BOZEMAN MT

THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BOZEMAN, MONTANA

LBT AGENDA

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

A. Call meeting to order - 4:00 p.m.

Bozeman Public Library is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting: Topic: Library Board of Trustees Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86065639677 Meeting ID: 860 6563 9677

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,86065639677# US (San Jose) +16694449171,,86065639677# US

Join instructions https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/86065639677/invitations?signature=bTDlTWG5PlxPBQMsDvp2aIlGuo39BaltIF7KUCyn2h4

B. Changes to the Agenda

C. Public Comments on Non-agenda Items Falling within the Purview and Jurisdiction of the Board
Please state your name and place of residence in an audible tone of voice for the record. This is the time for individuals to comment on non-agenda matters falling within the purview of the Committee. There will also be an opportunity in conjunction with each action item for comments pertaining to that item. Please state your name, and state whether you are a resident of the city or a property owner within the city in an audible tone of voice for the record and limit your comments to three minutes. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

D. Approval of Minutes

D.1 Approval of October 21, 2026 board minutes (Gregory)
Approve

E. Action Items

E.1 Collection Development with added Policy Artificial Intelligence (AI) clause (Clark)

E.2 MSL Cooperative Services Agreement (Gregory)

E.3 Naming Donor Recognition for Children's Room- Jane Quinn Memorial (Johnson)

F. FYI/Discussion

G. Reports

G.1 Director & Staff Reports / Correspondence (Gregory/Department Heads)

G.2 Friends & Foundation Report (Johnson)

G.3 Commission Liaison Update (Madgic)

H. Adjournment

For more information please contact Susan Gregory, sgregory@bozeman.net
This board generally meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Committee meetings are open to all members of the public. If you have a disability and require assistance, please contact our ADA Coordinator, David Arnado, at 406.582.3232.

*In order for this Board to receive all relevant public comment in time for this meeting, please submit via the **Public Comment Page** or by emailing **comments@bozeman.net** no later than 12:00 PM on the day of the meeting. Public comment may be made in person at the meeting as well.*

BOZEMAN MT

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Bozeman Public Library

SUBJECT: Approval of October 21, 2026 board minutes

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Minutes

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.1 Outreach: Continue to strengthen and innovate in how we deliver information to the community and our partners.

BACKGROUND: Written record of key details discussed during the meeting, which includes actions taken and next steps. Minutes are the formal document that captures the date, time, attendees, agenda items, and any motions and actions taken.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None

ALTERNATIVES: N/A

FISCAL EFFECTS: None

Attachments:
BPL Minutes, October 2026.pdf

Report compiled on: August 19, 2026

Bozeman Public Library

Board of Trustees Meeting

October 21, 2026

4 pm in the Library Board Room

Minutes

Attendance Library Board Chair Mike Redburn, Vice Chair Stewart Mohr, Trustees Mike Long, Emmy Chuck & Amara Reese-Hansell; Bozeman Public Library (BPL) Director Susan Gregory; Assistant Director Becky Kasten; Administrative Assistant Lauranna Cossins; Department Heads Carmen Clark, Ellie Newell, and Ben Nielsen; Library Friends & Foundation Director Janay Johnson; Bozeman City Commissioner Jennifer Madgic

Call to Order Meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chair Mohr at 4 pm.

Approval of the Minutes

> **Action** Trustee Long moved to approve Sept 16, 2026, Library Board of Trustee minutes. Vice-Chair Mohr seconded. All voted in favor as presented.

Discussion

Children's Department renovation update

Youth Services Director Newell provided an update on the Children's Department renovation, noting that the “Big Checkout” was underway and that programs were paused while the staff moved books and toys into the Community Room, which is being used as the temporary department location. The “See you later, alligator!” party to say goodbye to the old department will be this Friday. Newell also reported that the current Children's room would close to the public around Halloween. Children’s services will operate out of the Community Room with a smaller collection until the anticipated completion on February 15, 2027.

