



**Cornelius
Public Library**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



**Washington County
Cooperative Library Services**

MISSION & VISION

Mission

To Connect, Inspire, and Empower All to Thrive

Conectar, inspirar, y apoyar a todos para prosperar

Vision

We will be the heart of our community, leading in service and inclusivity, where all may improve their lives with information and inspiration.



NEW LEADERSHIP

The Cornelius Public Library had a busy and exciting year that included my promotion to the Director role after several fulfilling years as the Youth Librarian.

One of the most rewarding challenges of my new position is articulating the amazing ways in which the Cornelius Public Library serves our community. Whether it is promoting STEM education through our new makerspace or offering support to entrepreneurs and small businesses via our collaboration with the Forest Grove Cornelius Chamber of Commerce, we are dedicated to genuinely caring for and addressing the needs of everyone who steps through our doors.

As we reflect on 2024, I hope you feel as inspired and empowered as I do about the ways we collaborated to uplift our community. Partnership and innovation remain central themes in our efforts as we embrace our mission: to connect, inspire and empower all to thrive.



Maria Aguilar, Library Director



FOND FAREWELL

This year, we recognize the incredible legacy of Karen Hill, who dedicated 18 years of service to the Cornelius Public Library. As Library Director, Karen was instrumental in transforming the library into the vibrant community hub it is today. Her leadership was essential in the construction of our current library building, the remodel and opening of the Drake Learning Center Makerspace, and the thoughtful expansion of our team.

Karen led with vision, perseverance, and heart, always advocating for inclusive access to information, literacy, and lifelong learning. We are deeply grateful for her service and for the strong foundation she built, which continues to support our mission and community.

Thank you, Karen, for your years of dedication and the lasting impact you have made on Cornelius.

