

2025 Library Needs Assessment

APRIL 3, 2024



Sec 14.05 (b)

Director's priorities. Prior to transmitting the budget to the Mayor, the director shall have presented a needs and resource assessment to the library board with a list of the director's priorities. The presentation shall be made not later than one hundred sixty-five (165) days before the date requiring adoption of the proposed maximum tax levy in accordance with state law.

Mission

To welcome all people to connect, learn, participate, and grow.

Vision

A city that works for all, where libraries bring people together to experience hope and unlock new possibilities.

OUR BIG GOALS

Expand services to community members in order to improve their digital connectivity.

Welcome people of all ages to participate in library services and programs meaningful to their lives.

Collaboratively focus on safety in libraries.

Move forward together by re-igniting energy, joy and deepening trust.

Deepen and increase the consistency of our anti-racist and equity behaviors and practices.

Transform library spaces to allow for the best possible library experience.

OUR 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

✓ **Distributed 310 Chromebooks and 600 hotspots to community members.**

✓ **New Bookmobile launching May 2024.**

✓ **Hiring of Library Safety Manager and Specialists in process.**

✓ **Thirty-four substitute staff hired, adding over 250 hours of staffing.**

✓ **Hired and successfully onboarded two additional roles: full time Hmong and full-time Black community specialists.**

✓ **Honored community members' chosen names within our circulation systems.**

✓ **Play and Learn space at Rondo launched April 2023.**

✓ **Hamline Library closed to public in May 2023.**

Engagement is up; visits building back

Full years	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% change 2019-2023	% change 2022-2023
Visits	1,997,933	558,495	685,553	1,009,534	1,148,443	-42%	+14%
E-circulation	509,419	643,078	733,348	851,426	902,709	+77%	+6%
Physical circulation	2,038,344	988,078	1,503,675	1,641,561	1,845,185	-9%	+12%
Total circulation	2,547,763	1,631,156	2,237,023	2,492,987	2,747,894	+8%	+10%

Other 2023 impacts

New library cards up 5% in 2023

Laser loon effect -- 279% increase in new library cards in February 2024 from February 2023

3,600 gatherings held in library meeting rooms – 55% increase

36,000 people attended library programs – 37% increase

153,000 people used library computers and 86,000 wi-fi sessions

712 open hours weekly; restored in early 2022.

2024-2025 Priorities

- Welcome community members to our spaces
- Invest in library spaces to meet changing needs of community members.
- Curate community-informed library experiences and resources that restore social and cultural connections
- Advance digital equity with a coalition of others
- Continue optimizing safety in libraries

With equity, inclusion, and anti-racism throughout

2025 Needs Assessment

Libraries are not just nice to have; they are essential.

- \$9.2M gap in public funding for Transforming Libraries.
- Library's safety model is supported by City's America Rescue Plan Act funds. **Will need a sustainable funding source by end of 2025.**
- Flat funding for collections does not keep pace with escalating costs.
- Equitable wages, especially in lower-paying, front-facing roles increase department expenditures without equivalent increases to budget.
- Evolving role of public libraries is necessary and expensive. On our spaces and our people.

Upcoming Library Events

Spring break activities for kids and teens

Programs for ages 7-11 at all locations

- Pokémon parties
- Robotics
- Bean art
- Air-dry clay sculpture

Clash of the Controllers gaming tournaments for ages 12-18 at seven locations



sppl.org/events

Upcoming Library Events

Music Mosaic concerts for all ages

In partnership with Saint Paul Conservatory of Music staff

- **Music Mosaic Concert: Son de Cuerdas**
Explores Latin American music in English and Spanish.
April 6 at Riverview | April 20 at Arlington Hills
- **Music Mosaic Concert: Mark Billy and Osip Nikiforov**
Performance of both European classical music as well as some pieces honoring Native composers and musical traditions. **April 24 at Sun Ray**



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