HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hoboken Public Library
Agenda for In Person Meeting of the Board of Trustees
OCTOBER 27, 2027 6:30pm to 8pm

Option to Join on Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85958862584

Meeting ID:859 5886 2584

1. Call to Order
2. Announcement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law
3. Roll Call
4. Minutes of Meeting
5. Public Comments
6. Director's Report
7. Committee Report
    a. Buildings and Grounds
    b. Budget and Finance
    c. Personnel and Policy
    d. Branding and Marketing
8. President's Report
9. Hoboken Public Library Friends & Foundation Report
10. Old Business
11. Executive Session
12. New Business
13. Consent Agenda

Approval of checks to be paid	Finance Committee
Minutes approval	

14. Trustee Comments
15. Adjournment

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Director's Report for October 27, 2026 Board Meeting



E-book Assembly Testimony

Director's Highlights

- **Library closure and renovation update:** The Main Library will temporarily close from November 4 through January 31 for the most intensive phase of restoration work on the first floor and mezzanine. This operational adjustment prioritizes the well-being of patrons and staff while the renovation remains on schedule and within budget. Services will continue through curbside pickup, expanded Grand Street Branch hours, digital collections, and programming at alternative locations.
- **E-Book Licensing Legislation – Assembly Testimony:** On October 15, Jennie testified before the New Jersey Assembly Education Committee in support of A4956, legislation addressing restrictive digital content licensing practices affecting public libraries. Using Hoboken's circulation, expenditures, and patron waitlists, her testimony highlighted the growing financial burden on public institutions and barriers to reader access. The bill subsequently advanced out of committee. (See attached testimony). Her testimony, which highlighted the rising demand and costs of E-books, was covered by Andrew Richard Albanese in Words & Money.
- **Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)**: Jennie attended the Association for Rural & Small Libraries annual conference in Montgomery, Alabama. Her attendance reflected the increasing partnership between ARSL and ULC, particularly through shared national advocacy efforts, including our joint statement addressing e-book pricing and the importance of equitable E-rate access for libraries and schools.
- **Urban Library Council (ULC) Annual Leadership Forum:** Jennie attended the Urban Libraries Council's 2026 Annual Leadership Forum, held September 30–October 2 in Las Vegas, Nevada, hosted by Clark County District Library. She moderated a panel featuring leaders from Cleveland Public Library, Hennepin County Library, Kansas City Public Library, and Ottawa Public Library, exploring how large library systems build a clear, consistent institutional voice across complex organizations. The Forum brought together library leaders from across North America to exchange strategies on leadership, advocacy, organizational culture, and communicating the value of public libraries.
- **Library Journal Directors' Summit:** Jennie and Assistant Director James Cox attended the 2026 Library Journal Directors' Summit in Winter Park, Florida, joining public library leaders from across the country for focused discussions on literacy, reading, and the evolving role of libraries.

Jennie was also featured by Communico, a library partner and vendor, highlighting Hoboken Public Library's leadership and work in serving its community.

- **LibraryLinkNJ Collections Virtual Conference – E-Book Licensing and Legislation:** On October 22, Jennie presented a statewide webinar, E-Book Licensing and Legislation: What Collections Librarians Need to Know, as part of LibraryLinkNJ's Collections Virtual Conference. The session examined the economics of e-book and audiobook licensing, rising costs and restrictive licensing practices, and legislative developments in New Jersey and across the country. The presentation also explored the implications of these efforts for library collections, budgets, and public access to digital materials.
- **Sesame Street workshop:** On October 14, Jennie and members of library staff participated in a workshop with the Sesame Street Impact Programs team. Sesame Workshop is working on a new public library initiative and reached out to HPL to help shape it by taking part in a co-design session. The session aimed to help the team understand how libraries might integrate Sesame Workshop materials into their spaces and programming to better serve their communities.
- **NJ Spotlight News Interview:** Jennie was interviewed by NJ Spotlight News on September 23rd in recognition of Banned Books Week, discussing recent statistics on book censorship and the continued challenges to intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. The conversation highlighted the importance of public libraries in protecting access to diverse perspectives and ensuring that readers can make their own choices about what to read.
- **Little Free Library:** Staff joined Our Tern and Resilience Paddle Sports at Church Square Towers for a tree planting and biodiversity celebration, where we unveiled the Little Free Library decorated by HPL's Senior Library Assistant Mads Sanden.

Department Summaries

Assistant Director

- **Main Library reopening:** We successfully reopened the Main Library on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. As a result, all operations were shifted back to the Main Library with departments resuming their normal routines with Access Services (circulation) continuing on the Second Floor alongside Information and Digital Services. Access Services Processing moved to the Small Programming Room and will remain there for the duration of construction.
- **Department of Labor (DOL) Care Grant:** James attended the New Jersey Department of Labor Care Grant Quarter 1 In-Person Meeting in Trenton on Wednesday, October 14. He met with DOL representatives and Care Grant colleagues for a day of information sessions.
- **September door count:** The Main Library door count for September represents foot traffic from staff and contractors while the building was closed. It therefore does not represent customer visitation or engagement.