Collection Development Policy Artificial Intelligence (AI) clause

Collection Management Head Clark introduced a proposed addition to the Collection Development policy regarding AI-generated materials, which the Board discussed in detail. One concern was noted about stringency and the importance of

human review. Action regarding the addition of the AI paragraph will be added to the November Board meeting agenda.

MSL Cooperative Services Agreement- Director Gregory outlined the Montana State Library Cooperative Services agreement that we received this month. It will need Board approval and a signature by the Board Chair.

The Board reviewed and discussed the new MSL Cooperative Services Agreement that Sean Anderson from the State Library sent to Montana's large libraries. Gregory explained that it formalizes existing library sharing practices including the Montana Shared Catalog, OCLC services, and Montana Library to Go eBook program. The Board agreed to have it reviewed by City Attorney Greg Sullivan before taking any action. It will be voted on after this review at the November Board meeting.

Reports

Director's Report - Director Gregory provided her report to the Library Board prior to the meeting. Highlights were reviewed.

Susan reported on an increased Library security presence from the Bozeman Police Security Support Officers. They are planning to cover Tuesdays through Thursdays and weekends. She highlighted a successful visit from the Ukrainian delegation from Kopychynytski, Ukraine to Bozeman. City Economic Director Brit Fontenot arranged their week-long visit and brought them to the Library for a tour.

Department Heads' Highlights – Department reports were provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

Collection Management: Clark shared that our streaming service Hoopla is extremely popular and that audiobooks are requested more than any other category.

Adult Programming & Outreach – Nielsen said that Librarian I Emily departed the Library for a new opportunity, so there is a vacancy in the department that he will begin working to fill with HR. This position includes oversight of the Kitchen Table and cooking programs.

Youth Services – Newell said that it was a very successful summer and that program attendance was high. The Library's Summer Learning program served 5,600 free meals to people under 18 in partnership with the Foundation.

City Commission Library Liaison – Commissioner Madgic reported that the City Commission had a work session on ballot measures for the coming years.

Friends & Foundation Report- Director Johnson said that this year's GALA was a huge success. She thanked everyone who attended and volunteered. The evening earned just under $200,000, making it the most successful fundraising event for the Library to date. The first community engagement event was hosted regarding concept design for a west side branch.

No further business. The meeting was adjourned by Board Chair Redburn at 5:04 pm.

BOZEMAN MT

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Carmen Clark, Collection Management Department Head

SUBJECT: Collection Development with added Policy Artificial Intelligence (AI) clause

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Policy Discussion

RECOMMENDATION: Approve addendum statement to policy

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.1 Outreach: Continue to strengthen and innovate in how we deliver information to the community and our partners.

BACKGROUND: The Library acquires and makes available materials that inform, educate, entertain, and enrich people as individuals and as members of society. The Library provides, within its budgetary and spatial limitations, a general collection embracing broad areas of knowledge and featuring materials and resources that represent a diversity of voices and interests. Library collections support a wide audience, including the needs of children, teens, seniors, and readers of languages other than English. The goal of providing and maintaining a diverse and equitable collection will be considered during all aspects of collection management. Information may also be obtained through remote databases. License agreements enable the Library to provide a variety of downloadable and streaming digital resources to Library cardholders. Allocation of the materials budget and the number of items purchased for each area of the collection will be determined by indicators of use, cost, and community needs. New formats are evaluated for inclusion based on the availability of technology and suitability for loaning. The Library attempts to collect materials on a wide range of subjects but may be unable to meet every need. Through interlibrary loan and consortia agreements, Library cardholders may request items from other public, academic, and special libraries throughout North America.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None

ALTERNATIVES: Review and update

FISCAL EFFECTS: N/A

Attachments:
Collection Management Policy with AI paragraph

Report compiled on: October 14, 2026

Collection Management Policy

PURPOSE

The Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees ("the Board") has adopted the following Collection Management Policy to guide staff and inform the public about the principles underlying the Library's collection management decisions. This includes selection and retention of physical collections as well as digital products available for purchase and licensing.

Mission: The Bozeman Public Library ("Library") creates opportunities that inspire curiosity, exploration, and connection.

