

Columbia Heights Public Library

Library Board Report – April 2026

BUILDING

An electrician changed drivers on malfunctioning LED ceiling lights.

TECHNOLOGY

COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the November or December issues of *Kirkus Reviews* and *School Library Journal*. Youth requests and replacements included Pokémon handbooks; books about Godzilla and other monsters; and new volumes of *Last Comics on Earth*, *Amina Banana*, *Hikaru in the Light*, and *Sophie Mouse*.
- Weeding was finished in adult nonfiction 500 – 700.
- Adult displays featured 2026 National Library Week: Find your Library Joy. Endcap displays included Arab American heritage, gardens/gardening, autism awareness, and space/rockets/astronauts. Youth displays featured Arab American heritage, poetry, Filipino food, Scottish American heritage, and mathematics awareness.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
English Language Conversation Circle	4/1	Adult	8
Textiles for Teens: Pattern Design Studio	4/2	Teen (12-18)	5
Celebrate Spring and the Year of the Horse	4/4		57
EL Conversation Circle	4/4	Adult	6
Family Storytime	4/6	Children (0-5)	35
EL Conversation Circle	4/6	Adult	5
Tinker Time: Cactus Model Magic	4/7	Children (6-11)	45
EL Conversation Circle	4/8	Adult	4
Cooking with Words with the Loft	4/8	Adult	8
Daycare Storytime	4/10	Children (0-5)	14
EL Conversation Circle	4/11	Adult	4
Family Storytime	4/13	Children (0-5)	36
EL Conversation Circle	4/13	Adult	4
Library Book Club: <i>Demon Copperhead</i>	4/15	Adult	8
EL Conversation Circle	4/15	Adult	6
Garden Seed & Info Swap	4/15	Adult	20
Dancing with Hands, Body & Spirit	4/16	Adult	5
Clay Dragons for Families	4/18	Children (6-11)	16
EL Conversation Circle	4/18	Adult	6
Family Storytime	4/20	Children (0-5)	46
EL Conversation Circle	4/20	Adult	6
Mystery Book Club: <i>Wrong Place, Wrong Time</i>	4/21	Adult	4
North Park Kindergarten classes (4)	4/22	(Children (6-11))	75
EL Conversation Circle	4/22	Adult	4
Preschool Yoga with Yogilli	4/23	Children (0-5)	16
EL Conversation Circle	4/25	Adult	6
EL Conversation Circle	4/27	Adult	47
Family Storytime	4/27	Children (0-5)	3
Brick Builders	4/28	Children (6-11)	26
EL Conversation Circle	4/29	Adult	5

STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Partnered with HeightsNext, school staff and community experts to host the second of two *Garden Seed and Information Swaps*. The program focused on seed swapping, information sharing, community building and had tables for native plants, flowers, and vegetables. The goal of the program series was to assist in food security initiatives given the high cost of food, ICE in Minnesota, and rising gas prices. It was wonderful to watch community members connect and share ideas and resources!
- Contracted Raneeramaswamy and her dance group for an informational, hands-on workshop, *Dancing with Hands, Body, and Mind*. Attendees learned the history of Bharatanatyam dance, viewed a performance by two dancers, and learned some of the dance and gestures.
- Met with Jeremy, the new owner of the Heights Theater, to discuss potential partnerships and programs.
- Met with the Columbia Heights Senior Consortium.
- Researched continuing viability of books on CD, seed libraries, and fall Legacy-funded program options.
- Provided Tech Assistance to two patrons.
- Made deliveries to two At-Home patrons.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

- Attended the Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis, April 1-3.
- Led discussion of *Demon Copperhead* for the Book Club.

Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Welcomed teens and parents to a *Pattern Design Studio* over Spring Break. They learned design techniques for carving a stamp for printing and stamped a tote bag and bandana. Teens kept the stamps so they could continue creating at home.
- The rescheduled Têt program, *Celebrate Spring and the Year of the Horse*, included storytelling with Phuoc Tran, a retired librarian and local author; creating flower headwear; listening to a T'rung, a traditional bamboo xylophone from Vietnam; and a grand finale of the Unicorn dance performed by lion dancers.
- Layl McDill led kids and families in creating intricately detailed dragons from polymer clay. Participants learned how to fold and layer clay to create millefiori, or thousand flower, canes which were then cut into slices.



- Three kindergarten classes from North Park School for Innovation visited as part of their Fire Station and Library field trip. Students listened to stories, learned about the library, took a tour, and completed a scavenger hunt.
- Elham with Yogilli presented 45 minutes of yoga and mindfulness to preschool kids and their grownups. The kids are always eager to try new yoga poses and excited to show off the ones they know.
- The LEGO Brick Builder challenge this month was to create mirror worlds on a building plate. A few of the mirror worlds were land vs sea, a house that was half burnt, and medieval vs futuristic.



MISCELLANEOUS

- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy assisted eight people on April 23.
- Nine adult volunteers donated 36.5 hours.
- Numerous incidents occurred with Elijah (drunkenness, sleeping, belligerence, refusing to leave at close, drinking alcohol in the library) resulted in his being trespassed from the library for one year on April 17. He returned the following day not remembering he had been trespassed.
- Staff completed mandatory city safety training
- The community service officer was contacted about abandoned personal property at the east entrance.

