



# Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>  
ZOOM  
12:00 pm

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:02pm

Members Present: Trevor Pearson, Kara Murphy, Mary Ann Tempestini, Martha Knuth, Bill Conway, Jim Dehaven

Members Absent: Felix Lohitai, Liz Allen, Julie Boam

Others Present: Sheryl Thomas, Jessica Church, Blane Dessy, Marcus Yuille, Alyssa Johnson

### 2. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2020

Approved as written.

### 3. Library Reports

#### a. Director's Report

- i. New Bookmobile Began Service on January 19  
Routes went into effect on January 19. Awaiting materials from PennDOT/Ohio DMV to make the bookmobile legal to drive in PA.
- ii. Curb Side Service through February 1  
County Administration advised to remain curbside while county transmission is substantial and case numbers remain high.
- iii. Youth Work Experience Program  
Marcus is running point on a program to allow young people to serve as library youth ambassadors in their neighborhoods.
- iv. Oral Histories  
The library is undertaking a COVID-19 Diaries project for the general public to upload audio recordings of their pandemic experience, and is conducting "Oral Histories" of 40 selected leaders in the county. This project will digitally record, transcribe and preserve local history resources for the future.
- v. Strategic Plan Update  
Strategic plan is being finished and formatted. Final version will be presented at the February meeting.
- vi. Keystone Planning Grant (Millcreek)  
The draft RFP has been approved by Office of Commonwealth Libraries and we are working with Erie County's purchasing department to distribute. They have finalized the

document and must advertise the opportunity twice. Deadline for submissions is March 1.

vii. FOL book sale carts at branches (so far LIN, IRQ, EDB)

This mini book sale was piloted at the Lincoln branch and involves taking a book cart to the curb so that patrons conducting curbside pickup have the opportunity to purchase Friends books as well, and generate some income for the group. Currently at several branches, will be rolling to Blasco soon.

viii. New museum site supervisor (Jim Hall), potential for partnerships

Library Admin has a meeting set with the new Maritime Museum director to explore how our organizations can work more collaboratively to provide programs and serve our community.

ix. Virtual Programming Calendar

The question arose of how to do programs more efficiently during COVID and otherwise. Library programmers are shifting how we think about, create, disseminate, and store programs for reuse in the future. Will continue to provide programming but changing how we administer on the back-end. In the past we were bound by location but that is not true in the new virtual environment. Discussion around how we can coordinate and cooperate with independent libraries. Trevor suggested that CAM is obtaining new server; agreed to revisit the ECPL-CAM partnership that was proposed pre-pandemic.

b. Financial Report (none available for December 2020, reconciling until February)

