



Black Rock Branch

OCTOBER 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards:	38	Number of questions answered:	
	number of visitors:	1976	[Reference, Technical, Other]	
			REFERENCE:	470 OTHER: 268 TECH: 628
		TOTAL: 1366		
Collections Statistics	Collection Size:	33403		
	Total Added:	145		
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ:	1657		
	In House:	87		
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month:	326		
	Total Wifi connections:	258		
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance			
	Bookings:	13	est	
	Attendance:	85	est	
Programming	REGULAR PROGRAMMING:			
	4 Weekly Crafts:		28 Patrons	
	8 Story Times:		43 Patrons	
	1 Adult Book Club:		4 Patrons	
	2 STEAM Thursdays		22 Patrons	
	2 Digital Orientation		0 Patrons	
	2 Family Movies		1 Patrons	
	2 Movies for Grownups		5 Patrons	
	2 Lego Club		8 Patrons	
	2 Crafternoon		4 Patrons	
	SPECIAL PROGRAMMING			
	1 Christine's Critters		47 Patrons	
	1 Halloween Party		82 Patrons	
1 Halloween Fest		1 Patrons		
Other Services	Digital Navigator	Sessions	Patrons	
	Notary	10 Patrons	10 Documents	
	Passport	N/A		
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached			
	10/6/2025	Burroughs Center ESL visits-AM		people
	10/6/2025	Burroughs Center ESL visits-PM		35 people
	10/7/2025	Burroughs Center ESL visits-AM		people
	10/7/2025	Burroughs Center ESL visits-PM		5 people
	10/10/2025	Black RockSchool Kindergarten visits		31 people
Outreach Con't	10/11/2025	BR Famers' Market		11 people
	10/24/2025	Trunk or Treat- Optimus		105 people
	10/27/2025	Trunk or Treat- Park City Parking Lot		250 people

Staff Development	Margaret worked with Laura M. to learn about setting up room bookings in Libcal. She also completed a recorded webinar about the same topic. BR will pilot digital, staff side room bookings to see if it's a feasible product for other branches. The entire BR team has also begun testing digital room bookings. So far, staff seem to think it will streamline the current bookings process. Margaret gave basic Brodart ordering training to several staff over the last month to 6 weeks. With BT our former primary wholesaler, some staff had never placed a Brodart order or used their interface before.
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HIGHLIGHTS

COLLECTIONS

- Mat and Margaret have cleared out BT orders (backorder lists, lists prepped but not sent, etc.) and migrated them to Bordart. We are now awaiting cancellation lists to cross-check against submitted orders to re-order, if needed.
- Of note: right now Bordart seems to have fewer items on backorder than BT; hopefully this feature continues even after their number of customers inevitably skyrockets in the aftermath of BT's demise.

PROGRAMS

- Wee Readers has expanded to offer not just stories and a craft, but also at least two additional early math/literacy concept activities, along with "homework" consisting of 5 or so pages of these concepts in bite-size, kid friendly format. The new format seems to be appreciated even among our tiniest attendees and their adults.
- Christine's Critters had a great turnout this month and BONUS: quite a few attendees made use of the requested online registration. Many attendees came from our Black Rock School families, where Margaret attended Back to School Night in September; yet again, marketing through the schools seems to be the most effective way to reach at least our younger and family patrons.
- STEAM was well attended in October; enough so that Elaine reached out to the *Friends* to see if they could assist us with funding to purchase more equipment and supplies. They graciously agreed to donate \$500, which will be spent on, among other things, additional equipment so kids can work independently, additional ingredients for our experiments. I am also looking at adding a piece of technology to our equipment to expand the sciences we can explore...more info to come!

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

- This month was quite busy with outreach; class visits (both children's and adult), the Farmers' Market, and Trick or Trunks all made an appearance on our outreach roster. I've attached images from Trick or Trunks to this report.
- In addition to the outreach mentioned above, Margaret was able to attend the Black Rock NRZ meeting for October.

CONCERNS

- No major changes in building concerns since Sept. The team is excited to hear that the facade is slated for repair in the near future.
- With our increase in foot traffic we are seeing a (very slight, but noticeable) uptick in contentious customers. We've had 1-2 instances interacting with patrons who were dangerously close to being kicked out this month. It's worth noting that we expect this trend to increase as the weather gets colder and people seek us out as warming centers.



Latara and Trina at a Trick or Trunk, 10/27/25



Linda at a Trick or Trunk, 10/24/25



Margaret at a Trick or Trunk, 10/24/25