



March 2026 Strategic Operations Report

Empowering Our Community (and Staff)

- As part of the **Building Bridges with Newcomer Seniors** grant, the Library partnered with the Senior Iranian Multicultural Association (SIMA) to host a community bazaar celebrating the Persian New Year (Norooz). The bazaar featured handmade items: including jewelry, preserves, baked goods, and leather goods, all created by local Iranian seniors. The partnered event then welcomed more than 120 participants, and approximately 100 Iranian seniors attended the accompanying dinner.
- For the first quarter of 2026, the Library's First Grader Card project connected with three local schools, registering over 72 first-grade students for library membership using the **My First Library Card** design. The initiative engaged an additional 75 parents, caregivers, and siblings connected to participating students.

Ensuring Welcoming and Accessible Places and Spaces

- The Library has become a sought-after study destination following the introduction of new study pods. Increased use of the Lower Level has been observed, particularly among students preparing for exams.

Providing Engaging and Relevant Services

- The March 2026 **York Cinemania** screening was the most highly attended since the series relaunched post-COVID in 2022. **It Was Just an Accident**, directed by Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, attracted nearly 100 attendees. Strong attendance was supported in part by targeted promotion and outreach through the Library's partnership with the Senior Iranian Multicultural Association.
- Overall, March 2026 showed significant growth in both programming and participation compared to 2025. The number of programs offered increased by 21% (69 programs, up from 57 in 2025), while total attendance rose by 39%, reaching 1,760 participants compared to 1,264 in the previous year.
- High-interest, large-scale events hosted at the Library, such as the Ashley Audrain International Women's Day author event, which attracted strong

attendance, 76 participants, and introduced new audiences to the Library as a vibrant cultural and community destination.

- Seasonally aligned programs such as March Break Spy School successfully engaged families during the spring school break. Robust participation, 442 attendees, highlighted the value of scheduling programs to align with community needs and interests.
- Programs such as Baby Chicks Storytime offered memorable, hands-on experiences that deepened family engagement with 115 participants. These initiatives reinforced the Library's role as a trusted space for early learning, curiosity, and positive first connections with Library services.

Customer Feedback on Programs

- "I enjoyed that it [Spy School] was at my child's own pace with no set parameters."
- "The kids had a lot of fun. It was a great way to bring the community together around literacy."
- "Just wanted to thank you for organizing the talk by Ashley Audrain. She is an animated and compelling speaker. I really enjoyed her story telling and authenticity."



Participant eagerly waiting for their chance to hold a baby chick



More than 70 people packed into the Lower Level of the Library to hear from Award Winning Author, Ashley Audrain, and her inspiring story of how she became an author.