



LINCOLN  
City Libraries

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# ONE MORE CHAPTER

Literacy, Community, Lifelong Learning

## “Heritage” by Eddie Dominguez

SCULPTURE BRINGS SENSE OF HOME TO  
EISELEY BRANCH LIBRARY

Visitors to the Loren C. Eiseley Branch Library are now greeted by a striking new addition: “Heritage,” a ceramic carved torso by acclaimed artist Eddie Dominguez. Rich with color and intricate etchings, the piece reflects family narratives and landscapes inspired by Dominguez’s New Mexican heritage and his time in Nebraska. Inviting quiet contemplation, Heritage bridges personal and communal histories in a space dedicated to learning and connection.

The unveiling brought together art and community in a celebration among the library stacks. Guests heard from Dominguez, library and City leaders, and representatives from the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) and Public Art Lincoln. This collaboration marks a first-of-its-kind partnership, uniting institutions committed to enriching public spaces through art and culture.

“Heritage” is a testament to the power of place and reminds us that art, like literature, unites different experiences and encourages us to explore the many facets of our shared history.



With “Heritage,” the library becomes more than a place for books—it becomes a space for stories told through art, reflection, and shared experience. This remarkable sculpture invites visitors to pause, connect and consider the narratives that shape us all.

Dominguez recently retired after 25 years of teaching ceramics and sculpture at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He has exhibited his art in museums nationwide, including the Smithsonian and the Renwick Gallery.



## Director's Note

A survey was conducted last year as part of the Library's strategic planning process. Parlay Consulting reported that 88% of the more than 1,000 community members who responded were "likely" or "extremely likely" to recommend Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) to friends and family as a place to visit. That is great news.

However, the survey also highlighted areas for improvement. While 69% of respondents "strongly agree" that LCL offers high-quality programs and services, fewer believe we consistently meet community needs (48%) or effectively communicate our role in the community (33%).

These insights, along with feedback from stakeholders and community focus groups, shaped the priorities of our 2024–2027 Strategic Plan (see Reports and Plans at [www.lincolnlibraries.org](http://www.lincolnlibraries.org)).

LCL is collaborating with community partners to identify how the library can maximize access, be more relevant and provide more value to people and groups who need the library for the myriad of resources and lifelong learning opportunities we offer.

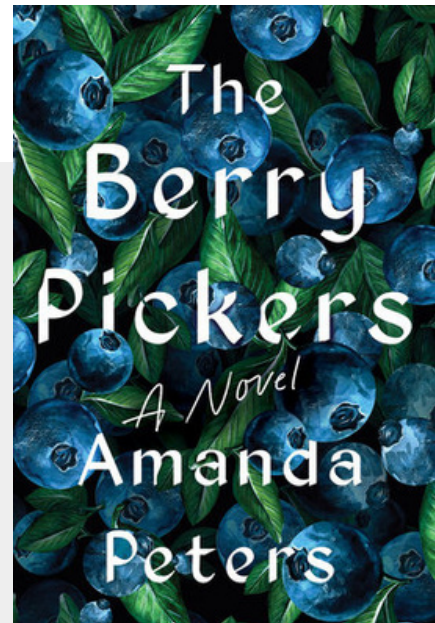
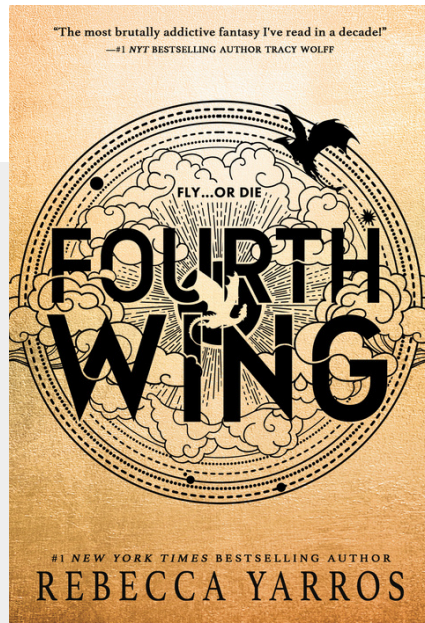
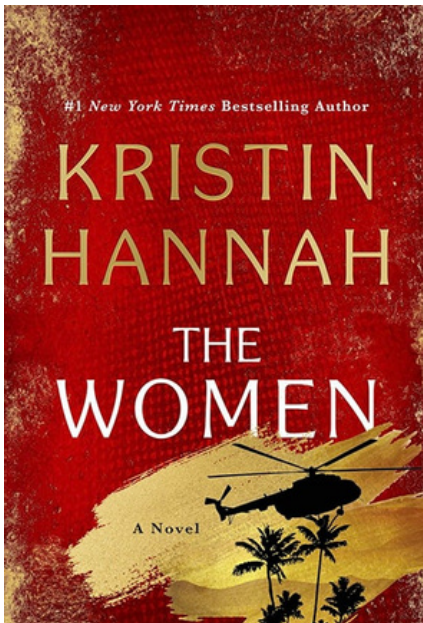
We are proactively finding ways to introduce the library to students, seniors, young families and New Americans through outreach efforts at cultural centers and social services agencies, and offerings like Library OneCard, special storytimes, digital literacy trainings and more.