Vision: The Library is the community cultural center that connects all Bozeman citizens to their neighbors and the world.

The Library supports the principles of intellectual freedom and the individual's right to have access to ideas, information, and perspectives representing multiple points of view. The Board has also adopted the following statements from the American Library Association, which are attached and constitute a formal part of this policy:

- LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS
- THE FREEDOM TO READ
- THE FREEDOM TO VIEW
- DIVERSE COLLECTIONS–AN INTERPRETATION OF THE LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

I. OBJECTIVES

The Library acquires and makes available materials that inform, educate, entertain, and enrich people as individuals and as members of society. The Library provides, within its budgetary and spatial limitations, a general collection embracing broad areas of knowledge and featuring materials and resources that represent a diversity of voices and interests. Library collections support a wide audience, including the needs of children, teens, seniors, and readers of languages other than English. The goal of providing and maintaining a diverse and equitable collection will be considered during all aspects of collection management.

Information may also be obtained through remote databases. License agreements enable the Library to provide a variety of downloadable and streaming digital resources to Library cardholders.

Allocation of the materials budget and the number of items purchased for each area of the collection will be determined by indicators of use, cost, and community needs. New formats are evaluated for inclusion based on the availability of technology and suitability for loaning. The Library attempts to collect materials on a wide range of

subjects but may be unable to meet every need. Through interlibrary loan and consortia agreements, Library cardholders may request items from other public, academic, and special libraries throughout North America.

II. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION

The ultimate responsibility for selecting Library materials rests with the Director, who operates within the framework of policies established by the Board. The Director delegates selection responsibilities to staff, who have the authority to interpret and apply selection policy.

Staff in the centralized Collection Management department provide continuity in collections through an organized structure for budgeting, selecting, acquiring, and managing Library materials.

III. METHODS FOR SELECTION

Staff select and evaluate materials using a variety of criteria. All criteria need not be met for acquisition and can vary based on individual titles, formats, languages, and audience. The criteria include:

- Community demand and relevance
- Cost and space constraints
- Timeliness of topic and attention by critics, reviewers, and media
- Diversity of viewpoints and representation of traditionally marginalized groups
- Authority, accuracy, and accessibility of content
- Social, cultural, and historical significance
- Format options and durability
- Ownership and demand at nearby public libraries
- Availability from reliable library vendors and distributors

Materials that are self-published, from independent small, and local producers are considered using the above criteria. Please see the Submission Guidelines for Self-Published or Unsolicited Items for more information.

Tools used in selection include professional and book trade journals, media reviews, publisher promotional materials, bestseller lists, and online resources. Multiple copies of a title may be purchased based on anticipated or demonstrated demand, or to meet programming needs. Purchase suggestions from patrons for newly released items are welcomed and considered using the same selection criteria detailed above. Purchase suggestions are limited to three titles per month per patron. If an item suggested by a Library cardholder is not purchased, we will attempt to obtain the item through interlibrary loan whenever possible. Please note that just because a suggestion has been made does not mean the Library will purchase the title.

Materials are selected to meet the objectives of public library service and, with the exception of materials related to Bozeman history, are not archival in nature. Textbooks and scholarly materials of a highly specialized, academic, or technical nature are typically excluded from the collection.

Databases and downloadable and streaming media play an important role in the library's

collection. In addition to standard criteria used in selecting other formats, special criteria for electronic formats include ease of use, technology requirements, and availability of remote access.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Generated Materials

The library is committed to maintaining a collection curated by the library staff that reflects human creativity, knowledge, and expertise. As such, the library does not purchase, acquire, or accept donations of books that are primarily generated, authored, illustrated, narrated, or written by artificial intelligence (AI). This policy ensures that our collection upholds quality, authenticity, and intellectual integrity for our community.

Due to the lack of publishing standards regarding the disclosure of artificially created materials, AI content may inadvertently be added to the collection. For example, the library subscribes to digital materials, electronic books and audiobooks, streaming videos, etc. that are not staff curated. The library cannot review each item in these collections for AI generated content.

