**Director’s Report**

**March 2025**

**DNA Climber & Playground.** MPL is receiving funds from the NIH when requested. There is $11,538 left in the library subaward, which will pay for signage, carpet for the tipi, and whatever else is needed.

**Safe Environment.** A patron was trespassed for one year for poking a staff member multiple times with her finger and for intentionally bumping him in the shoulder with her body. The incident started because she refused to put shoes on herself or her toddler while walking around the library. She became argumentative and created a disruption. There have been several other incidents with patrons that involve arguing with staff, yelling at staff, including name calling, and failure to follow staff instructions related to disruptive behavior.

**Rick Jenkins Compassionate De-Escalation for Libraries training.** Rick visited from Seattle and gave a two-hour training. All library staff and AUOR staff were invited to attend. Rick also did a walk-through of the building for a safety assessment.

**SB 396 and SB 451.** With permission and support from the County Legislative team, I gave the following testimonies via zoom:

The Missoula Public Library opposes SB 396, which overrides local policy in favor of state-mandated censorship. Restricting access to certain materials based on content could raise First Amendment concerns. Professional library staff already ensure that each collection is age-appropriate and we develop collections based on community needs. Our patrons value local control, intellectual freedom, and the ability to access a wide range of information without judgment.

The Missoula Public Library opposes SB 451. This bill creates new language around core functions of a library, which could restrict programming and services. Public libraries have historically adapted to meet the changing needs of their communities and the modern library has evolved to be so much more than a place to access books and educational material. Programming at the Missoula Public Library and its rural branches is dynamic and well loved – from genealogy workshops to lectures on Montana history to drop-in sewing classes and tax help for seniors. We often host kids on school field trips from Darby, Arlee, and beyond. Last year, approximately 23,000 people enjoyed library programming. Restricting library services could exclude these popular events that benefit residents directly. We also love books at MPL and have a robust collection

**HB 6.** Gathered information and sent talking points to Missoula Representatives. MPL and the City of Missoula were awarded $125,000 by the Department of Natural Resources for the Living Roof project. Our project, ranked number four out of 40 other projects, was the only one removed from the list for funding in the House Committee.

**MLA Presentation.** Co-presenting “The Secrets of a Green Library” with Karl Olson at the MLA Conference on 3/27. Spent time preparing.

**Building issues.** Coordinated services with MT Contractors to fix the Main Street vestibule, Makerspace accordion door, and MTR door. Hopefully, repairs will happen the week of 3/24. DAC is working on getting a custom replacement part for the first-floor staircase railing.

**MSW Practicum Student.** Met weekly and provided support on creating a Practicum Handbook that incorporates library resources with information about the Crisis Intervention Team’s cohort (our student receives clinical supervision from Theresa Williams and this group). Held mid-year evaluation with UM. Planning a presentation about social workers in libraries to County Commissioners, Library Board, and AUOR Staff meeting.

**City Club.** Invited by Blackfoot Communications to attend City Club. Also had annual check in lunch with BC liaison.

**Missoula Community Network (JEDI).** Attended planning meeting for community summit.

**Regular Meetings.** Friends of MPL, Management, Steering Committee, Social Work Practicum, AUOR Executive Leadership, Reference, and 1:1s.

**Desk time.** Worked 5 hours of desk time, including monthly Saturday shift.

**Interesting Reads**

Montana Senate tables two bills aimed at restricting libraries

<https://dailymontanan.com/2025/03/04/montana-senate-tables-two-bills-aimed-at-restricting-libraries/>

Patron Comment

*Thank you for always having LGBTQ+ books on rotation and in the collection. I can't tell you how special that is to me and others like me, especially when the world is so cruel recently. Thank you for all the kinds of love stories and life stories, and all the different kinds of people who populate them.* 💛💚💙🧡