To improve awareness and communicating our offerings, our library team seeks opportunities to share through new formats such as this newsletter, a redesigned website, an upcoming podcast and monthly "Library Lineup" program listings. Bottom line: LCL has so much to offer with talented staff and a wealth of resources. We aim to serve and make the most of our opportunity to add to the quality of life found in Lincoln and Lancaster County!

*Ryan Wieber*



Scan the QR code to explore our Strategic Plan and our latest Annual Report which celebrates a year of community, innovation, and connection. See how your library is making a difference!



## What Lincoln Was Reading: The Most Checked-Out Books of 2024

If you've ever wondered what books your fellow Lincolniters couldn't put down this year, you're in luck—Lincoln City Libraries has released several top ten lists of the most popular titles of 2024. From historical fiction to fantasy, heartfelt stories to gripping thrillers, this year's top reads reflect the diverse tastes of our community.

At the very top? "The Women" by Kristin Hannah, a powerful historical novel that had readers turning pages at a record pace, with 4,041 checkouts. Close behind was Rebecca Yarros' "Fourth Wing", a fantasy sensation that had book lovers eagerly awaiting its sequel. Rounding out the top three was "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters, a poignant story of loss and resilience that resonated deeply with readers. It was our One Book One Lincoln community read, and we culminated the season with an author visit.

Other favorites on the list include "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt, Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver, and Funny Story by Emily Henry, proving that Lincoln readers love a mix of heartwarming, thought-provoking and utterly immersive storytelling.

"People love seeing what their community is reading, and our Top 10 Most Popular Titles list is a fun way to highlight the stories that captured our readers' attention," said Rebecca Arcena, Support Services Coordinator.

### Top Ten in Adult Fiction

- "The Women" by Kristin Hannah
- "Fourth Wing" by Rebecca Yarros
- "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters
- "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt
- "A Court of Thorns And Roses" by Sarah J. Maas
- "Iron Flame" by Rebecca Yarros
- "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver
- "Funny Story" by Emily Henry
- "The Exchange: After the Firm" by John Grisham
- "North Woods" by Daniel Mason

If you're looking for your next great read, check out the full list of this year's most popular books and explore more categories like:

Young Adult Stand-Alone, Young Adult Series, Juvenile Series, Board Books, Picture Books, First Readers, Top 10 Authors, Top 10 Movies and Top 10 Video Games.



# Community Connections Through Learning and Literacy

From language exploration to high-energy storytimes and inspiring read-alouds, our library brought people together in meaningful ways this season. Participants embraced new ways to communicate, celebrated the joy of reading with Nebraska Athletics, and engaged with powerful stories that reflect and connect our community. Here's a look at three standout programs that made an impact!



## Language Learning Evenings:

In February, our library launched a unique opportunity to explore new languages with staff member Shantell F. Each Thursday evening, participants immersed themselves in the basics of a new language—from learning the alphabet and numbers to grasping essential grammar and everyday conversational phrases.

The sessions also highlighted aspects of Deaf culture and awareness, offering a rich, hands-on experience in language and communication.

## Literacy-Fueled Storytimes:

Our community lit up with energy as Nebraska Athletics partnered with us to host dynamic storytimes designed to celebrate literacy.

Families sang, danced, and cheered along with special guests like Herbie, Lil' Red, and the Spirit Squad during three spirited sessions. These lively events, filled with the fun and excitement of "Go Big Read," brought a playful twist to reading, making literacy a celebration for everyone.



## Sharing Stories, Building Connections

Our libraries welcomed scholars from the Lincoln Public Schools Equity Cadre and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Rally Planning Committee for special read-aloud sessions celebrating stories that inspire and connect us. Held at Walt, Gere and Eiseley Branch Libraries, these interactive events highlighted books that reflect diverse voices and experiences, fostering meaningful conversations and a shared love of reading.