



LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION

**LAC Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

**I. Quorum and Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Library Advisory Commission was called to order by Commission Chair, Anita Riley Hall, at 4:33 pm on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Western Library.

Commissioners in attendance were Anita Riley Hall, Brelin Tilford, Charity Garnett, Carla Robinson, Demiche Sewell, Marcus Walker, and Whitney Soergel.

Others present included Library Executive Director, Heather Lowe; Library Interim Executive Director, Barbara Sexton-Smith, Library Director of Public Services, Carrick Arehart; Library Executive Administrator, Benjamin Tipton, Library Foundation Community Engagement Manager, Rebecca Hollenbach, Library Communications Manager, Paul Burns; and Library Administrative Assistant, Vanessa Fuller, and KDLA Regional Consultant, Chris Bischoff.

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 2025 was entered by Whitney Soergel, seconded by Marcus Walker, and approved.

A motion approve the absences of Nathan Smith and Tiffany Stith from the meeting held on December 16, 2025 was entered by Marcus Walker, seconded by Whitney Soergel, and approved.

**II. Planning Report**

There was no planning report.

**III. Finance Report**

There was no finance report.

**IV. Library Executive Director's Report**

Library Executive Director Heather Lowe gave the directors report. Highlights from the report were reviewed for the commission. A copy of the full report is attached to these minutes.

KDLA Regional Consultant shared the KDLA is fully staffed on the regional and statewide consultant side, and a new data analyst has been hired.

**V. Chairpersons Report**



LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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Chairperson Anita Riley hall allowed the Library Foundation to debrief the Commissioners. Rebecca Hollenbach shared that the Library Foundation is continuing to make progress on the books and materials campaign that launched on January 5, 2026.

**VI. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**VII. New Business**

A motion to approve the Friends of the St. Matthews booksale request for the dates March 20 – 22, June 12 – 14, September 18 – 20, and December 11 -13, 2026 was entered by Marcus Walker, seconded by Whitney Soergel, and approved.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

*Minutes prepared by Vanessa Fuller, Administrative Assistant.*



LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION

LAC Finance Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes

### **I. Quorum and Call to Order**

The Finance Committee meeting of the LAC was held on Friday, February 13, 2026. Finance Committee Chair Marcus Walker called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. The presentation pointed out the currently unfunded portions of the Main Library project such as the third floor (study rooms, new carpet, and new home for the Kentucky History Room), the first floor meeting rooms, and accessibility to the south building. Heather Lowe made a request to the Finance Committee to approach the full Library Advisory Commission to support up to a \$3 Million transfer of unrestricted funds to close the capital funding gap

### **II. New Business**

Library Executive Director Heather Lowe reviewed renderings of the ongoing construction of the Main Library.

Library Controller Susan Nicholson referenced the quarterly financial statements for the commission, during which she shared that of the current \$8.7 million in the portfolio, \$4.7 million is comprised of unrestricted funds.

A motion to present a motion to waive current spending rule in order to proceed with temporarily restricting unrestricted funds for capital projects and transferring up to \$3 million to the Library for this purpose to the full LAC committee on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 was entered by Anita Riley Hall, seconded by Brelin Tilford and approved.

### **III. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.



## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

*January 20, 2026 Louisville Free Public Library  
Executive Director's Report – Heather Lowe*

### CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Library Computer Center opened on December 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Main Library flooring was poured and smoothed on the first floor and both Main and Fern Creek projects are on track.
- Louisville Metro Government and LFPL are in discussion with the developers of the Mid City Mall site to maintain a library presence at the site. Preliminary plans will be announced and discussed at a Tyler Park Neighborhood Association Meeting Thursday, January 22 at 6:00 pm at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library.

### EVENTS AND NEWS

- Collective Bargaining agreement has been reached and voting on it will be from January 21 - 28.
- Yes, Chef program kicked off with Nina Greipel of the Gasthaus German Restaurant's Art of Pretzel Making program with around 200 in attendance. Two more events are scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Books and Brews 502 is underway, and this year we've already exceeded total registrations from 2024 with 1,233 individuals registered as of today.
- 2025-26 Strategic Action Plan is making steady progress at 49% completion with 91% Initiatives on track or completed.
- February 4, 2026 at 10:00 am press conference at Portland Branch with Mayor and PNC to announce support of story time materials.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Quarterly Supervisors Retreat at the Filson Historical Society focused on providing excellent feedback and leadership skills
- Staff Training Day on February 16 will have a focus on providing excellent Customer Service and feature speaker Tori Murden.

