

Columbia Heights Public Library

Library Board Report – October 2025

BUILDING

- The library experienced a power surge on 10/18 which damaged many lighting fixtures which required repair.
- The community room HVAC system was repaired.
- Excel Energy replaced two electricity meters.

TECHNOLOGY

- The automated materials handler received its annual preventative maintenance tune-up.

COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the May issues of *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *School Library Journal*. Adult titles on addiction, recovery, and suicide and juvenile requests and replacements were ordered.
- Weeding was completed in adult fiction M-R and adult audiobooks
- Adult displays highlighted Hispanic heritage, horror, books made into movies, art/writing/publishing instruction manuals, and Spanish-language titles. Juvenile displays celebrated Hispanic heritage and scary stories.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
English Language Conversation Circle	10/1	Adult	5
ELL Conversation Circle	10/4	Adult	9
Storytime	10/6	Children (0-5)	55
ELL Conversation Circle	10/6	Adult	6
Community Craft Night	10/6	Adult	6
Tinker Time: Clay Mushrooms	10/7	Children (6-11)	51
ELL Conversation Circle	10/8	Adult	8
North Park Elementary EL Family Night	10/8	All Ages	88
Evening Storytime	10/9	Children (0-5)	0
Teen Volunteer Afternoon <i>cancelled</i>	10/10	Children (12-18)	0
ELL Conversation Circle	10/11	Adult	7
Storytime	10/13	Children (0-5)	52
ELL Conversation Circle	10/13	Adult	6
DIY Teen: Tiny Art	10/14	Children (12-18)	8
Book Club: <i>The Wright Brothers</i>	10/15	Adult	9
ELL Conversation Circle	10/15	Adult	5
Static Electricity with the Bakken Museum	10/16	Children (6-11)	21
Daycare Storytime	10/17	Children (0-5)	
ELL Conversation Circle	10/18	Adult	7
Storytime	10/20	Children (0-5)	32
ELL Conversation Circle	10/20	Adult	5
Mystery Book Club	10/21	Adult	5
EL Conversation Circle	10/22	Adult	7
Be Your Own Publish with the Loft Literary Center	10/22	Adult	8
Preschool Yoga with Yogilli	10/25	Children (0-5)	8
EL Conversation Circle	10/25	Adult	7
Storytime	10/27	Children (0-5)	42
EL Conversation Circles	10/27	Adult	6
EL Conversation Circle	10/29	Adult	5
Tiny Art Show		All Ages	30

STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Curated an exhibit of tiny art featuring 30 works of painting, quilting, embroidery, needle felting, sketching, and crochet.
- Planned a series of monthly community craft nights which will continue in the new year.
- Facilitated discussion of *The Tainted Cup* by Robert Jackson Bennett for the mystery book club.
- Attended meetings of the Friends of the Library and the Columbia Heights Senior Consortium.
- Made three deliveries to At-Home patrons.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

- Presented the proposed 2026 library budget at a City Council work session.
- Attended the Minnesota Library Association annual conference in St. Cloud.
- Facilitated the book club discussion of "The Wright Brothers" by David McCullough.
- Conducted annual performance reviews for Al Mamaril and Elizabeth Ripley.
- Attended meetings of city division heads and library staff.

Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Instructed kids and adults in sculpting mushrooms from air-dry clay at Tinker Time.
- Hosted an educator from the Bakken Museum for a program during MEA break. Participants conducted a variety of static electricity demonstrations and experiments; they were eager to share their knowledge and make predictions about how electricity would conduct through various materials.
- Hosted a DIY Teen: Tiny Art Night; two participants submitted creations for exhibition.
- Welcomed North Park School for Innovation teachers, students and parents for an EL Family Night. This was the first family night since the parking lot expansion, and everyone appreciated how much easier it was to arrive on time and find parking. Teachers greeted families with games as they arrived. During the pizza dinner, families heard presentations on EL family services, a University of Minnesota study, and library resources. Afterwards, families had the opportunity to sign up for library cards. The city's Community Connector, Angela, provided wonderful support in connecting with Spanish-speaking families
- Attended Highland Elementary EL Family Night. Teachers noted that more than 300 people had RSVP'd for the event, and the lunchroom was filled with kids and families enjoying pizza, playing BINGO, and learning about EL services. Eliza hosted a table in the lobby to share library information and event flyers while helping kids make buttons.

Three new Library Pages, Rene Arcentales Calderon, Sumaya Mohamed, and Muna Yusuf, began training on October 6.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy held office hours on October 23.
- Six adult volunteers donated 23.75 hours. A new teen volunteer began.