Information and Digital Services

- **Kanopy Kids**: Kanopy Kids will continue to be available for Hoboken Public Library card holders. The service is changing in November from being a charge for when usage occurs to being a set fee per year pricing model. The adult collection continues to use the cost per circ model. We plan to increase promotion of the Kanopy Kids service via social media in November.
- **Newsbank:** NewsBank will be rolling out an updated interface over the next few weeks. This will include expanded translation and native-language support which will allow users to have more options to navigate and interact with content in their preferred language. Enhancements such as image-to-text transcription, dyslexia-friendly fonts, adjustable contrast, and font-size controls will

better support accessibility. The new design will also be more mobile friendly with optimization for smaller screens, making it easier to use on phones and tablets.

- **IDS Book Club and Movies :** This month's Mystery Book Club discussed *Marion* by Leah Rowan on October 13 and had 11 people attend at the Main Branch. The September discussion at Haraz Coffee House had 12 people attending. The Passport Book Club discussion in September was held at Grand Street and had 4 people attending. Last month, the Horror Book Club discussion had 8 people attend at Grand Street with 8 people also attending a movie screening beforehand. The Science Fiction/Fantasy Discussion had 5 people attend via Zoom in September. We are planning to continue some of the book discussions at Grand Street during the next closure.
- **Writing Programs:** The Writers Group had 2 people attending in September and 3 people attending in October via Zoom. There is an in person writing prompt group scheduled for Oct 27 at 6 PM, and we plan to continue featuring prompts on the blog when Main is closed again.

Grand Street

- **Monthly highlight:** The Branch served more customers and circulated more books than ever in September as we welcomed customers from the Main Library during the closure. Our foot traffic was higher than it has ever been since before the pandemic, with over 8,600 guests. We processed a high volume of materials as our holds went from half 1 shelf to 8 full shelves. We hosted over 50 programs, circulated the Library of Things and Museum Passes, and proudly served as the city's only full-service public library during the closure.
- **Tech Time:** On October 13 we began a new 10-week session of Tech Time with Konnekt Global. Topics include online safety & scam protection with Project Senior Care, AI awareness, email basics, video calling, online shopping & banking safely.
- **Italian Heritage Month:** On October 17 we hosted a celebration of Italian Heritage Month including the movie *Luca* and crafts for children.
- **Programs:** Programs moved from Main to the Grand Street Branch during the closure include Art with Liz, Unemployment Insurance, several IDS-run Book Clubs, Horror/Thriller Movie Night, Hudson SPEAKS Coalition Meetings, Saturday Story Times, Explore Art, and Dungeons & Dragons.
- **Chess club:** Based on customer interest, we are planning to begin a tween-led Chess Club for ages 10-15 biweekly on Mondays beginning in November.

Grand Street Branch Programming, September 2026

Service	Programs	Attendees
Adult Programs	27	546
Youth Programs	26	1050
TOTAL	**53**	**1596**

Grand Street Branch Usage, September 2026

Service	Total	% Change	% YTD Change
Circulation - Adult	1357	+104%	+175%
Circulation - Youth	2060	+65%	+62%
Locker Use	881	+35%	+14%
Total Door Count	**8670**	**+58%**	**+230%**

Youth Services

- **New Programs:** The Youth Services Department has introduced some new reoccurring programs this school year to continue to grow our department's offerings.
    - **Fine Motor Skills Prep**: Through hands-on activities such as finger painting, collages, and sensory crafts, children explore creativity while developing fine motor skills, language, and early literacy concepts. We've done a lot of Halloween themed lessons this month.
    - **Wonder Worksheets:** An educational program for young learners. Each session will include a simple math and early literacy activity to reinforce essential skills in an accessible way. Examples of concepts we have reviewed include counting, writing numbers, comparing sets, rhyming, upper- and lowercase letters, and initial consonants. We plan to expand this program with our TAB members volunteering as Wonder Buddies offering one-on-one or small group assistance.
    - **Programs in the Park:** We ended our outdoor programming season with some programs in the Park including an I Spy Live Gaming Event, Hispanic Heritage Month Garden Party, and a celebration for the release of the newest Percy Jackson book!
- **HPL's Teen Advisory Board:** Our Teen Advisory Board has been helping staff plan for our Not So Spooky Halloween Party on October 27. We have so many fun activities and stories ready.
- **Partnerships:** We will be continuing our partnership with Elysian Charter School's Hoboken Heroes. They will be working with the library on different volunteer projects this fall.
- **Teen programs:** HPL's Teen Advisory Board is running three weekly programs this school year. These TAB members have been volunteering for a while and it is great to see them take on more of a leadership role as they organize programs for younger patrons and fellow teens.
    - **Emma's Teen Lit Club** - a place for teens to meet and journal about their favorite books, share original writing, and recommend books to each other (and to us!)
    - **Gabriel's Teen Debate Club** - Gabriel has run mock debate clubs over the summer and at school so now he is sharing his knowledge with TAB. The kids are learning about the structure of how a formal debate club is run and are having fun discussing with each other and sharing their opinions. Most recently we debated the best halloween candy.
    - **Mia's Coding Class** - Mia has been teaching our older elementary school tweens the basics of scratch in small groups.
- **School outreach:** We have continued with our offsite visits now that school is back in session. HPL has been visiting pre-k classes all over Hoboken for story time and craft sessions, as well as continuing to bring our Pop-Up Library to schools, most recently Connors Elementary School, Hoboken Charter School, and All Saints. We will be attending Elysian Charter School's Family Literacy Day to connect with more teachers and parents.