### STATISTICS

- 2025 Statistics are in, and LFPL had quite a lot to celebrate.
  - 1.8 Million people visited a library—this could fill University of Louisville's L&N stadium 30 times!
  - Items circulated 3.83 Million times
  - 198,699 people attended over 11,000 programs across the system
- New Library Card registrations are up 2.2% and active library card accounts are up 2.4% over the last 12 months
- Circulation remains increased by over 1% for the last 12 months at 3,826,220 items checked out.
- Public Computer usage for December was down 16.9% compared to December 2024 likely due to the closure of the Main Library and that the Computer Center did not open until the end of the month.
- Items in the collection are up 2% this December thanks to the support for library materials.



# December 2025 Community Impact Report

**Circulation**

Dec 2025

**298,585**

↑ Increased by 13,770  
▲ 4.8%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**Door Count**

Dec 2025

**113,308**

↓ Decreased by 10,266  
▼ 8.3%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**Public Computer Usage**

Dec 2025

**20,624**

↓ Decreased by 4,185  
▼ 16.9%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**Program Attendance**

Dec 2025

**14,058**

↑ Increased by 280  
▲ 2.0%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**New Registrations**

Dec 2025

**1,502**

↑ Increased by 356  
▲ 31.1%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**Patrons Active in the Last Year**

Dec 2025

**134,512**

↑ Increased by 3,103  
▲ 2.4%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**Unique Wifi Users**

Dec 2025

**9,907**

↓ Decreased by 224  
▼ 2.2%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**Items in Collection**

Dec 2025

**1,673,574**

↑ Increased by 28,812  
▲ 1.8%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**Pages Printed**

Dec 2025

**169,518**

↑ Increased by 29,835  
▲ 21.4%

Compared to Dec 2024  
[Click for data summary](#)

**Information Requests**

Dec 2025

**75,522**

↓ Decreased by 9,060  
▼ 10.7%

Compared to Dec 2024

**Meeting Room Attendance**

Dec 2025

**3,313**

↓ Decreased by 816  
▼ 19.8%

Compared to Dec 2024

**New Registration Running Total**

12 Month Running Total

**32,376**

↑ Increased by 697  
▲ 2.2%

Compared to the Previous Year

**Circulation Running Total**

12 Month Running Total

**3,826,220**

↑ Increased by 51,162  
▲ 1.4%

Compared to the Previous Year

**Door Count Running Total**

12 Month Running Total

**1,792,498**

↑ Increased by 1,074  
▲ 0.1%

Compared to the Previous Year

**Public Computer Usage Running Total**

12 Month Running Total

**344,060**

↓ Decreased by 6,316  
▼ 1.8%

Compared to the Previous Year

**Program Attendance Running Total**

12 Month Running Total

**198,749**

↑ Increased by 10,332  
▲ 5.5%

Compared to the Previous Year

	Dec 2025	Dec 2024	% Change from Last Year
Patrons Active this Month	46,799	44,735	▲ 4.6%
1 Year Active Patrons	134,512	131,409	▲ 2.4%
3 Year Active Patrons	192,352	202,584	▼ 5.1%
Patrons with Library Cards	616,246	585,955	▲ 5.2%
Patrons with Expired Cards	386,106		



# January 2026 Community Impact Report

## Circulation



Jan 2026

**334,821**

↑ Increased by 22,520  
▲ 7.2%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Door Count



Jan 2026

**115,692**

↓ Decreased by 3,576  
▼ 3.0%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Public Computer Usage



Jan 2026

**20,315**

↓ Decreased by 3,172  
▼ 13.5%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Program Attendance



Jan 2026

**12,757**

↑ Increased by 1,994  
▲ 18.5%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## New Registrations



Jan 2026

**2,012**

↓ Decreased by 2,381  
▼ 54.2%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Patrons Active in the Last Year



Jan 2026

**135,296**

↑ Increased by 2,833  
▲ 2.1%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Unique Wifi Users



Jan 2026

**10,153**

↑ Increased by 701  
▲ 7.4%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Items in Collection



Jan 2026

**1,671,403**

↑ Increased by 20,929  
▲ 1.3%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Pages Printed



Jan 2026

**165,267**

↑ Increased by 17,346  
▲ 11.7%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Information Requests



