

A space for teens at Gresham Library

Teen Librarian Amy Miller knew teens needed their own dedicated place in the library. Located only half a mile from Gresham High School, Gresham Library sees a lot of teen patrons but lacked any dedicated places in the library that they could study, lounge or express their creativity away from adults.

On September 19, Gresham became the first Multnomah County Library location to open a dedicated “teen lounge” space. The lounge features three seating areas, a dry erase table, a chalkboard wall, outlets with USB ports for charging and a magazine and information rack for teen materials.

“We can really see how happy and comfortable teens are here now,” said Amy. “They’re spending more time at the library doing homework, creating art, and gathering with friends.”

The Gresham Teen Council, a volunteer group of 20 teens who help connect other teens with the library, provided input on the project. The library is now working to add more features to the lounge, including custom lighting and a display area for teen-created art, poetry and essays.

Library Writers Project

Multnomah County Library's annual Library Writers Project kicks off October 11. The project encourages local authors to submit their books for consideration to be added to the library's e-book collection.

The library accepts works of fiction for adults, teens, and children. In order to be considered, authors must publish their works on Smashwords, a free self-publishing platform, and fill out a submission form.

Each submission is reviewed independently by at least two library staff members, representing various reading interests. After library staff review submissions, the top submissions are added to the library's e-book collection on OverDrive platform.

Earlier this year, the Library Writers Project selected 19 titles by local authors to add to the e-book collection.



Celebrating Welcoming Week

Multnomah County Library celebrated "Welcoming Week" September 15–24, as part of a nationwide effort to welcome immigrants and refugees and build community.

Library locations were provided with signs in multiple languages, and staff and patrons alike provided messages of welcome and

encouragement that were posted to social media.

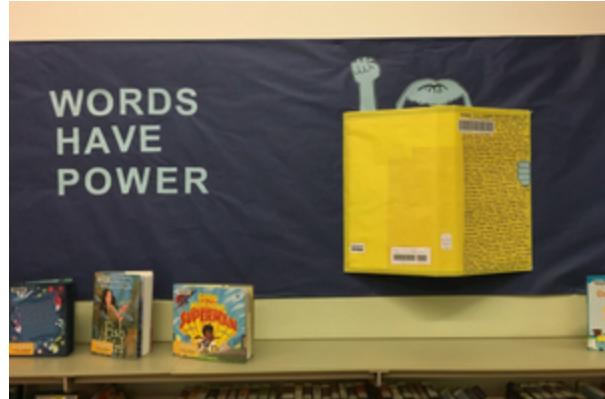
Welcoming Week is only one part of the library's efforts: throughout the year, the library offers citizenship classes and organizes additional programming about the immigrant and refugee experience.

In November, peace activist and singer-songwriter Parfait Bassale will visit several libraries to present "In the Shoes of the Immigrant," a program that hopes to promote empathy and provide tools to constructively engage with other immigrants and refugees in our communities.

Banned Books Week

Multnomah County Library participated in the nationally-recognized Banned Books week, September 24–30 with two free programs: “Where are Queer People Welcome” at North Portland Library and “And the Ban Played On” at Midland Library.

In addition to programming, libraries built creative displays, such as Kenton Library’s “Words have Power” (pictured), to showcase challenged books and celebrate the right to free and open information for all.



31 million minutes toward building a better world

Congratulations to all the Multnomah County Summer readers! This summer, kids and teens in our community read more than 31 million minutes!

Several changes were introduced to Summer Reading this year, including a new gameboard, more prizes, additional

programming, and an effort to increase teen participation. In addition to reading, the program encouraged kids and teens to learn and create by taking part in one of the dozens of library activities or special camps or to give back to the community and gain job skills through volunteering.

Summer Reading by the numbers

- 110,000 participants registered for Summer Reading in 2017
- 99% of all elementary school students in Multnomah County registered
- Teen finishers increased 35% from 2016
- A record 850 volunteers helped run Summer Reading
- Over 70% of volunteers said they plan to return next year

Patron comments

"Thank you SO much for being here. My daughter is 8 and a ravenous reader. School is on hold (fires) and the [Troutdale] library is the first place we thought to come. Such a valuable resource to have for our community. Please continue the wonderful work and resources."
— Gretchyn, September 7

"I just had to stop and say what a marvelous, noteworthy collection of books in the 'Nevertheless, She Persisted' display at our branch [Hollywood]. What a powerful selection of titles— for all readers, all interests, all ages! I appreciated seeing books I have read and enjoyed, as well as titles completely new to me. . . Thank you for your vision and hard work. We need that—and you— more than ever." — Pat, September 17

In the news

[Mysterious video of old Hollywood Library is unearthed](#) (Hollywood Star, September 7)

[Moshin \[sic\] Hamid selected for Everybody Reads 2018](#) (The Skanner, September 13)

[Alleged racism in Multnomah County prompts Chair Deborah Kafoury to pledge action](#)
(OregonLive, September 15)

[Learning Log: Gresham Library opens Teen Lounge](#) (Gresham Outlook, September 22)

[Gresham looks to promote reading](#) (Gresham Outlook, September 26)

[Man caught hiding LGBT themed DVDs at library](#) (KOIN, September 29)

[New rules: Multnomah County libraries get tough](#) (KOIN, October 2)

Upcoming events

[DIY Insulation Workshop](#)

Saturday, October 14
Midland Library

[Celebracion del Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead Celebration](#)

Friday, October 20
Fairview-Columbia Library

[Calveritas de Azúcar/Decorate Your Own Sugar Skull](#)

Saturday, October 14
Hogate Library

[Potions and Slime: Developing Language and Literacy with Sensory Science](#)

Wednesday, November 1
Gresham Library

[Kimchi 101](#)

Monday, October 16
North Portland Library

[In the Shoes of the Immigrant](#)

Sunday, November 5
Kenton Library