Kids Programs September 2026

Event	# of Events Per Month	Participants
Story Time/Special Programs	77 (50 offsite during the Main Library's closure, 27 at Grand)	4336
School/Camp Visits	4 (4 offsite)	80

YA Programs September 2026

Event	# of Events Per Month	Participants
YA Events/Attendance	22	129
YA/School/Camp Visits/Volunteer Service	1	35

Information Technology

- **Patron Printing & Station Access**: Following the official reopening of the 2nd and 3rd floors at the Main Library, the IT department has fully restored wireless, remote, and desktop printing services for all visiting patrons. All public workstations, catalog kiosks, and staff terminals on the upper floors are operational.
- **Community Technology Instruction:** IT configured dedicated mobile device hardware and presentation equipment at the Grand Street Branch to support the upcoming senior digital literacy series (Tech Time at Grand).
- **STEAM & Academic Partnerships:** IT is providing technical setup and network bandwidth support for returning fall youth programs, including hands-on STEAM workshops conducted in partnership with the Stevens Institute of Technology.
- **Network Infrastructure & Traffic Monitoring**: Post-reopening network traffic across Cisco Meraki access points shows steady public Wi-Fi re-engagement at the Main Library, alongside balanced load distribution across branch locations.

Marketing

- **In the News**: Our librarians nominated titles for Good Housekeeping's 2026 Kids' Book Awards, and the library was credited as a contributor in the published list of winners.
- **Outreach Events:** We tabled at the Hoboken River City Fair and shared program flyers with Stevens Institute of Technology to reach more students and staff.
- **Program Highlights**: Banned Books Week featured a Silent Book Club Read-In at the Grand Street Branch with free Libro.fm audiobooks, as well as banned books read at storytimes throughout the week. Families also enjoyed meeting animal friends at the Precious Pinelands program with Jenkinson's Aquarium, and walked with us around town in our first Pokemon Go Community Day Walk with the Hoboken Trainer Club, Cup in Your Hand, and Mothership IRL. Additionally, we saw the return of "Read to a Dog with Riley Maverick Mills," where our young readers can build confidence in reading aloud to a therapy dog.
- **Systems Update**: As of October 8, shared BCCLS eContent, including OverDrive/Libby, now requires a library password, and staff have been helping patrons reset theirs. Our book lockers

reached capacity this month, so we are asking locker users to call and arrange pickup inside the Main Library or Grand Street Branch. We also renamed our staff review blog, "Worth Checking Out."

Social Work

- **Fox Hill Gardens:** We added a new drop-in location at Fox Hill Gardens to our weekly calendar of events. Fox Hill Gardens is a Hoboken Housing Authority residence for seniors and those that experience disability. Adding social work services at this location fills a community need, as there is no library presence uptown. In September, the Social Work Department assisted 14 people with social service questions and needs at Fox Hill.

September 2026						
Circulation	**Sep. 2026**	**Aug. 2026**	**%Change**	**YTD 2026**	**YTD 2025**	**YTD % change**
Main Circulation - Adult	382	2,622	-85%	50,787	61,654	-18%
Main Circulation - Youth	573	3,333	-83%	75,318	92,566	-19%
Grand Circulation - Adult	1,357	664	104%	3,113	1,133	175%
Grand Circulation - Youth	2,060	1,245	65%	7,505	4,640	62%
eBook Circulation	10,935	12,306	-11%	105,360	97,045	9%
Digital Resource Usage	2,145	1,909	12%	16,004	19,103	-16%
Library of Things Circulation	12	6	100%	140	164	-15%
Total Door Count - Main	11,929	5,504	117%	183,321	166,076	10%
Total Door Count - Grand	8,670	5,495	58%	29,270	8,881	230%
Total New Patrons Registered	267	258	3%	2,799	3,206	-13%
Reference Questions	342	390	-12%	4,293	2,392	79%
Locker Use - Main	1,352	1,304	4%	11,048	8,327	33%
Locker Use - Grand	881	654	35%	5,884	5,172	14%
Locker Use - Museum	1,117	1,000	12%	6,845	4,567	50%
Museum Passes	109	152	-28%	1,245	989	26%
Programming	**Sep. 2026**	**Aug. 2026**	**% Change**	**YTD 2026**	**YTD 2025**	**YTD % change**
Total Programs - Adult	46	27	70%	435	487	-11%
Total Program Attendance - Adult	934	317	195%	8,726	6,216	40%
Total Programs - Young Adult	22	9	144%	248	213	16%
Total Program Attendance - Young Adult	129	95	36%	4,217	3,212	31%
Total Programs - Children	80	69	16%	707	613	15%
Total Program Attendance - Children	4,416	3,357	32%	36,280	28,547	27%
Total Programs	**148**	**105**	**41%**	**1,390**	**1,313**	**6%**
Total Program Attendance	**5,479**	**3,769**	**45%**	**49,223**	**37,975**	**30%**
Social Work	**Sep. 2026**	**Aug. 2026**	**% Change**	**YTD 2026**	**YTD 2025**	**YTD % change**
Social work appointments	41	24	71%	167	238	-30%
Community Care Kits/Items distributed	186	77	59%	829	1,160	-29%
Computer Use	**Sep. 2026**	**Aug. 2026**	**% Change**	**YTD 2026**	**YTD 2025**	**YTD % change**
Computer Use - Main	0	629	-100%	9,215	13,929	-34%
Computer Use - Grand	329	240	37%	1,018	867	17%
Computer Use-LC	23	7	229%	30	NA	NA
Technology Lending	**Sep. 2026**	**Aug. 2026**	**% Change**	**YTD 2026**	**YTD 2025**	**YTD % change**
Chromebooks	0	0	0%	2	26	-92%
Wi-Fi Hotspots	0	0	0%	11	18	-39%
Kiosk Laptops	0	66	-100%	2,042	4,677	-56%
Kiosk Chargers	0	34	-100%	391	1,171	-67%
Technology Lending total	**0**	**100**	**-100%**	**2,446**	**5,892**	**-58%**
Wireless use	**Sep. 2026**	**Aug. 2026**	**% Change**	**YTD 2026**	**YTD 2025**	**YTD % change**
Main Branch	541	1,013	-47%	14,127	15,698	-10%
Annex	441	347	27%	3,243	3,803	-15%
Grand Street	230	235	-2%	1,594	742	115%
Wireless use total	**1,212**	**1,595**	**-22%**	**18,964**	**20,243**	**-6%**
Social Media	**Sep. 2026**	**Aug. 2026**	**Change**	**% Change**	**YTD 2025**	**YTD 2026**
Facebook - Total Followers	6,273	6,267	6	0%	5,981	**5%**
Instagram - Adult - Total Followers	8,188	8,096	92	1%	6,250	**24%**
Instagram - YA - Total Followers	1,195	1,186	9	1%	1,102	**8%**
Instagram - Children - Total Followers	1,924	1,894	30	2%	1,454	**24%**
eNewsletter - Total Subscribers	15,683	15,676	7	0%	17,133	**-9%**
TikTok - Total Followers	1,063	1,059	4	0%	467	**56%**
LinkedIn	278	273	5	2%	NA	
YouTube	409	407	2	0%	NA	