IV. COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

In order to maintain an up-to-date and useful collection, any worn, damaged, outdated, and/or obsolete materials are continuously withdrawn. Materials may also be withdrawn if they are little used, are duplicate copies, or have been superseded by a new edition or updated work on the same subject. Materials in poor condition may be replaced using the same criteria as that for original selection. When possible, withdrawn materials in good condition are given to the Friends of the Bozeman Public Library, donated to community partners, or passed along to charitable organizations. Materials in poor condition and/or those not accepted by partners may be recycled or discarded.

V. GIFTS AND DONATIONS

The Library accepts donations of new and gently used library materials. The Library reserves the right to accept, discard, at its discretion, any donated library materials. Most donated materials will be given to the Friends of the Library to be sold at book sales. Proceeds from the book sales are used to enhance Library services.

Monetary donations for the purchase of memorials or honorariums should be given to the Library Foundation or the Friends of the Bozeman Public Library.

VI. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Given the diverse nature of the collection, not all materials are suitable for all patrons, and responsibility for children's or teens' choice and use of resources rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection for the adult collection is not restricted by the possibility that children or teens may access resources their parents or legal guardians may consider inappropriate. The Library believes in the freedom of the individual, and the right and obligation of parents or legal

guardians to guide, develop, interpret, and maintain their own values in their family.

VII. RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

An obligation of a public library is to reflect within its collection differing points of view on controversial or debatable subjects. Public libraries own materials that some patrons may find objectionable and also may not carry materials that others find important. The selection or display of an item does not express or imply endorsement of the viewpoints expressed. Materials are judged on the basis of the content and style of the work as a whole, not by selected portions or passages.

The Library encourages interest in its collections and patrons have the opportunity to discuss selection decisions with staff through multiple channels, including paper comment forms and conversations with staff. Library card holders and residents of Gallatin County who request the reconsideration of library materials may be asked to put their request in writing by completing and signing the form appended to this policy, entitled "Request for Reconsideration of Library Material." Upon receipt of this formal written request, the Director will appoint a committee of professional Library staff to review the request, the material, and any related information.

The committee will make a written recommendation to the Director, who will then make a decision regarding the reconsideration request. The Director will inform the Board of all formal requests for reconsideration of Library materials. The Director will communicate this decision, and the reasons for it, in writing, to the person who initiated the request for reconsideration and to the Board within 30 days.

If the person who initiated the request is not satisfied with the decision of the Director, they may appeal for a hearing before the Board within 60 days of receiving the Director's letter. The individual must make a written request to the Chair of the Board. The individual will be notified when they may address the Board. The Board reserves the right to limit the length of presentation and number of speakers at the hearing. The Board will determine whether the request for reconsideration has been handled in accordance with stated policies and procedures of the Library. The Board may vote to uphold or override the decision of the Director.

Due to the length of time needed to assess formal requests for reevaluation, reconsideration requests are limited to three title requests per individual within a twelve-month period. Challenged item(s) will not be sequestered or removed while undergoing formal reconsideration. Anonymous written complaints will not be considered formal requests for reevaluation and will not be acknowledged. A formal request for reconsideration submitted by a group will not be considered. Each request must be done by an individual.

Any decision on a title, whether after the initial reconsideration process or appeal, will stand for a three-year period from the date of the library's initial receipt of the reconsideration request form. Reconsideration requests will be accepted from Bozeman Public Library card holders and residents of Gallatin County.

BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIAL

TITLE:_____

AUTHOR/PRODUCER:_____

FORMAT:_____

PUBLISHER:_____

PUBLICATION DATE:_____

REQUEST INITIATED BY:_____

ADDRESS:_____ CITY:_____

ZIP CODE:_____ PHONE:_____

EMAIL:_____

IS THIS REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF:

☐ YOURSELF

☐ ORGANIZATION

NAME OF ORGANIZATION:_____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY A RESIDENT IN GALLATIN COUNTY?_____

WHAT BROUGHT THIS RESOURCE TO YOUR ATTENTION?_____

_____

_____

HAVE YOU READ/EXAMINED THE ENTIRE RESOURCE?_____

IF NOT, WHAT ELEMENTS DID YOU REVIEW?_____

_____

WHAT CONCERNS YOU ABOUT THE RESOURCE? (PLEASE BE SPECIFIC, E.G., CITE PAGES.)

