



**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Library Advisory Commission**  
**16755 W Vereda Solana Dr**  
**Surprise, AZ 85387**  
 Thursday, June 11, 2026 @ 6:00 PM  
 Asante Library

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Staff Reports
- E. Library Commission Agenda:

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the Board\Commission, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H) - During this time members of the public may address the Board\Commission only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Board\Commission which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, the Board\Commission may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- |    |          |   |         |
|----|----------|---|---------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of the May 14, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.              | Library |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Public Library Association 2026 Conference and City staff attendance thereof.       | Library |
| 3. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Advocacy for Libraries organization.  | Library |
| 4. | Citywide | Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Library Advisory Commission meeting calendar.            | Library |
| 5. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of naming programmable rooms at Surprise Regional Library and Asante Library. | Library |

- F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
- G. Current Events and Reports
- H. Adjournment

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KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Friday, June 5, 2026 @ 4:00 pm

**SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK’S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.**



**CITY OF SURPRISE  
Library Advisory Commission**

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Council Meeting Date: June 11, 2026  
Submitting Department: Library  
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:  
District: Citywide

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Consent: No      Regular: Yes      Public Hearing: No      Report/Discussion: No

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**Agenda Wording:**

Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of the May 14, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

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**Motion:**

I move to approve the May 14, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

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**Background:**

Not applicable.

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**Objective Analysis:**

Not applicable.

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**Policy Compliant:**

This item is consistent with the City and Council policies.

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**Financial Impact:**

There is no anticipated financial impact related to this item.

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**Budget Impact:**

There is no anticipated budget impact related to this item.

**FTE Impact:**

There is no anticipated FTE impact related to this item.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 051426 LAC Meeting Minutes DRAFT
-

**CITY OF SURPRISE  
Library Advisory Commission  
16089 N. Bullard Ave.  
Surprise, Arizona 85374**

Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Surprise Regional Library

**Meeting Minutes**

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Vice Chair Tomasina DiCapo, Commission members, Deborah Gentry, Kady McCarthy, Mark McCall (arrived at 6:11PM) and MaryAnne Riodique

Absent: Chair Desiree VanLoon and Commission member Annie Ansell

Staff: Ashley Ware – City Librarian, Heather Donaldson – Sr. Management Analyst and Kelsey Lamphier – Director

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Ware reported on the following items:

- Summer Reading is going to be fantastic. We already have over 1,200 people signed up!
- Our interns have started and are really hitting the ground running with the interfile project and helping with new books coming in.
- Multigen is slated to have a grand opening at the end of August.
- Latest Library of Things added to the library are Ghost Hunting Kits and from a wonderful donation from Commissioner Ansell, Sewing Kits.
- Library Card Design Contest will be unveiled at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting.

E. Library Commission Agenda

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

None

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the April 9, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner McCarthy moved to approve the April 9, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Riodique 2<sup>nd</sup>. 4 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation pertaining to the Public Library Association 2026 Conference and City staff attendance thereof.

City Librarian Ashley Ware and Jamie McCraw, Librarian provided the Commission with an overview of their experience at the 2026 Public Library Association Conference they attended in Minneapolis Minnesota. They addressed the following items:

Ashley Ware Updates

- Sessions
  - Becoming One Library: How to Build Better Internal Communications
  - Engage, Empower, Evolve: Using Staff Input to Strengthen Culture
  - Highway to Hell: The Good Intentions Journey
  - Redesigning Rules to Reflect Library Values

Jamie McCraw Updates

- Sessions
  - Making Space for Teens: Easy Transformation, Passive Programming, Layout
  - Fostering Connections: Building Babies Brains Across a Community: Connecting Parents to Resources
  - Intentional Early Literacy Outreach to Hispanohablantes: Engaging Spanish-Speaking Families In Early Literacy ServicesStaffing

3. Presentation and discussion pertaining to the nistorical context of library policies, the principles of intellectual freedom, and the accessibility of library materials.