Sesame workshop



Little Free Library



DOL Care Grant meeting





Library Journal Directors' Summit



ARSL Conference



Debate club





Renovation progress



Lego building at the Center





ResilienCity Park story time





Percy Jackson Party



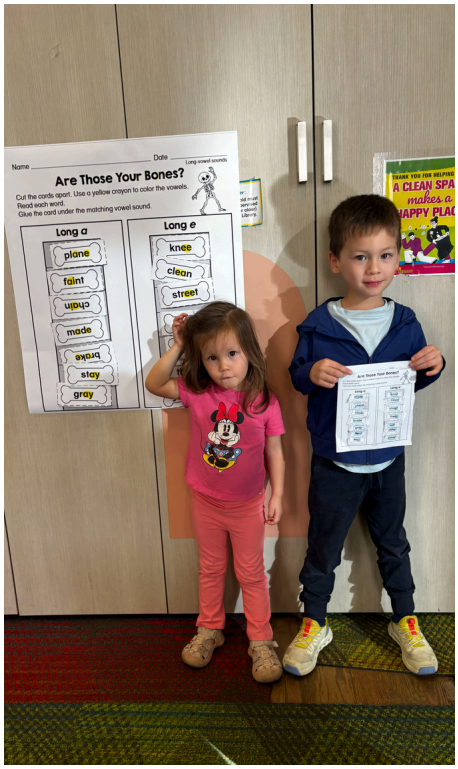
Baby sleep workshop



Precious Pinelands program



ResilienCity Park Community Room fun



Spooky Phonics Party

Building & Grounds Report

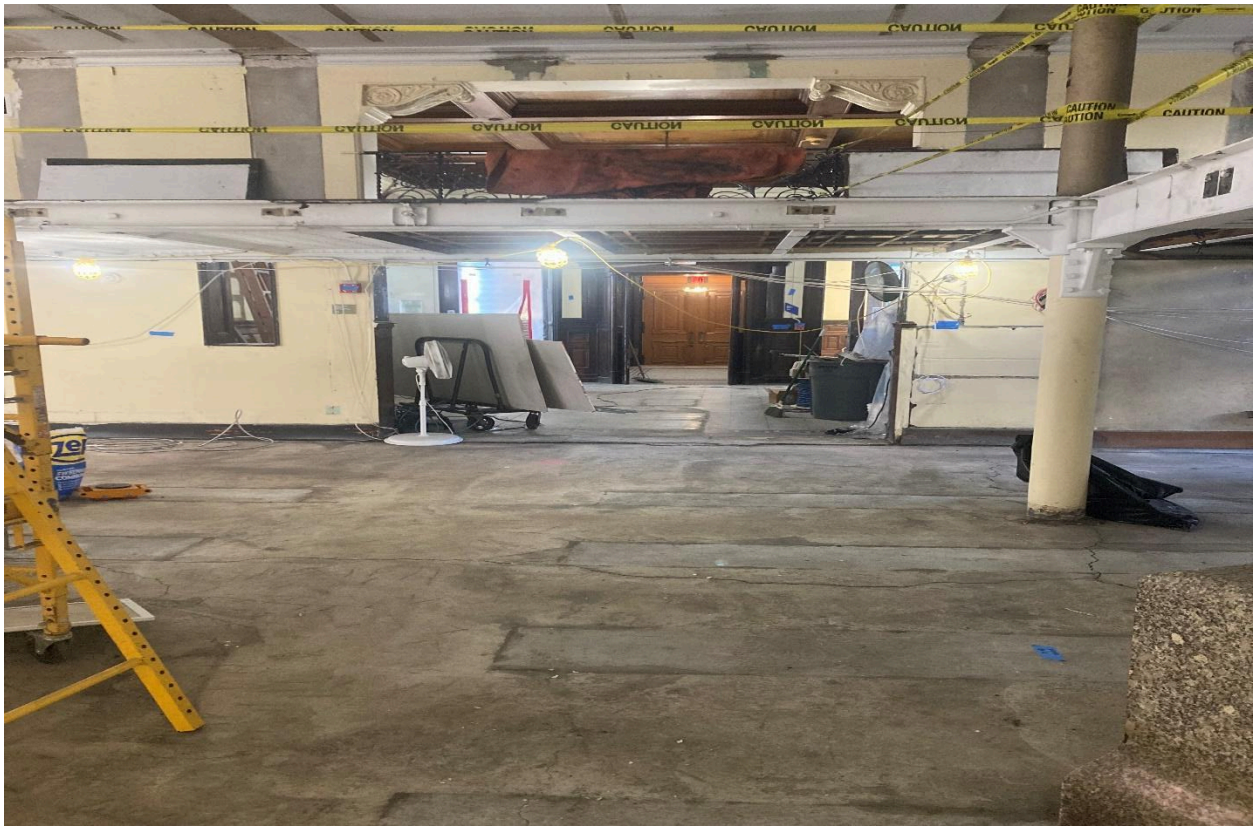
Board of Trustees Meeting