Jan 2026

**53,615**

↓ Decreased by 2,436  
▼ 4.3%

Compared to Jan 2025

## Meeting Room Bookings



Jan 2026

**347**

↓ Decreased by 36  
▼ 9.4%

Compared to Jan 2025

## Meeting Room Attendance



Jan 2026

**3,772**

↓ Decreased by 483  
▼ 11.4%

Compared to Jan 2025

# Circulation Summary

## Circulation



Jan 2026

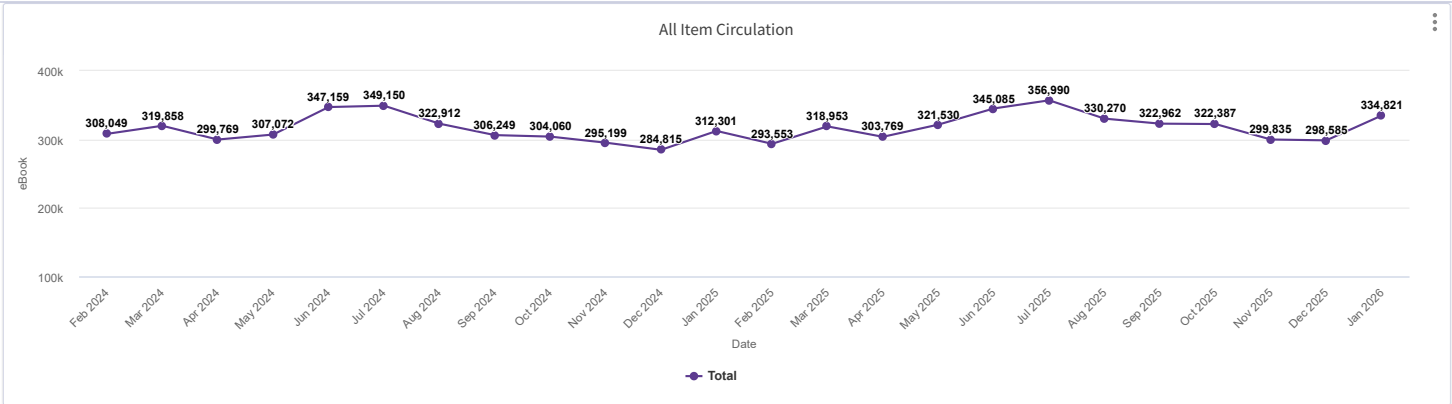
**334,821**

↑ Increased by 22,520

▲ 7.2%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)



