“Each neighborhood in San Francisco has different priorities. In Bayview, the Library heard loud and clear that the priority was jobs. To that end, the Bayview Branch Library construction project created jobs and opportunities for Bayview residents while building a new library that will provide even further opportunities and resources for this community.”

— Luis Herrera, City Librarian
Executive Letter

With the grand opening of the new Bayview Branch Library in early 2013, San Francisco’s ambitious Branch Library Improvement Program is just one branch away from completion, fulfilling the 2003 promise to San Franciscans to renovate or rebuild 24 branch libraries and build a new library at Mission Bay. We have renewed our commitment to our mission through enhanced initiatives, including: determining optimal open hours at our branch libraries and Main through extensive surveying of the public; providing cultural programming, partnerships and outreach to meet the diverse needs of our library users; upgrading and increasing technology available for the public; strengthening our collections of books and materials, including e-collections; offering programming for all ages in multiple formats and languages; and providing safe, comfortable facilities for all.

San Franciscans provide strong support for the San Francisco Public Library, resulting in a vibrant, well utilized system that serves as a role model for other communities. This Annual Report provides an overview of the system’s extensive collections, programs and partnerships with other City departments, including the Department of Public Works, Department of the Environment, Recreation and Parks and many others, make our library system a vital and valued program of our City services.

With warmest regards,

Luis Herrera
CITY LIBRARIAN

Jewelle Gomez, PRESIDENT
Feb. 18, 2005 – present
A. Lee Munson, VICE PRESIDENT
April 20, 2006 – present
Larry Kane
John Lee
March 4, 2013 – present
Susan Mall
March 4, 2013 – present
Michael Nguyen
March 15, 2010 – present
Teresa Ono
May 21, 2009 – present
Lorna Randlett
Jan. 8, 2011 – present
“It was just one of those moments of San Francisco awesomeness. I walked into the Main Library and there were photo booths, costumes, band after bands. It was the coolest thing in the world. My kids danced until the end.”
— Nicole, Tricycle Music Fest attendee, library user and mother of three.

"Both my child and I love coming to the library. I truly feel blessed to have this in our neighborhood.”
— Library user and parent

The Library serves as both a source of recreational reading as well as an educational resource. Serving as a City-wide resource, the following measures were accomplished in 2012-13:

COLLECTIONS
Books and other materials in all formats are key services of the Library.
- Enhanced e-collections (eBooks and eMedia) checkout by 47%
- Redistributed 90,045 books and other materials to nonprofits and community groups, an increase of 56% over the previous year
- Offered books and other materials in more than 40 languages and multiple formats
- Provided online instruction resources, including ESL and citizenship materials

LITERARY PROGRAMS
The Library is home to books and authors, and proudly hosts services and programs related to reading.

Poet Laureate
Hosted nomination committee, Inaugural Address and programming featuring new Poet Laureate Alejandro Murghía

One City One Book
Coordinated City-wide One City One Book, A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster by Rebecca Solnit, in partnership with Cal Humanities and California State Library
- Events: 34
- Attendance: 1,973
- Book checkouts over 4 months: 2,000
- Book sales (publisher’s estimate): 500
- Social Media Connections (Facebook and Twitter followers): 1,941

EARLY LITERACY
Early childhood and family literacy are key programs for young children and families.

Tricycle Music Fest West
- Months of rock concerts geared toward the young set: 3
- Participating libraries: 8
- Notable kindie rock acts such as Recess Monkey, The Hipwaders and Alison Faith Levy’s Big Time Tot Rock: 10

Storytimes
Baby Rhyme Time, Toddler Tales, Preschool Storytime and Family Storytime increase early childhood and family literacy. This year’s programming featured:
- Programs: 3,408
- Attendees: 173,320

SUMMER READING
Summer reading, long a treasured program for children and teens, expanded to include people of all ages.
- Participants of all ages: 16,442
- Hours of reading recorded: 375,609
- First time participants: 60%
- Increase in participation: 46%
- Programs: 386
- Youth (Kid Power) volunteers: 572
- Hours contributed by Kid Power: 8,347

LITERACY
Through Project Read, the adult literacy program of the Library, professionally trained volunteer tutors provide free one-on-one tutoring to English-speaking adults who want to improve their basic reading and writing skills. Activities for enrolled adult learners with young children are offered through the Project Read Families for Literacy Program. Project Read has been a key library service since 1983.
- Adult Learners Instructed: 147
- Volunteer Tutors: 158
- Volunteer Hours: 9,665

Through Project Read, volunteer tutors provide free one-on-one tutoring.

Tricycle Music Fest drew a crowd to Main Library’s Koret Auditorium.

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White participated in One City One Book.

Facing page: Photo: Jason Doiy
Youth Engagement

“Find your inspiration here, leave as an inspiration. This will be more than just a center for literature, it will be a center for creativity.”
— Dawson Wu

Teen involvement in planning services, programs and new initiatives is key to the Library’s services to San Francisco teens. This year’s initiatives included the hiring of 19 summer youth interns to help plan the new Teen Center and Digital Media Learning Lab.

