Salt Lake City Public Library
CEO’S Report

The City Library

THE SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

March 23, 2026

PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES





Children's Services

StoryCon 2026, presented by Operation Literacy, took place February 27th and 28th at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City and the City Library was invited back again to have a booth in the Exhibit Hall. The Library was also invited to participate in StoryLand, a new addition to the convention located within the Exhibit Hall specifically tailored to children ages 0-8 years old. The Children's Services Coordinator worked alongside Operation Literacy and many other early learning partners, such as Envision Utah and PBS Kids, to create a playful learning space for children and families.

The Library set up a small reading nook, shared early literacy tips and best practices, and gave a free book to each child that visited. One little visitor exclaimed "Oh! So cozy!" and immediately made themselves comfortable and began reading a book. Another little one visited the space expressing that they needed "a people break" and they found a corner of the rug to decompress on some cozy pillows. It was heartwarming to see parents sit down with their children, pull them onto their laps, and begin reading a book together. Some families stayed for a long time reading book after book together. There was much appreciation shared for the City Library and libraries in general. The best part was seeing children's faces light up when they learned they would get to pick out a book and keep it forever! 700 people visited the Library's reading nook and 634 books went home with a young reader.



Teen Services

For Foothills' large Lunar New Year program, four teens from Highland High pitched in to help over 300 people. While some of them knew each other before, all four of them had fun making new friendships.





Adult Services

At the Day-Riverside Branch, the Ramadan Lecture Series kicked off on Saturday, February 21st with an informative presentation from Dr. Salman Masud. As library photographer, Jeri Gravlin, was leaving the library after the event, she noted this conversation: "...an elderly gentleman in a walker was getting into a white van that looked like a hired retirement home driver. And I

overheard him say to the young man helping him into the van, 'Sir, have you heard of Ramadan? Can I tell you about it on the drive? I just learned a lot about it."

The next lecture with M. Hakan Yavus was just as enlightening, with one patron commenting that she wants to take classes to learn more about Islamic history, that she never knew that seeing a poster at Main would lead to a new "world of discovery."

Stories of Impact

Down the Rabbit Hole in the Archives
Two of our staff received a lovely email from one of the patrons who came to the most recent Deep Dives in the Archives program at the Main Library:

> "Thank you both for your excellent detective work yesterday evening. I truly appreciate it and will be back again one Thursday night. So helpful. This will lead me on to even more enriching and interesting 'rabbit holes'!"

So lovely to see patrons have such a good time with the archives! The opportunity to do in-depth research for folks has been very rewarding.

Music Librarians Tour the SLCPL
The Music Library Association's national conference was held in Salt Lake City this year. As part of the conference offerings, 40 librarians made their way to the Main Library for a long, in depth tour. The librarians came from all across the nation, from the Library of Congress and the Main Branch of the public library in Washington, D.C., to the libraries in the heartland, and to Seattle and UC Berkeley. As music librarians, they were greatly interested in our H.U.M. (Hear Utah Music) initiative and Library Assistant, Kyle Raines, answered all their questions.

They loved the rooftop garden, were captivated by the architecture, and were impressed with our services. During the tour introduction in the Urban Room, a patron stopped to enquire about the large group. When told they were librarians, he launched into a passionate speech on his love of libraries and their critical impact on him, his children, and grandchildren. He queried the visiting librarians on their thoughts on censorship, and tearfully praised the dedication of the profession. Some of the visiting librarians half-joked that the patron was a plant, but were reassured that he was a typical example of the tremendous patrons whom the SLCPL serve daily.

UPCOMING EVENTS

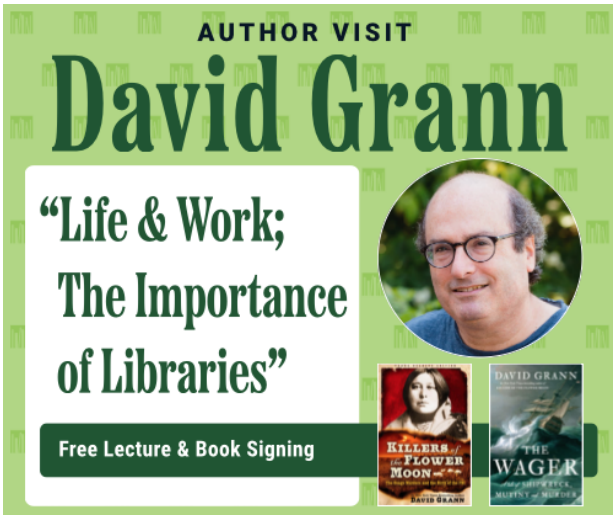
ACT Study Prep for Teens

The next ACT Test is April 11, and The City Library can help students prep with weekly collaborative study sessions led by university students from the Bennion Center. Study sessions happen every Thursday at Marmalade and every Saturday at Anderson-Foothill (some dates

excluded). Only a handful of study sessions remain before the spring test; visit slcpl.org/events for the schedule!

