



STATE LIBRARY
of **LOUISIANA**

2026 State of the State Library

Meg Placke, State Librarian

FY 2027 Budget

STATE FUNDING
\$5.23M

FEDERAL FUNDING
\$3.5M

INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS
\$821,436

SELF-GENERATED FUNDS
\$90,000

TOTAL BUDGET
\$9.64M

Staffing Updates

- **Samuel Ayers**
Director, Louisiana Collection
- **Kevin Calbert**
Director, Communications
- **Angi Cinquemano**
Recorder of Documents
- **Jamie Hebert**
Assistant Director, LA Center for the Book, LA Book Festival
- **Kelly LaRocca**
Associate State Librarian
- **Amanda Strong**
Administrative Coordinator, Library Development
- **Robby Wilson**
Executive Director, LA Center for the Book, LA Book Festival
- **Kassandra Woods**
State E-Rate Coordinator



Recent State Library Initiatives & Updates

Annual Statistical Report

- Louisiana libraries recorded **11.3 million visits** in 2024, an increase of more than 8.5%
- Nearly **71 million items** circulated
- More than **2.6 million reference questions** answered
- Nearly **90,000 in-person and virtual programs** held
- Louisiana's balanced per-capita visit and circulation rates confirm that residents have similar access to basic library resources across the state

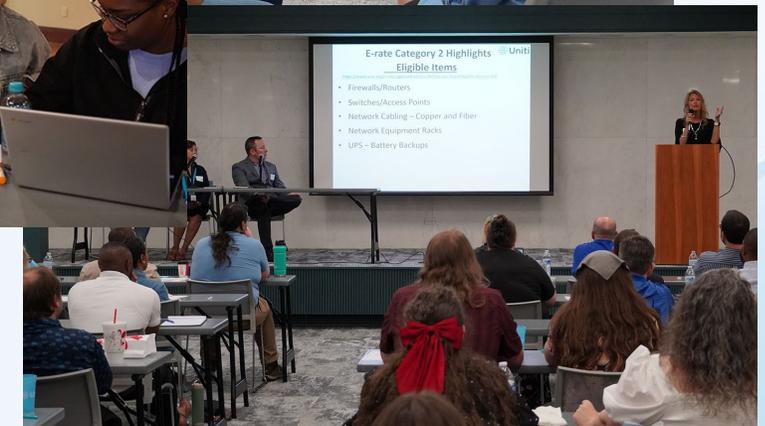
Check Out Louisiana

- State Parks and Museums **no-cost access programs** provide value for patrons
- COL Parks **expanding statewide** in 1Q26
- COL Museums issued **\$100,000+ in free passes** in first 6 months of program
- Learn more at **CheckOutLouisiana.org**



Training, Professional Development

- In 2025, OSL staff taught **140 workshops** attended by **4,401** library professionals
- **STAFF DAY 2026**
Variety of trainings, networking, sharing best practices with peers
April 7 (Baton Rouge), **April 9** (Ruston)
- **TECH FEST 2026**
Latest trends in library technology, network systems, funding opportunities
May 1 (Baton Rouge)
- **ADMINISTRATIVE LIBRARIANS' CONFERENCE 2026**
Speakers, roundtable, public library management solutions
October 2 (Baton Rouge)



Talking Books & Braille Library

- State's only library dedicated entirely to serving residents who have difficulty reading standard print
- **164,000** audio and braille titles, **25,000** large-print books, personalized service
- In 2025, TBBL served nearly **5,500** patrons and loaned more than **210,000** books