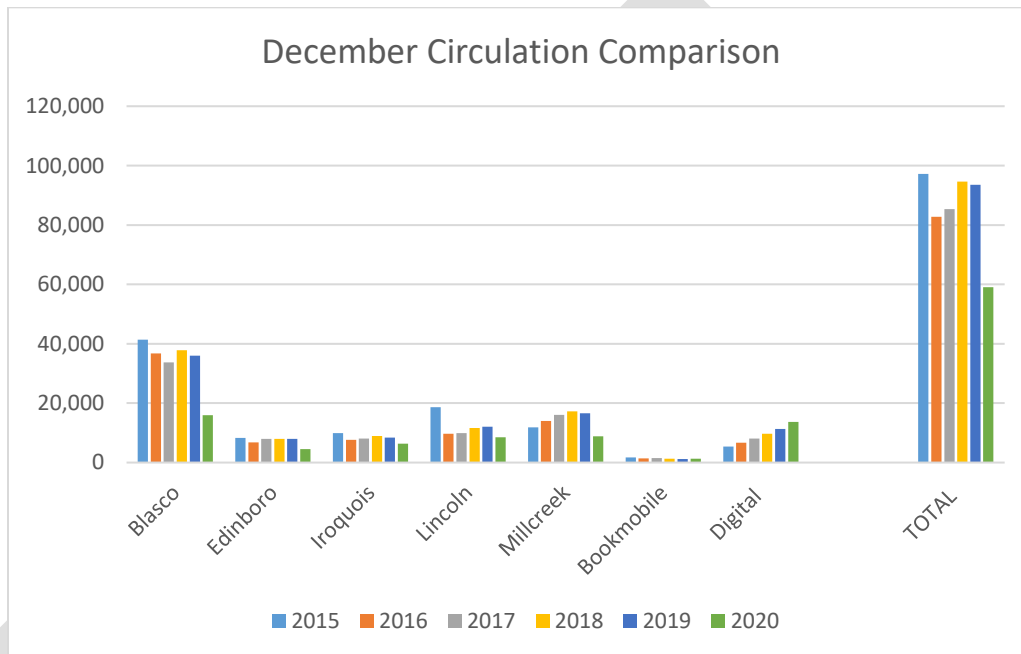
c. Statistics Report

December 2020 Statistics

**Numbers Snapshot**

- **59,028** overall check outs, down **36.9%**
- **13,718** digital check outs, up **21%**
- Bookmobile check outs up **2%**

**Circulation**

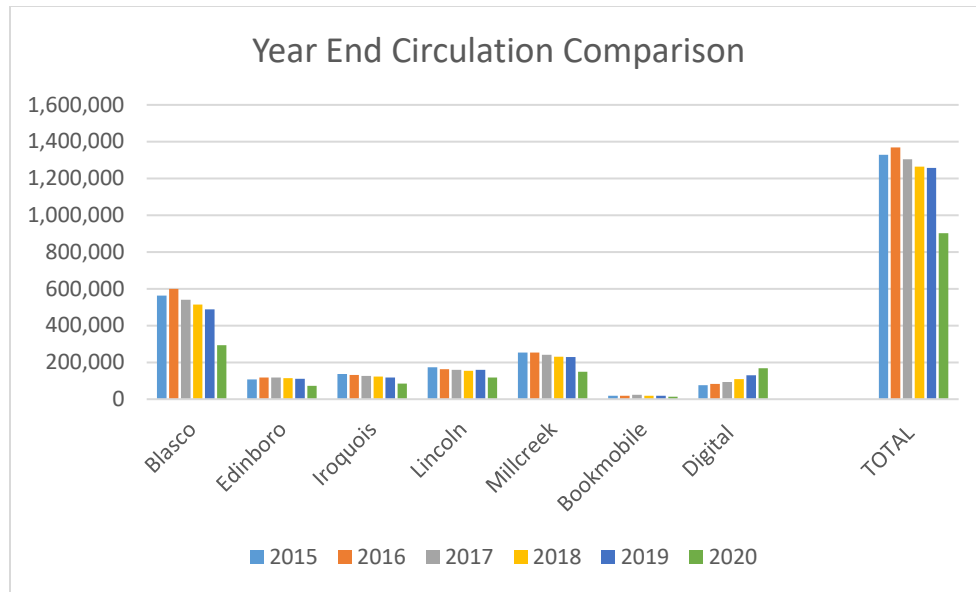


	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Blasco</b>	41,436	36,711	33,776	37,808	35,942	15,909
<b>Edinboro</b>	8,298	6,743	7,949	7,933	7,960	4,538
<b>Iroquois</b>	9,903	7,654	8,039	8,995	8,423	6,330
<b>Lincoln</b>	18,606	9,648	9,926	11,617	12,028	8,473
<b>Millcreek</b>	11,863	13,980	16,095	17,297	16,645	8,808
<b>Bookmobile</b>	1,745	1,391	1,502	1,315	1,226	1,252
<b>Digital</b>	5,389	6,647	8,066	9,666	11,337	13,718
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,240</b>	<b>82,774</b>	<b>85,353</b>	<b>94,631</b>	<b>93,561</b>	<b>59,028</b>

**2020 Year End Numbers Snapshot**

- **901,740** total checkouts, down **28%**
- **168,979** digital checkouts, up **29%**

