using data for impact, and advocating for library funding.

**Information Technology (IT) and Cataloging & Database Maintenance Department (CCDM) Projects:**

Associate Library Director Karli Pederson presented an update on major IT and CCDM projects.

E-Rate Cybersecurity Pilot Program & Progress (MPL IT): The federal E-Rate program allows MPL to pay 10-15% on the dollar for various services and equipment. MPL was accepted into the E-Rate Cybersecurity Pilot Program and has two associated projects.

Innovation & Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR project – Computer and server endpoint security. MPL IT has deployed this on a sample set for testing and is planning for system-wide expansion.

Palo Alto Networks Core Security Bundle - Firewall subscriptions upgrade. IT is actively moving forward with a planned deployment in late June 2026.

Phone Service Model & Progress (MPL IT): In May 2026, MPL deployed a new phone service model, with a robust phone tree offering reference and circulation system-wide queues and direct lines to all locations. IT staff is actively reviewing the system for enhancement opportunities and streamlining overall phone infrastructure. The model was designed and deployed in collaboration with the City Information and Technology Division (ITMD) and staff and leadership from MPL Public Services.

Digital Signage Solution (MPL IT & C&M): In a collaborative effort to update digital signage, MPL IT and Communications & Marketing (C&M) completed demos and acquired quotes for product options. Goals for the project are: prioritize the use of existing equipment; improved administration of digital signage, allowing for efficient streamlined content distribution; integration of existing systems. MPL is currently engaging in a proof of concept test for systems integration and, if successful, implementation is expected to begin in Q3.

OCLC AI Enrichment Pilot Program (CCDM): The Cataloging & Database Maintenance Department (CCDM) is piloting the OCLC Connexion AI Metadata Enrichment Tool, which uses controlled sources to suggest materials call numbers and Library of Congress subject headings. An 8-week pilot will allow MPL's expert catalogers and CCDM leadership to evaluate the tool for use, accuracy, and effectiveness. Original catalogers are adjusting to access and use of testing the tool when creating or enhancing a record for MPL's purposes. As their familiarity with it grows, usage will increase.

Informational item.

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The meeting of the Milwaukee Public Library Board's Innovation & Strategy Committee was adjourned at 8:47 a.m. on June 11, 2026.

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## MCFLS Board Meeting Summary: June 2, 2026

The Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board of Trustees met via Zoom on June 2, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

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### Key Reports and Actions

- **Library Directors Advisory Council (LDAC):** the Board approved the LDAC April 9 meeting report which highlighted a progress report on the Welcome Card Pilot conducted in partnership with MCFLS, MPL and Wauwatosa. Approximately 150 cards issued so far, all but 3 from MPL. Greenfield is being added to the pilot. The other item from LDAC which peaked the Board's interest was Director Heser's report on the legal opinion regarding digital signatures which states that member libraries are *not required* to obtain digital signatures for card registration and that patron's acceptance of the library account is enough to hold them accountable. This was an informational item for the Board, as this item may be discussed at members' respective Boards and will be further discussed at upcoming meetings. In the meantime, MCFLS would like to remove digital signatures from patron records because they may qualify as biometric data and therefore represent sensitive patron information.

### Administrative and Staffing Updates

- **Proposal for promotion of member libraries on MCTS buses:** MCFLS Marketing Coordinator Deb Marrett summarized the proposal and obtained the Board's approval to allow marketing funds to be used to purchase interior signage for 50 buses and exterior signage for 30 buses. The selected routes cover the entire County and pass by all locations.
- **Financial support to County Jail for book purchases:** Director Heser provided a description of the relationship with the County Jail's library team of volunteers, MCFLS and MPL, and successfully made the case for allocating \$1000 toward the purchase of collection materials for the library at the jail. The money will be pulled from the Inclusive Services line of the MCFLS budget.

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**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Milwaukee Public Library  
Financial Report  
May 31, 2026**

**2026**

**2025**

**City Revenues**

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
<i>Additional City Appropriation</i>	\$ 32,698,143	\$ 13,759,754	42.1%
<i>Fines</i>	\$ 92,000	\$ 33,398	36.3%
<i>Lost Materials, etc.</i>	\$ 46,000	\$ 20,977	45.6%
<i>MCFLS Contracts</i>	\$ 1,028,000	\$ 309,485	30.1%
<b>Total City Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 33,864,143</b>	<b>\$ 14,123,614</b>	<b>41.7%</b>

	Budget	Received to date	% Received
	\$ 32,920,741	\$ 13,387,243	40.7%
	\$ 94,000	\$ 36,073	38.4%
	\$ 50,000	\$ 30,761	61.5%
	\$ 927,000	\$ 19,396	2.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 33,991,741</b>	<b>\$ 13,473,473</b>	<b>39.6%</b>

