

WELCOMING AND SERVICING EVERYONE



BOISE PUBLIC
Library!

**ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2025**



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Mission

The mission of the Boise Public Library is to provide access and opportunity for everyone by connecting people to ideas, information and community.

Dear Boise:

Welcome to the Boise Public Library's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025!

What a year we've had! This year's annual report highlights many of the ways the Library serves everyone in our community and provides information, services, and programs that are free and open to all. In this report you'll learn about how we've increased efforts to help kids learn to read, strengthened partnerships with local community organizations, and made improvements to our buildings to better serve you.

This year I've been so inspired hearing from our users what makes the Library special to them. You've shared with me how much you appreciate being welcomed to our buildings by smiling staff, getting personalized recommendations for your next read, and joining programs which help you learn and connect with others. We are incredibly grateful to our community for sharing their stories with us.

You can learn more about the impact the Library has had in this report as well as some of our plans for the upcoming year.

I look forward to seeing you at the Library! We are here for you!

**Jessica Dorr,
Boise Public Library Director**



FY25 Boise Public Library Statistics



738,535

total visitors to
all five locations



1.6 million

physical books
circulated in Boise



1.18 million

digital/audio
books circulated



17,895

rooms booked at
all five locations



103,594

requests for
information answered



8,876

new library
cards issued



3,315

total
programs



91,236

people attended
library programs



\$1.09 million

contributed in economic
value to entrepreneurs and
businesses in Boise



Branch Updates



The Library! at Bown Crossing

In FY25 we focused on being a warm and inviting place for Library users of all ages. We saw an increase in all our storytime programs, highlighting the value the community gives to early literacy education. Our multi-generational crafting programs created opportunities for extended families and caregivers to spend quality time together, and our adult programs provided a space for people who share similar values and interests to come together.

We are especially proud of the partnership we have built with Ada County Elections. Beyond serving as a polling station in Southeast Boise since we opened, Bown Crossing has served as an early polling station since 2024, becoming one of five early voting locations in the county.

Joni Hansen - Branch Manager

Library! at Cole and Ustick

As part of Boise Public Library's strategic plan, we added 4.5 new full-time employees to support our community. We also invested in an autosorter to help us get materials in users' hands even faster. These investments have allowed us to get your next read delivered faster to you, add great new programs for all ages, and expand partnership and outreach with schools and nonprofits.

Renee Addington - Branch Manager





The Library! at Collister

At Collister we continue to provide engaging, innovative programming that reflects our tradition of artistry and creativity. Through Sewing Club for Kids, Crafternoons for Kids, and Pokémon League, we've built a strong connection with the school-age community.

We also provided informative and thought-provoking programs, including the Good Death Seminar series, along with meaningful reading selections through the Collister Book Club. Additional offerings such as the English Practice Meet-Up, our Therapy Dog program, a poetry machine, regular storytimes, and other passive activities created welcoming opportunities for learning, creativity, and connection.

Jennifer Villalobos - Branch Manager

The Library! at Hillcrest

We hosted many exciting community programs in FY25, including the launch of our Seed Library. We gave away 3,600 seed packets, including a large variety of vegetables and flowers, as well as Idaho native seeds and plants that attract monarchs, our beloved state insect. The seeds were donated to BPL by Zamzows and BUGS and we thank them! We also partnered with AARP who helped an average of 34 patrons a day.

Huda Shaltry - Branch Manager



The Downtown Library Information Services

We spent a big portion of FY25 getting ready for the first-floor remodel. This included moving all books and other materials from the first floor to the other three floors – more than 200,000 materials in all! In addition, the Information Services team hosted several unique programs including the first annual Pride Resource Fair, sewing basics classes, resume assistance, tax prep, collage and coloring nights, and more.

Eliza Ruby - Information Services Manager





The Downtown Library Youth Services

Youth Services delivered more than 700 programs, including storytimes, STEAM programs, outreach to schools, class visits to the Library, and literacy programs for babies through new adults. Many of the programs moved to a new space called “The Front Porch” at the Library! at Hillcrest, and new, temporary spaces at the Downtown Library for teens, students, and pre-K kids were created on the third floor.

Kate Radford - Youth Services Manager

The Downtown Library Circulation Services

In FY25, the Circulation Services division balanced future planning with daily operations. In addition to registering 5,428 new Library accounts at the Downtown Library, we helped our community check out 621,181 items and filled requests for 109,134 holds. That’s almost 300 hold requests fulfilled every single day of the year! We also supported the launch of our new BATS collection to help keep more of our books available to our voracious readers!