City Librarian Ashley Ware provided the Commission with an overview of the historial conext of library policies, key principals of intellectual freedom, and how the Surprise Public Library System ensures accessible balanced, and responsive collections for the community. She addressed the following items:

- History
  - Challenging access to information
  - Recent data
- Laws & Regulations
  - Constitutional rights
  - Supreme Court cases
- Surprise Public Library
  - Policy & Procedure
  - Vegans to Carnivores

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Item

- None

G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner McCall and his family are signed up for the Summer Reading Program

H. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 6:42 pm – Commissioner Gentry made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McCall 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> Desiree VanLoon, Chair
<b>ATTEST:</b>	<hr/> Heather Donaldson, Sr. Management Analyst

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, Ashley Ware, City Librarian for the City of Surprise Library Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Library Advisory Commission meeting held on May 14, 2026.

	<hr/> Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Library Advisory Commission**

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Council Meeting Date: June 11, 2026  
Submitting Department: Library  
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:  
District: Citywide

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Consent: No      Regular: Yes      Public Hearing: No      Report/Discussion: No

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**Agenda Wording:**

Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Public Library Association 2026 Conference and City staff attendance thereof.

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**Motion:**

No motion.

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**Background:**

Staff members from the Surprise Public Library System attended the 2026 Public Library Association (PLA) Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The PLA Conference is a biennial national event that brings together public library professionals from across the country to engage in professional development, share best practices, and explore emerging trends in library services.

This conference marked the first opportunity for the Surprise Public Library System to send staff to attend, representing an important milestone in the organization's ongoing investment in staff development and organizational growth. Attendance provided staff with access to a wide range of educational sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities focused on innovation, community engagement, leadership, and evolving service models within public libraries.

Participation in the PLA Conference supports the library system's commitment to continuous improvement by allowing staff to bring back new ideas, strategies, and insights that can enhance services and better meet the needs of the Surprise community.

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**Objective Analysis:**

This presentation will provide an overview of the conference experience, key takeaways, and potential applications to local library services and initiatives.

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**Policy Compliant:**

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

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**Financial Impact:**

This item does not have a financial impact.

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**Budget Impact:**

This item does not impact the budget.

**FTE Impact:**

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Lisa's PLA Conference 2026
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# Lisa's PLA Conference Sessions Attended

APRIL 1-3, 2026

# Building Inclusive Programming for Youth with Disabilities

- ◆ Storytime for the Spectrum, Down Syndrome, and Friends Community Playgroup, Braille Club
- ◆ Has a sensory room modeled after Cincinnati Zoo's sensory room

# Building Babies Brains Across a Community

- ◆ Play 2 Learn- Gwinnet City Public Library
  - ◆ 90 minute multi-generational class at all local schools included lap reading, fingerplay, storytime, songs, play stations
    - ◆ Introduced Play 2 Learn families to the Library and vice versa
    - ◆ Before program starts, they would put books on the floor they can read together
    - ◆ Meat of the program is educating parents and caregivers
    - ◆ Talk to parents who aren't participating and model how to
    - ◆ Put signage out warning patrons it will be louder than normal during the time of the program

# Aging Together: Library Programming for Adults

- ◆ Ideas: 8-week Chinese calligraphy, monthly book club discussing what people are currently reading, short-story discussion group (read the story first and then discuss it)
- ◆ Innovations: do program live online, have flexible delivery formats, phone meditation, and yoga
- ◆ Do surveys after all programs- pass out smooth stones at beginning of program, have them place it on a map of how they felt at the end of the program
- ◆ Every program should have a microphone and large font, include hearing loops
- ◆ People with mobility issues like to have registration. Over register by 5-6 people so you know you will have a full room
- ◆ Staff training on anti-ageism, Alzheimer's and dementia

# Not Your Typical Makerspace

- ◆ Kansas City Public Library does a STEAM based summer camp for tweens
  - ◆ Daily activities include: audio production, arts and animation, maker activities (3D printer, RC technology, bike repair), arts and crafts, math tutor, Lego club, art in the air (kites, rockets), field trips, free lunch
  - ◆ Have Parks and Recreation department show how to set up a tent and make an easy meal
  - ◆ RC Tech Club- robots, drones, and airplanes= teaches how to use hand tools