**City Expenses**

**Salaries & Benefits**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 19,412,775	\$ 8,239,368	42.4%
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$ 8,735,750	\$ 3,559,502	40.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 28,148,525</b>	<b>\$ 11,798,870</b>	<b>41.9%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 19,539,425	\$ 7,745,075	39.6%
	\$ 8,792,742	\$ 2,985,098	33.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 28,332,167</b>	<b>\$ 10,730,173</b>	<b>37.9%</b>

**Supplies & Services**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>General Office Expense</i>	\$ 116,550	\$ 30,693	26.3%
<i>Construction Supplies</i>	\$ 27,133	\$ 11,007	40.6%
<i>Energy</i>	\$ 913,744	\$ 358,114	39.2%
<i>Other Operating Supplies</i>	\$ 348,084	\$ 117,542	33.8%
<i>Vehicle Rental</i>	\$ 9,530	\$ 5,256	55.2%
<i>Non-Vehicle Equipment Rental</i>	\$ 13,200	\$ 2,837	21.5%
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$ 119,342	\$ 30,222	25.3%
<i>Information Technology Services</i>	\$ 394,200	\$ 317,266	80.5%
<i>Property Services</i>	\$ 688,500	\$ 404,563	58.8%
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	\$ 125,000	\$ 146,491	117.2%
<i>Other Operating Services</i>	\$ 151,874	\$ 54,078	35.6%
<i>Reimburse Other Departments</i>	\$ 120,916	\$ 11,999	9.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,028,073</b>	<b>\$ 1,490,068</b>	<b>49.2%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 115,700	\$ 32,778	28.3%
	\$ 18,000	\$ 8,610	47.8%
	\$ 886,500	\$ 363,073	41.0%
	\$ 278,956	\$ 89,814	32.2%
	\$ 9,200	\$ 1,807	19.6%
	\$ 13,200	\$ 1,580	12.0%
	\$ 86,600	\$ 63,119	72.9%
	\$ 357,920	\$ 255,947	71.5%
	\$ 861,520	\$ 800,154	92.9%
	\$ 46,000	\$ 100,634	218.8%
	\$ 152,112	\$ 36,290	23.9%
	\$ 111,900	\$ (384)	-0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,937,608</b>	<b>\$ 1,753,422</b>	<b>59.7%</b>

**Equipment**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Library Materials</i>	\$ 1,946,000	\$ 646,458	33.2%
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$ 359,534	\$ 87,040	24.2%
<i>Other</i>	\$ 148,311	\$ 21,267	14.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,453,845</b>	<b>\$ 754,765</b>	<b>30.8%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,885,500	\$ 696,951	37.0%
	\$ 220,824	\$ 67,002	30.3%
	\$ 337,042	\$ 120,354	35.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,443,366</b>	<b>\$ 884,307</b>	<b>36.2%</b>

**Other Departmental Appropriation**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Villard Square Property Payment</i>	\$ 12,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>East Property Payment</i>	\$ 11,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Mitchell Street Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>MLK Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ 9,084	39.5%
<i>Good Hope Property Payment</i>	\$ 23,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Contingent Energy Financing</i>	\$ 141,700	\$ 70,827	50.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 233,700</b>	<b>\$ 79,911</b>	<b>34.2%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 11,600	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 9,133	\$ 9,133	0.0%
	\$ 76,000	\$ 27,000	35.5%
	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 42,967	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 138,900	\$ 69,438	50.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 278,600</b>	<b>\$ 105,571</b>	<b>37.9%</b>

<b>Total City Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 33,864,143</b>	<b>\$ 14,123,614</b>	<b>41.7%</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 33,991,741</b>	<b>\$ 13,473,473</b>	<b>39.6%</b>
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**Milwaukee Public Library  
Financial Report  
May 31, 2026**

**2026**

**2025**

**Additional Funding Sources**

**Grants**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>WTBBL Jul '25 - Jun '26</i>	\$ 1,178,700	\$ 1,003,264	85.1%
<i>ILL Jul '25 - Jun '26</i>	\$ 263,150	\$ 225,385	85.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,441,850</b>	<b>\$ 1,228,649</b>	<b>85.2%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 1,033,100	\$ 932,666	90.3%
	\$ 233,550	\$ 147,150	63.0%
	<b>\$ 1,266,650</b>	<b>\$ 1,079,816</b>	<b>85.2%</b>