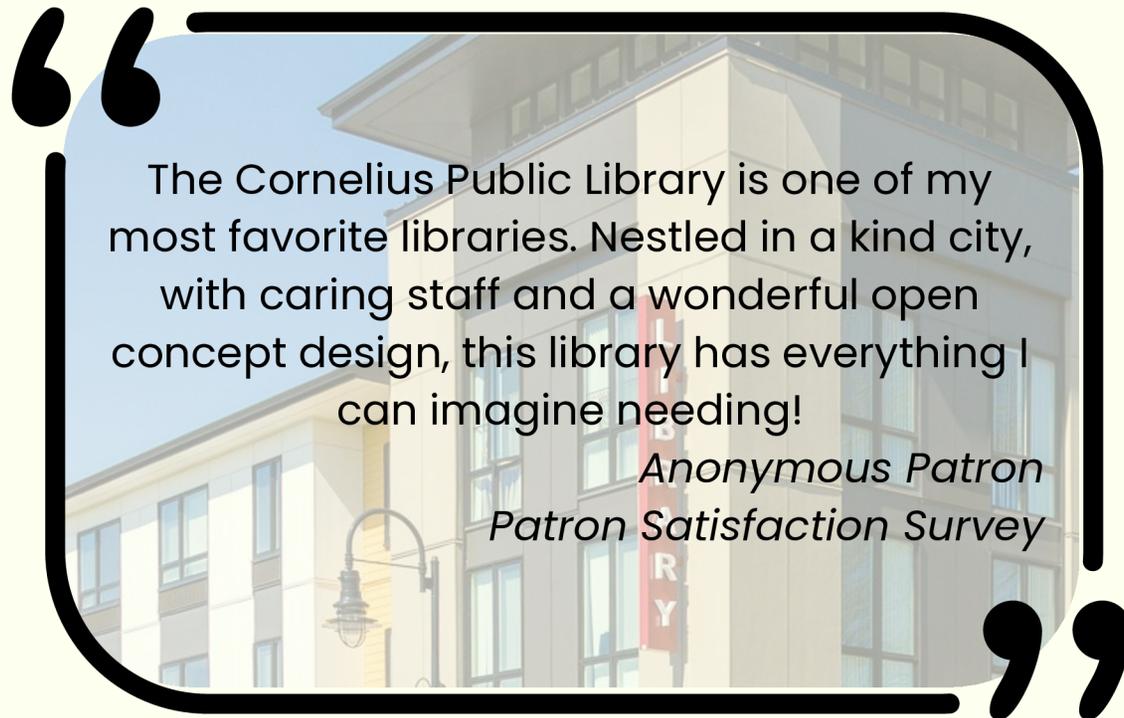


THE DRAKE LEARNING CENTER

In September 2024, the library opened the Drake Learning Center & Makerspace, a space designed to host library programs and public events, featuring tools like 3D printers, sewing machines, and a laser cutter. Named after former City Manager Rob Drake, the space offers monthly programs for all age groups. The goal of the space is to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) education and lifelong learning. This initiative was made possible by funding from the City of Cornelius, federal recovery funds, and local community donations.



Between the Library, our partners, and outside groups, the Drake Learning Center hosted **116 Events** over the course of its first year.



The Cornelius Public Library is one of my most favorite libraries. Nestled in a kind city, with caring staff and a wonderful open concept design, this library has everything I can imagine needing!

*Anonymous Patron
Patron Satisfaction Survey*

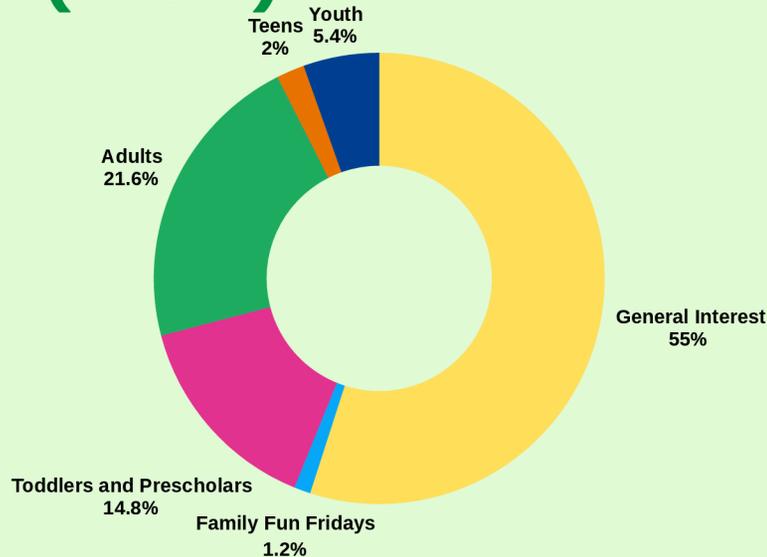
THE NUMBERS

Visits

83,348 (-1.5%)

Programs Implemented

465 (+28%)



Program Attendance

6,834 (+22%)

New Library Card Registrations

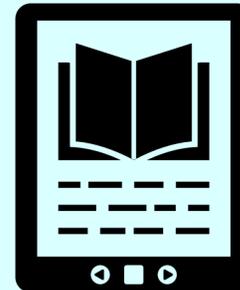
607 (-18%)



Total Checkouts

118,730 (-1.3%)

E-Books only:



33,461 (+19.7%)

Public Computer & Wi-Fi Sessions

31,461 (+29.6%)

Technology Checkouts

Laptops/Chromebooks

85



Hotspots

227



Study Rooms

447 reservations

207 hours/month

Large Meeting Rooms

132 outside group reservations

Outside Organizations

- Cornelius Boosters
- Adelante Mujeres
- Forest Grove School District
- Girl Scouts
- OCDC
- Red Cross – Blood Drive
- Open Door
- And more!



In the last few weeks we discovered Large Print and are enjoying reading much more. I also really appreciate digital/tech help on Wednesdays. Thank you!

*Anonymous Patron
Patron Satisfaction Survey*

YOUTH SERVICES

Each week the library offers programs supporting early childhood development: **Toddler Fun, Movers & Shakers**, and **Bilingual Storytime**. These programs engage children at their level, developing fine motor, literacy, and social skills.

Once a month we organized youth and teen programs with a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) focus in the Drake Learning Center (DLC), taking advantage of its space and tools to design programs that foster curiosity, collaboration, and creativity. Some of our most popular programs include, **Bubble Tea Making**, and **3D Printing Keychains**.

We also host a family event once a month open to all ages, with the aim of gathering our community together to celebrate events such as **Brazilian Carnaval** or simply have fun and connect with others, like in **Princess-Dinosaur Tea Party**.

