

## **Aloha Community Library Association – Annual Guardian Meeting**

May 21, 2025

**Board members present:** Julie Fairman, Beth Lewis, Rachel McCormick, TS McCormick, Donna Meeuwsen, Jessica Otto, Kim Thomas

**Staff present:** Terri Palmer, Jesse Castellanos

**Members present:** 8 members

### **ACLA Board Topics**

- Julie Fairman rolling of the board after this meeting
- New board members
  - **DECISION:** APPROVED
    - Motion to approve brought forward by ACLA Guardian
    - Seconded by ACLA Guardian
    - Approved by present ACLA Guardians

### **ACLA Board President Updates**

#### Library Funding and Governance

- Funding
  - Though not yet finalized, ACLA should see a significant increase in funding, service area, and population size
- Centralized Collections
  - As part of cost-savings measures, WCCLS will move to centralized collections at the county level, rather than each library developing their own collections
  - This is a difficult transition for librarians that have helped to build existing library collections
  - WCCLS is working through how this will be implemented
  - Once implemented, ACLA will lose a Cataloger
- Levy
  - Current levy expires in 2026
  - November 2025 ballot will have measure for new levy

### **ACLA Library Director Updates**

#### Library Guardians

- Opt-in model, based on fiscal year (July 1-June 30)
- Minimum donation of \$25 or volunteer minimum of 5 hours during fiscal year
- Can join any time during the year, but will be asked to renew membership by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each following year
- Must be at least 14 years old to become a Guardian (member)
- Benefits:
  - Invitation to ACLA Annual Meeting
  - One vote per Guardian at ACLA Annual Meeting
  - Eligibility to join ACLA Board of Directors
  - Invitations to special Library Guardian events (ex: Booktique Preview Shopping Event)
  - Acknowledgement on library donor appreciation wall

#### Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Update

- ACLA Board of Directors is waiting to see what happens with WCCLS (county) funding
- Anticipating 1% increase in funds over last year
- Have decreased fundraising goal based on observed economic trends
- Also decreased Collections budget by 10%
- Impacts of federal funding with current administration
  - For ACLA, this impacts Kids Summer Reading program
  - Most impact is at the State Library of Oregon budget

#### Philosophy of Service to our Community

- Through all interactions, building relationships and trust
  - Incorporated into hiring and training
- Listen deeply to what guests and try to meet their needs the best we can
- Guests are welcomed as individuals
- ACLA is responsible for creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment
- Resources are offered respectfully in a way that allows individuals to maintain personal dignity
- We trust our guests

#### Library-Centric Services

- Collection of books, movies, and other materials
- Programs, including:
  - One-off programs on special topics or performances
  - Informal/passive programs, including:
    - Seed library started this spring, and 69 seed packets have been taken so far
  - Recurring programs: Preschool Playtime, Book Clubs, Teen Crafternoon, Sit & Stitch, Art Quilt Group, etc.
    - Last Tuesday Social Hour has hosted 90 people this fiscal year
    - Drop-in Tech Help assisted 115 people during 37 sessions since July 1, 2024
- Seed library started this spring
  - 69 seed packets taken so far

#### Connect to Community to Support Basic Needs

- School Supply Drive and Free Store
  - Helped 89 people the first year (5 years ago)
  - Helped 210 last year
  - Currently accepting donation for this year's event
- Food pantry collection site
  - In 2024 we collected 965 pounds of food
- Personal care supplies
  - Travel sized hygiene products
  - Period products
- Snacks
  - Supply of snacks and water available to offer to guests with low blood sugar, coughing fits, hunger
    - Helps staff to feel empowered to offer assistance by offering a snack or water

#### Connect to Community to Through Outreach and Partnerships

- Schools
  - ACLA gets lots of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders every May when they take a walking field trip to visit the library
- Aloha Community Farmers' Market
  - Terri is working with the Market Manager to help recruit volunteers and make sure word is being spread about the Farmers' Market
  - They need about 200 more visitors each week than are currently stopping by
- Aloha Community Forum
  - Group of 30+ people working to identify gaps in the community and determine projects
  - Current projects identified:
    - Trash pick-up and graffiti clean-up
    - Community Resource Center
    - Aloha Community Farmers' Market
- Community Participation Organization 6 (CPO-6) meetings
  - In-person meetings often take place at the Aloha Community Library (hybrid)
  - Meetings are also offered online

#### Levy

- Coming up, November 2025
- Currently lining up several things so that if the levy passes we can hit "go"
  - Aloha Community Library lease ends November 2026, discussing facility needs
  - Expanded service area and population requires expanded service plan
  - Rethinking of staffing needs, defining new roles, adding new staff