**Trust Funds**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 172,000	\$ 70,803	41.2%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 75,000	\$ 14,958	19.9%
<i>Training</i>	\$ 27,000	\$ 4,323	16.0%
<i>Marketing*</i>	\$ 91,000	\$ 6,588	7.2%
<i>Contingency</i>	\$ 4,000	\$ 37	0.9%
<i>Board Development</i>	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Strehlow 50+</i>	\$ 8,000	\$ 370	4.6%
<i>Fundraising Feasibility Study**</i>	\$ 86,000	\$ -	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 466,000</b>	<b>\$ 97,079</b>	<b>20.8%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 167,000	\$ 118,828	71.2%
	\$ 53,000	\$ 11,860	22.4%
	\$ 26,000	\$ 13,223	50.9%
	\$ 45,000	\$ 434	1.0%
	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 5,000	\$ 384	7.7%
	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,312	16.4%
	\$ -	\$ -	100.0%
	<b>\$ 309,000</b>	<b>\$ 146,041</b>	<b>47.3%</b>

\*2026 Trust - Marketing budget includes \$45,000 in carryover

\*\*Funded by proceeds from sale of former Forest Home Branch Library

**Foundation Contributions**

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
<i>Materials</i>	\$ 358,716	\$ 58,454	16.3%
<i>Programming</i>	\$ 1,216,049	\$ 213,901	17.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,574,765</b>	<b>\$ 272,355</b>	<b>17.3%</b>

	Budget	Spent to date	% Spent
	\$ 281,497	\$ 13,653	4.9%
	\$ 1,660,809	\$ 409,989	24.7%
	<b>\$ 1,942,306</b>	<b>\$ 423,642</b>	<b>21.8%</b>

**Investments**

U.S. Bank National Assoc. Commercial Paper (rated A1) confirmation #327157170 dated 05/29/26 and maturing 06/29/26 at a rate of 1.40%...\$275,000

## Director's Report June 2026

Director Johnson welcomed an enthusiastic crowd for a presentation by bestselling author Lisa See, to discuss her newest novel, *Daughters of the Sun and Moon*. This was a joint program in partnership with the Organization of Chinese-Americans Wisconsin Chapter and Boswell Book Company.

Johnson led the biannual MPL Pin Ceremony to honor MPL team members reaching milestones on years of service in the organization.

Introduced in a prior report, Johnson's team continues intensive organizational development work on high priority initiatives including the fundraising feasibility study, the OneMPL service philosophy staff development effort and a refresh of MPL's strategy documents.

In community partnership work, Johnson and team continues meetings with Milwaukee Art Museum leaders on potential collaborative programs, and with Friends of the MPL on a "library brew" for a fall release and joint programming targeted to populations aged 20 to 40 years old.

Johnson's engagement with community stakeholders is ongoing and she attended the MCFLS, Westown, MPL Foundation and Rotary board meetings. She also attended the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition virtual member meetings, and the Urban Libraries Council's virtual meetings of the ULC Executive Directors and its Annual Membership meeting. She also joined Mayor Johnson and other Cabinet members to honor the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of graduates from the Arborist Pre-Apprenticeship program. It is a partnership involving many teams from all levels of government and from within the private sector to create a high-quality and effective workforce development program.

### May 2026

Summary of **VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON PROGRAMS:**

#### **MPL HELPS PEOPLE READ**

An Evening with Joy Harjo: In Poetry and Conversation with Sherman Funmaker. Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters and Milwaukee Public Library welcomed attendees to an evening of poetry and conversation with the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States Joy Harjo and Ho-Chunk Elder Sherman Funmaker. Through this special event, Joy Harjo illuminated the layered meanings of home, drawing on themes of land, memory, ancestry, displacement, and healing. Her perspective as a citizen of the Muscogee Nation and a nationally celebrated artist offered a vital lens on issues such as colonization, cultural survival, and community resilience. Attendance: 285

#### **MPL HELPS PEOPLE LEARN**

Snack Hack 2.0. Snack Hack: 2.0 is a food and nutrition adult literacy program offered as weekly sessions designed to teach all aspects of food: nutritional elements, food groups, cooking principles, history of food, how food is grown, cultural connections to what we eat, how food works in our bodies and methods on how to prepare meals at home. Sessions include a cooking demonstration and a snack for attendees. May falls in Block 2 - the second section of the 4-block system used to structure the program's curriculum. This month started a new section: Nutritional Guidelines. Week 1 was an introduction in what to consider on a Nutrition Fact label and what the daily values mean. Attendees also celebrated "Cinco de Mayo" as Mexico's military victory in 1862 from France's army in their attempt to control the land. Week 2 compared two Food and Drug Administration guidelines - My Pyramid and MyPlate. The

My Pyramid model modified the recommended foods and amounts from the original Food Pyramid model. The biggest shift was replacing grains as the previous largest food group to now fruits and vegetables. MyPlate is a model shaped as a plate to help people visually see what food groups to eat from and serving amounts. Week 3 provided attendees sizes of specific foods, such as fats, cheeses, peanut butter and meat proteins. Total attendance for 3 sessions: 23