Patrons learning how to write Chinese characters during Family Lunar New Year Celebration.



Young patrons make an Ocean in a Bottle.



Maria Aguilar reading a book during a Movers & Shakers Program.

YEARLY PROGRAMS

Every year we host programs that are both culturally significant and locally popular. Our partnerships play a vital role in making these events possible.

One of our standout events is the **Annual Gingerbread Houses program**. Families are invited to join us in constructing houses using crackers and decorating them with candy. This festive gathering takes place every December, welcoming participants of all ages. We truly enjoy witnessing the incredible creations that our guests craft during this event. This year's event was sponsored by the Friends of the Library and counted with the attendance of 102 people.

Another major annual event is the **Day of the Dead Celebration**, and this year's gathering was our largest to date! We were fortunate to partner with outstanding organizations such as Portland Community College, OCDC Poder Familias, and TierrAgua to bring our whole community together in celebration.

Popular gingerbread houses program.



Patrons doing activities at Día de los Niños | Children's Day program.



Patrons participating in Hispanic Heritage Celebration.



Día de los Muertos performance by TierrAgua.

SUMMER READING

The Summer Reading Challenge was a great success with 1,387 sign-ups: 917 kids, 298 teens, and 177 adults. A total of 271,273 minutes read.

It kicked off with an unforgettable acrobatic performance by *The Circus Wheel*, attended by 103 patrons. The library offered Summer Reading programs for families on Wednesdays, teen on Tuesdays, and a monthly adult program, alongside our regular offerings. Popular events included a **Magic Show**, **The Reptile Man**, and **DIY Ice Cream** event for teens.



The SRC 2024 theme
Read, Renew, Repeat.

Patrons select free books at the Summer Reading Kickoff.



A patron has her face painted at the Summer Reading Kickoff.



The Reptile Man presenting a lizard.

A patron practicing Chinese calligraphy.



ADULT SERVICES

We are committed to providing incredible resources and programs for our adult patrons to fulfill a wide variety of personal, communal, and professional needs.

Some of our more popular programs are a weekly **Basic Technology Class**, where patrons can get their questions answered in-person with tech experts, and a **Digital Navigator** who is available for walk-in questions and service.

Additionally, we host a number reoccurring programs designed to engage, connect, and inform our patrons, such as **Citizenship Classes** and **Zumba Classes**. A new monthly adult themed craft program was added as a way to provide a fun space for adults to socialize, share, and build community.



Patrons learning how to make candles at DIY Candle Making program at the Drake Learning Center.



Patrons working on project in DIY Laser Cut Clocks at the Drake Learning Center.



Patrons at Rosehip Infused Oil Program.

ART IN THE LIBRARY

This year, we made remarkable progress in broadening our art-focused programs. Throughout the month of October, we organized a series of **“Art Socials” events** every Saturday, giving patrons the opportunity to discover various art forms, connect with new people, and enjoy refreshments. This initiative was made possible through a grant from the Washington County Arts Coalition and the Walters Foundation.

Another important program we continued this fiscal year was the **“Meet the Artist” event**. This offered patrons a chance to appreciate the works of newly featured artists at our library. Every other month, we present a different artist to our community. This program not only highlights local talent but also enables artists to share the stories behind their creations and their personal experiences. The program received funding from the Cornelius Library Foundation.

