

Columbia Heights Public Library

Library Board Report – October 2024

BUILDING

- Central Roofing completed recommended repairs.

TECHNOLOGY

COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the June and July issues of *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews* and *School Library Journal*. Recent adult nonfiction in the 600s, 800s, and 900s (health, parenting, gardening, cooking; literature; and biographies and histories) as well as adult and youth DVDs were ordered. Easy non-fiction on construction and vehicles, missing titles in series, “I Spy...” and “Splatton” books were purchased.
- Weeding was completed in adult fiction L-Z, romance, and western.
- Adult displays celebrated book month, cat month, painting and drawing techniques, and Hispanic Heritage month.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	INTENDED AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
Daycare Storytime	10/2	Children (0-5)	11
English Language Conversation Circle	10/2	Adult	6
EL Conversation Circle	10/3	Adult	2
Storytime	10/7	Children (0-5)	35
EL Conversation Circle	10/7	Adult	7
Walk & Talk Book Club	10/8	Adult	
Social Media: Finding Authenticity	10/8	Adult	2
EL Conversation Circle	10/9	Adult	8
ICS 1 st Grade Field Trip	10/10	Children (6-11)	14
Saturday Scribes: Alison McGhee	10/12	Adult	12
Storytime	10/14	Children (0-5)	47
EL Conversation Circle	10/14	Adult	5
Tinker Time: Leaf Suncatchers	10/15	Children (6-11)	43
Book Club: “Heaven and Earth Grocery Store”	10/16	Adult	12
Mystery Book Club: “Once There Were Wolves”	10/16	Adult	4
EL Conversation Circle	10/16	Adult	4
Mayor’s Monarch Pledge: Seed Paper and Citizen Science	10/17	Adult	8
EL Conversation Circle	10/17	Adult	6
Storytime	10/21	Children (0-5)	56
EL Conversation Circle	10/21	Adult	5
ICS 2 nd Grade Field Trip	10/22	Children (6-11)	23
DIY Teen: Candy Shaker Charm Keychain	10/22	Young Adult	9
North Park ELL Family Night at the Library	10/23	All Ages	106
EL Conversation Circle	10/23	Adult	4
EL Conversation Circle	10/24	Adult	3
Somali Kebed Weaving	10/26	Children (6-11)	29
Storytime	10/28	Children (0-5)	49
EL Conversation Circle	10/28	Adult	5
EL Conversation Circle	10/30	Adult	2
EL Conversation Circle	10/31	Adult	3
Tiny Art		Self-Directed	60

STAFF

- Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian
 - Met with the Friends of the Library.
 - Led a “Seed Paper and Citizen Science” program with Mayor Marquez Simula sharing National Wildlife Federation Mayor’s Monarch Pledge initiatives in Columbia Heights.
 - Met with the MELSA Jobs and Small Business team.
 - Met with the Columbia Heights Senior Consortium.
 - Met with the MELSA Adult Programming team.

- Attended the 55+ Hiring Event sponsored by Anoka County Career Force.
- Met with the Director for a yearly Performance Evaluation.
- Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian,
 - Hosted Sahra from Child and Teen Check Ups at a storytime.
 - Assisted kids and grownups paint leaf suncatchers at Tinker Time.
 - Contracted the Somali Museum of Minnesota to teach a Kebed Weaving class with grandmothers sharing a traditional weaving technique.
 - Taught a DIY Teen class on candy shaker charms.
 - Hosted the first Immaculate Conception field trips of the 2024-2025 school year. First and second-grade classes visited for a brief tour with time to independently explore the collection. Staff assisted students in finding books that piqued their interest. Nearly all first graders arrived with library cards ready to check out books on the self-check kiosks. While many second-graders did not yet have library cards, several students and families visited the library after the field trip to obtain cards and prepare for future visits.
 - North Park School for Innovation sponsored an English Language Family Night at the library again this year. Dinner was provided, books and gift cards were raffled off, Eliza gave a brief overview of library cards and library services, and families had time to explore the library. Unfortunately, parking constraints led to a delayed start and logistical challenges. Eliza created a form in English and Spanish to help with library card applications, but there was still difficulty communicating how MELSA applications differ from those for residents of Columbia Heights. After the event, two families came to the library the following Saturday to check out books with their new cards and to use computers.
 - Attended Columbia Academy EL Family Night at McKenna Park to make buttons with families and pass out information about the library.
 - Attend Prodeo Academy’s Family Night to greet families as they made their way to sample lessons by Prodeo teachers. Many families took library info cards, but some said they lived in Hennepin County or already had cards in different library systems.
 - Attended the Minnesota Library Association conference on October 24 including keynote addresses from Mychal Threets and Cindy Hohl, ALA president. Outstanding breakout sessions included “Games in Libraries”, “Custom AI Chatbots”, and “Extroverting Like a Professional” sessions.
- Renee Dougherty, Library Director,
 - Participated in the ACL public service team and city division head meetings.
 - Met Will Rottler and Winnie Coyne numerous times about the new library website. The new site launched November 1.
 - Met with the adult book club for discussion of “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store.”



- Attended the Columbia Heights Public Schools Communication Advisory Council meeting.
- Met with Library Supervisor Al Mamaril and Adult Services Librarian Elizabeth Ripley for their annual performance reviews.
- Attended a lunch in honor of Fire Chief Charlie Thompson with city division heads and a formal reception upon his retirement.
- Attended a pinning ceremony for new Fire Chief Dan O'Brien.
- Presented the proposed 2025 Library budget to the City Council at a work session on 10/7.
- Extended conditional offers of employment to Naatii Ahmed and Gordon Silva who began training as Pages on 10/21.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Law Librarian held office hours on the fourth Thursday.
- Eight adult volunteers donated 32 hours.