October 27, 2026

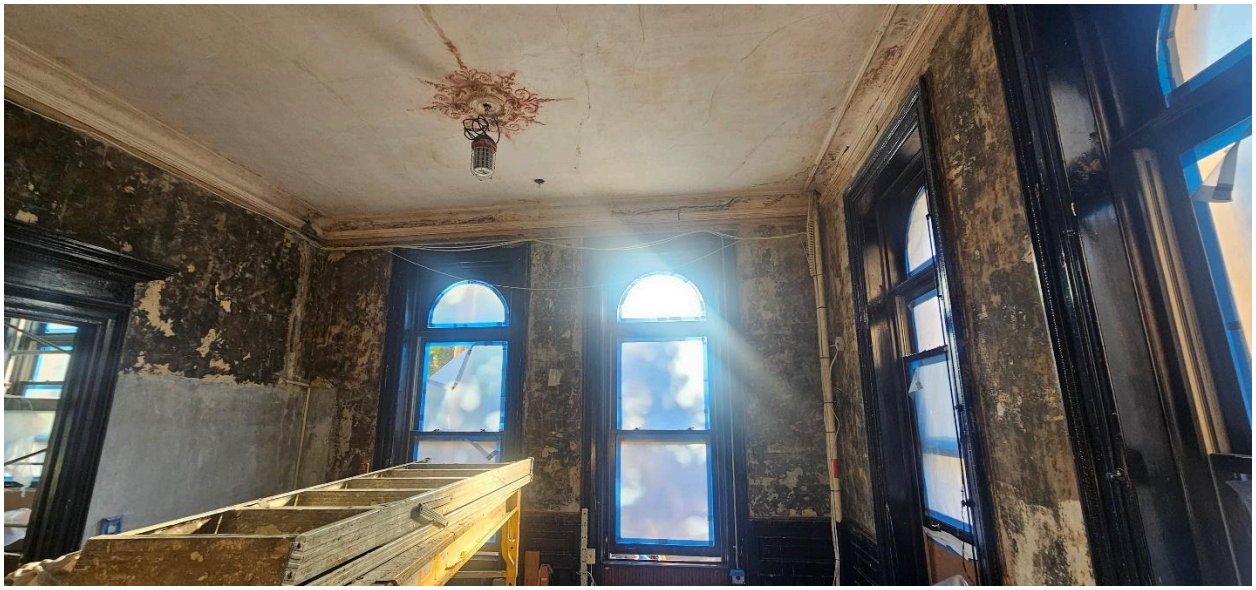
1st Floor Renovation

- All temporary protective barriers are in place.
- All tile flooring has been removed.
- Paint and plaster removal has ceased until the library closes on November 4th when it will then resume.
- Continuing rough electrical and dismantling.
- The center of the steel mezzanine has been opened.
- Opening for the elevator shaft to mezzanine was made and framing to be done the week of 10/26.
- No current change orders to report.




