Looking Back at 2021

As we come to the end of 2021, with all our libraries back in service, we reflect back on this transformational year. While our physical locations were closed to the public, we quickly pivoted to ensure access to e-resources and virtual programs through popular social media platforms. We launched a new service model, SFPL To Go, a front door pick-up service to put physical books and materials back in the hands of patrons. Nine neighborhood branch libraries hosted Community Hubs to support the City’s most vulnerable youth and their families with distance learning. We completed the Library’s first-ever Racial Equity Action Plan to help guide the Library’s work to advance racial equity within our organization and in our communities.

When the Health Order allowed, we pioneered another new service model, Browse & Bounce, to bring patrons safely back inside our buildings. All the while, hundreds of our staff stepped out of their usual roles to assist the City’s COVID-19 response in a variety of capacities including food distribution, community outreach, hotel and vaccination site monitoring, contact tracing functions as well as other supports within the Department of Public Health, Department of Emergency Management and Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing. While many of our staff were deployed, other staff had the incredibly difficult challenge of keeping the system going, which required them to take on additional and unfamiliar workloads and adapt to constantly shifting conditions. I applaud the entire SFPL team for rising to the occasion and making it through this tempest with great aplomb.

On May 3, 2021, we welcomed back patrons into the Main Library with a rousing standing ovation, a symbolic moment marking the City’s reopening that made national news. On May 3, 2021, we welcomed back patrons into the Main Library with a rousing standing ovation, a symbolic moment marking the City’s reopening that made national news. When the Health Order allowed, we welcomed back patrons into the Main Library with a rousing standing ovation, a symbolic moment marking the City’s reopening that made national news.

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Reach Your Fundraising, Grant-seeking Goals

Do you need to write a winning grant proposal? Fundraise like a pro! SFPL currently partners with Foundation Directory Online by Candid to identify prospective funders for your charitable mission, whatever it may be.

Foundation Directory Online is a research tool that helps nonprofits and individuals alike find the grantmakers to fund their projects. With exhaustive and up-to-date knowledge and insight on the social sector, the database includes more than 240,000 foundations, 17 million grants and 900,000 recipient profiles. Funder types include private and independent foundations, corporate foundations, U.S. Federal funders, public charities and international foundations.

Candid sources its data from IRS returns, annual reports, printed application guidelines, the philanthropic press and various other sources to offer the largest pool of grantmaker information available to the public.

Access Foundation Directory Online on computers at the Main Library or try out Foundation Directory Essential for 24-hour access outside the library at sfpl.org/databases. For help using the directory, contact the Main Library’s Business, Science & Technology Center, (415) 557-4488.

Free Jazz and Black Power

Lewis Gordon and Justin Desmangles discuss the creative relationship between the radical movement within Afro-American classical music known as Free Jazz and the parallel development of the Black Power movement in international politics.

Jazz, the most original and pervasively influential art form of the last hundred years, was created by African Americans. Within that art form emerged Free Jazz, its most controversial element—a controversial in part because Free Jazz has historically closely aligned itself with revolutionary struggle among Black internationally.

Join us for what promises to be a vibrant, explosive discussion of aesthetics, philosophy and the practice of freedom.


Free Jazz and Black Power Playlist

This playlist is an accompaniment to SFPL’s event with Lewis Gordon and Justin Desmangles.

Some of the songs included:


- Live in Greenwich Village: The Complete Impulse Recordings by Albert Ayler. The village gigs reveal the mature Ayler, whose music embodied bold contradictions: There are the sweet, childlike, singalong melodies contrasted with violent screaming peaks of emotion, contrasted with the gospel and R&B shouts of jubilation, all moving into and through one another.

- The Impulse Story by Albert Ayler. The best recorded evidence up to that point—1965 and 1966—of Ayler’s use of gospel music and marching rhythms in his free jazz approach.

- Love Cry/The Last Album by Albert Ayler. Ayler’s uncompromising musical freedom, mixed with his catchy combination of nursery rhythms and brass band marches, remain prominent on Love Cry.


- Both Directions at Once: The Lost Album by John Coltrane. This 1965 session sat on the shelf for decades, eventually getting rediscovered when the label decided to clear out its vaults in the 1970s. Coltrane’s reference tape survived, eventually unearthed by his family and assembled for release as Both Directions at Once by Impulse! Records in 2018. Both Directions at Once is truly a rare thing: an important discovery from the vault that’s also a blast to hear.

- The Impulse Story by Pharoah Sanders. The only recording that exists of Pharoah Sanders recordings during the peak of the Cultural Revolution, when he was a participant and then a follower of John Coltrane.

- Something Else!!! The Music of Ornette Coleman [Original Jazz Classics Remasters] by Ornette Coleman. This 1958 debut recording by the Ornette Coleman Quintet, which featured Coleman on his trademark white plastic alto, Don Cherry on trumpet, Billy Higgins on drums, Walter Norris on piano and Don Payne on bass, shook up the jazz world.

Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir

by Deborah A. Miranda

Bad Indians Read-Alikes

If you liked Bad Indians by Deborah A. Miranda, you’ll enjoy these books expressing the life stories of Indigenous folks and communities.

An Indian Among Los Indígenas: A Native Travel Memoir
by Ursula Pike

A sharp, honest and unnerving examination of the shadows that colonial history casts over even the most well-intentioned attempts at cross-cultural aid.

Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America’s Stolen Land
by Noé Álvarez

A debut memoir by the son of working-class Mexican immigrants describes his upbringing in Washington state, membership in the Peace and Dignity Journeys movement and competition in the Native American cultural marathon from Canada to Guatemala.

A History of My Brief Body
by Billy-Ray Belcourt

A brave, raw and fiercely intelligent collection of essays and vignettes on grief, colonial violence, joy, love and queerness.

A Mind Spread Out On the Ground
by Alicia Elliott

A personal meditation on trauma, legacy, oppression and racism in North America, in an urgent and visceral work that asks essential questions about Native people in North America.

Carry: A Memoir of Survival On Stolen Land
by Toni Jensen

Jensen maps her personal experience onto the historical, exploring how history is lived in the body and redefining the language we use to speak about violence in America.

Dog Flowers: A Memoir
by Danielle Geller

An award-winning essayist draws on archival documents in a narrative account that explores how her family’s troubled past and the death of her mother, a homeless alcoholic, reflected the traditions and tragic history of her Navajo heritage.

Author Event and Book Club

Author Talk: Deborah A. Miranda in conversation – Dec. 17, 2 p.m.
Zoom registration: bit.ly/OTSPAuthor12-17-21

Book Club: Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir by Deborah A. Miranda – Dec. 20, 7 p.m.
Zoom registration: bit.ly/OTSPBkClb12-20-21
Deborah A. Miranda Photo: Margo Solod

Red Poet

Matthew Furey’s 2010 documentary Red Poet: The Story of Jack Hirschman paints a soulful picture of San Francisco’s former Poet Laureate and brings to the silver screen the singular life of this troubadour for modern times. Introduction by producer Francisco Furey and Q&A with director Matthew Furey.

Film: Red Poet: The Story of Jack Hirschman – Dec. 12, 2 p.m., Koret Auditorium, Main Library, Lower Level

Tomorrow’s Memories

SFPL hosts the launch of the SF Girls Chorus Book Club Series celebrating Tomorrow’s Memories: A Diary by Angeles Monrayo, the true diary of Monrayo, a Filipina girl who immigrated to Hawaii and California in the 1920s.

Panel: San Francisco Girls Chorus presents Tomorrow’s Memories Book Club Launch – Dec. 11, 11 a.m.

Nutcracker-Inspired

Join us for a presentation on San Francisco Ballet’s long history of performing this timeless ballet, followed by a fun and easy Nutcracker-inspired chair dance class.

SF Ballet’s Nutcracker-Inspired Chair Dance & Oral History – Dec. 18, 11 a.m.

All programs are virtual unless otherwise noted.

For additional event and registration info, visit sfpl.org/virtual-library, sfpl.org/kids/virtual-library and sfpl.org/teen-virtual-library. You can also call us for assistance with registering for programs: (415) 557-4400. Check program listings on sfpl.org for any updates or changes to the schedule.
SFPL Recommends

Our staff picked their favorite books, movies and music that they discovered in 2021 for you.

**Adult Fiction**
- *Normal People* by Emma Straub
- *The Overstory* by Richard Powers
- *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins
- *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid
- *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong
- *The Searcher* by Tom Rachman
- *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- *Las Batallas en el Desierto* by José Emilio Pacheco
- *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo
- *Minor Detail* by Adan-Jah Shabi
- *Persepolis Rising* by James S.A. Corey
- *Recursion* by Kwei Shun
- *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke
- *The City & the City* by China Miéville
- *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart
- *Minor Detail* by Adan-Jah Shabi
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- *Recursion* by Kwei Shun
- *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke
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- *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart

**Adult Nonfiction**
- *Agent Sonya* by Ben Macintyre
- *Ace: What Assumptions Reveal About Desire, Society, and the Meaning of Sex* by Angela Chen
- *Blues in H-Minor: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner
- *Diet: The First 5,000 Years* by David Graeber
- *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake
- *Fat by Hanne Blank
- *Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard
- *From Scratch: A Memoir of Love, Sicily, and Finding Home* by Tembi Locke
- *Girlhood* by Melissa Febos
- *Know My Name* by Chanel Miller
- *Leaving Isn’t the Hardest Thing* by Lauren Hough
- *Paradise* by Lizzie Johnson
- *Pink Slipped* by Jane Gaines
- *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur
- *The Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson
- *The Undocumented Americans* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