Planting and Care of Your Rain Garden. [VIRTUAL] Sponsored by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library. Hosted by nationally-known gardening expert Melinda Myers. You've selected the location, purchased your plants and now you're ready to start planting. We'll take a step-by-step approach to make this process as easy as possible. We'll discuss fine-tuning the garden design, preparing the planting bed, and setting the plants in place for an attractive display. Once the plants are in the ground, Melinda will share tips on getting the garden established and ongoing care to keep your plants thriving and your rain garden looking its best. Attendance: 102

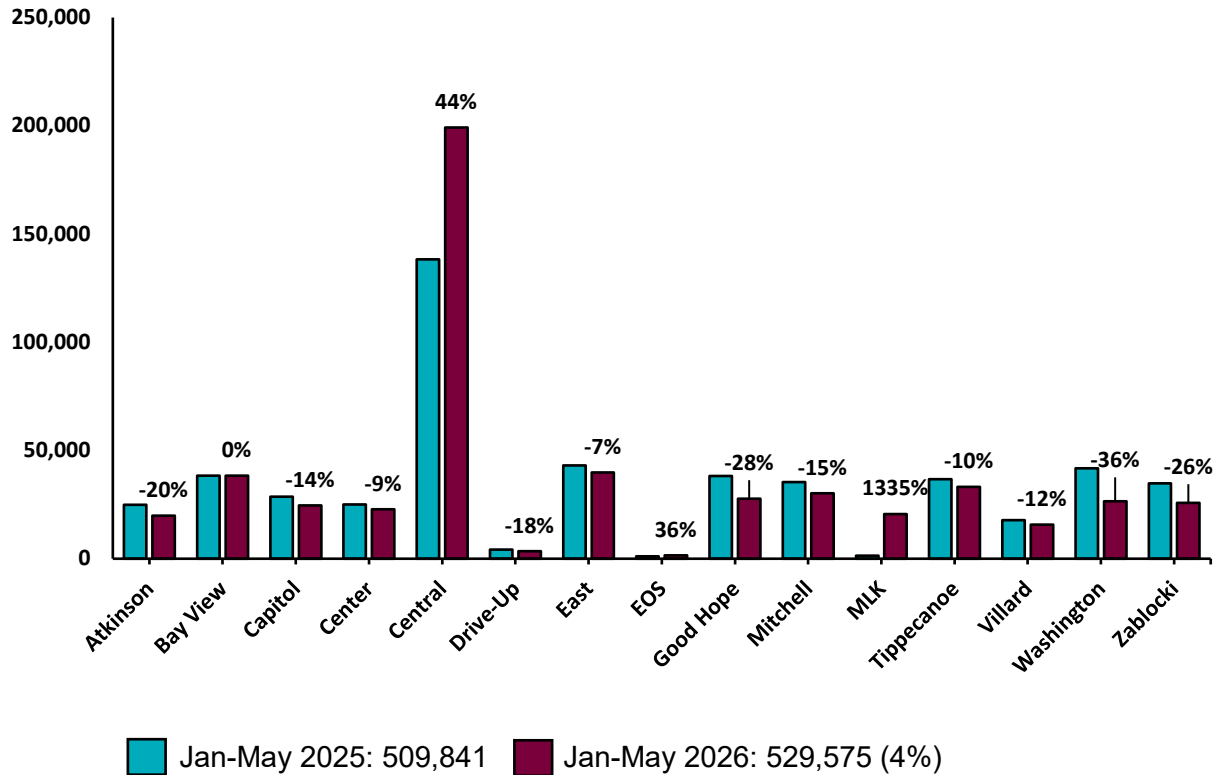
### **MPL HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT**

The Power of Music: An Evening with MSO Principal Pops Conductor Byron Stripling. Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra & Milwaukee Public Library welcomed attendees for an evening of music, conversation, and community with acclaimed conductor, trumpet virtuoso, singer, and actor Byron Stripling. This performance was a unique preview of Byron's residency the following weekend at Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Grand Theater. Attendance: 40

