

Highlights

- Personnel – Continued coordination of staffing efforts at the Library and History Center.
- Building Project – Continued work with architects to develop concept studies to address facilities items raised during strategic planning and pursued related funding needs.
- 2025 Capital Projects
 - Circulation desk installed.
 - Library camera expansion expected to be finalized early January 2026.

Areas of Focus

- Personnel
 - Onboarding new employees.
 - Reviewed and interviewed applicants for open year-round key holder position at the museum.
 - Coordinated facility coverage and scheduling.
- Building Project – Architects and the ad hoc Building Committee met via zoom in December to review facility options for various sites. This part of the process is nearing completion. Concept studies anticipated January 2026.
- Performance Appraisals – Supervisors initiated annual staff reviews in December.

Strategic Goals

Strengthening Community Connection (Library & History Center use and facilities, Collections, and Digital Resources)

- 2025 Year in Review - In 2025, the Library and History Center celebrated the library's 20th year serving the community from its current facility, welcoming visitors from near and far. The year was marked by record-setting engagement, strong growth in digital use, and continued demand for programs, technology, and study space. Together, these trends highlight the Library's expanding role as a hub for access, learning, and community connection. At the other end of the spectrum, staff report declines in onsite library visitation vs. previous years, even while borrowing is maintained.
 - Membership & Circulation
 - 705 new members joined in 2025, bringing total membership to 6,507 – highest in over 5 years.
 - Members borrowed 196,034 items, both in person and online—the highest total on record.
 - Digital borrowing accounted for 69% of all loans, up from 67% in 2024, reflecting continued shifts in how patrons access materials.
 - The Library continues to respond to these evolving patterns by expanding digital collections while maintaining a robust physical collection, especially print books.
 - Visits & Views
 - 70,582 visits to the Library and History Center – down vs. 2024 and 2023.
 - 95,194 website visits – almost exactly the same engagement as 2024.
 - Over 350,000 views via Library Facebook.
 - Nearly 2 million views via History Center Facebook.
 - History Center
 - 4,356 visitors to the 39th Street Museum, a 26% increase over 2024!
 - 1,972 visits to the Virtual Museum & Archives.
 - 405 History Center collections cataloged
 - 821 History Center collections digitized
 - Interest in Avalon's history continues to grow, supported by increased in-person visitation and expanded digital access.
 - Programs & Events
 - 467 programs offered in 2025 - 23,485 participants, an 8% increase over 2024.
 - Hundreds attended concerts, author talks, and popular children's programs. The unprecedented turnout seen at special events in 2024 continued through 2025, demonstrating sustained enthusiasm for Library & History Center programming.

AVALON LIBRARY & HISTORY CENTER REPORT – December 2025

- Collections & Access
 - 28 apps providing access to eBooks, streaming media, news, sports, cooking, finance, and more.
 - 123,123 items across books, movies, music, eBooks, cake pans, and other nontraditional collections.
 - Over 175 Discovery Kits and baking pans & 88 technology loans.
 - Staff remain focused on increasing opportunities for access as borrowing patterns continue to change.
- Technology, Study Space & Business Services
 - 746 quiet study sessions scheduled, a 77% increase over 2024!
 - 25,821 computer sessions, a 61% increase over 2024.
 - More than 20 scheduled technology classes, plus hundreds of one-on-one tech help sessions.
 - Business and technology services remain popular, with some usage peaking during the summer months (study rooms) and others in steady demand year-round (print/scan/copy).

Cultivating Culture in the Community (Marketing, Community & Staff Engagement, and Events)

- Community Outreach – Engagement included staff presence at Senior Center Bingo.
- Summer 2026 – Planning is ongoing for summer - scheduling of special events, including author visits and concerts. Summer marketing efforts will begin in January.