

priorities for 2025/2026

Libraries for our Future

Multnomah County Library is building 8 new or expanded libraries. The Library Foundation is supporting spaces for children and teens, including early learning spaces for young children in all 8 libraries. These research-based interactive learning structures in the children's areas will offer engaging learning experiences that will encourage young families to spend time at the library and get to know librarians. Other building projects include STEAM learning labs, study spaces for teens, technology labs, and enclosed outdoor spaces for families.

Reach: tens of thousands of children and teens each year for years to come

Early Literacy

A suite of five early literacy programs are designed to reach young children facing risk factors for low literacy. Families receive books available in 30+ languages and cultures, and workshops teach parents about early reading practices and early brain development. Librarians partner with hospitals, health clinics, Head Starts, WIC, teen parent programs, and immigrant and refugee centers to connect families with all the library offers. Engaging storytimes in seven languages and cultures reach an additional 50,000 children and caregivers.

Reach: 60,000 young children, parents, and caregivers

School-Age Success

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programming gives students the opportunity to have powerful learning experiences.

Reach: thousands of children and teens

The Summer Reading program engages students in reading when they are at greatest risk of reading skill loss. With the recent declines in reading skills among students, this summer "game" is more important than ever. Library staff and teen volunteers are skilled at connecting with children and parents who may not use the library regularly or may not know about all of the library's programs.

Reach: 100,000 babies, children, and teens

Diverse books that reflect a child's language, culture and family structure help librarians engage children of all ages with reading. Our support helps the library purchase culturally relevant books, opening the door to meaningful engagement with children and their parents, and introducing families to storytimes, homework help, tutoring, and other programs for children in under-resourced communities.

Reach: 26,000 books will reach more than 50,000 youth

Learning for Life

Everybody Reads engages our community in reading and discussing one inspiring, thought-provoking book each year. Thousands of high school students and adults receive copies and are able to read and discuss the chosen book. Teens in under-resourced high schools are also able to participate in discussions with the author.

Reach: 15,000 students, educators, and adults

Virtual and in-person programs engage children and adults in a wide array of educational and cultural programs offered across our community.

Reach: thousands of children, teens, and adults