## Circulation Running Total



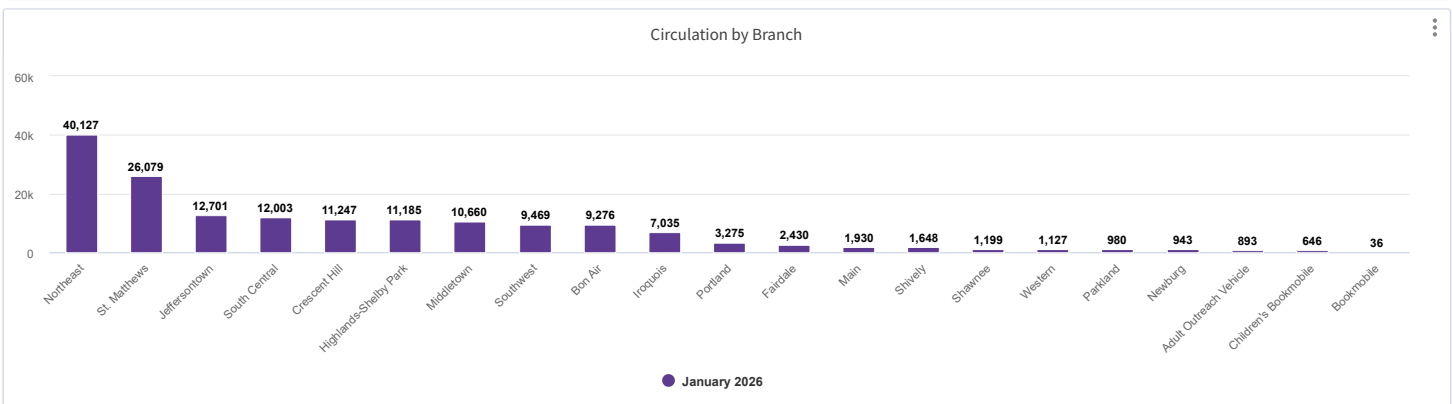
12 Month Running Total

**3,848,740**

↑ Increased by 73,682

▲ 2.0%

Compared to the Previous Year



## eBook Circulation



Jan 2026

**169,932**

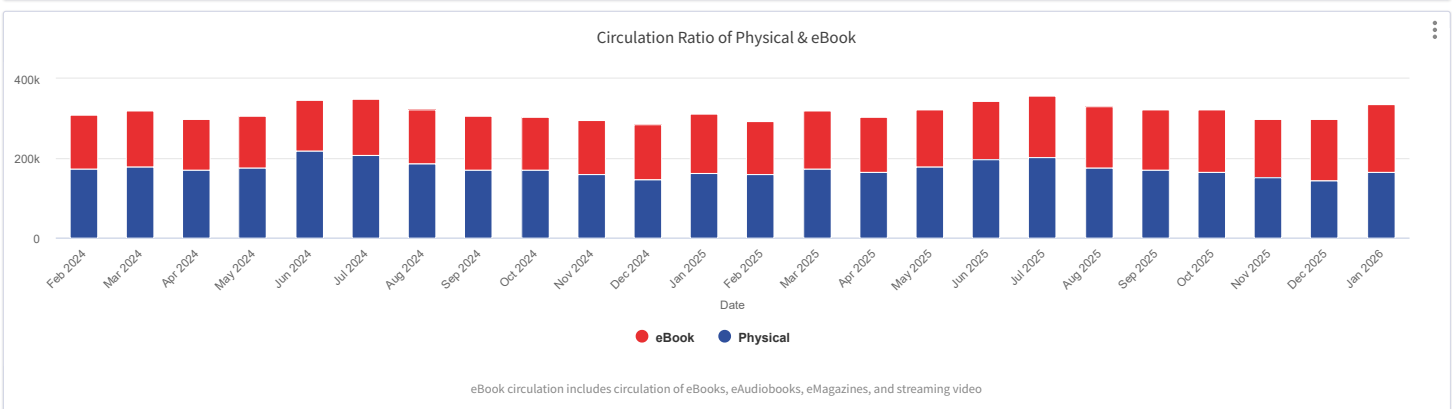
↑ Increased by 19,836

▲ 13.2%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

eBook circulation includes circulation of eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and streaming video



# Door Count

## Door Count



Jan 2026

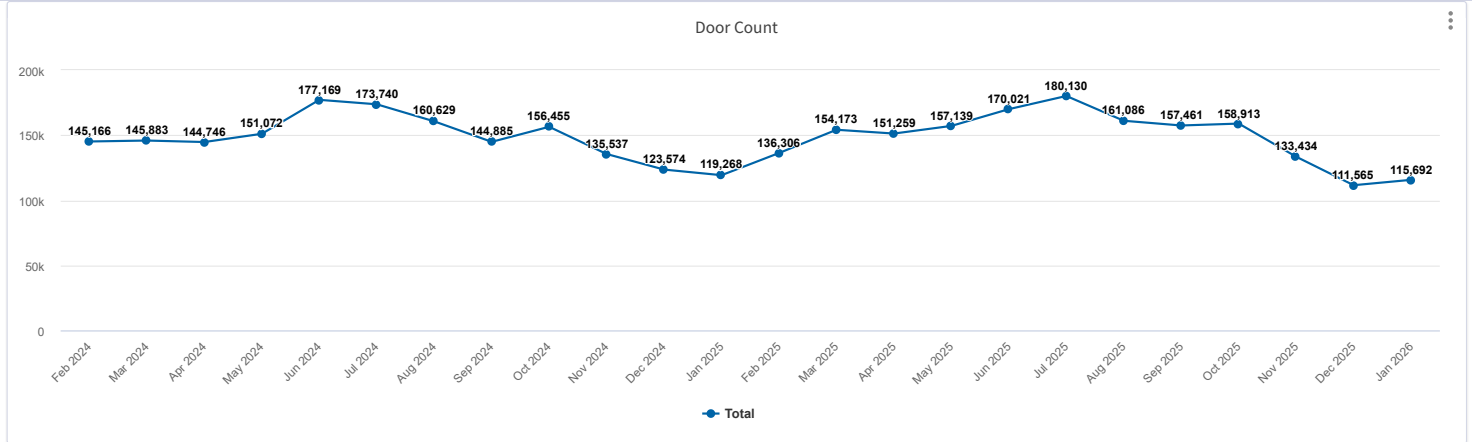
**115,692**

↓ Decreased by 3,576

▼ 3.0%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)