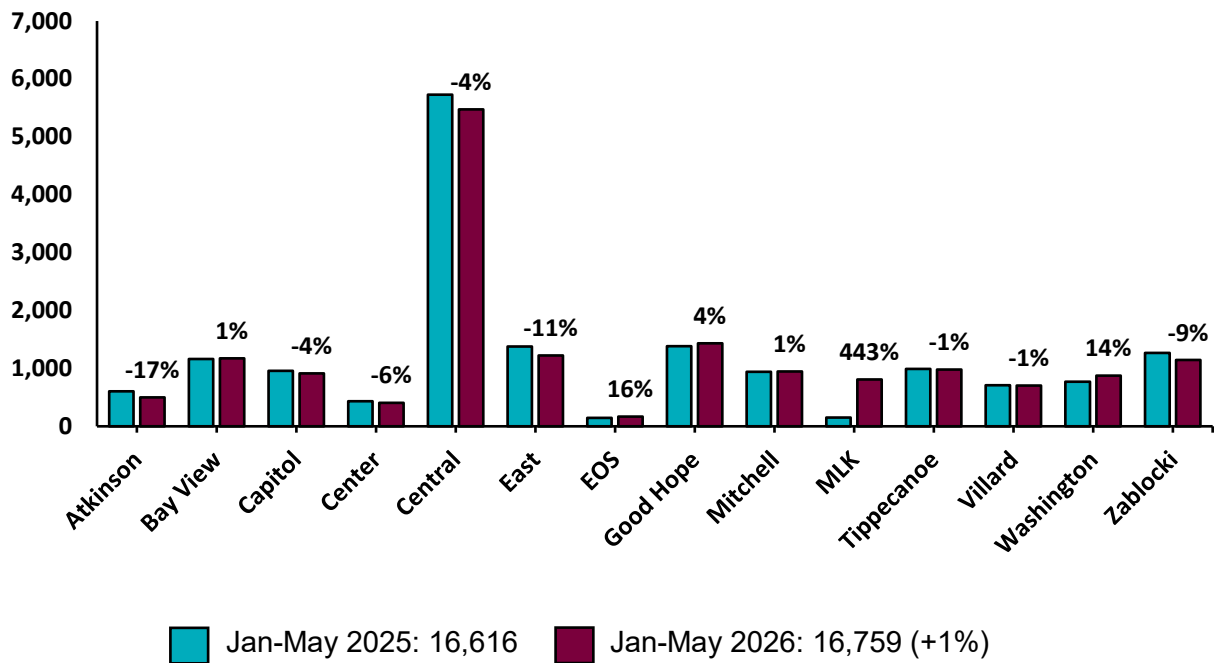
Historic Markers, Living Legacy: Exhibit Reception. Milwaukee Public Library partnered with OCA-Wisconsin (Organization of Chinese Americans) to host Historic Markers, Living Legacy exhibit, documentary showing, and public reception in honor of AAPI Month. Central Library's historic Chinese Room is on full display for the exhibit run (currently through June 24). The Chinese Room is a former Milwaukee Public Museum collections space and features an intricate floor mosaic. The mosaic depicts a dragon-and-pearl figure, representing benevolent power and wisdom, bordered with dynastic seals. The accompanying documentary, directed by Milwaukee filmmaker Yinan Wang, discusses the significance of two historical markers granted to OCA-WI by the Wisconsin Historical Society commemorating the lives of Chinese immigrants who lived in Milwaukee in the early 1900s. OCA hosted a public reception, which included a screening of the documentary followed by a visit to the Chinese Room to view the exhibit and learn more about the fascinating history of Milwaukee's Chinese immigrant community. Attendance: 45