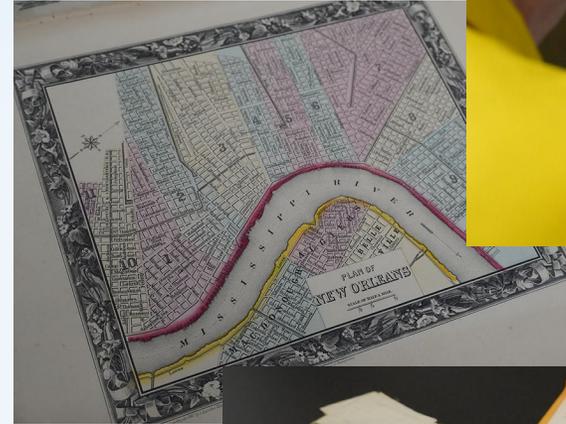


**Talking Books &
Braille Library**



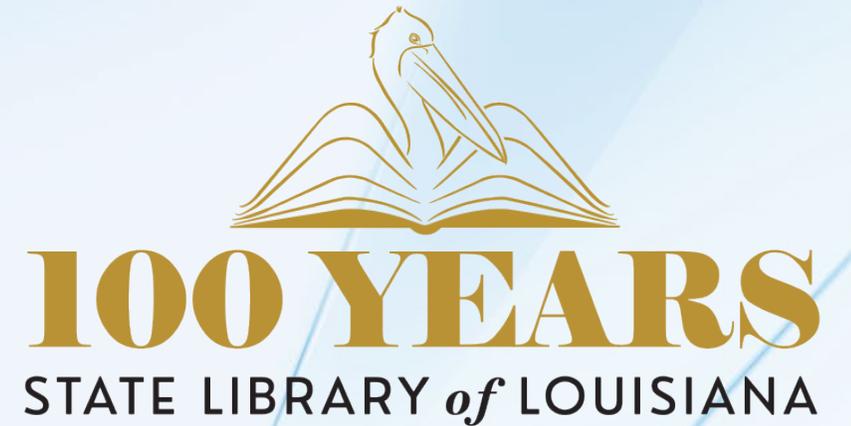
Louisiana Collection

- The Louisiana Collection has grown to **more than 2 million items**
- **Over 100,000 historic photos** available for patrons to use and research, with **35,000+** available online through the Louisiana Digital Library
- **2025 donations** include:
 - 850+ LA postcards from University of Kentucky Libraries' Special Collections Research Center
 - 1839 report on the Louisiana State Penitentiary
 - Julie Kane archive



Centennial Anniversary

- State Library celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2025
- History of OSL and the state's public library system was compiled into a commemorative booklet, social media campaign, and exhibition
- The exhibit is traveling to libraries throughout the state in 2026.



Library Directors Handbook Update

- **Major update being published in 2026**
- Covers all aspects of running a public library in Louisiana
- Practical guide for administrators and board members on how libraries are governed and operated
- Presents information on areas of public librarianship not specifically covered in library school or other sources
- Available to Louisiana library directors in printed and online formats

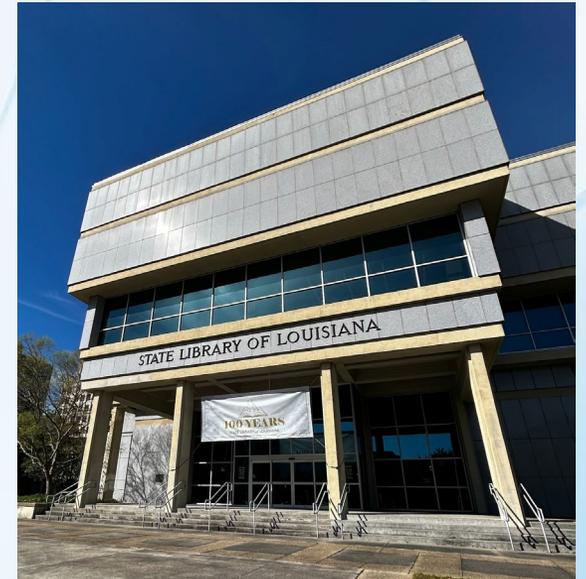
Literacy & Learning Lab

- Dynamic, interactive environment designed for young learners
- Opened Summer 2025 on first floor of the State Library
- Available for school groups, field trips, reinforces classroom learning



Facility Improvements

- Seminar Center and meeting room upgrades include new furniture, carpet, paint
- Updated interior signage, displays, and expanded secure card access
- Building exterior work: roof replacement, weatherproofing, cleaning

