

Program #80026 - Library Events and Reader Services
FY 2026 Proposed
Department: Library

Program Contact: Alison Hallett

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Program Description

Library Events and Reader Services (LERS) provides access to high-quality arts, culture and learning opportunities for Multnomah County residents of all ages and provides resources that support advocacy for readers. These offerings connect communities and provide opportunities for cultural enrichment and lifelong learning.

ISSUE: Patrons want to learn, connect and see their community reflected in informative, enriching events, but access to arts, culture and learning is inequitably distributed across Multnomah County.

PROGRAM GOAL: The goal of LERS is to connect those who face barriers with high-quality arts, culture and learning opportunities. We minimize disparities by offering free, culturally relevant programs. We work closely with the Community Engagement team and with community partners to produce events that center the needs of communities of color and culture.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: The LERS team develops and delivers public events and resources that support advocacy for readers. We collaborate with the We Speak Your Language, Indigenous Community Services and Black Cultural Library Advocates teams to create culturally responsive events that are driven by the needs of the communities we serve. The Learning Team works with community partners and culturally specific staff teams to develop literacy, technology and STEAM programs for teens and adults. The Read 4 Life program encourages adults to develop regular reading habits.

RACIAL EQUITY ADVANCEMENT: The LERS program serves the public by delivering events, classes and performances that reflect the library's priority of leading with race, focusing on resources for historically underserved and marginalized communities. We Speak Your Language, Indigenous Community Services, and Black Cultural Library Advocates teams are critical partners to produce systemwide cultural events and ensure that programming is informed by and responsive to the needs of our served communities.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of attendees at Creative Learning events	2,215	N/A	2,800	3,500
Outcome	% of attendees at Library events who rate them as good or excellent	N/A	85%	98%	90%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Attendees at Creative Learning events is a new measure in FY 2026. In FY24, Creative Learning took place exclusively at Rockwood Makerspace; as additional library locations are built in FY25 and FY26, more Creative Learning locations will be added to this count. The Summer Reading output was removed due to organizational restructuring; this output is now a function of the Youth Development team.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The budget reflects the passage of Measure 26-143: "Form Library District with permanent rate to fund library services," November 2012 General Election. The district summary states in pertinent part: "If approved, the Multnomah County Library District would be formed with a permanent rate dedicated to library services, operations, books, materials, programs, activities and oversight of the district. Formation of a District would...prevent reductions in services, programs and activities, and hours."

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$0	\$2,452,054	\$0	\$2,414,868
Contractual Services	\$0	\$339,475	\$0	\$327,425
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$279,599	\$0	\$132,229
Internal Services	\$0	\$89,050	\$0	\$120,368
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$3,160,178	\$0	\$2,994,890
Program Total:	\$3,160,178		\$2,994,890	
Program FTE	0.00	15.50	0.00	14.50

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$101,191 in indirect revenues.

The revenue allocated to this program offer reflects an intergovernmental service reimbursement from the Library District (99.97%) and resources from the County's Library Fund (0.03%). It represents a prorated share of property taxes (98%), other revenues such as interest earnings, grants, and user charges for services provided to library patrons (2%).

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

The primary changes are the introduction of the Learning Team, which focuses on creative learning and adult and technological literacy, and the removal of the Summer Reading Program, which moved to the Youth Development team. These shifts are part of the overall realignment of staff to meet changing operational needs as a result of the 2020 bond program.