_____

_____

HAVE YOU READ THE BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION MANAGEMENT POLICY?_____

ARE THERE RESOURCE(S) YOU SUGGEST TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND/OR OTHER VIEWPOINTS ON THIS TOPIC (IF APPLICABLE)?

_____

_____

By signing this form I understand that I am making a formal complaint to the Bozeman Public Library about an item available for checkout. I acknowledge that this document will become a public record as soon as it is received by Library staff.

DATE:_____ SIGNATURE OF PATRON:_____

DATE:_____ RECEIVED BY STAFF MEMBER:_____

Adopted by the Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees (09-20-2023)

Revised 11/18/26

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948.
Amended February 2, 1961, June 27, 1967, and January 23, 1980 by the ALA Council; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 24, 1996.

Adopted by the Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees (09-20-2023)

THE FREEDOM TO READ

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and

librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

   Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

   Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

   No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

   The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*

   It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

   The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

Adopted by the Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees (09-20-2023)

FREEDOM TO VIEW

The FREEDOM TO VIEW, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest possible access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.

2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.

3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.

4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video and other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.

5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

This statement was originally drafted by the Freedom to View Committee of the American Film and Video Association (formerly the Educational Film Library Association) and was adopted by the AFVA Board of Directors in February 1979. This statement was updated and approved by the AFVA Board of Directors in 1989.

Adopted by the Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees (09-20-2023)

Diverse Collections: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

Collection development should reflect the philosophy inherent in Article I of the *Library Bill of Rights*: “Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.” A diverse collection should contain content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences.

Library workers have an obligation to select, maintain, and support access to content on subjects by diverse authors and creators that meets—as closely as possible—the needs, interests, and abilities of all the people the library serves. This means acquiring materials to address popular demand and direct community input, as well as addressing collection gaps and unexpressed information needs. Library workers have a professional and ethical responsibility to be proactively inclusive in collection development and in the provision of interlibrary loan where offered.

A well-balanced collection does not require a one-to-one equivalence for each viewpoint but should strive for equity in content and ideas that takes both structural inequalities and the availability of timely, accurate materials into account. A diverse collection should contain a variety of works chosen pursuant to the library’s selection policy and subject to periodic review.

Collection development, as well as cataloging and classification, should be done according to professional standards and established procedures. Developing a diverse collection requires:

- selecting content in multiple formats;
- considering resources from self-published, independent, small, and local producers;
- seeking content created by and representative of marginalized and underrepresented groups;
- evaluating how diverse collection resources are cataloged, labeled, and displayed;
- including content in all of the languages used in the community that the library serves, when possible; and
- providing resources in formats that meet the needs of users with disabilities.[1]

Best practices in collection development assert that materials should not be excluded from a collection solely because the content or its creator may be considered offensive or controversial. Refusing to select resources due to potential controversy is considered censorship, as is withdrawing resources for that reason. Libraries have a responsibility to defend against challenges that limit a collection’s diversity of content. Challenges commonly cite content viewed as inappropriate, offensive, or controversial, which may include but is not limited to prejudicial language and ideas, political content, economic theory, social philosophies, religious beliefs, scientific research, sexual content, and representation of diverse sexual orientations, expressions, and gender identities.

Intellectual freedom, the essence of equitable library services, provides for free access to varying

expressions of ideas through which a question, cause, or movement may be explored. Library workers have a professional and ethical responsibility to be fair and just in defending the library user's right to read, view,

or listen to content protected by the First Amendment, regardless of the creator's viewpoint or personal history. Library workers must not permit their personal biases, opinions, or preferences to unduly influence collection development decisions.[2]

[1] "Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/servicespeopledisabilities)," adopted January 28, 2009, by the ALA Council under the title "Services to Persons with Disabilities"; amended June 26, 2018.