## Door Count Running Total



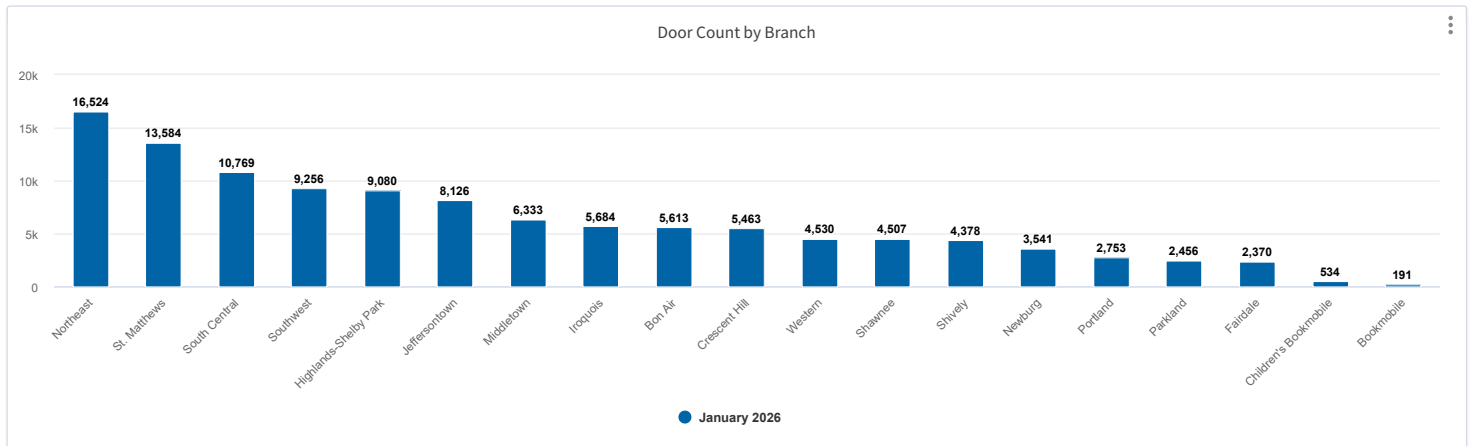
12 Month Running Total

**1,787,179**

↑ Increased by 9,055

▲ 0.5%

Compared to the Previous Year



# Public Computer Use

## Public Computer Usage



Jan 2026

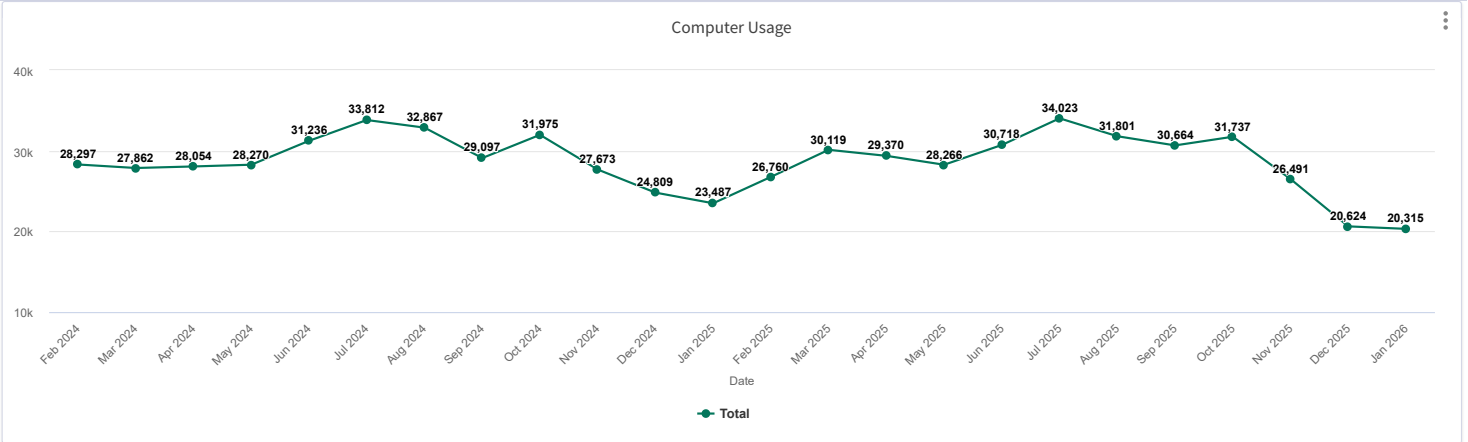
**20,315**

↓ Decreased by 3,172

▼ 13.5%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)