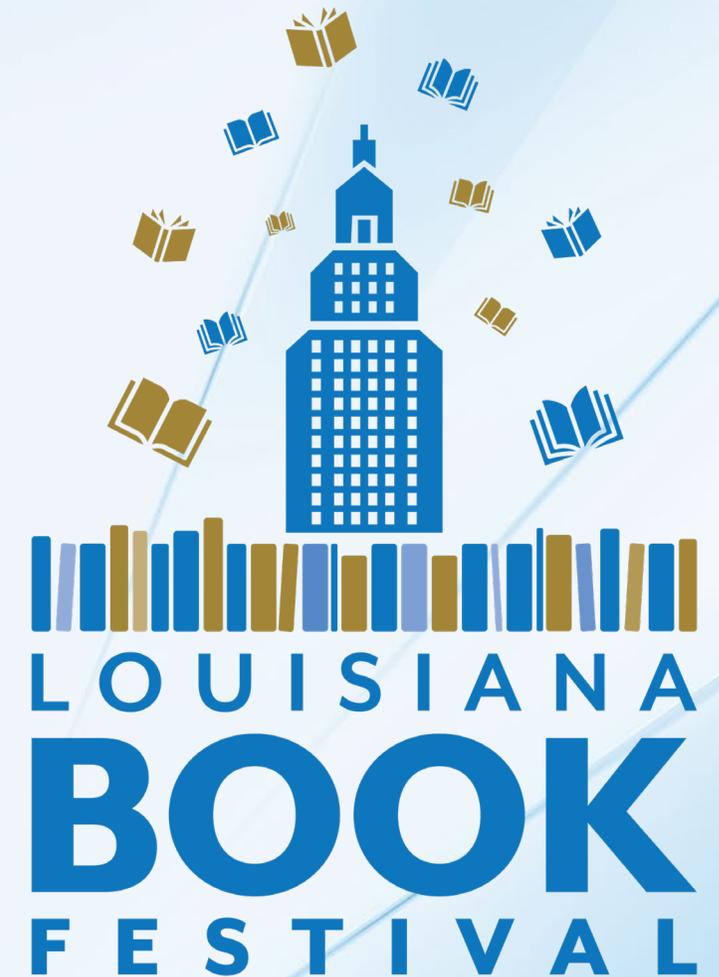




Louisiana Center for the Book Recent Initiatives

Louisiana Book Festival

- **19,000** attendees at 21st annual event in November 2025 in Baton Rouge
- More than **230 writers** participated in **120+** book talks, signings, readings, and workshops
- Over **130 vendors and exhibitors** featured
- **2026 event** is scheduled for **Oct. 31**
- Learn more at **LouisianaBookFestival.org**



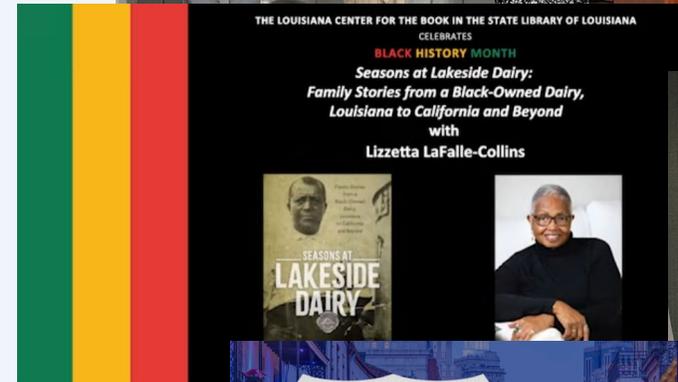
Readers' Choice Awards

- The annual program has connected generations of students with great books and fostered a love of reading by giving K-12 students the chance to vote for favorite titles
- More than **485,000 votes** have been cast and **1.5 million books** read since the program's inception
- In 2025, **24,000 K-12 students** read more than **82,000 books** to select the winners



Programs & Participation

- Black History Month
- Women's History Month
- National Poetry Month
- Great Reads selections
- Louisiana Writer Award
- NPR Reading Road Trip





Let us hear from you!

What more can we do for you?

What can we do better?

What should we stop doing?

Grade our services, response times

Share your vision with us



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