



City Library Collective

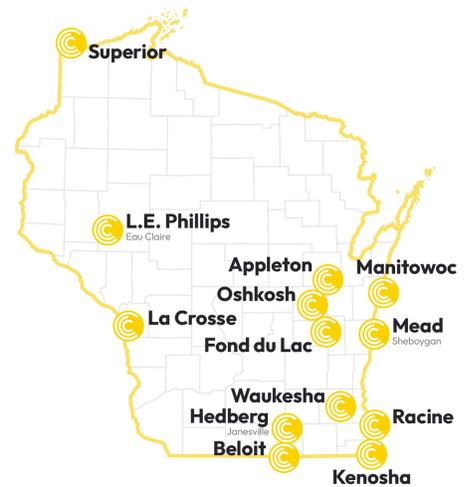
2025 Year in Review

Incubating solutions to challenges facing mid-size city public libraries today.

The CLC: Shared Knowledge, Stronger Libraries

The City Library Collective (CLC) brings together 13 mid-size Wisconsin city libraries to support one another in addressing shared challenges and learning from one another's experiences. By working collectively, member libraries strengthen their organizations and enhance the services they provide to their communities.

At the heart of the CLC are the strong relationships formed among library leaders and a shared project designed to address common needs or interests.



Fostering Relationships Across the CLC

Strong relationships are the foundation of the CLC's success. By intentionally connecting directors and staff across member libraries, the Collective creates space for collaboration, problem-solving, and shared learning. A dedicated communication platform—featuring a message board and document-sharing repository—enables members to exchange updates, ask questions, and draw on one another's expertise. These ongoing interactions deepen professional relationships and strengthen the Collective as a whole.

In 2025, the CLC expanded this collaborative network by launching the CLC Staff Connections community of practice for middle managers across all 13 libraries. This initiative extends the benefits of collective learning beyond directors, empowering staff from all departments to support one another through shared challenges and experiences. By broadening participation, the CLC reinforces a culture of connection, learning, and mutual support across the entire Collective.



2025 Research Spotlight: Peer Data to Enhance Advocacy

The CLC works on a collaborative, two-year project cycle. The first year involves identifying priorities for the collective and conducting information-gathering in support of the project and any associated deliverables before entering a more action-oriented phase in the second year.

In 2025, a new project cycle commenced, focusing on using new and existing shared data to gather use case studies for enhanced data storytelling and advocacy.

To see the outcomes of completed research projects including building resilient libraries and strengthening staff, check out the City Library Collective website by clicking the links below.

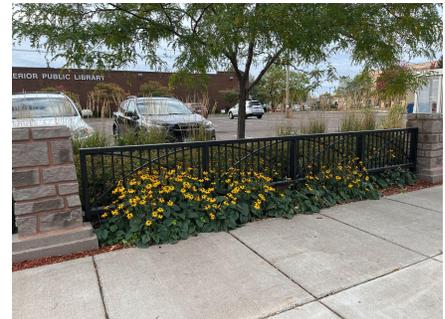
2021-2022 Project: [Library Resilience](#)

2023-2024 Project: [Strengthening Staff](#)

2025 Highlights from the CLC Libraries

Programming and Renovations

Superior's green parking lot and outdoor remodel — On October 20, the Superior Public Library opened its newly renovated parking lot, designed with green-infrastructure features by Emmons & Olivier Resources. The project incorporates tree-trench technology that manages, filters, and stores stormwater to support tree health before conveying excess water to the stormwater system. The renovation also adds native plantings, dark-sky-compliant lighting, a new Storytime patio, and an EV-charging area.



Oshkosh's JobPod grand opening — Oshkosh Public Library has opened a new JobPod, offering job seekers easy, reliable access to job search resources in a private library space. The JobPod connects community library services with existing workforce development support.



Appleton's No Questions Asked — In their newly reopened building, Appleton Public Library has launched a new “No Questions Asked” collection—a quiet, easy-access section featuring free books and resources on mental health, addiction, grief, and local support services, including an overdose aid kit and hotline info. The collection, funded by United Way Fox Cities, is designed to reduce stigma and help community members find support on their own terms.

2025 Highlights continued

Staff Features

Fond du Lac welcomes a new director

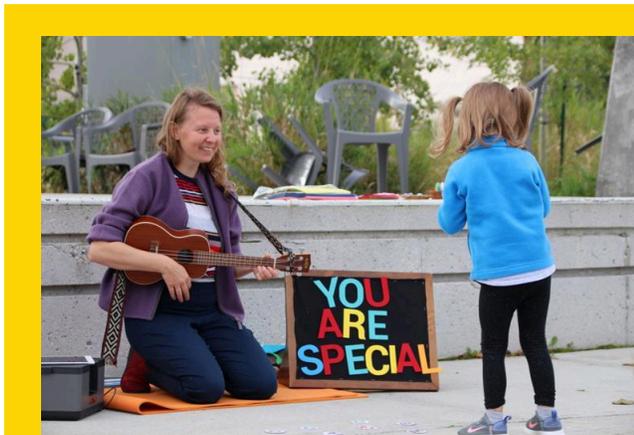


The City of Fond du Lac is pleased to announce the appointment of Rachel Fuller as Library Director for the Fond du Lac Public Library. Fuller brings 14 years of library leadership experience to Fond du

Lac, as well as a passion for cultivating library services that strengthen communities and transform libraries into vibrant gathering spaces where connections thrive.

Racine Public Library cheered on their staff member, Willow Newell,

who made history as the first Black woman crowned Miss Wisconsin. Newell represented Wisconsin at the Miss America competition this past September, inspiring others both through her work at the library and her historic achievement.



Mead Public Library in Sheboygan —

Mead's Youth Services Librarian, Alison Loewen, was named WLA Librarian of the Year. The library also celebrated the installation of a new Automated Materials Handler (AMH) connected to outdoor return slots—alongside outdoor holds lockers, enabling 24/7 service—as well as the start of construction on a new Community Resources Desk and public phone booths.