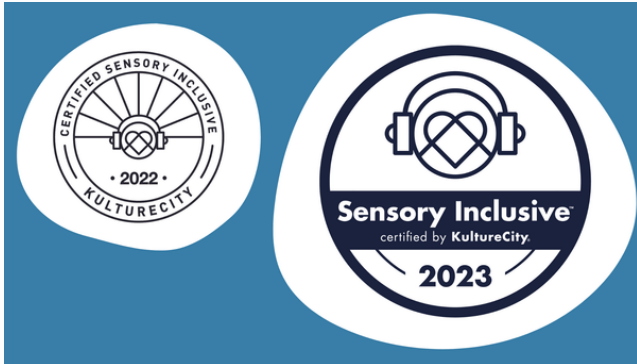


# LIBRARY SERVICES

DECEMBER 2023  
BURLINGTON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Sensory Inclusive

For the second year in a row your Burlington Public Library has been certified as Sensory Inclusive with Kulture City!



## Living Windows

Jefferson Street downtown Burlington came to life on Thursday, December 7th with our annual tradition of Living Windows. The weather was beautiful that evening, and brought out thousands of people to revel in the scenes acted out in business windows. Tiara and Stephanie represented the library at the Senior Center, creating visibility for BPL out in the community and meeting people where they're at. They saw more than 300 people and make positive associations with our community by participating in this beloved Burlington tradition.



**Burlington Public Library**

Posted by Stephanie Marie

Dec 7, 2023 · 🌐

Come see Miss Tiara and Miss Stephanie at the Downtown Living Windows! You can find them at the Steamboat Senior Center! 🎄



## SCC Outreach

For the past several years, the SCC Early Childhood and Teacher Education department has partnered with the library to discuss the children's literature and controversial books. As a published author and illustrator of children's books, library Director Brittany Jacobs is able to give perspective on both the creator-side of publishing books as well as a librarian's role in curating and maintaining collections of books for the public.



**SCC Iowa Early Childhood & Teacher Ed**

Dec 8, 2023 · 🌐

"It is our First Amendment right to decide for ourselves what we read, view, and hear—a fundamental element of free speech and expression."... See more



On December 8th, Brittany gave her last lecture of this semester and spoke about controversial books, First Amendment rights, and what libraries do to combat censorship and ensure access to information. To be able to speak to a room full of future teachers about such an important and relevant topic helps to promote the education field as well as foster positive relationships with schools and public libraries.

## Strategic Planning

The public survey for our latest strategic plan closed on this month with a total of 152 patrons participating. Of those who participated, this is how they identified using our space (participants could choose more than one option):

83% - Check out materials  
58% - Attend events  
41% - Read in the library  
39% - Use technology  
37% - Connect to WiFi  
36% - Meet with other people  
31% - Remotely (Libby, Hoopla, etc.)  
18% - Technology Help  
>1% - Other (Volunteer, Study Rooms, Buy Books)

These survey results, along with staff, and Trustee input will help guide the 2024-2028 strategic plan, with a focus on the four areas of efficiency, sustainability, human-centeredness, and access.

## December by the Numbers

**Total Checkouts: 21,672**

**Number of Programs: 68**

**Program Participants: 1,381**

**New Borrower Accounts: 59**

**Use of online databases: 5,051**

**WiFi & Computer Use: 2,357**

**Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: 112**

**Meeting Room Reservations: 257**

**Door Count: 7,797**

## More News and Projects

Much of December has been spent with a keen eye on the collection as a thorough weed of the adult non-fiction has begun. Weeding is an important and necessary task in managing library collections as it helps to keep relevant, and utilized materials on our shelves while allowing for room to grow and for outdated or 'grubby' books to be discarded. This weed is also aligned with our space consultant's plan to consolidate the adult non-fiction footprint to allow for a dedicated teen space and more gathering spaces for people to sit and mingle.

The puzzle swap continues to be a hit, particularly with these dark and cold nights, as does our movie and video game collection. With over 24,000 physical movies to choose from we're sure to have something for everyone!

## Partnerships

This month we partnered with the following for programs, outreach, research and community-building:

- West Burlington
- Middletown
- Des Moines County
- Greater Burlington Partnership
- Burlington Community School District
- PiECES
- Bridges Out of Poverty
- Murray Foundation
- Oakview
- Local Historian, Terry Abrisz
- Kulture City
- Des Moines County Historical Society
- Addington Place
- Bickford
- Iowa State Extension Office
- Iowa STEM Council
- State Library of Iowa
- Des Moines County Master Gardeners
- Special Needs Foundation
- Iowa State University
- Network Nirvana
- Kid Zone
- Burlington YMCA
- Black Iowa News
- Iowa PBS
- University of Northern Iowa
- Fortepan Iowa
- The Capitol Theater

