

## **Springfield Public Library – A Brief History**

Springfield Public Library was first formed by the Ladies of Springfield in 1908, using both donated and purchased books and a year's subscription to Oregon Monthly magazine. For many decades, the library struggled to find a physical space, and moved 11 times in only 50 years. In 1947, the library became part of the city government and was able to hire the first full-time librarian, Josephine Matsler. The library moved to its current location in 1981 as a part of the newly remodeled City Hall. Now, run by a small and passionate staff of 16, Springfield Public Library is open six days a week. In addition to books, people come to the library for a wide variety of programs for all ages, to use the public internet computers or the public Wi-Fi, to use the study/meeting spaces, and to hang out and play in the Kids & Tweens area. The library is no longer limited to the physical location and runs a virtual library at [Wheremindsgrow.org](http://Wheremindsgrow.org). From the site patrons can place holds, download books, and access online resources. The Springfield History Museum was moved under the umbrella of the Library Department of the City in 2017. The Museum has a committee that helps guide the work. The Library Advisory Board does not advise the museum directly.

### Mission

The Springfield Public Library provides library services for personal enrichment, enjoyment, and lifelong learning.

### Vision

The Springfield Public Library is an accessible source of knowledge and entertainment, a literacy center, a gathering place, and the heart of our diverse community. We provide information and technology to improve quality of life and empower people to learn, prosper, and participate effectively in civic life.

### Values

We provide access to information for all  
We inspire readers, learners, and creators  
We offer cultural enrichment opportunities  
We champion freedom of thought and expression  
We support business and workforce development  
We are good stewards of public resources  
We design welcoming public spaces and online services for all  
We anticipate change with imagination and innovation  
We give friendly, respectful service  
We promote civic engagement in our community



2021: Advocated as private residents for funding for the library card program for students who live outside of the city boundaries – For Every Student a Library (FESAL).

2021: Successfully advocated for the library to go fine free.

2021-22: Reading and discussing Beyond the Ballot to determine a plan for preparing for a library measure.

On-going:

- Review, provide feedback and approve library policies
- Participate in business from the audience at City Council regular sessions to inform the Council about happenings in the library
- Attend library-related training as possible