CAUTION







HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Account Balances
September 2026

Account	Activity	Amount	Balance
TD Checking	Balance as of 09/01/2026		$657,885.13
	Fines & Fees and Other Credits	$3,146.25	$661,031.38
	Interest	$435.72	$661,467.10
	Municipal Minimum Library Tax	$581,307.17	$1,242,774.27
	Payroll Funds Transfers	-$170,000.00	$1,072,774.27
	Accounts Payable and Other Debits	-$181,746.15	$891,028.12
	Balance as of 09/30/2026		$891,028.12
TD Payroll	Balance as of 09/01/2026		$147,598.40
	Funds Transfers	$110,000.00	$257,598.40
	Salary & Wages	-$117,299.83	$140,298.57
	Balance as of 09/30/2026		$140,298.57
TD Payroll Agency	Balance as of 09/01/2026		$117,731.37
	Funds Transfers	$60,000.00	$177,731.37
	Salary & Wages	-$91,369.47	$86,361.90
	Balance as of 09/30/2026		$86,361.90
TD Vacation Reserve	Balance as of 09/01/2026		$108,392.32
	Balance as of 09/30/2026		$108,392.32
TD Money Market	Balance as of 09/01/2026		$252,625.91
	Balance as of 09/30/2026		$252,625.91
NJ Cash Management	Balance as of 09/01/2026		$1,772,991.29
	Interest	$5,433.70	$1,778,424.99
	Balance as of 09/30/2026		$1,778,424.99
BCB Construction	Balance as of 09/01/2026		$2,771,496.51
	Interest	$230.76	$2,771,727.27
	Checks	-$3,667.98	$2,768,059.29
	Balance as of 09/30/2026		$2,768,059.29

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Income and Expenditures
Operating Budget vs. Actual 2026

Income

	% of Budget	Item	Jan-Sep 2026 Actual	2026 Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
1	97.4%	Municipal Minimum Library Tax	5,813,072	6,975,685	-1,162,613	83%
2	1.2%	Interest	49,038	85,000	-35,962	58%
3	0.8%	Grants and Donations	47,119	60,000	-12,881	79%
4	0.4%	NJ State Aid	32,916	30,000	2,916	110%
5	0.1%	Fees	11,307	10,000	1,307	113%
6	**100%**	**Total**	**$5,953,451**	**$7,160,685**	**-$1,207,234**	**83%**

Expenditures

	% of Budget	Item	Jan-Sep 2026 Actual	2026 Budget	$ Over Budget	% of Budget
		Personnel				
7	42.5%	Salary and Wages	2,063,196	3,043,547	-980,351	68%
8	19.6%	Health Insurance	536,784	1,400,000	-863,216	38%
9	6.3%	Pension and DCRP	410,014	450,000	-39,986	91%
10	3.4%	Payroll Taxes	152,935	247,000	-94,065	62%
11	1.2%	Overtime	67,252	85,000	-17,748	79%
12	0.6%	Workers' Compensation Insurance	40,776	40,000	776	102%
13	0.4%	Shared Services Agreement	20,920	30,000	-9,080	70%
14	0.1%	Payroll Processing	6,652	10,000	-3,348	67%
15	0.1%	Unemployment Insurance	0	10,000	-10,000	0%
16	**74%**	Subtotal	3,298,528	5,315,547	-2,017,019	62%
		Reading, Information & Technology				
17	2.9%	Digital Content	154,650	210,000	-55,350	74%
18	1.8%	Print Materials	86,487	130,000	-43,513	67%
19	1.5%	BCCLS	99,413	105,000	-5,587	95%
20	1.1%	Technology	43,717	80,000	-36,283	55%
21	0.9%	Equipment	14,345	65,000	-50,655	22%
22	0.6%	Special Collections	7,837	40,000	-32,163	20%
23	0.4%	Non-Print Materials	29,755	30,000	-245	99%
24	0.2%	Periodicals	11,401	13,000	-1,599	88%
25	0.0%	Inter-library Loan	762	1,000	-238	76%
26	**9%**	Subtotal	448,366	674,000	-225,634	67%
		Physical Plant				
27	2.0%	Utilities and Phones	106,359	145,000	-38,641	73%
28	1.8%	MST	44,425	130,000	-85,575	34%
29	1.7%	Maintenance	97,487	125,000	-27,513	78%
30	1.0%	Facilities Improvement	46,675	75,000	-28,325	62%
31	0.7%	Furniture	22,327	50,000	-27,673	45%
32	0.6%	Security	22,130	45,000	-22,870	49%
33	0.4%	Capital Reserve	50,000	28,138	21,862	178%
34	0.3%	Flood Insurance	19,380	25,000	-5,620	78%
35	**9%**	Subtotal	408,783	623,138	-78,867	66%
		Community Engagement				
36	2.4%	Community Programming	94,019	175,000	-80,981	54%
37	1.0%	Marketing/Advertising	47,840	75,000	-27,160	64%
38	**3%**	Subtotal	141,859	250,000	-108,141	57%
		Administration				
39	1%	Office/Library Supplies	57,052	85,000	-27,948	67%
40	0.6%	Travel and Mileage	21,595	45,000	-23,405	48%
41	0.4%	Staff Development	3,960	30,000	-26,040	13%
42	0.3%	Memberships and Dues	13,396	20,000	-6,604	67%
43	0.2%	Conventions and Seminars	3,820	15,000	-11,180	25%
44	**3%**	Subtotal	99,823	195,000	-95,177	51%
		Professional Support				
45	1%	Consultants	37,630	50,000	-12,370	75%
46	0.6%	Attorney	18,567	45,000	-26,433	41%
47	0.1%	Auditor	0	8,000	-8,000	0%
48	**1%**	Subtotal	56,197	103,000	-46,803	55%
49	**100%**	**Total**	**$4,453,558**	**$7,160,685**	**$2,707,127**	**62%**

