
Library Director's Report
to Multnomah County Library Advisory Board



New play equipment brings interactive learning to Holgate Library

With support from [The Library Foundation](#) and former Youth Services Director Ellen Fader, the library has been installing equipment designed to engage young children in learning and play. Our newest installation was recently completed at Holgate Library. The engagement was immediate, with the kids touching, playing and learning all at once. “Just minutes after the installation was completed,” said Katie O’Dell, Youth Services director, “storytime let out and the area was filled with children who couldn’t keep their hands off.”

You can also find these interactive learning stations at Albina, Gregory Heights, Gresham, Rockwood and St. Johns libraries. Many thanks to The Library Foundation and to Ellen Fader who, after nearly 20 years of employment with the library, personally helps fund these projects in her retirement.



Traveling exhibition showcases the power of creativity and hope during wartime

The opening reception of [Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here!](#) was held March 5 in the Collins Gallery. This powerful exhibition is part of a citywide project in response to the car bombing of Baghdad's ancient booksellers' street on March 5, 2007. These international traveling exhibitions feature more than 200 artistic artifacts. Nearly 650 individuals have responded creatively to this iconic attack on life and on freedom of expression.

The event coincided with the ninth anniversary of the bombing and was attended by more than 100 people and many guests from the Iraqi community. Speakers included Dr. Bahar Butti from Iraqi Society of Oregon, Dr. Yasmeen Hanoosh from Portland State University, artist/poet Bettina Pauly from San Francisco and artist/poet Bill Denham from the Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here! Coalition.

The exhibition runs through May 15, 2016, with a three-part scholar conversation series every second Sunday of the month in March, April and May to discuss the refugee experience, art and social justice, and the trauma of war.

Gresham Library selected for *Thinking Money* exhibition and programming grant

Gresham Library is one of 50 libraries nationally selected to host [Thinking Money](#), a museum-quality travelling exhibition made possible through the support of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association. The exhibition will tour August 2016 through July 2018. Multnomah County Library will also receive \$1,000 for related programming.

Thinking Money will be a cooperative learning environment with interactive hands-on stations where youth and adults can cultivate creativity and learn concepts and skills that can lead to professional and financial success. Whether it's learning how to live on a budget or build a business, these programs are designed to provide our patrons with skills to be critical thinkers, proactive and successful in their financial future. Our financial literacy programs will focus on four major concepts: earning, saving, preparing and securing. We plan to have at least 12 programs in our East Multnomah County libraries with at least six programs at Gresham Library for different age groups and in different languages.

Thank you to Teen Librarian Amy Miller and Youth and Family Program Coordinator Coi Vu, who helped bring this great program to East Multnomah County and will lead its implementation.

Collaborative workshops focus on improving Latino student achievement

Oregon has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the country, with Latinos having higher dropout and lower graduation rates than their white and Asian peers. Multnomah County Library knows that parent involvement in their children's education is a key component for students to be prepared for high school and beyond.

To help prepare students for education, the library is partnering with Migrant Education District Services and Portland Public Schools. Together, we've created a series of workshops entitled *Ya me gradué, ¿ahora qué?* to provide information on library resources such as Homework Center, Learning Express and English classes. These workshops are available to parents and their middle and high school students during Migrant Family Nights and at the Latino Parent Annual Conference.

Workshop participants credit the program, saying they will work "to change the statistics of Latinos' achievement by improving themselves and being successful." Several parents noted they have renewed vigor to educate themselves, learn English and learn more about the school system in support of their children.

Library staff engage students at International Youth Conference

On Feb. 19, the library participated in Portland Public Schools' International Youth Conference at Portland State University. This annual event provides an opportunity for English Language Learners from all PPS high schools and some middle schools to learn about a variety of leadership and career topics while sharing their experiences and talents with each other. As part of this event, the library led a presentation called "You and Your Library" and also hosted a table at the expo.