[2]*ALA Code of Ethics*, Article VII, adopted at the 1939 Midwinter Meeting by the ALA Council; amended June 30, 1981; June 28, 1995; and January 22, 2008.

Adopted July 14, 1982, by the ALA Council; amended January 10, 1990; July 2, 2008; July 1, 2014 *under previous name* "Diversity in Collection Development"; and June 24, 2019.

Adopted by the Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees (09-20-2023)

BOZEMAN MT

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Director Bozeman Public Library

SUBJECT: MSL Cooperative Services Agreement

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Agreement - Legal

RECOMMENDATION: Approve cooperative agreement

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.4 Business and Institutional Partnerships: Explore opportunities for partnerships with key business groups and non-profit organizations.

BACKGROUND:

The MSL Cooperative Services Agreement is a formal, legally binding intergovernmental agreement between the Montana State Library (MSL) and your Library. It establishes the foundational framework for your library's participation in one or more MSL-administered cooperative services - such as the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC), Courier Services, OCLC Group Services, Resource Sharing Groups, and MontanaLibrary2Go.

MSL is authorized under Montana law (MCA 22-1-103, 22-1-328, and 22-1-329) to establish and administer these statewide resource-sharing programs on behalf of Montana libraries.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES:

The Agreement uses an **Umbrella Agreement-plus-addenda structure**:

- **The Umbrella Agreement** (what you're signing) sets the shared rules that apply to all services: confidentiality; data security; governance; indemnification; term; and how disputes are handled.
- **The individual addenda** (Addendum A, B, C, etc.) are attached for each specific service your library opts into. Each addendum covers service-specific terms, costs, and participation requirements.

ALTERNATIVES:

Signing the umbrella Agreement does not automatically enroll your library in any service. Each service requires its own signed addendum. You choose

which services to participate in.

FISCAL EFFECTS: None

Report compiled on: October 15, 2026

BOZEMAN MT

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Friends and Foundation Director

SUBJECT: Naming Donor Recognition for Children's Room- Jane Quinn Memorial

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Policy Discussion

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

STRATEGIC PLAN: 3.3 Friendly Community: Ensure Bozeman continues to welcome diversity through policies and public awareness.

BACKGROUND: The Bozeman Public Library Board of Trustees shall have sole responsibility for authorizing the naming or renaming of Library facilities and/or subunits of facilities. The Library Board of Trustees authorizes the Library Foundation and Library staff to carry out such a program for recognition of Library supporters, as approved by the Board, with the clear understanding that the standards and guidelines of the program will be always administered unitarily and equally. All solicitations for naming opportunities must be coordinated through the Library Friends and Foundation.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None

ALTERNATIVES: None

FISCAL EFFECTS: N/A

Report compiled on: September 9, 2026

BOZEMAN MT

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Bozeman Public Library

SUBJECT: Director & Staff Reports / Correspondence

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Plan/Report/Study

RECOMMENDATION: Updates & Review

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.1 Outreach: Continue to strengthen and innovate in how we deliver information to the community and our partners.

BACKGROUND: Departmental news & monthly highlights

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: N/A

ALTERNATIVES: N/A

FISCAL EFFECTS: N/A

Attachments:
Adult Programming & Outreach
Collection Management
Mobile Services
Public Services
Youth Services

Report compiled on: September 9, 2026

APO Department Report

Oct-Nov 2026

Program Highlights

Many of our programs have seen space adjustments due to the beginning of the Children's Room Renovation, but we continue to make them happen:

- Figure drawing continues to be a popular now program with full registrations each month. (Liz)
- We once again partnered with the League of Women Voters on candidate forums to help inform voters on local races before the elections. We are grateful to the public safety center for lending us their community room for these events. (Ben)
- In partnership with Eden Health we held a remembrance gathering this past week in the Montana Room to honor the memory of loved ones.



