

# Columbia Heights Public Library

## Library Board Report – September 2025

### BUILDING

- The building was inspected for pests and the exterior windows were washed.
- The broken window on the Central Avenue façade was replaced.

### TECHNOLOGY

### COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the April issues of *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *School Library Journal*. Juvenile requests and replacement titles were ordered.
- Weeding was completed in adult fiction S-Z and adult audiobooks.
- Adult endcap displays highlighted the healing power of nature, science fiction and fantasy, books made into movies, and Spanish-language books. The main adult display furniture featured Hispanic Heritage Month and favorites from the summer reading program. Juvenile displays celebrated Hispanic heritage and the first books of juvenile series.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
English Language Conversation Circle	9/3	Adult	4
Daycare Storytime	9/5	Children (0-5)	10
ELL Conversation Circles	9/6	Adult	4
Storytime	9/8	Children (0-5)	52
ELL Conversation Circle	9/8	Adult	
Mapping Prejudice	9/10	Adult	3
ELL Conversation Circle	9/10	Adult	5
Evening Storytime	9/11	Children (0-5)	4
ELL Conversation Circle	9/13	Adult	6
Storytime	9/15	Children (0-5)	25
ELL Conversation Circle	9/15	Adult	8
Tinker Time	9/16	Children (6-11)	58
Book Club: <i>Somewhere Beyond the Sea</i>	9/17	Adult	7
EL Conversation Circle	9/17	Adult	6
Discover the Healing Power of Nature	9/17	Adult	3
Active Agers Book Club: <i>The Dutch House</i>	9/19	Adult	8
EL Conversation Circle	9/20	Adult	10
Great North Star Read Together	9/20	Adult	54
Storytime	9/22	Children (0-5)	51
EL Conversation Circle	9/22	Adult	10
Preschool Yoga	9/23	Children (0-5)	20
Adult Basic Education Tour	9/24	Adult	12
EL Conversation Circles	9/24	Adult	7
EL Conversation Circle	9/27	Adult	7
Let's Draw Pokémon Cards	9/27	Children (6-11)	8
Storytime	9/29	Children (0-5)	43
EL Conversation Circle	9/29	Adult	12
Library Databases Open House	9/30	Adult	0

## STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Hosted Rebecca Gillette to discuss the history and importance of the Mapping Prejudice and Just Deeds projects on racial covenants on metro-area properties.
- Invited the Anoka County Master Gardeners for a program on the healing power of nature.
- Facilitated the Active Agers book club discussion of “The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett.
- Collaborated with the youth services librarian to offer an introduction to library databases for parents featuring library resources for students and learners.
- Attended meetings of the Friends of the Library, Anoka County Library Adult Programmers, the MELSA Adult Programmers and Jobs and Small Business interest groups.
- Made three deliveries to At-Home patrons.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

- Met with Katelyn Steeler of Fulcrum Health about a potential partnership to promote public health and alternatives to prescription pain medication.
- Attended a City Council meeting with Olga Herrera to promote the Great Minnesota Read Together.
- Met with Patti Constant of the Anoka County Opioid Solutions Initiative about naloxone distribution, informational material distribution, and educational programming around opioid harm mitigation.
- Joined city division heads for a retirement luncheon for Public Works Director Kevin Hansen.
- Reviewed one hundred and seven applications for Library Page and interviewed nine finalists. Three conditional offers were extended.
- Participated in the Adult Book Club discussion of “Beyond the Sea” by T.J. Klune.
- Met with the city communications director.
- Attended meetings of city division heads, the Library Board, and the Minnesota Library Association Board.

Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Attracted large, high-energy crowds for storytime which is intended for toddlers but also welcomes younger siblings and caregivers. Eliza also offers a dedicated storytime for a local daycare, as well as an evening storytime option.
- Hosted Elham from Yogilli for a preschool yoga storytime featuring a yoga doll, breathing exercises, yoga asanas, and movement activities.
- Welcomed kids and parents to a Tinker Time devoted to creating backpack charms.
- Hired Erin from eHolt Art to lead a Saturday program for kids to design and compose their own Pokémon cards.



## MISCELLANEOUS

- Library Page Yuliana Morocho Calderon resigned to accept a full-time surgical nursing position.
- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy held office hours on September 25; he assisted four people.
- Six adult volunteers donated 24 hours, and two teen volunteers donated 10 hours.