Additionally, our Home-based Services Team created pop-up libraries at 32 different residential facilities every month, and delivered books directly to the homes of 40+ people. The Home-based Services team also engaged with almost 500 members of the community at numerous fairs related to health, safety, and family resources.

Simon Clifford - Circulation Manager



Downtown Library Construction

The Downtown Library began a much needed remodel of the entire first floor. The new space will not only improve accessibility for Library users in 2026, but it will also allow us to make needed maintenance updates. Additionally, the renovated first floor will be a much more modern, flexible, and welcoming space to better serve our community, especially youth and families who make up a significant portion of the Library's daily users. For more information on the remodel, go to the Library's construction webpage:

boisepubliclibrary.org/construction

We can't wait to unveil our new, beautiful space in Winter 2026!





Programs

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

In 2025, Boise Public Library launched the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program in partnership with Meridian Library District and Ada Community Library. This early literacy program encourages parents and caregivers to read 1,000 books with Altogether, more than 80,000 books have been read as a part of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program!

boisepubliclibrary.org/1000books



ULTIMATE BOOK NERD

The Ultimate Book Nerd challenge, now in its sixth year, brings readers who like to push their reading boundaries together. If you aren't familiar with UBN, Library staff select 50 different reading categories each year, and then readers are challenged to read a book that fits each of those categories throughout the calendar year. In 2025, 373 people finished the Ultimate Book Nerd, including Boise Mayor Lauren McLean! Readers not only receive a special t-shirt, certificate of accomplishment and UBN Library card, but more importantly, they have the satisfaction of reading a variety of books, sometimes in genres they might not normally select.

boisepubliclibrary.org/ubn

PRIDE RESOURCE FAIR

The Boise Public Library hosted its first Pride Resource Fair in June 2025. More than 200 people attended, meeting with housing, health, legal, mental health, employment, faith, human rights, and other organizations. Many groups were also able to network and make connections. It was a great opportunity to celebrate, support, and entertain Boise's LGBTQIA community.

boisepubliclibrary.org/prideresourcefair





COMMUNITY RESOURCES SUMMARY

In FY25 the Boise Public Library expanded its community-focused services at the Downtown location, offering new private spaces, more outreach, and increased programming to connect people with vital resources. A new Tele-Appointment Pod was installed — a sound-dampening, semi-private space for virtual health appointments, job interviews, and jail tele-visits — with 270 bookings. Outdoor Community Resource Porch Pop-Ups continued to host partners like Terry Reilly Health, CATCH/Our Path Home housing services, and HUD-VASH veteran services, serving 313 community members. Our Community Resource Coordinator, the Library's social worker, hosted Coffee and Conversation sessions, which drew 215 attendees. Finally, the Community Holiday Party, a resource fair at the Downtown location offering complimentary food, haircuts, nail care, and partner information, welcomed 133 guests! Such low-barrier gatherings help patrons build community and access resources.

Haley Shillito - Community Resource Coordinator, LMSW

boisepubliclibrary.org/crc



Author Visits and the Writers-in-Residence Program

Since 2023, Boise Public Library has partnered with The Cabin and the Boise City Department of Arts and History to offer a six-month residency for emerging and mid-career writers in Boise. The program supports writers in their creative practice, provides free and accessible literary programming for the community, and increases awareness of the many services and opportunities offered by the three organizations.

Our 2025 Writers-in-Residence, Susan Bruns and Alan Heathcock, shared their expertise with the community through workshops and readings, offering insight into the craft of writing and the creative process. Each residency concluded with a culminating event in which participants had the opportunity to share their work with the community, celebrating the creativity fostered throughout the program.

In addition to the Writer-in-Residence program, Boise Public Library hosted nine author visits in partnership with Rediscovered Books and other community partners, connecting readers of all ages with acclaimed storytellers across genres. From bestselling Young Adult authors Cynthia Hand and Alison Ames to adventure historian Buddy Levy, children's favorite Kate Messner, and fantasy master Jonathan Stroud, our authors sparked curiosity and conversation with their audiences.

We also celebrated Idaho's own wildlife pioneer Maurice Hornocker; graphic novel creators Colleen AF Venable, Honie Beam, and Nathan Hale; outdoor and medical writer Kevin Grange, and science fiction icon and author of the Old Man's War series, John Scalzi.