Notes left on the remembrance wall during the remembrance gathering

Outreach Highlights

Outreach slows down in the fall from the pace of summer, but we still had few exciting opportunities:

- Leslie and Kate A. were invited to the senior center to do library card sign ups.
- Ben and David were at downtown trick-or-treating on main street to hand out candy to thousands of kids. Main Street Quilting graciously partnered with us to use their location. We saw some amazing costumes and heard lots of appreciation and excitement for the Library.
- Ben has once again been able to work with MSU School of Architecture students on their assignment to design a library branch.



David and Ben ready to hand out candy and pencils to hoards of trick-or-treaters

Other Updates

- We have collected the final numbers on the all ages Summer Learning Program. This was the first year to hold a program like this and we are excited by the initial response.
  - 813 people participated in the program by making summer log books, including over 200 adults.
  - More than 300 patches were earned, including 46 of the grand Summer Superstar patches.
- We are currently in the process of hiring a Kitchen Table Librarian to replace Emily who left last month. We have received a good amount of interest in the position and will be conducting interviews with the HR department next week.
- A new 3D printer has arrived. The original 3D printer has printed for over 9000 hours in over 3 years of operation and is starting to wear out. David is currently working on learning the new printer and adjusting our training materials to prepare for a launch early next year.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT REPORT NOVEMBER 2026



prepared by:
Carmen Clark (Department Head Collection Management)

Kanopy Statistics FY 26

- 67,203 visits
- 87,932 pages
- 16,647 plays
- 577.2k minutes
- 1.31 pages/visit

Kanopy Statistics
July 1, 2026-October 31st, 2026

- 23,624 visits
- 31,870 pages
- 6,575 plays
- 234.0k minutes
- 1.35 pages/visit

Current popular titles:
Outrageous , Bordertown: S1,
Doctor Who: S1, Doctor Who: S4, Doctor Who: S2, Doctor Who: S6, Doctor Who: S3, SamSam: S1, Pride and Prejudice, Waking the Dead: S6

Mobile Services Report

October 2026 Summary

Stop data:

Total Stops: 53

Total Service Hours: 47.25

Total Patrons: 759

Programming Data*:

Total Programs: 35

31 Outreach Storytimes: 520 Birth-5, 100 Adults

Total Program Attendees: 520 Birth-5, 0 Elementary Age Children, 0 Teens, 100 Adults. Total: 620

*Some Data will overlap with Youth Services Report

Mobile Services Update:
The Mobile Services staff, Benjamin and Kiersten, attended the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) 2026 Conference, which ran from October 11th through October 14th in Columbus, Ohio. We attended multiple workshops addressing a variety of topics related to outreach and mobile services, networked with colleagues from across the country, and collected information from bookmobile outfitters and other vendors. In order to accommodate this trip, the mobile library was placed out of service for one week.

Special Delivery Update:
Since the last Mobile Services Report, we have received six additional requests for Special Delivery service, bringing the total number of active patrons above 20 people. This is the highest number of patrons being served at one time by Special Delivery since the library paused its use of volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent shutdowns.



Bookmobile Parade during ABOS conference



The bookmobile driving through a cattle drive on the way to La Motte School

November 2026

Public Services Department Board Report

Prepared by Sarah Widger, Department Head

swidger@bozeman.net, 406-582-2403 (desk), 406-579-9271 (cell)

Not much to shelve!

Our community heard us loud and clear when we asked them to borrow items for The Big Checkout. 33,482 items were checked out of the Children's Collections in the month of October. As a point of reference, the average October circulation for the Children's Collection was 24,018 items for 2022 through 2025.

The result can be seen visually with this photo of the back workroom on Tuesday, November 10 – there were zero carts ready to be shelved on Tuesday morning!