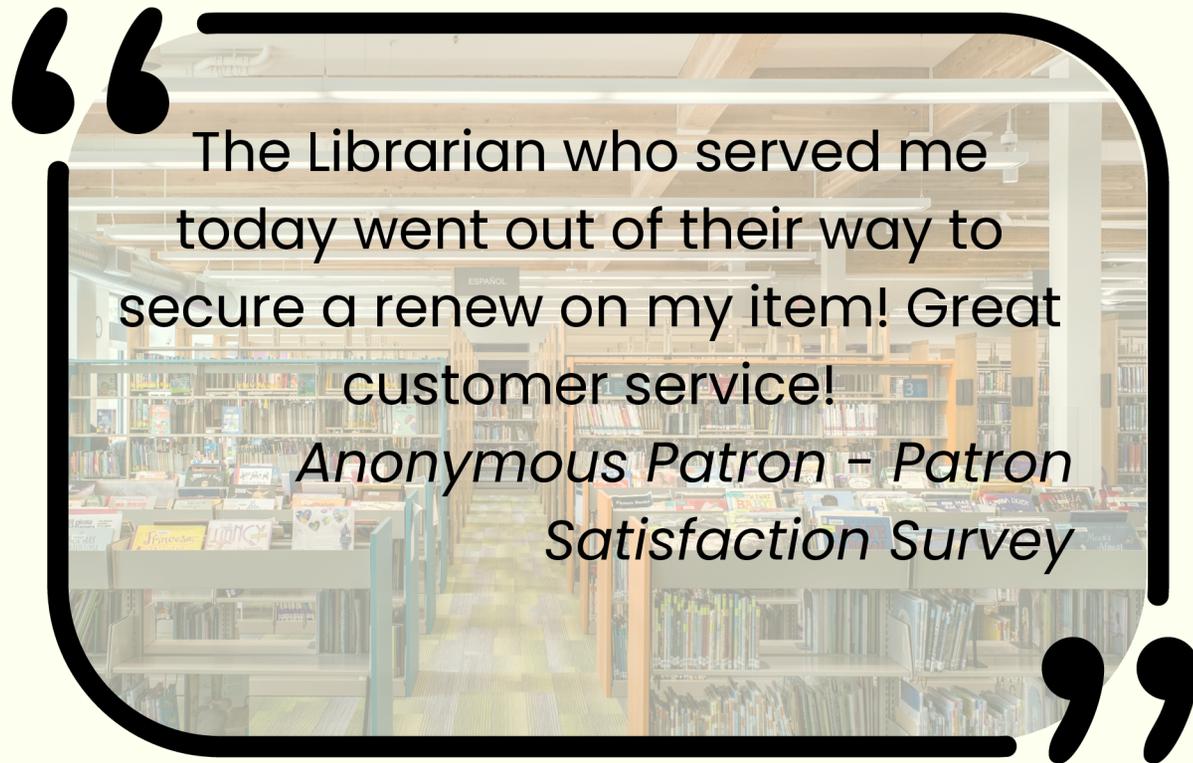
Artist Arturo Villaseñor showing his art to patrons.



Peggy Harris Library Foundation member speaking during Meet the Artist - Karen Shawcross program.



Patrons paint pet portraits at an Art Social program.



The Librarian who served me today went out of their way to secure a renew on my item! Great customer service!

Anonymous Patron – Patron Satisfaction Survey

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, Outreach hosted or attended 84 events and recorded 7,226 interactions with community members.

Outreach hosted 28 fieldtrips at the library or in the Drake Learning Center and Makerspace. The library provided storytimes, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities like making slime, weaving on laser-cut looms and making tie-dyed t-shirts.

The library attended 12 community-partner non-bookmobile events, including:

- Neil Armstrong Middle School's Career Day
- Math Night at Free Orchards Elementary School
- Adelante Mujeres' Chicas Camps

Cornelius Elementary students make tie-dye t-shirts in the Drake Learning Center.



A student at Free Orchards Elementary Math Night interacts with a robot.



A student working on loom fabricated in the Drake Learning Center.



A Chicas camper shows off her decorated tote bag.



BOOKMOBILE

The library's bookmobile hosted or attended 42 events and distributed over 1,700 books to Cornelius residents.

Bookmobile events included:

- 6 Bookmobile at the Park events
- Cornelius Farmers Market
- City of Cornelius' Flicks in the Parks
- Back to School Nights and Field Days

In total Outreach supported events hosted by the following partner organizations:

- The Oregon Human Development Corporation
- Adelante Farmers Markets
- Forest Grove School District
- Virginia Garcia Medical Center
- Adelante Chicas Camps
- Pacific University
- Northwest Regional Education Service District
- Centro Cultural
- Swallowtail Waldorf School
- Hillsboro School District
- The Oregon Child Development Coalition