# Beyond Storytimes: Community Building Through Music, Play, and Partnerships

- ◆ After storytimes they would do Music and Movement, Process Art, age-level playtime, craft, sensory activities on the patio, sign language classes
- ◆ Baby Rave- glow in the dark glasses, bracelets, and tape, Smashburger brought in free custard

# Building a Joy-Centric Library

- ◆ 2 types of joy
  - ◆ Passive joy- tranquility, contentment with things as they are
  - ◆ Active joy- share feelings with others
- ◆ Write down 10 activities, people, or things that make you smile
- ◆ Have a Library joy day
- ◆ put up signs, scavenger hunt, library love stories, staff dress day
- ◆ Include small wins in agenda items, internal communications, coaching sessions, monthly reports, post in back room/office spaces, social media



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**Agenda Wording:**

Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Advocacy for Libraries organization.

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**Motion:**

No motion.

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**Background:**

The AzLA Advocacy committee's foundational commitment is to advocate for good library representation and input at the local, state, and national levels.

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**Objective Analysis:**

To learn about advocacy available to the Library Advisory Commissioners.

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**Policy Compliant:**

This item is consistent with the City and Council policies.

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**Financial Impact:**

There is no anticipated financial impact related to this item.

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**Budget Impact:**

There is no anticipated budget impact related to this item.

**FTE Impact:**

There is no anticipated FTE impact related to this item.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Advocacy Presentation
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# Scaling Advocacy for Strong Library Support



Erin MacFarlane



# Agenda



- Federal Library Advocacy
- Arizona Library Advocacy
- Local Library Advocacy
- What's Happening Now?
- What can you do to help?

# What is a library advocate?





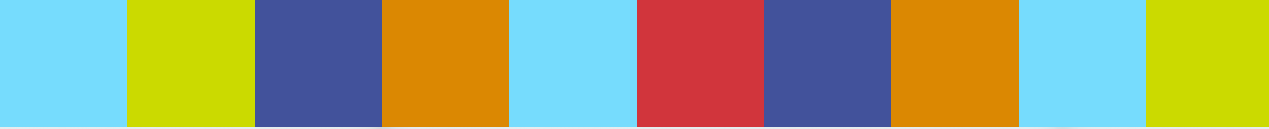
# Federal Advocacy for Libraries

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What topics impact libraries  
at the Federal level?

# Advocating for Federal Funds

What's the process for library funding in Congress?





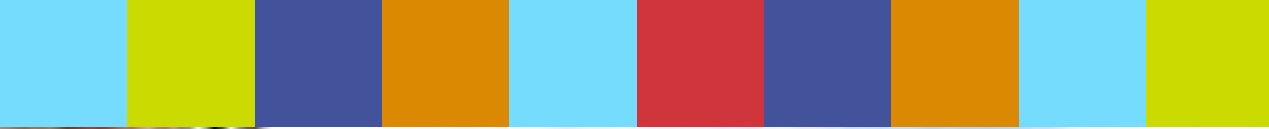
# Arizona Library Advocacy



Working for the  
Statewide library  
ecosystem



How does a bill  
become a law in  
Arizona?



# Local Library Advocacy



Making a  
difference at  
home

# Support at the Local Level

## Advocacy with local elected officials

- Briefings to talk about library priorities and events
- Education about library policies and procedures
- Partnering on their initiatives and events

## Advocacy with your friends and neighbors

- Talk to your community about what the library does
- Become your local expert on all things library

# Current Priorities



# 2026 Focus

- **Federal**
  - Saving and funding MLSA and IMLS
  - Secure funding for LSTA
- **State**
  - Censorship bills
  - Raising the funding cap for State Grants in Aid
- **Local**
  - Protecting the library budget
  - Freedom to Read



Securing funding for LSTA



Censorship



Saving and funding MLSA and IMLS



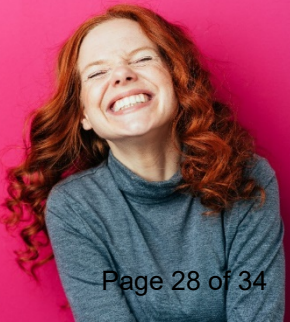
2026 midterm elections



**What can you do  
to advocate for  
libraries?**



Thank you





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Submitting Department: Library  
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:  
District: Citywide

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Consent: No      Regular: Yes      Public Hearing: No      Report/Discussion: No

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**Agenda Wording:**

Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Library Advisory Commission meeting calendar.