## Public Computer Usage Running Total



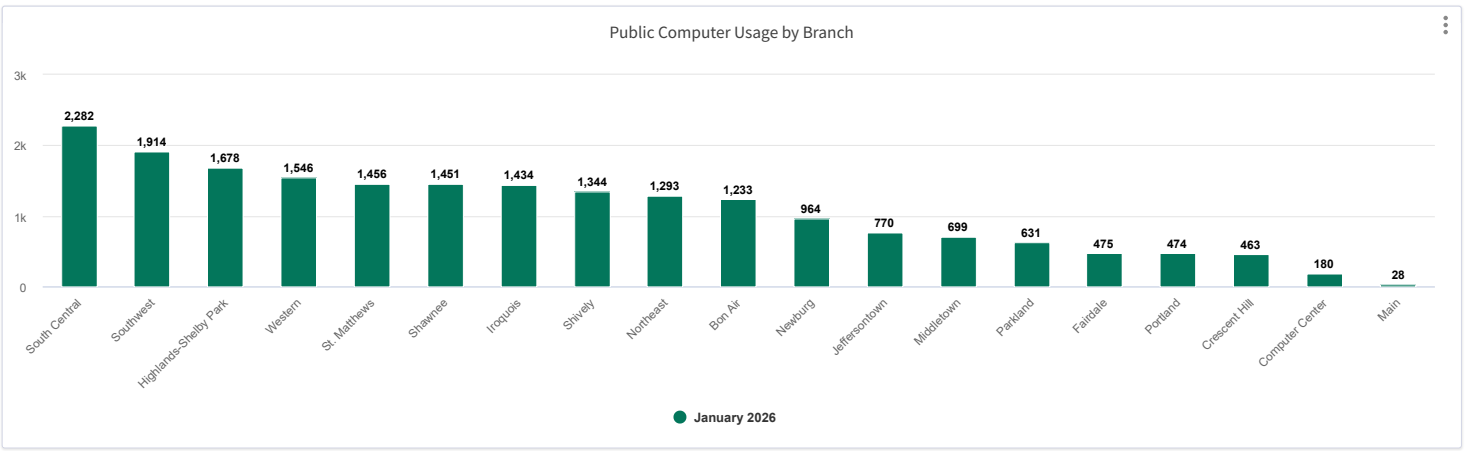
12 Month Running Total

**340,888**

↓ Decreased by 6,551

▼ 1.9%

Compared to the Previous Year



## People Trained to Use Electronic Resources



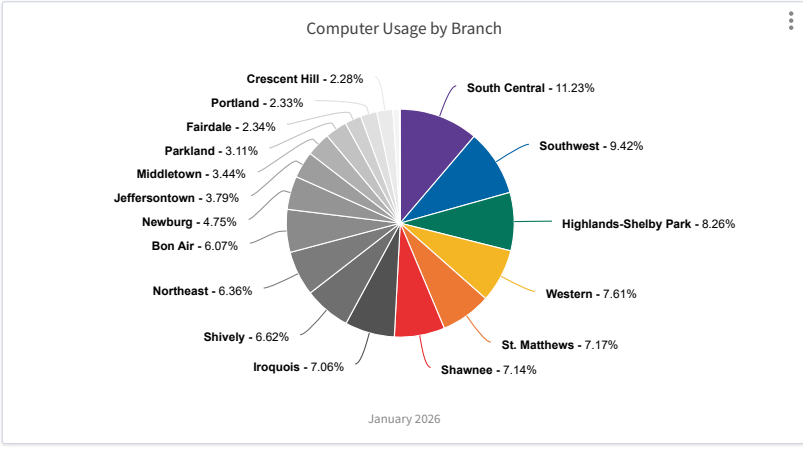
Jan 2026

**49**

● Remained the same



Compared to Jan 2025



# Programming

## Number of Programs



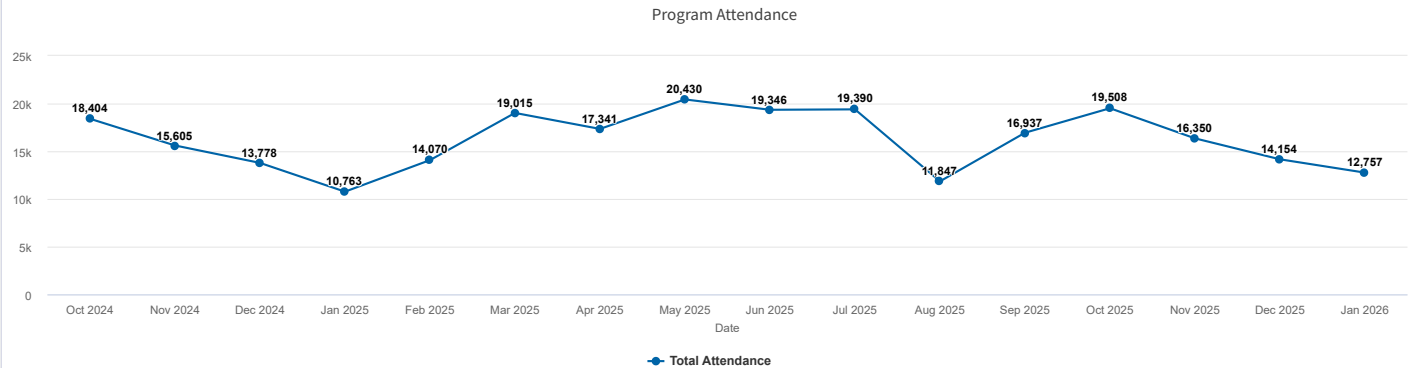
Jan 2026

**774**

↑ Increased by 106

▲ 15.9%

Compared to Jan 2025



## Program Attendance



Jan 2026

