
Library Director's Report
to Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

Multnomah County Library eliminates fines for youth

On June 2, the Library District Board adopted the library's budget, including a special proposal to end youth fines. Beginning June 15, existing youth fines will be deleted and no future late fees will be charged to youth or on youth materials.

This change is an exciting example of how we can innovate and adapt our services to meet our patrons' needs. And it's a major step forward in our goals to provide equitable access for all.

Youth in communities of color, new immigrant families and single-parent households are disproportionately impacted by poverty, which can be a barrier to paying fines. Plus, kids often rely on adults for transportation to the library, so they can't always control when they're able to pay fines or return materials.

Eliminating youth fines has the potential to bring back thousands of youth who are experiencing the burden of fines. I'm grateful to our elected officials for supporting this change to make the library more equitable and inclusive. I can think of no better way to start the summer than by making our library easier to use for kids and teens.

Summer Reading kicks off June 17

Summer Reading begins June 17, and we're off to a record start. About 85,000 youth have signed up in advance through their schools. Plus, we'll welcome nearly 800 volunteers this year. Most of our volunteers are under 18, making this a great opportunity for youth to get involved with the library and their communities.

This year's theme is wellness, sports and fitness, so it's fitting that we'll welcome the Portland Pickles, a college-level baseball team based in the Lents neighborhood, as a new partner. They join the Trail Blazers, Thorns and Timbers 2 in offering free tickets to summer readers.



Summer Reading is supported by gifts to [The Library Foundation](#), a local nonprofit dedicated to our library's leadership, innovation and reach through private support. Kids can still sign up for free at any library location starting June 17.



Friendly House honors Northwest Library

On April 14, Friendly House honored Northwest Library for its “outstanding contributions of time, talent and treasure.” Friendly House is a community center and social services organization in Northwest Portland, just a few blocks from Northwest Library. Each year, Friendly House recognizes community partners, individuals and volunteers with the Friendlies, an award ceremony that celebrates community building.

Friendly House Operations Manager and Director of Community Recreation & Education Denise Lafond lauded the whole Northwest Library staff. Special recognition went to Library Assistant Carol Gladstein for her monthly tech tutoring work and Youth Librarian Susan Smallsreed for her monthly storytimes and after-school programs.

Congratulations to Northwest Library!

Mozilla Foundation selects library for web literacy training pilot

Multnomah County Library has been selected to participate in the Mozilla Foundation’s web literacy training pilot. The Mozilla Foundation, with support from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), has created a pilot web literacy skills training and credential [program](#) for public library staff to better meet patrons’ digital needs.

The training runs July through December 2016 and will be focused on a set of [web literacy skills](#) defined by the Mozilla Foundation and their community partners. Through the program, the library will be awarded up to \$10,000 to spend toward staff training. This project is a great way to further activate our strategic priorities of building digital literacy and enabling creation and learning.



Library offers free bike lights to patrons during National Bike Month

To celebrate National Bike Month, Multnomah County Library partnered with the City of Portland Bureau of Transportation and Metro to give free bike lights to patrons who rode their bikes to any library branch during the month of May.

On May 6, I joined Multnomah County Commissioner Judy Shiprack, Metro Councilor Bob Stacey, Transportation Commissioner Steve Novick and Portland Transportation Director Leah Treat at Holgate Library to celebrate this new, bike-friendly collaboration. Commissioner Novick led a bike-themed storytime, and the library held 19 other bike storytimes across 13 branches in celebration of the event.

Thank you to all our community partners and library staff who made this a fun community event.

Patron comments

“Thank you so much for the new Staff Picks section at the Northwest Thurman branch. It has provided an impetus for getting me out of my usual genre of 19th-century French novelists. I've particularly valued the books, DVDs and graphic novels suggested by **Rhiannon [Cates]**. With so many books, and so little time, it's great to have some personal suggestions. Keep it up!” — Patron, May 10

In the news

[Multnomah County Library will waive over \\$600,000 in fines, end late charges for kids](#) (*The Oregonian*, June 8)

[Multnomah County Library Relieves Children of Last Remaining Responsibility](#) (*Willamette Week*, June 8)

['Such A Magical Time': Harry Potter Fans Recall Growing Up Alongside Wizard](#) (NPR, June 7)

[No late fees for young readers at Multnomah Co. Library](#) (katu.com, June 7)

[Central Library brings a social worker on board](#) (*The Oregonian*, May 11)

[PBOT, Multnomah County Library team up for National Bike Month](#) (kptv.com, May 6)

[New 'Bike to Books' initiative brings bike-themed storytimes to Portland libraries](#)

(BikePortland.org, May 6)

[Trends and Direction in RA Education](#) (*Reference and User Services Quarterly*, Spring 2016)

Upcoming events

[History of Bebop](#)

Sundays in June
Central Library

[Becoming Your Own Publisher](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Ready, Set, Light Speed!](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Out of Africa. Story of Adinkra.](#)

June 19
North Portland Library

[Author Talk: Writing the Mill's History](#)

June 20
Central Library

[School-Age Books and Sports Carnival, presented by Teen Council](#)

June 21
Gresham Library

[Play Ball with Portland Pickles](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Dramatic Dialogue for teens](#)

June 22
Kenton Library

[Early Words Language & Literacy Development 2014: Session 2](#)

June 22
Midland Library

[Find Your First Job: Resume and Interview Skills for Teens](#)

June 22 and 23
Fairview-Columbia Library

[BOLD Business](#)

June 23
Central Library

[Noche de Loteria/Loteria Game Night](#)

June 25
Troutdale Library

[Honey Bee Science Discovery Program](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Latino Fiction & Nonfiction: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*](#)

June 28
Central Library

[Latin American Music and Myths](#)

June 29
Gresham Library

[Brain Health for Families 101](#)

June 30
Hollywood Library