The library's role in the conference was a true collaboration, with staff from We Speak Your Language, Programming and Outreach, and Youth Services coming together to create an outreach plan and presentation. And library teen volunteers had an opportunity to work with a diverse group of professionals to plan and attend the event, many enjoying their first visit to a university.

Thank you to library staff Amber Houston, Annie Lewis, Suad Mohamed, Ana Ruiz Morillo, Sara Ryan, Gesse Stark-Smith and Coi Vu for pulling the event together. And a special thanks to our amazing teen volunteers from Fairview-Columbia and Woodstock libraries who were instrumental in planning and running the event.

Patron comments

"I just wanted to thank **[Youth Librarian Susan Smallsread]** for helping us so much with getting a space to build at **[Northwest] Library** for the Lego team. The OMSI convention went great — so wonderful to see so many kids from all over showing off their machines and interacting with each other [T]his team really arose from your Lego afternoons at the library

[and] the role you played in gluing this neighborhood team together and in helping them find a space to work.” — Kerry, March 22

In the news

[Oregon Libraries Invest In Cutting-Edge Maker Labs](#) (Oregon Public Broadcasting, Feb. 27)
[Lunar New Year celebrated at Midland Library](#) (*East PDX News*, March 1)
[Library celebration puts exclamation point on success of recent renovation](#) (*Tillamook Headlight Herald*, March 14)
[Novel does more than address immigration issue](#) (*Woodburn Independent*, March 16)
[Home’s ancestry figured from comfort of home](#) (*Statesman Journal*, March 18)
[Netflix revolution comes to your library card for free; major publishers, studios are embracing it](#) (*The Oregonian*, March 23)
[For Beverly Cleary’s 100th birthday, love letters from Portland](#) (*The Oregonian*, March 29)

Upcoming events

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary: Drop Everything and Write! How to Find and Capture Great Writing Ideas](#)
April 13
Fairview-Columbia Library

[Brown Bag Lunch and Learn](#)
Thursdays in April
Central Library

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary: Toys for Ramona & Henry](#)
April 14
Belmont Library

[Portland Brew Stories: Overview of Beer Styles](#)
Various dates and libraries

[Anyone’s Domain: A Writing Workshop](#)
Various dates and libraries

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary: Costumes for Ramona & Henry](#)
April 16
Kenton Library

[Beyond Human? Science, Technology, and the Future of Human Nature](#)
April 17
Capitol Hill Library

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary: Movie Matinee with Ramona and Beezus](#)
April 17
Hillsdale Library

[Portland Brew Stories: Home Brewing from A to Z](#)
Various dates and libraries

[Voice Your Vote](#)
Various dates and libraries

[Northwest Mixtape: Hip Hop Culture and Influences](#)
Various dates and libraries

[Animate Anything!](#)
April 24
Rockwood Library

[Grave Matters: Cultural Diversity on Life and Death](#)
Various dates and libraries

[Lost and Found: Community in the Age of the Internet](#)
April 25
Northwest Library

[Hemsley Winfield: First African American Modern Dancer](#)
April 26
North Portland Library

[From Saving to Serving: On Intervening in the Lives of Others](#)

April 26

Hillsdale Library

[We Are What We Eat: Connecting Food and Citizenship](#)

April 27

Hillsdale Library

[An Evening with Gene Luen Yang](#)

April 28

Alberta Rose Theatre

[Historical Oregonian](#)

April 29

Central Library

[Portland Poets: Carl Adamshick, Emily Kendal Frey, Endi Bogue Hartigan, Jessica Johnson and Dao Strom](#)

April 30

Central Library

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary: Create Your Own Neighborhood Game](#)

April 30

Capitol Hill Library

[Portland Opera Preview of Mozart's The Magic Flute](#)

May 1

Central Library

[A World without Secrets: Privacy and Expectations in the United States](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: The Chinese in Oregon and the Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files](#)

May 1

Central Library

[Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here!: What We Carried and Exit Wounds](#)

May 8

Central Library