## 2020 Overall Circulation



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Blasco</b>	562,757	599,239	541,309	515,225	488,238	292,957
<b>Edinboro</b>	106,965	118,753	117,438	113,679	111,344	72,575
<b>Iroquois</b>	137,436	131,544	126,091	122,325	117,024	85,271
<b>Lincoln</b>	173,308	162,537	160,471	154,646	160,424	118,618
<b>Millcreek</b>	252,745	254,185	242,065	231,088	229,995	149,197
<b>Bookmobile</b>	19,359	19,290	23,540	19,017	19,454	14,143
<b>Digital</b>	75,452	83,175	92,787	108,373	130,639	168,979
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,328,022</b>	<b>1,368,723</b>	<b>1,303,701</b>	<b>1,264,353</b>	<b>1,257,118</b>	<b>901,740</b>

### d. Report of District Consultant

**Plans for State Aid Part 2 for individual libraries and County Coordination Aid Part 2 have been submitted for district libraries.** Due to the delay in finalizing PA's legislative budget, individual libraries and county libraries had to double up on submitting reports for how each entity plans on using state aid in 2021. Locally, the Plans for State Aid reports describe how state aid will be used to help cover salaries, wages, and collection development costs. County Coordination Aid supports the shared resources of the public libraries across Erie County including some IT personnel, Polaris, Internet costs, e-book content contributions, technology upgrades, and more.

At the district level, we begin the new year with numerous planning gears in motion, including continuing education trainings, networking opportunities with other libraries and institutions, relationship building with stakeholders and advocating for our libraries, and more. Stay tuned! Jessica explained that Part 2 should come in February and consists of County Coordination piece, as opposed to Part 1 which is specific to individual library.

e. [Update on EDI Committee—Marcus Yuille, Outreach Services Manager](#)

Marcus shared that the EDI Committee was formed in October and consists of 25 members in total. It examines policies, programs, collections, outreach, and budget for biases that are barriers to patrons. The hope is to parallel the EDI Committee suggestions with those of the strategic plan. Some of the changes will include: changing the card application, changing ID criteria, program planning checklist, Collections (diversity audit was previously underway by tech services, EDI committee will shape parameters for new acquisitions), defining outreach initiatives in seeking new demographics, applying the PA Forward framework, creating displays, expanding partnerships, and developing a role for volunteers. Next step: Marcus to compile the report, Blane will receive and present to LAB, then send to County Administration. After endorsement from both parties a timeline will be assessed. The County also has their own Equity committee and one of the issues they are looking to tackle is a creative pipeline for hiring minorities; how to rebrand the county as an attractive employer to minorities.

#### 4. Board and Committee Reports

a. [Report of County Council Liaison](#)

None

b. [Report of Friends and ERLF](#)

None

#### 5. Unfinished Business

None

#### 6. New Business

None

#### 7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:42pm

#### 8. Appendix

a. [News Articles](#)

Erie County Public Library to Participate in Winter Reading Challenge

Thursday, December 31st 2020, 5:09 PM EST

The Erie County Public Library will participate in Beanstack's annual Winter Reading Challenge this winter, according to a news release issued Thursday afternoon.

All Erie County Public Libraries, together with the Public Libraries of Erie County - including Albion Public Library, Rice Avenue Community Library, Waterford Public Library, Union City Public Library, Corry Public Library and McCord Memorial Library - will participate in the challenge set to take place from Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 through Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021.

The program is available for all ages.

Simon & Schuster is sponsoring the 2021 challenge, which is themed "Books Like Us."

Starting January 1, library customers are challenged to read at least ten hours during the challenge and track their reading on the challenge site. Thousands of libraries and schools across the United States are participating in this year's challenge. Additionally, optional activities, such as discussion groups, will be available throughout the challenge.

Participants will read collectively to achieve prizes for the community, including book collections and virtual author visits. Ten winning schools or libraries will receive a collection of 50 books from the "Books Like Us" collection.