Total attendance for 148 programs: 1,430

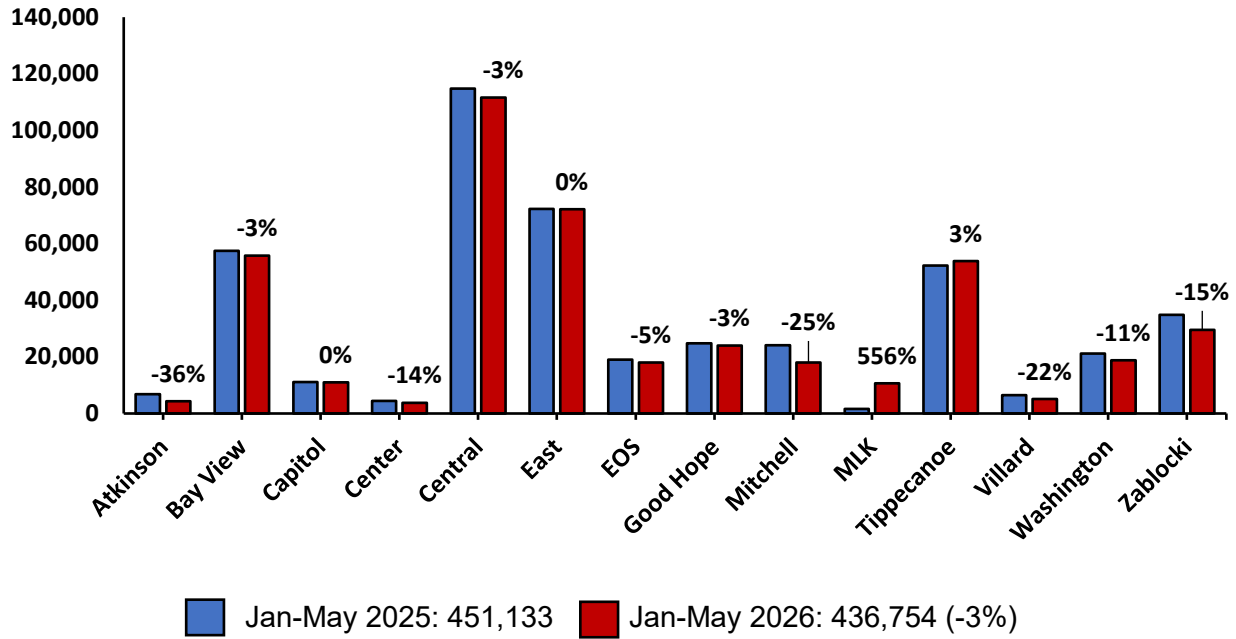
## Patron Visits



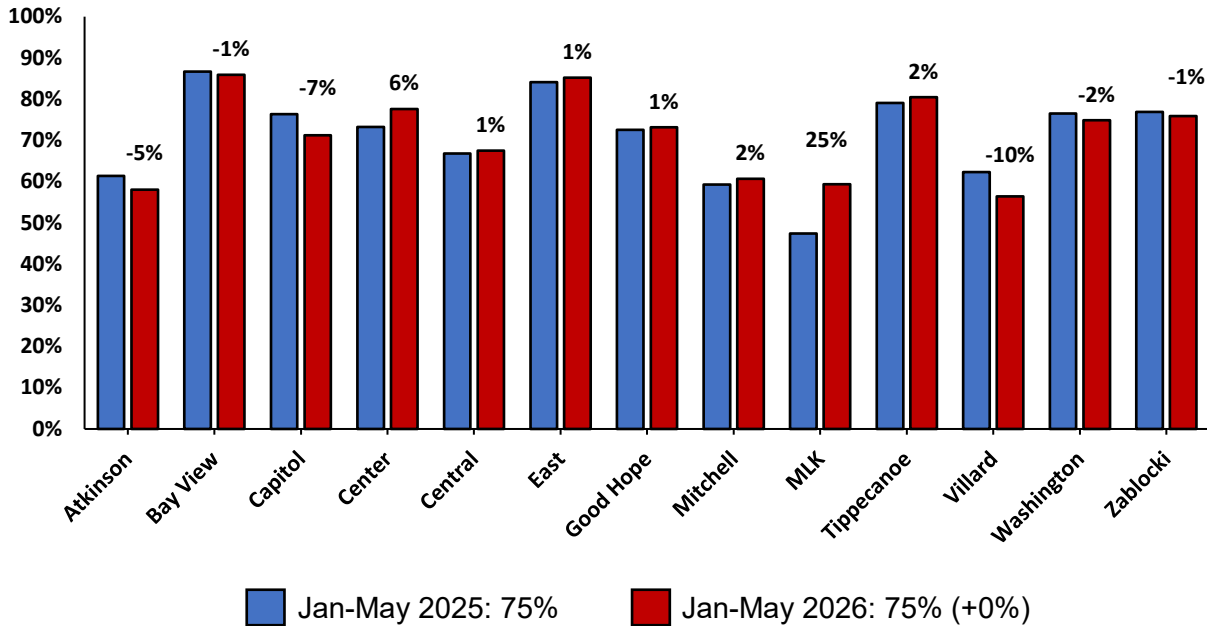
## Registration



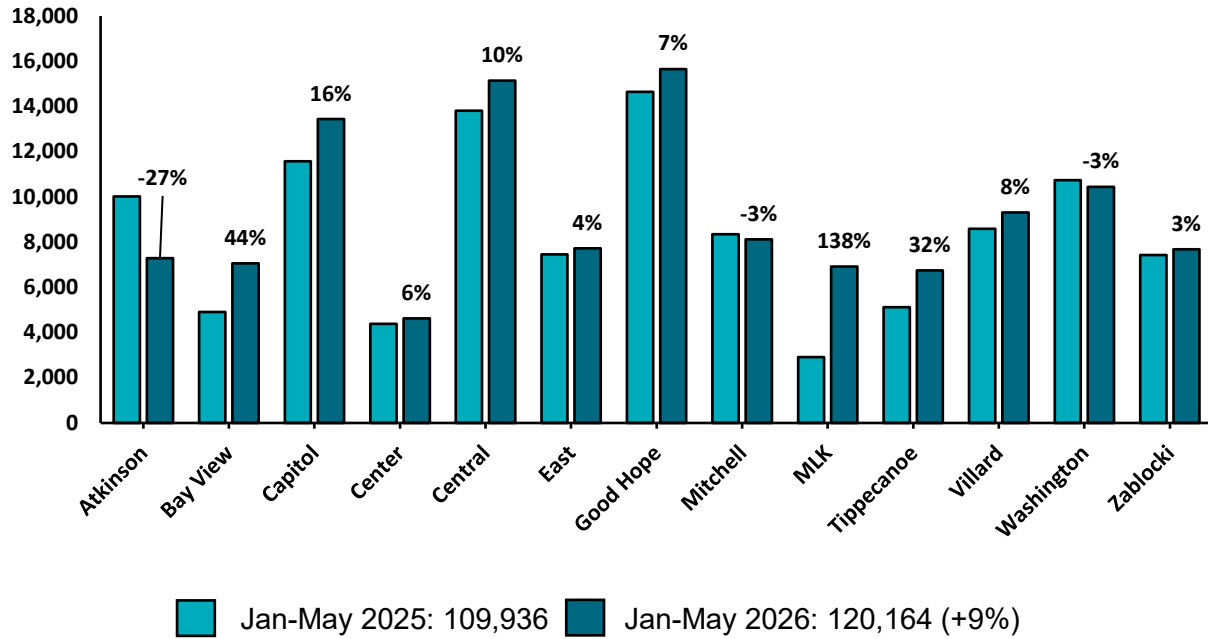
## Traditional Circulation



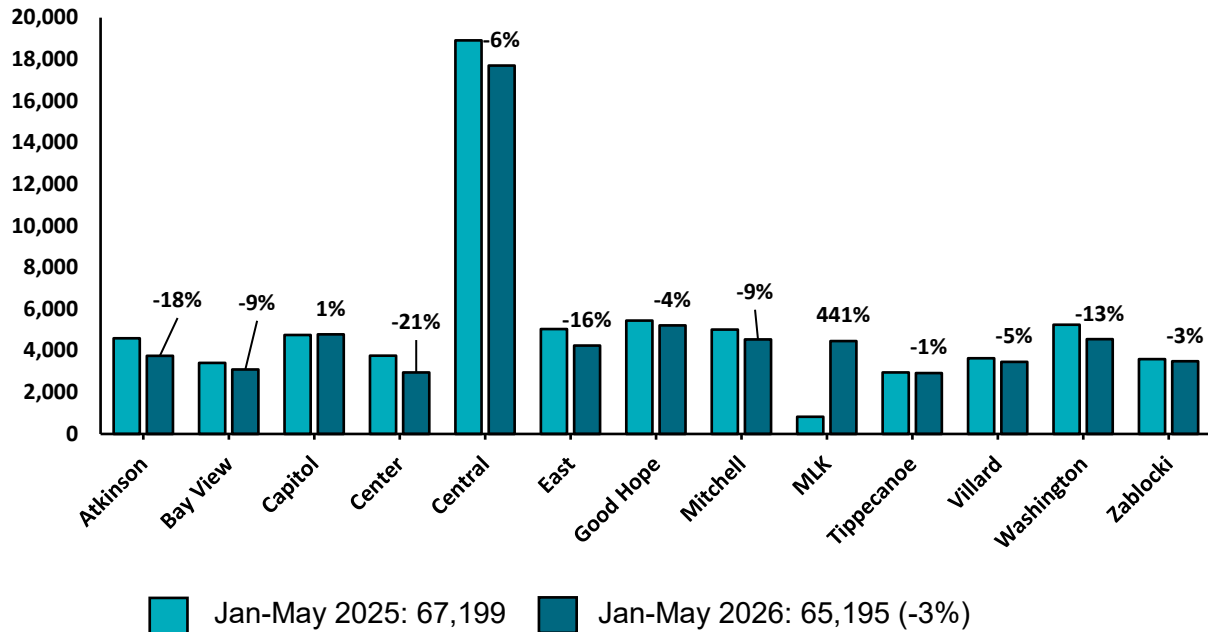
## Self-Checkout



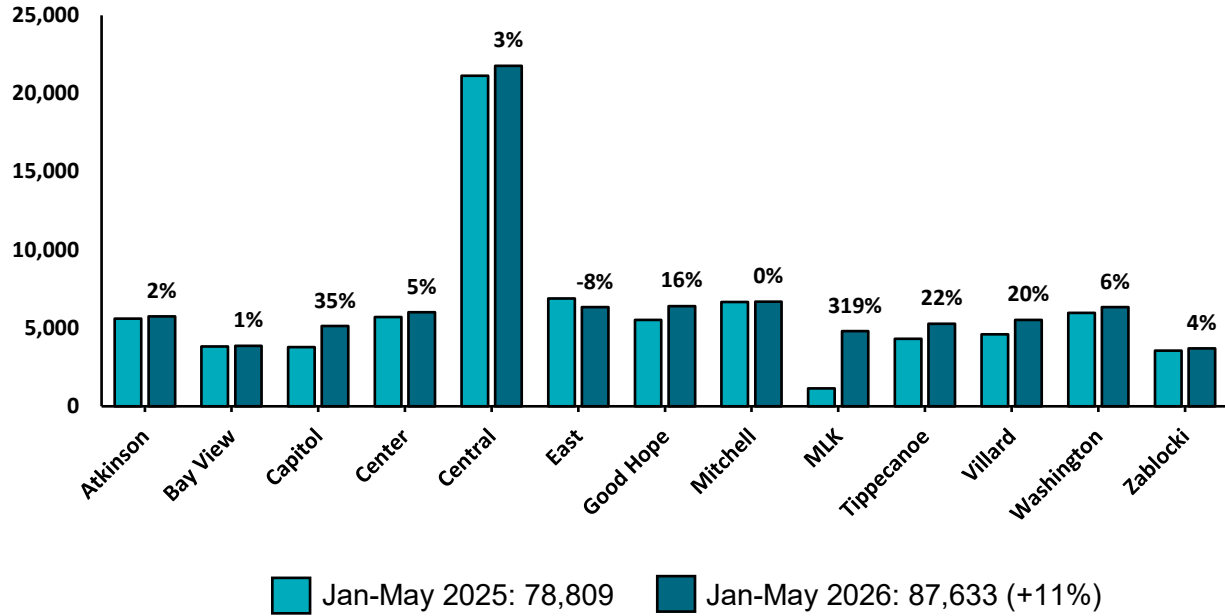
## Print/Copy/Fax/Scan Jobs



## Public Computer Sessions



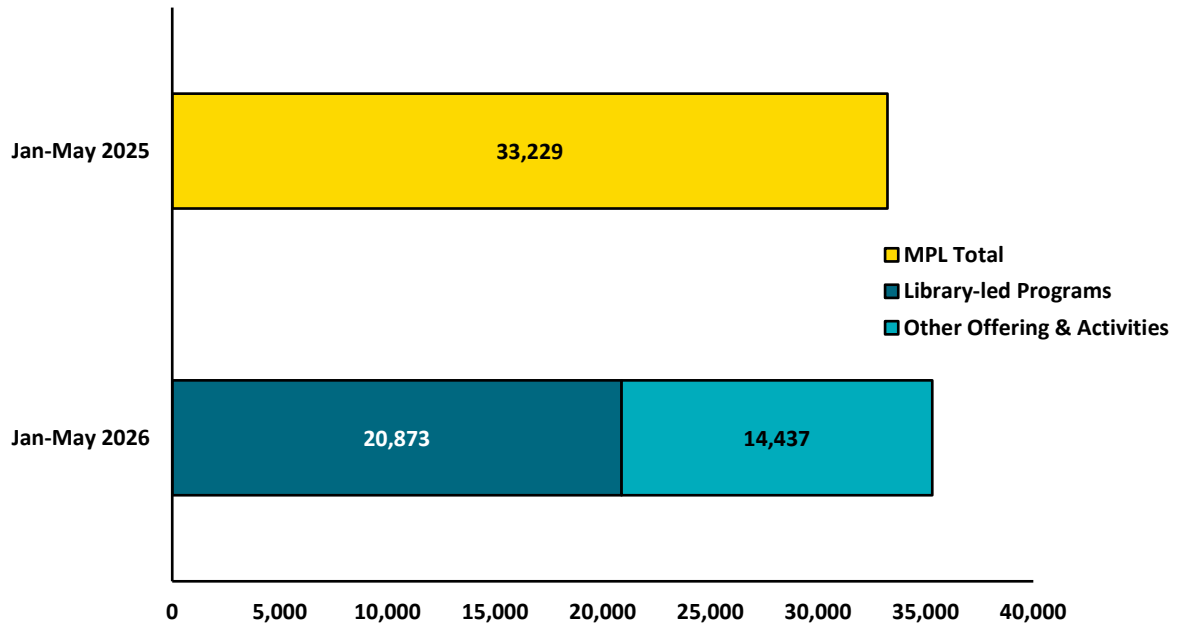
## Wi-Fi Unique Users



## eCirculation

Platform	Jan-May 2025	Jan-May 2026	Change
Freegal Music	72,715	343,564	+405%
Hoopla Digital	28,474	27,852	-2%
Kanopy	15,847	17,383	+15%
OverDrive	214,238	239,315	+12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>259,771</b>	<b>628,114</b>	<b>+92%</b>

# Program Attendance\*



Jan-May 2025: 33,229    Jan-May 2026: 35,310 (+6%)

\*On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, MPL changed how programs are reported and counted to closer match definitions provided by the WI Department of Public Instruction. Due to this change, comparative statistics will be different as we continue to collect updated and accurate statistics throughout the remainder of the year.