- Worked with 5 youth filmmakers to document architectural needs for new Media Lab
- Explored design development for the Lab. Included surveying of SF youth, mentor consultations, collaborative model designs, with youth interns in contact with 450 high school students
- Collaborated with Bureau of Architecture on conceptual design development, including 5 architects and 22 youth interns and volunteers
- Considered seven design options, reaching the decision to locate the media lab on the second floor of the Main Library

Digital Strategy

TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS
- Upgraded staff and public PCs to Windows 7
- Added Firefox browser to public PCs
- Expanded WiFi coverage throughout the system
- Improved digital signage in the branches

Expansion of laptop lending program
The Library increased its use of laptop computer lending throughout the branch system.
- Number of additional branches offering laptops: 2
- Total number of branches offering laptop lending: 26
- Number of new laptops: 10
- Increase in laptop checkout: 33%

DIGITIZING UNIQUE COLLECTIONS
Additional progress was made in digitizing SFPL’s unique and historic collections in order to make them more accessible to the public.
- New items scanned: 1,518
- Total items scanned: 4,250
- Number of uses of total digitized collection: 935,000

“Made for teens by teens!
The new teen center will be the hub of technology, social interaction, and creativity—with a hint of something fresh for every teen.”
— Kaila Lee

Photos, above and facing page: Teens, in collaboration with mentors and architects, explore design possibilities for the new Media Lab.
Lower image: Poster from 1939 Work Projects Administration digitized from SFPL’s unique and historic collections.
The Library offers programming and exhibitions for children, teens and adults throughout the library system. Sample highlights from throughout the year include:

Poetry
- International Poetry Festival
- Poet Laureate programs

Author visits
- David Talbot, Season of the Witch
- Eve Bunting, Effie Lee Morris lecture
- Lois Lowry, The Giver

Exhibitions and programs
- Hand Bookbinders of California
- On the Clock: Selections from the Schmulowitz Collection of Wit & Humor. An evening with Will Durst
- Educate! Amuse! And In Colors! Selections from the George M. Fox Collection

Strategic Partnerships
Through growing numbers of new and mutually beneficial partnerships in addition to continued collaborations, the Library accomplished the following programs and initiatives through programs and partnerships.

**Library Card Design Challenge**
- ImproveSF.com and the San Francisco Mayor’s Office
- More than 3,500 library card design entries and more than 14,000 votes and comments.

**Excelsior Branch Library Beautification**
- Excelsior Branch Library and Excelsior Action Group
- Residents, merchants, neighborhood associations and city agencies

**Summer Reading partners and sponsors**
- San Francisco Giants, California Academy of Sciences, Aquarium by the Bay, Supervisor Mark Farrell, Chronicle Books, Contemporary Jewish Museum, Bay Area Discovery Museum, Friends of SFPL, and many more!

**Selected ongoing partnerships**
- Department of the Environment
- Recreation & Parks
- Department of Public Works
- Literacy Network
- Writers Corps
- Youth Works
- Public safety agencies

Diversity in Programming
The Library offers programming and exhibitions for children, teens and adults throughout the library system. Sample highlights from throughout the year include:

**Affinity Centers and other cultural programs and exhibits**
- African American Literary Festival
- Arab American Born Among Minors documentary photographs from Lebanon
- Hispanic Heritage Month programs
- Movies for the blind and partially sighted
- Dancing in the Dragon’s Jaws: Gay San Francisco 1985-1988
- Calligraphy, bookbinding and letterpress programs
- Puppet Festival
- Annual Cinco de Mayo open house and celebration
- Dia de Los Niños, Dia de Los Libros

“Never forget that San Francisco is the City of Poets—therefore, each and every one of you is a poet until proven otherwise.”

— Alejandro Murghia
San Francisco Poet Laureate
SFPL contributes to community education, health and safety through its 27 branches and Main Library. 2012-13 included additional hours of service, an extensive survey undertaken to introduce additional optimal open hours, and the opening of one new library and the groundbreaking for another.

**LIBRARY HOURS**
Additional hours were added to the Visitacion Valley, Mission Bay and Portola Branches, making all three libraries 7-day operations.

- **Open hours survey to determine additional hours in 2013-14**
  - In person interviews: 2,486
  - Online survey for public and staff: 1,107
  - Telephone surveys for non-users: 302
  - Public hearings on hours and services in Supervisorial Districts: 11
  - Surveys in English, Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Tagalog and Vietnamese

- **New hours to be implemented in 2013-14**
  - Increase in branch hours: 37 hours at 18 branches
  - Increase of service hours for Main Library Deaf Services, Library for the Blind and Book Arts & Special Collections: 61 hours
  - New system wide service hours: 1,370 open hours per week

**NEW BAYVIEW LIBRARY**
- Opened February 23, 2013
- Designed to meet LEED Gold
- 23rd branch to be built or renovated under the Branch Library Improvement Program

**NORTH BEACH BRANCH GROUNDBREAKING**
- October 2012
- Open in spring of 2014
- Completes the Branch Library Improvement Program, approved in 2000

“The modern mantra is that communities benefit from societal blenders—facilities and institutions that bring together residents of different ages, ethnicities, economic levels and interests. North Beach is certainly culturally rich in all those ways and the North Beach Library is our blender.

It’s our laboratory, living room, study hall and entertainment center, a place for some people to get away and others to get down to it. I can’t wait for all of them to see this soaring, light-filled new library.”

— Julie Christensen, North Beach community leader
Facts and Figures

**Library Data**

- 846 Library Staff
- 3,487,315 Physical Collection Size
- 76,685 eCollection Size
- 3,564,000 Total Collections
- 7,424,786 Library Visits
- 10,604,636 Total Circulation
- 6,901,358 Remote Visits to Library Website
- 68,000 Total Hours of Operation
- 436,268 Registered Borrowers
- 29,409 Total Number of Library Programs and Events
- 423,836 Attendance at Library Programs

**Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Title</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branch Libraries</td>
<td>19,570,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and Youth Services</td>
<td>9,803,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections and Technical Services</td>
<td>13,466,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Programs and Partnerships</td>
<td>1,400,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>12,757,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>6,173,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Administration</td>
<td>11,968,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Library</td>
<td>17,257,541</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$92,398,437 Grand Total

*For the second consecutive year, San Francisco Public Library was named as a 2013 Library Journal Star Library, receiving a rating of four stars.*