User Stories



MARY ANN

Our independent living facility has a sizeable library, but it's top-heavy with James Patterson, Nora Roberts and cat stories. Since my reading is more eclectic, I live for our monthly visit from Tiffany and her homebound library collection. She introduced me to the Ultimate Book Nerd program two years ago, and now there are half a dozen of us reading and talking about books we never dreamed we'd ever read.

KYLIE

My toddler has been attending Family Storytime at Hillcrest with some regularity over the last year. As she has started to explore letter sounds and words, I have caught her using a Miss Katie trick. When she wants to pronounce something carefully, or figure out a letter, she will tap her chin as she says the letter sound to identify if it fits the word. It has been so exciting to see how something so small from storytime is making such a big impact on her learning!



ALEX

I moved back to Boise as an adult with my husband and our young son a few years ago. At the time I was struggling to find community and make friends and all the kids' programs at the Library at Hillcrest were such a boon to us. Now we know most of the librarians there by name and we love going there every week to check out new books or attend different events. Thank you, Hillcrest librarians, for helping me and my family to build community and friendships!





2025 Top Checkouts

Boise is a city of readers! The Library reached a significant milestone last year with our circulation. In 2025, Library users checked out more than 1.6 million physical items and, for the first time, more than one million digital items. Our Collections Development team works very hard to ensure you have great books to read!

AND SPEAKING OF READING, HERE ARE YOUR TOP READS FOR THE YEAR!

YOUTH:

- *Baby-sitters Little Sister v10 – Karen’s Prize* by Shauna Grant
- *Minecraft Movie: Welcome to the Overworld!* by Dennis Shealy
- *I Survived the Great Molasses Flood, 1919* by Georgia Ball
- *Big Nate v32: Attack of the Cheez Funk Breath!* by Lincoln Peirce

TEENS:

- *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins
- *Fearless* by Lauren Roberts
- *Rebel Witch* by Kristen Ciccarelli
- *No Place Left to Hide* by Megan Lally
- *Our Infinite Fates* by Laura Steven

ADULTS:

- *Onyx Storm* by Rebecca Yarros
- *Strangers in Time* by David Baldacci
- *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins
- *Battle Mountain* by C.J. Box
- *Nightshade* by Michael Connelly

Boise Public Library FY25 Financials

REVENUE

General Fund	\$18,987,557
Lynx Consortium	\$347,522
Capital Fund	\$4,673,780
Donations	\$1,301,386
Other Revenue	\$32,803
Print & Copy Revenue	\$43,085
Departmental Revenue	\$26,979
Fines & Forfeitures	\$3,579
Total	\$25,416,691

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$8,113,354
Indirect Cost Reimbursement	\$6,116,015
Maintenance & Operations	\$1,475,675
Materials (Including Digital)	\$1,761,292
Capital Fund	\$1,909,232
Donations	\$138,652
Total	\$19,514,220

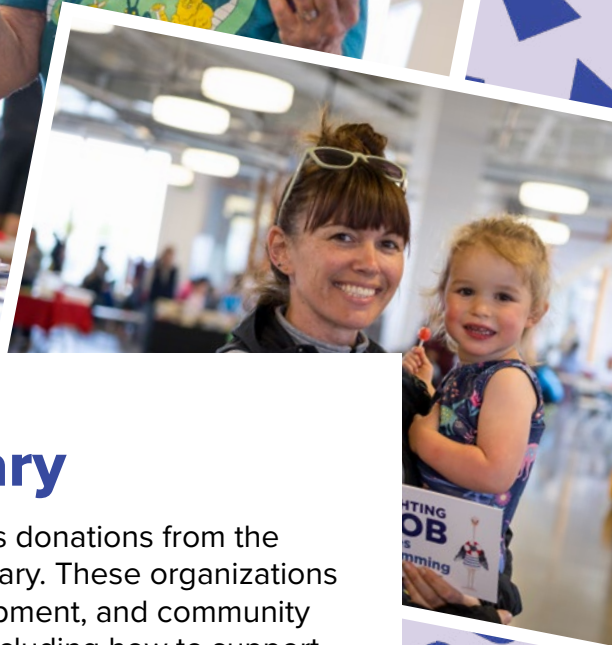


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How to Support Your Library

The impact of the Library is made possible by generous donations from the Boise Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Library. These organizations provide support for our reading programs, staff development, and community events. To learn more about the Boise Public Library, including how to support the library, please visit our website:

boisepubliclibrary.org/support





boisepubliclibrary.org