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Income and Expenditures
Capital Reserve Budget vs. Actual 2026

	Jan-Sep 2026	2026 Budget	% of Budget
Income			
NJHT Grant Phase 2	-	750,000	0%
2026 Operating Budget Reserve	50,000	28,138	178%
TOTAL INCOME	**50,000**	**778,138**	6%
Expenditures			
1st Floor & Mezzanine Renovation Project			
Renovations	204,410	3,197,622	6%
Architectural Design and Planning	10,286	150,000	7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**214,696**	**3,347,622**	6%
Net Capital Reserve Fund	**(164,696)**	**3,347,622**	

Capital Reserve Fund Balance - January 1 **$ 4,293,093**

Capital Reserve Fund Balance - September 30 **$ 4,128,397**

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check Detail - Part A
2026 Operating Budget
October 2026

Num	Date	Account	Name	Paid Amount
13767	10/27/2026		BCCLS	
		52010 · BCCLS		24,853.21
13768	10/27/2026		Bilingual Birdies	
		54011 · YS programming		1,500.00
13769	10/27/2026		Carolyn Brush	
		54011 · YS programming		625.00
13770	10/27/2026		City of Hoboken	
		66122 · Shared services agreement		3,137.96
13771	10/27/2026		City Paint	
		50221 · Maintenance		284.82
13772	10/27/2026		Clancy Relocation & Logistics	
		57060 · Facilities improvement		315.00
13773	10/27/2026		Demco	
		50211 · Library Processing Supplies		29.90
		50210 · Furniture		3,067.75
				3,097.65
13774	10/27/2026		Dorothee Riehl	
		54010 · Adult programming		500.00
13775	10/27/2026		Elizabeth Ndoye	
		54010 · Adult programming		1,200.00
13776	10/27/2026		Eshrack Mohammed	
		54010 · Adult programming		300.00
13777	10/27/2026		Excel Pest Services	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		300.40
13778	10/27/2026		Grant Rite Management Corporation	
		57090 · MST		6,195.00
13779	10/27/2026		Guided Pediatric Sleep LLC	
		54011 · YS programming		100.00
13780	10/27/2026		Hatfield Schwartz Law Group LLC	
		50202 · Legal fees		105.00
13781	10/27/2026		Hoboken General LLC	
		502041 · Office supplies		84.00
		50600 · Periodicals		290.50
				374.50
13782	10/27/2026		Hoboken Lock & Supply Co.	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		1,020.00

Num	Date	Account	Name	Paid Amount
13783	10/27/2026		Home Depot	
		50221 · Maintenance		254.82
13784	10/27/2026		Inserra Supermarkets	
		50221 · Maintenance		600.00
		54010 · Adult programming		284.22
				884.22
13785	10/27/2026		Jennie Pu	
		502041 · Office supplies		74.01
		50323 · ePeriodicals		225.00
		53020 · Conventions and seminars		259.85
		55010 · Travel		4,054.06
		66102 · Health insurance		468.37
				5,081.29
13786	10/27/2026		Kanopy	
		50324 · Pay per use content		1,683.00
13787	10/27/2026		Lightpath Fiber Infrastructure LLC	
		50270 · Phones		1,471.72
13788	10/27/2026		Local Librarian Consulting LLC	
		50205 · Consultants		5,265.95
13789	10/27/2026		Lyft Bikes and Scooters LLC	
		55010 · Travel		573.60
13790	10/27/2026		Mad Science of Northeast New Jersey	
		54011 · YS programming		550.00
13791	10/27/2026		Musicology 4 Kids	
		54011 · YS programming		350.00
13792	10/27/2026		Mvix	
		57070 · Technology		1,062.97
13793	10/27/2026		NJLA	
		57070 · Technology		35.00
13794	10/27/2026		O&M House Electric	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		499.20
13795	10/27/2026		Optimum Business	
		50270 · Phones		1,297.20
13796	10/27/2026		Otis Elevator Company	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		1,255.75
13797	10/27/2026		Our Lady of Grace Church	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		525.00

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check Detail - Part A
2026 Operating Budget
October 2026

Num	Date	Account	Name	Paid Amount
13798	10/27/2026		Panera LLC	
		54010 · Adult programming		298.13
		54011 · YS programming		204.63
				502.76
13799	10/27/2026		Petty Cash	
		10004.04 · Petty cash		250.00
13800	10/27/2026		Pizza Republic	
		54010 · Adult programming		308.84
13801	10/27/2026		Primepoint LLC	
		66121 · Payroll processing		517.60
13802	10/27/2026		PSE&G	
		50262 · PSE&G		6,305.29
13803	10/27/2026		Public Storage	
		50221 · Maintenance		377.00
13804	10/27/2026		Ricoh USA Inc.	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		845.66
13805	10/27/2026		Ronald Hewitt	
		54012 · Family FUNday		350.00
13806	10/27/2026		Rosica Communications	
		57090· MST		5,625.00
13807	10/27/2026		S&B Plumbing & Heating	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		1,305.00
13808	10/27/2026		Securitas Technology Corporation	
		57060 · Facilities improvement		9,487.44
13809	10/27/2026		Sentinel Security Service	
		50250 · Security		3,739.05
13810	10/27/2026		Spectrotel	
		50270 · Phones		613.30
13811	10/27/2026		Structured Lightgroup LLC	
		52020 · Technology equipment		249.00
		57070 · Technology		383.99
				632.99
13812	10/27/2026		TAPinto Local LLC	
		56010 · Marketing		475.00