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**Motion:**

I move to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Library Advisory Commission meeting calendar.

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**Background:**

Not applicable.

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**Objective Analysis:**

Per Surprise Municipal Code Sec. 2-295(12)(c): "Each body must establish an annual schedule for regular meetings designating the time, date and location for such regular meetings." This item has been placed on the agenda to allow the Library Commission an opportunity to review and approve the FY2027 meeting calendar.

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**Policy Compliant:**

This item is consistent with the City and Council policies.

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**Financial Impact:**

There is no anticipated financial impact related to this item.

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**Budget Impact:**

There is no anticipated budget impact related to this item.

**FTE Impact:**

There is no anticipated FTE impact related to this item.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. FY27 Library Advisory Commission Calendar
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**Library Advisory Commission Meetings – Fiscal Year 2027**

*All meetings take place at 6:00 p.m.*

<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b>Reason for Reschedule:</b>
Thursday, August 20, 2026	Surprise Regional Library 16089 N Bullard Avenue Surprise, AZ 85374	Calendar Conflict for Staff
Thursday, September 10, 2026	Asante Library 16755 W Vereda Solana Dr Surprise, AZ 85387	
Thursday, October 8, 2026	Hollyhock Library 12641 W Sante Fe Dr Surprise, AZ 85378	
Thursday, November 12, 2026	Surprise Regional Library 16089 N Bullard Avenue Surprise, AZ 85374	
Thursday, December 10, 2026	Asante Library 16755 W Vereda Solana Dr Surprise, AZ 85387	
Thursday, January 14, 2027	Hollyhock Library 12641 W Sante Fe Dr Surprise, AZ 85378	
Thursday February 11, 2027	Surprise Regional Library 16089 N Bullard Avenue Surprise, AZ 85374	
Thursday, March 11, 2027	Asante Library 16755 W Vereda Solana Dr Surprise, AZ 85387	
Thursday, April 8, 2027	Hollyhock Library 12641 W Sante Fe Dr Surprise, AZ 85378	
Thursday, May 13, 2027	Surprise Regional Library 16089 N Bullard Avenue Surprise, AZ 85374	
Thursday, June 10, 2027	Asante Library 16755 W Vereda Solana Dr Surprise, AZ 85387	
Thursday, July 8, 2027		<b>SUMMER RECESS</b>



**CITY OF SURPRISE  
Library Advisory Commission**

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Council Meeting Date: June 11, 2026  
Submitting Department: Library  
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:  
District: Citywide

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Consent: No      Regular: Yes      Public Hearing: No      Report/Discussion: No

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**Agenda Wording:**

Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of naming programmable rooms at Surprise Regional Library and Asante Library.

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**Motion:**

I motion to approve the chosen names of the Asante programming room and Surprise Regional programming and conference rooms.

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**Background:**

As part of the continued development of the library spaces, staff have identified the need to formally name the programmable rooms at Surprise Regional Library and Asante Library.

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**Objective Analysis:**

Naming rooms can improve wayfinding, communication, and facility organization with supporting branding and community identity.

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**Policy Compliant:**

This item is consistent with the City and Council policies.

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**Financial Impact:**

There is no anticipated financial impact related to this item.

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**Budget Impact:**

There is no anticipated budget impact related to this item.

**FTE Impact:**

There is no anticipated FTE impact related to this item.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Library Rooms
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# Asante Programming Room

Monsoon Room

Sunset Room

Imaginarium

# Surprise Regional Conference Room

Roadrunner Room    Chuckwala Room

Prickly Pear Room

# Surprise Regional Programming Room

Sonoran Room

Coyote Room

Desert Rosy Room