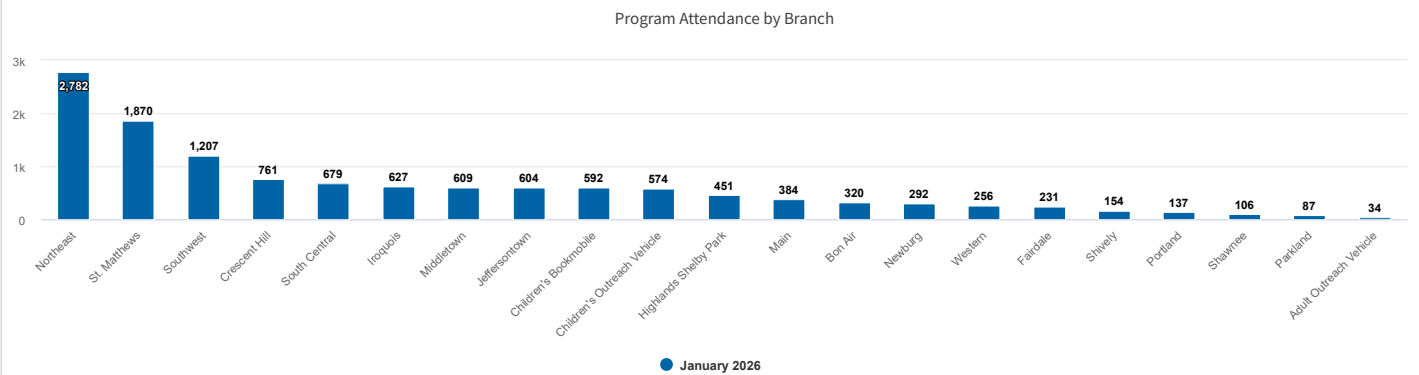
**12,757**

↑ Increased by 1,994

▲ 18.5%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)



## Program Attendance Running Total



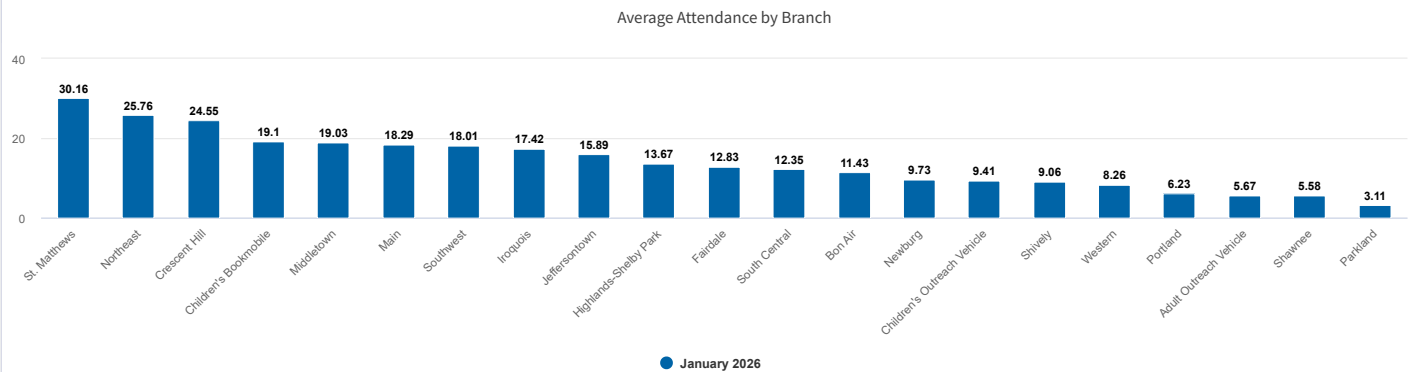
12 Month Running Total

**201,145**

↑ Increased by 14,323

▲ 7.6%

Compared to the Previous Year



# New Registration

## New Registrations



Jan 2026

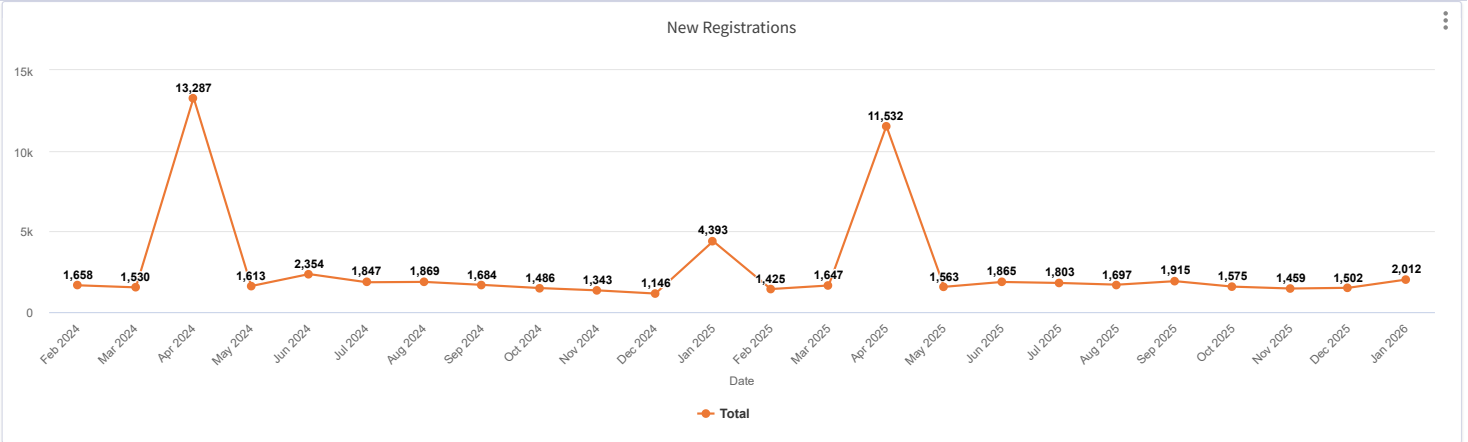
**2,012**

↓ Decreased by 2,381

▼ 54.2%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)