There's more college prep available through our Digital Library. City Library cardholders can sign up for free access to EBSCO Learning's College Preparation resources, which includes more practice tests, scholarship-finding tools, essay guides, and more.

Bestselling Author David Grann Visit



The Salt Lake City Library Foundation is thrilled to present an evening with bestselling author David Grann (Killers of the Flower Moon, The Wager), on **Thursday, April 16, 6:30–8pm at the Main Library**. Please join us for his talk, "Life & Work: the Importance of Libraries," followed by a book signing. Grann is an award-winning journalist and best-selling nonfiction author whose deeply reported narratives illuminate hidden chapters of history with thrilling storytelling and powerful insight. This event is **free and open to the public.** Tickets are required to attend.

Join Book Fiesta this April



Book Fiesta is a monthlong celebration of book joy for children of all backgrounds! This April, look for special Book Fiesta events at every City Library, with stories, crafts, activities, and very special guests. Book Fiesta kicks off Tuesday, April 7, from 4–5:30pm at the Marmalade Branch. To find details on all the different Book Fiestas visit slcpl.org/events.

New Adult Book Club

Treat Your Shelf is a new book club for adults. Make friends, have a snack, and read and discuss a new book each month. This club meets the 4th Monday of each month, from 6-7pm at the Main Library. *The People We Keep* by Allison Larkin will be discussed on April 27. Visit slcpl.org/events for the book schedule; copies of the next month's book will be given out at each meeting.

MEDIA MENTIONS

Growing a Garden Doesn't Just Feed Yourself, It Can Build Resilience and Community Connections
KSL Newsradio (Feb 20, 2026)
Planting a garden can build resilience, develop sustainability and support community. Salt Lake City Library wants to support that.

"The beauty of growing food from your local soils extends so far beyond just the act of feeding yourself," said Garden Associate and Seed Librarian Rikki Longino. "But also just relating to the people that are around you that have kind of witnessed the food growing alongside you and that you can then share with."

[VIDEO] Salt Lake City Public Library Welcomes Year of the Horse with Lunar New Year Celebration
ABC4 (Feb 21, 2026)
A nice video package with highlights from Anderson-Foothill's Lunar New Year Celebration, featuring an interview with branch manager Paul Musser.

February 2026

SLCPL System Statistics Report

Rolling 12-month Values with Year-Over-Year Comparisons

The City Library
THE SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Money Saved by Circulation

$61.0MM

↑8.6%

Value is assigned based on the material's list price

Patrons as a % of Population

Active Patrons

35.7%

↑ 2.4%

Frequent Patrons

17%

↑ 1.3%

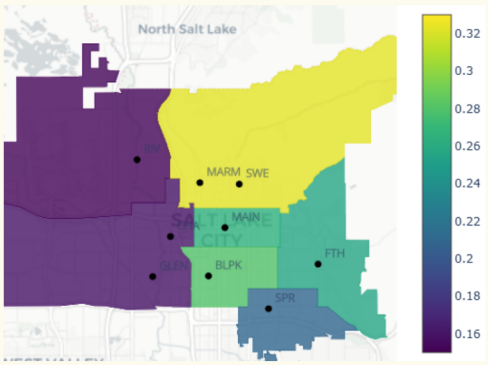
Active patrons have at least 1 checkout in the last year.
Frequent patrons have at least 12 in the last year.

Total Visits

1.3MM ↑18.5%

Total Visits

Activity by Council District



Active Patrons (per capita)

Patron Activity

3.1MM ↑ 9.9%

Total Circulations

190,474 ↑ 6.1%

Library Computer Sessions

68,773 ↑ 8.3%

Unique Patrons

Registration and Circulation by Council District

	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	CD6	CD7
New Patrons	1,282	1,470	2,044	2,765	1,699	1,339	1,423
Total Circulations (per capita)	5.8	5.6	13.9	9.4	11.8	11.7	7.9