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check Detail - Part A
2026 Operating Budget
October 2026

Num	Date	Account	Name	Paid Amount
13813	10/27/2026		The Felt Hat	
		50205 · Consultants		3,700.00
13814	10/27/2026		Unified Air	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		3,351.38
13815	10/27/2026		Vanguard Cleaning	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		1,100.00
13816	10/27/2026		Verizon	
		50263 · Internet connection		845.57
13817	10/27/2026		W.B.Mason	
		502041 · Office supplies		753.66
		54010 · Adult programming		764.32
				1,517.98
13818	10/27/2026		Yun H Ko	
		54010 · Adult programming		900.00
13819	10/27/2026		Zoom Drain and Sewer Service	
		50224 · Contractors & annual contracts		617.36
		TOTAL NUMBER OF CHECKS	**53**	
				108,065.48

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check Detail - Part B
2026 Operating Budget
October 2026

Num	Date	Account	Name	Paid Amount
13820	10/27/2026		Amazon	
		502041 · Office Supplies		633.30
		50301 · Print Materials		58.13
		52020 · Equipment Tech.		3,064.56
		50221 · Maintenance		68.49
		54010 · Adult Programming		605.15
		54011 · YS Programming		311.27
				4,740.90
13821	10/27/2026		Follett	
		50301 · Print Materials		1,412.02
13822	10/27/2026		Ingram	
		50301 · Print Materials		222.39
13823	10/27/2026		Midwest Tape	
		50311 · Media (CDs & DVDs)		44.53
13824	10/27/2026		Midwest Tape	
		50324 · Pay per use content		4,544.48
13825	10/27/2026		Overdrive	
		50322 · eBooks		9,711.82
		TOTAL NUMBER OF CHECKS	**6**	
		TOTAL $ AMOUNT OF CHECKS		**20,676.14**

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check Detail - BCB Construction
Capital Reserve Budget
October 2026

Num	Date	Account	Name	Paid Amount
465	10/27/2026		Clarke Caton Hintz	
		31119 · 1st Floor & Mezzanine Renovation		2,878.75
466	10/27/2026		J.S.Held LLC	
		31119 · 1st Floor & Mezzanine Renovation		27,515.00
467	10/27/2026		Joseph A. Natoli Construction Corporation	
		31119 · 1st Floor & Mezzanine Renovation		506,562.00
		TOTAL NUMBER OF CHECKS	**3**	
		TOTAL $AMOUNT OF CHECKS		**536,955.75**

HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

hobokenlibrary.org
500 Park Avenue - Hoboken, NJ 07030

TESTIMONY OF JENNIE PU, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
HOBOKEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 2026

Chairwoman Reynolds-Jackson, and Members of the Assembly Education Committee:

My name is Jennie Pu, and I am the director of Hoboken Public Library. I serve on the New Jersey Library Association's Public Policy Committee and on the board of the Urban Libraries Council, which represents nearly 200 major urban library systems across North America.

We support Assembly Bill 4956 because we have seen how current digital licensing practices limit access for readers and reduce the value of public dollars.

Here's what digital licensing looks like on the ground. Hoboken Public Library is a part of BCCLS, a four-county consortium of 78 libraries that shares resources and digital content. Our size helps us maximize our pooled dollars, but we have little influence over the prices or terms set upstream. And readers can still wait months for popular titles.

Take the bestseller *Mad Mabel.* Across our consortium, 772 people are waiting for the ebook, including 68 in Hoboken. To meet demand, Hoboken licensed five copies at $60 each that expire after 24 months. The alternative pricing model costs $13.49 per checkout. Serving the 68 people currently waiting in Hoboken for this single title under the pay-per-checkout option would cost about $900 more.

For another bestseller, *Yesteryear,* Hoboken has already spent nearly $2,900 this year on ebook and audiobook access. Yet 546 people are still waiting for the audiobook across BCCLS, with a projected 22-week wait, more than five months.

These waits are driven by the licensing model. Licensing terms determine how many readers can access a title at once, and most licenses expire after a set time or number of checkouts. When they expire, libraries must pay again to keep offering the same title.

Demand continues to grow. Digital materials now account for 43 percent of Hoboken's circulation, up from about one-third just two years ago. Nationally, urban libraries have seen digital circulation increase an average of 58 percent since 2019.

Hoboken's digital spending has more than doubled since 2022, and it surpassed our print spending in 2024. As stewards of public funds, we have to make those dollars go as far as possible.

In standard purchasing, buyers can compare terms, negotiate, substitute, or walk away. Libraries have few of those options, and choosing among pre-set terms is not negotiation. We cannot substitute another title when readers want a specific book. And walking away means failing to deliver what our communities expect and what taxpayers fund us to provide.

More spending alone won't fix that.

A4956 gives public libraries more say over licensing terms and helps us get better value for the public dollars entrusted to us.

I respectfully ask you to support Assembly Bill 4956, and I welcome your questions. Thank you.