YOUTH SERVICES

BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

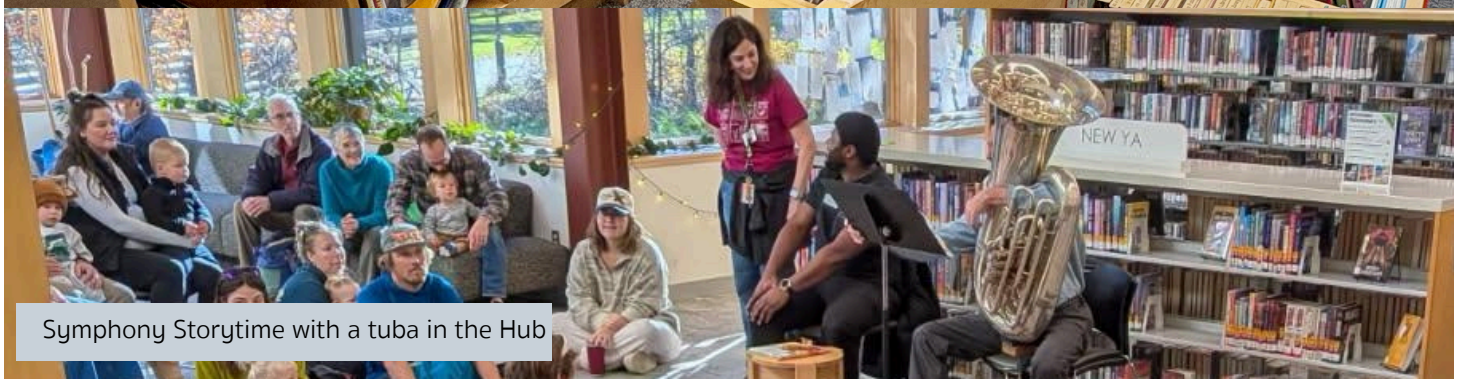
A LABOR OF LOVE



Empty shelves in the OG Children's Room



Bountiful bins in the Mini Children's Room



Symphony Storytime with a tuba in the Hub

Staff Move Entire Children's Room

After a month of children disappearing under huge stacks of checkouts and a sweet See Ya Later Party, Library staff packed up two decades of program supplies and over 10,000 books to build a Mini Children's Room in the Community Room. The Big Checkout was so successful that we were able to fit every remaining kids book, film, and audiobook in the Community Room, saving the expense of offsite storage and movers. In addition to having a larger-than-expected collection available for the public to use this winter, there was room for beloved play invitations like the wooden blocks, trucks, baby dolls, and wind tunnel in the Mini Children's Room.

YS staff (and about four thousand tons of toys and art supplies) have taken up temporary residence in the Cottonwood and Ponderosa Rooms for the winter.

I'm sending a gigantic heartfelt thank you to the entire BPL Team and especially Amy C., Becky, Brenda, Grace, Kade, Kate A., Kate H., Kathleen, and Sarah, as well as Facilities staff David and Lance, for their hard work and good cheer. Everything about this project was heavy, non-ergonomic, and completed on tight deadlines. It was nothing short of heroic.

-Ellie Newell, YS Dept Head



Martel began construction work this week which is slated to finish mid-February.

BOZEMAN MT

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Bozeman Public Library Friends & Foundation

SUBJECT: Friends & Foundation Report

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Plan/Report/Study

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion/Highlights

STRATEGIC PLAN: 7.3 Best Practices, Creativity & Foresight: Utilize best practices, innovative approaches, and constantly anticipate new directions and changes relevant to the governance of the City. Be also adaptable and flexible with an outward focus on the customer and an external understanding of the issues as others may see them.

BACKGROUND: Standing item on the Library Board of Trustees agenda - Friends & Foundation provides an update of pertinent information for the Library.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None

ALTERNATIVES: None

FISCAL EFFECTS: None

Report compiled on: January 14, 2026

BOZEMAN MT

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: City of Bozeman

SUBJECT: Commission Liaison Update

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Plan/Report/Study

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion-City of Bozeman Commission Updates

STRATEGIC PLAN: 7.3 Best Practices, Creativity & Foresight: Utilize best practices, innovative approaches, and constantly anticipate new directions and changes relevant to the governance of the City. Be also adaptable and flexible with an outward focus on the customer and an external understanding of the issues as others may see them.

BACKGROUND: Standing item on the Library Board of Trustees agenda - City Commissioner Liaison provides an update of pertinent information for the Library.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None

ALTERNATIVES: None

FISCAL EFFECTS: None

Report compiled on: April 9, 2025