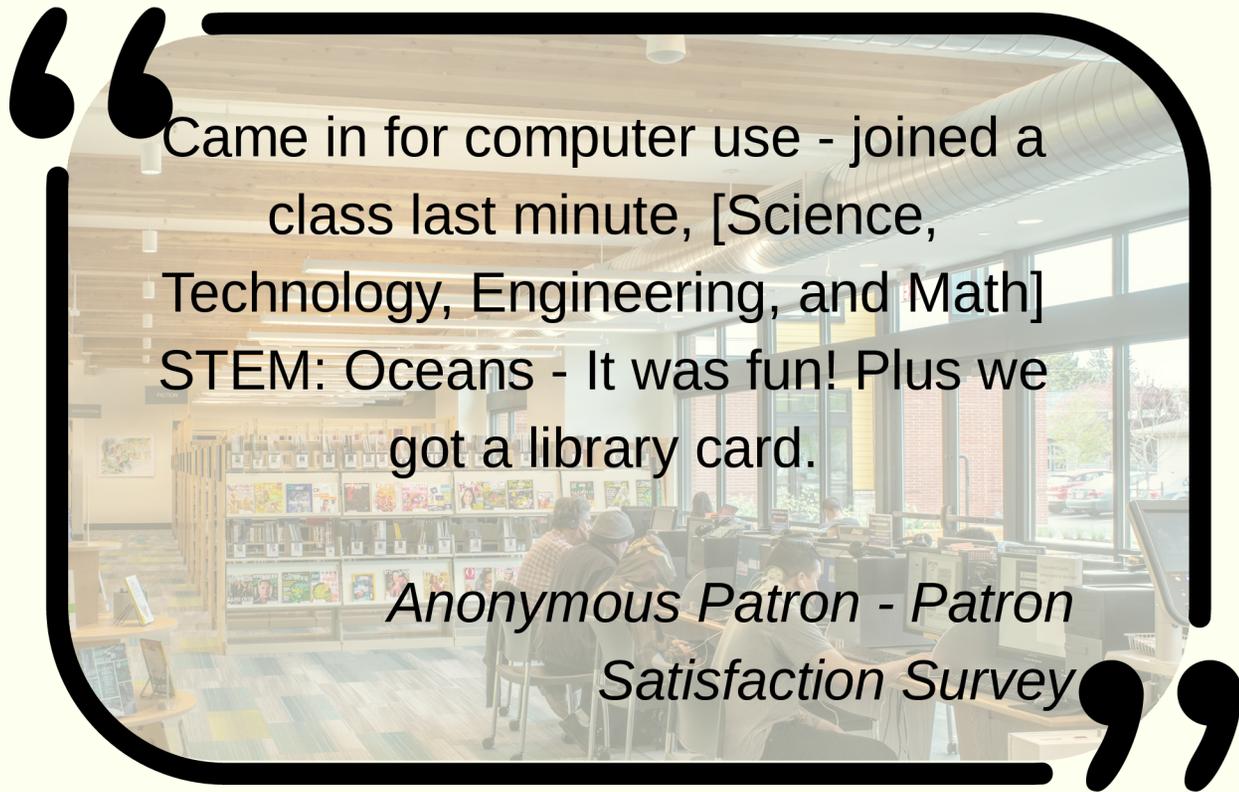
Guests at the Cornelius Farmers Market take books from the bookmobile.



A community member shows off a volunteer-donated tote bag at a Bookmobile in the Park event.



Children enjoy free books and games from the Bookmobile.



Came in for computer use - joined a class last minute, [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] STEM: Oceans - It was fun! Plus we got a library card.

Anonymous Patron - Patron Satisfaction Survey

VOLUNTEERS & FELLOWS

Volunteers serve essential functions at the library, helping us serve our patrons and community. In 2024–2025, 59 volunteers contributed 2918 hours, performing tasks like shelving books and assisting with programs. We want to highlight volunteer and foundation member Mat for his significant contributions and recognize Paula, a long time volunteer who has consistently supported our youth programs for 10 years.

This year, we were fortunate to have an Encore Fellow, Greg, who assists us with our Makerspace initiatives. His expertise contributes to projects like the **Open Lab** on Mondays and other endeavors that require specialized skills he possesses.

Volunteer August helps with circulation.



Greg, Encore Fellow, helping during Earthquake-Proof Spaghetti Buildings Program.