## New Registration Running Total



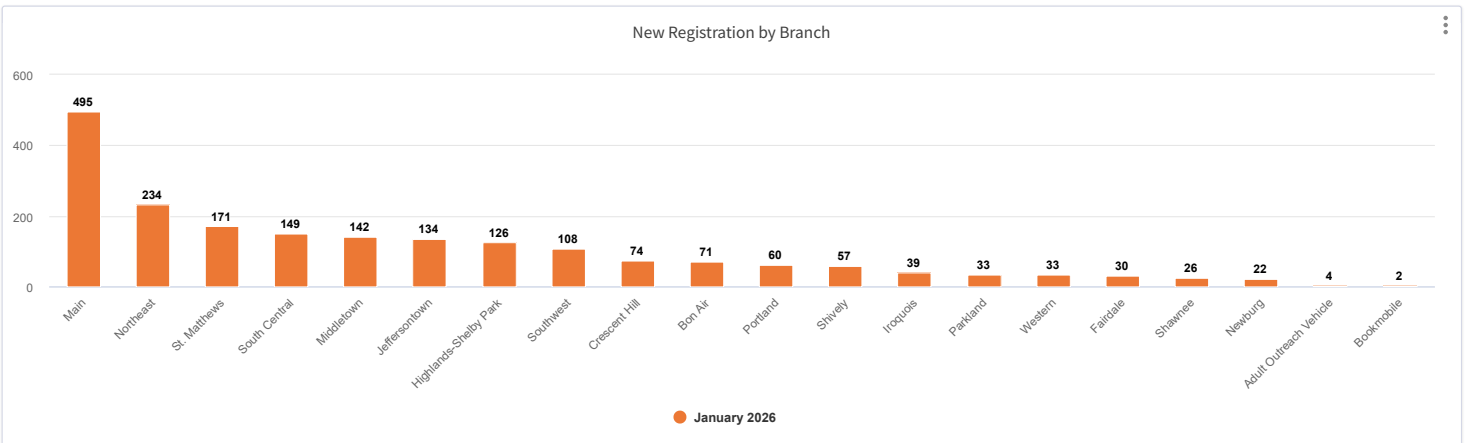
12 Month Running Total

**29,995**

↓ Decreased by 4,215

▼ 12.3%

Compared to the Previous Year



# Active Patrons

## Patrons Active This Month



Jan 2026

**50,861**

↑ Increased by 2,660

▲ 5.5%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Patrons Active in the Last Year



Jan 2026

**135,296**

↑ Increased by 2,833

▲ 2.1%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Patrons Active in the Last 3 Years



Jan 2026

**193,008**

↓ Decreased by 10,530

▼ 5.2%

Compared to Jan 2025

[Click for data summary](#)

## Patrons with Library Cards



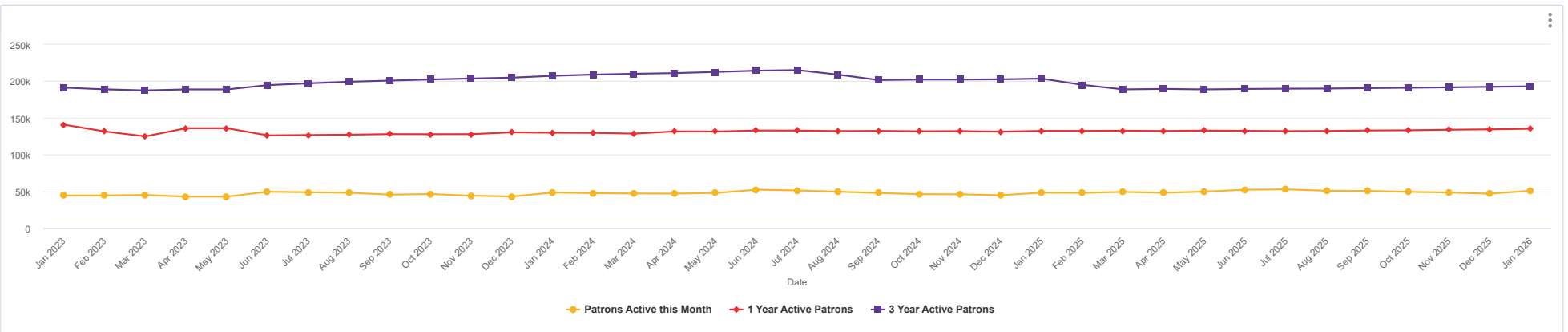
Jan 2026

**618,201**

↑ Increased by 59,412

▲ 10.6%

Compared to Jan 2025



# KPIs

