

Library hosts panel discussion on homelessness solutions

On September 21, the library hosted Our Community Can End Homelessness: Here's How!, at Central Library. Director of the Joint Office of Homeless Services and A Home for Everyone Initiative Marc Jolin moderated the event and was joined by panelists Welcome Home Coalition Director Jes Larson, Street Roots Executive Director Israel Bayer and JOIN Executive Director Shannon Singleton. The group held an engaging discussion on the increase in homelessness in Multnomah County and how our community is working toward solutions.



About 70 people attended the event, and it was clear how passionate and dedicated our community is to this issue. "The discussion went pretty deep into policy and the audience stuck with them," said Librarian Kate Schwab, who attended and helped plan the event. "There were so many smart questions from the audience. They were very engaged."

The panel discussed how they've found success with prevention, affordable housing and improved access to healthcare, and the need to continue increasing these services. "The speakers were engaging, deeply knowledgeable and realistic," said Kate. "They really did focus on solutions and stayed positive about the road ahead."

Small business entrepreneurs discover library resources

On September 17, Multnomah County Library took part in the Oregon Small Business Fair at Warner Pacific College to share the many ways the library can help entrepreneurs. Librarians Pauline Theriault and Jennifer May talked to attendees about library resources that can help with everything from business plans to direct marketing.

"People were genuinely amazed by everything we could provide them, including a friendly, knowledgeable professional to help them along the way," Jennifer said. "The best was people who came up and said, 'I love the library! I get all my books there!' And we would smile and say, 'That's great! But did you know about our business resources?'"

At the fair, participants shared stories about how the library has helped them grow their businesses. One was a patron Pauline had previously connected with market research, and another had discovered she could get legal forms free from the library, leading her to eliminate a recurring business expense. Business owners, entrepreneurs and beginners can find many business resources at the library and through our personalized [Book a Librarian](#) service.

Library explores STEAM learning at OMSI Mini Maker Faire

Multnomah County is known for its robust maker community, and promoting STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) learning is a critical step in the library's goals of enabling creation and learning. In early September, the library took part in the OMSI Mini Maker Faire, two days of skill sharing, learning and exploration for makers of all ages.

The library was one of more than 100 exhibitors at the popular OMSI event, and staff took the opportunity to promote the Rockwood Library makerspace and a wide range of maker and STEAM resources available at the library. Plus, in a fun and collaborative teaching activity throughout the weekend, staff taught fair attendees to make 350 rubberband helicopters!



Russian-language outreach connects with care providers

On September 20, Marina Nersesian and Natalia Alexandra, bilingual Russian library assistants, held a great outreach event at the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 503 for Russian in-home healthcare providers.

Union members were eager to learn about the library's Russian computer classes and storytimes, as well as our English and citizenship classes. Marina and Natalia also signed up several new cardholders.

Attendees expressed a high level of interest during the event, and Local 503 is now exploring future ways to connect their members with library services, including hosting presentations with our Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese speaking staff.

Summer meal program helps feed families

Midland, Gresham and Rockwood libraries served more than 6,000 meals to families in Multnomah County during the summer meal program this year. With Rockwood in its fourth year, Midland in its third, and Gresham in its first, dozens of library staff and volunteers took part in this collaborative effort to serve meals to children and teens experiencing hunger during the summer. The library collaborated with the Gresham Barlow School District, Volunteers of America, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, Multnomah County Department of Human Services, Catering for a Cause and SummerWorks to successfully implement the program.

The summer meal program affords library staff the opportunity to promote summer reading and build relationships with families. Midland Library offered enhanced programming in conjunction with the meal program. Plus, Rockwood and Midland libraries partnered with Multnomah County Environmental Services to add composting to their programs.

Not only does the summer meal program allow for meaningful community outreach, but it also provides volunteers the opportunity to gain "first job" experience. "This is a heartwarming group effort," said Patrick Provant, Midland Library supervisor. "It's a lot of work but I'm proud to be a part of it."

Patron comments

"Greatly appreciated that the new [website] conveniently includes Chinese translation. Thank you for your devoted services!" — Yong Ya Li, September 21

"Thank you so much to the librarian at **Kenton Library** today who recommended *Lulu and the Brontosaurus* by Judith Viorst. My 4-year-old and I both loved it, it was so much fun to read aloud, and the illustrations by Lane Smith were captivating. I can't wait to get to your other recommendations tomorrow!" — Marina Moses Shuman, September 17

"We love the library! I used to use the library before we had a child. We'd reserve books we wanted to read but now that we have a child we use it more than ever! It's an incredible resource. My daughter and I come to storytime a couple of times a week (**Susan [Smallsreed] and Greg [Stevens]** are awesome!) and we're generally here one more time to pick up books. I'm impressed with the number of family events. I've felt like more of a community since coming. I've met so many people. The employees that have been here awhile seem to enjoy their jobs and are incredibly helpful. Thank you!! Well done." — Brooks English, August 31

In the news

[Banned Books Week: Diversity, Inclusion & Respect](#), *The Oregonian*, September 21
[Earl Boyles Builds Literacy with Multnomah County Library Partnership](#), *Children's Institute*, September 19

[Banned on the run](#), *Melville House*, September 16

[Palahniuk's horse story among books, material challenged by library patrons](#), *Portland Tribune*, September 9

[Recommended Reading: How digitized readers' advisory stays personalized](#), *American Libraries*, September 1

Upcoming events

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

[St John's Ballet Folklorico](#)
October 15
St. Johns Library

[Beyond fight or flight: Coping with conflict](#)
October 15
Belmont Library

[Demon Among Us: The Salem Witch Trials](#)
Various dates and libraries

[San Francisco 1906: Destruction by Earthquake, Trial by Fire](#)
October 16
Capitol Hill Library

[Cut, Etch and Engrave Things!](#)
Various dates
Rockwood Library

[Making the Most of Social Security](#)
October 18
Hollywood Library

[Friends of the Library Used Book Sale](#)
October 21–24
Doubletree at Lloyd Center

[National Novel Writing Month \(NaNoWriMo\): Kickoff Party](#)
October 22
Central Library

[Film Screening: A River Between Us](#)
Various dates and libraries

[Portland's Homeless Families](#)
October 23
North Portland Library

[Oregon Ghost Stories](#)
October 24
Midland Library

[Slabtown's Ghosts and Murders](#)
October 24
Northwest Library

[Urban Headwrapping](#)
November 1
North Portland

[National Novel Writing Month \(NaNoWriMo\): Survival Skills Workshop](#)
November 5
Central Library

[Native American Art of Oregon](#)
November 5
Midland Library

[Imagining Shakespeare exhibition](#)
Opens October 29
Central Library

[Renters Rights Workshop](#)
October 29
Kenton Library