Readers can register online at [erielibrary.beanstack.org](https://erielibrary.beanstack.org) (<https://erielibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>), or download the Beanstack app to register and participate on a mobile device.

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## b. Media Releases

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 5, 2020

**CONTACT:**

Marcus Yuille

myuille@eriecountypa.gov

814-451-6959

# Erie County Public Library holds bookmobile open house Jan. 5

Erie, PA – Erie County Public Library will hold an open house for the newly acquired bookmobile on Tuesday, Jan. 5, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the parking lot of Blasco Library, 160 E. Front St.

This event will allow interested patrons a chance to board the new vehicle and preview the new collection materials, technology and enhanced service routes. Notable additions to the bookmobile include laptop outreach services, updated collection materials, and a publicly accessible Wi-Fi service point.

Patrons will be able to use both laptops and the free Wi-Fi while the bookmobile is stopped at each service point, increasing the access to technology for patrons located beyond the library's physical branches – where the services were previously offered exclusively.

In preparation for future services, the bookmobile has also been configured to host outreach programming at service points across the county. The bookmobile will continue its primary service of delivering hold requests to patrons at their chosen service points.

Bookmobile staff will be available on-site to highlight these new offerings and assist patrons with any questions regarding increased services and expanded routes.

All attendees are required to wear masks and keep socially distant.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 31, 2020

**CONTACT:**

Shane Donaldson

sdonaldson@eriecountypa.gov

814-451-6928

# Erie County Public Library participates in Winter Reading Challenge 2021

Erie, PA – Erie County Public Library together with The Public Libraries of Erie County\* announces participation in Beanstack's annual Winter Reading Challenge from Friday, Jan. 1, to Sunday, Feb. 28. All public libraries within Erie County will offer this program thanks to the generous support of Friends of the Erie County Public Library. All ages are invited to participate.

The 2021 theme, "Books Like Us," is sponsored by Simon & Schuster. Titles from the "Books Like Us" collection feature powerful stories from diverse voices, allowing readers to identify and connect with characters that reflect their own narratives.

Beginning Jan. 1, patrons are challenged to read at least 10 hours during the challenge and track their reading on the challenge site. The Public Libraries of Erie County join thousands of libraries and schools across the nation to participate in this winter reading challenge. There will also be optional activities, including discussion opportunities, throughout the challenge.

Unlike Erie County Public Library's Summer Library Challenges, participants will read collectively to achieve community prizes, including book collections and virtual author visits to those communities with the most amount of participation. Ten winning schools or libraries will each get a collection of 50 books from the "Books Like Us" collection.

Readers can register online at <https://erielibrary.beanstack.org>, or download the Beanstack app to register and participate on a mobile device. Questions can be directed to Shane Donaldson, Erie County Public Library manager of youth services, at 814-451-6928 or [library-reference@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:library-reference@eriecountypa.gov).

Read more about Beanstack's Winter Reading Challenge at <https://bit.ly/2WZiCk3> and follow #WinterRead2021 on social media.

\*Public Libraries of Erie County include Albion Public Library, Rice Avenue Community Library, Waterford Public Library, Union City Public Library, Corry Public Library, and McCord Memorial Library.

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#### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 30, 2020

#### **CONTACT:**

Marcus Yuille

[myuille@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:myuille@eriecountypa.gov)

814-451-6959

## **Media advisory: Erie County Public Library unveils new bookmobile Jan. 5**

Erie, PA – Erie County Public Library will hold a press unveiling of its newly acquired bookmobile on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m.

The unveiling will take place in the parking lot of Blasco Library, 160 E. Front St.

The vehicle will be outfitted with new collection materials and open for inspection/footage gathering. Marcus Yuille, manager of outreach services, will be available on-site to interview regarding the new vehicle and enhanced service routes.

County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and members of County Council are expected to attend, along with Blane Dessy, director of the Erie County Public Library, and members of the Erie Regional Library Foundation and Friends of the Erie County Public Library.

Media attending the event are asked to wear masks and keep socially distant.

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