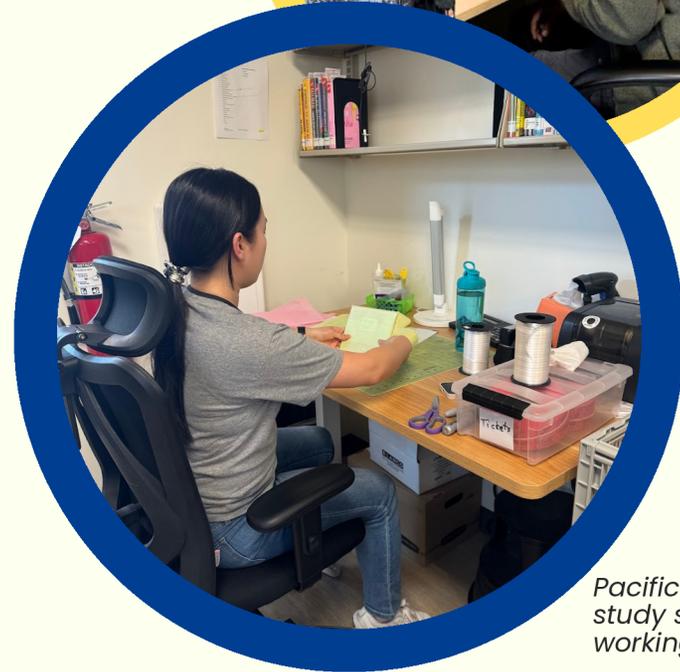
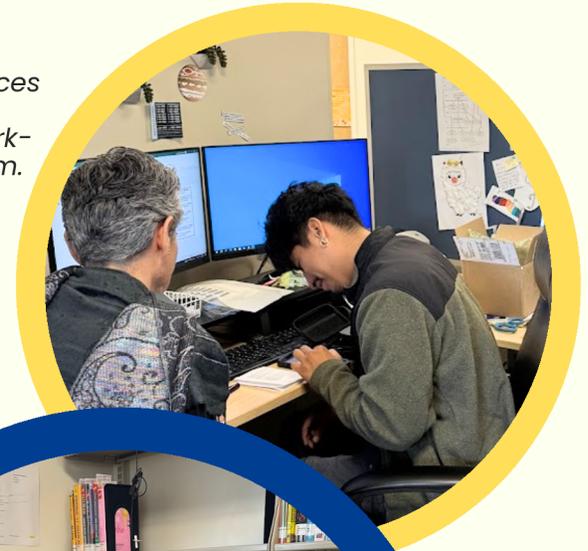
FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

We had another fulfilling and successful year of partnership with Pacific University through the Federal Work-Study program. The library received funding for three work study positions (Library Processing Aide, Library Outreach Aide, and Library Technology Aide) that enhance our services and improve the quality of life in the community.

Worth noting that the Library Processing Aide position was filled by two students, allowing the library to provide work-study opportunities to a total of four students. By the end of the 2024-25 academic year, these Pacific University students collectively worked a total of 564 hours.

We honored our partnership by offering students the chance to develop essential competencies on the job, including digital literacy, active citizenship and community engagement, innovation and creativity, analytical and critical thinking skills, embracing diversity, and applied problem-solving.

Angelica, Adult Services Librarian, works with Pacific University work-study student, William.



Pacific University work-study student Sheila, working on a project.



This was so fun and cute! Thank you for this awesome experience and all the hard work that went into planning this event, my girls had a blast!

IT WAS FUN!!!

Comment from patron attending our Princess-Dinosaur Tea Party Program

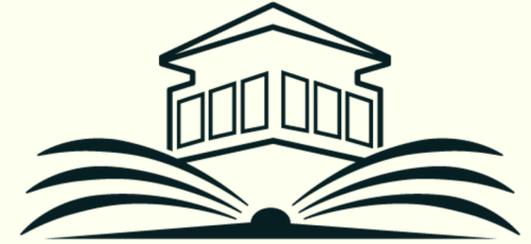
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Partners



Pacific University, Cultural Coalition Washington County, Oregon Human Development Corporation, Clean Water Services.

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Wilco, Hillsboro Hops, D'Anu Wines.

THANK YOU!