**Teen Fiction**
- *Firekeeper’s Daughter* by Angeline Boulley
- *Our Dining Table* by Ori Mita
- *York* by Mary H.K. Choi
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang
- *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *Songbirds and Snakes* by Gene Luen Yang
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**Teen Nonfiction**
- *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama
- *Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas* by Dav Pilkey
- *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
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- *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama
- *Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas* by Dav Pilkey

**Juvenile Fiction**
- *Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild* by Dav Pilkey
- *My Friend Is Sad* by Mo Willems
- *Elephants Cannot Dance!* by Mo Willems
- *I Will Take a Nap!* by Mo Willems
- *I Broke My Trunk!* by Mo Willems
- *My New Friend Is So Funt* by Mo Willems
- *Waiting Is Not Easy!* by Mo Willems
- *A Big Guy Took My Ball* by Mo Willems
- *Dog Man Unleashed* by Dav Pilkey
- *Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas* by Dav Pilkey

**Juvenile Nonfiction**
- *The Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson
- *The Undocumented Americans* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

**SFPL’s Top Checked-Out Titles of 2021**

**Adult Fiction**
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett
- *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart
- *Uncanny Valley: A Memoir* by Anna Wiener
- *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover
- *Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World’s Most Dangerous Man* by Mary L. Trump
- *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about People We Don’t Know* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self-Delusion* by Jia Tolentino
- *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari

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- *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang
- *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *Blues in H-Minor: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner
- *Diet: The First 5,000 Years* by David Graeber
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**SFPL’s Top Checked-Out Titles of 2021**
Discover your new favorites: visit sfpl.org.
Event Calendar: December 2021

All programs are virtual unless otherwise noted. Register for virtual programs at sfpl.org/virtual-library, sfpl.org/kids/virtual-library and sfpl.org/teen-virtual-library. You can also call us for assistance with registering for programs: (415) 557-4400.

Check program listings on sfpl.org for any updates or changes to the schedule.

Adults

2 Thursday
Film: Sebaste
In-person: Main, Koret, 12 p.m.

4 Saturday
Free Jazz / Black Power: Lewis R. Gordon, Ph.D. and Justin Desmangles
2–3:30 p.m.

4 Saturday
The Art of Protest
In-person: Main, Latino/Hispanic Rm, 2–4 p.m.

5 Sunday
There’s Something About the Water... Presented by Linda Jackson
11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

6 Monday
Author: Andreas Kastelou, Climate Courage
7–8 p.m.

7 Tuesday
On the Same Page Author: Deborah A. Miranda in Conversation
2–3 p.m.

16 Thursday
Tech Help with the SF Tech Council
In-person: Main, Saroyan, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

7 Thursday
Tech Help with the SF Tech Council
In-person: Main, Computer Training Center – 5th Fl, 1–2 p.m.

13 Friday
Book Tours: SF Ballet’s Nutcracker
Drop-in In-person: Main, Koret, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

16 Thursday
Film: The Apartment
In-person: Main, Koret, 12 p.m.

18 Saturday
Film: Love,满洲
In-person: Main, Koret, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

On View

Jewett Gallery
Alternative Voices: 1980’s Punk San Francisco
Photographs by Jeanie Hansen and interviews conducted by Jonah Raskin reveal the charged cultural and political scene of the 80’s underground that made San Francisco a fertile center for art, activism and punk rock. Through Jan. 23. Lower Level

Skylight Gallery
Monsters & Heroes: Political Graphics from the San Francisco Parker Sundicate
This exhibit showcases artists and activists who together have produced work in support of a wide range of organizations fighting for immigration justice, racial justice, climate justice and economic justice since 2014. Through April 17. 6th Floor

Other Exhibits at the Main Library
An Ode to Us: A Celebration of Black Hair
Poetry, objects and photo portraits honor Black folk and their crowns of beautiful hair. Through Dec. 21. African American Center, 3rd Floor

Pandemic Pastimes
This display explores the hobbies and activities we picked up while we stayed at home and invited library visitors to connect with our vast resources for learning and improving skills. Through March 3. Business, Science and Technology Center, 4th Floor

Pleasure Ground: Golden Gate Park Celebrate: 150 Years In 2020, Golden Gate Park celebrated 150 years. Photos and a timeline in this small-scale exhibit about the Park illuminate the nature, recreation and history of this three-mile pleasure ground. Through Dec. 9. Government Information Center, 5th Floor

The Art of Protest: 1960s/1970s - The Present
Reproductions of original silkscreen political posters from the 1960s and 1970s collected by Sharat G. Lin at U.C. Santa Cruz and U.C. Berkeley, demonstrate the art of protest through Jan. 6. Chinese Center, 3rd Floor

Virtual Exhibitions, sfpl.org/exhibits
Retrospectives
Golden Gate Park’s 150th Birthday
Celebrate Golden Gate Park’s 150th birthday and check out our gallery of selected images. Through Dec. 31.

Alternative Voices See a sample of the 16 interviews and more than 40 photographs that are on view in the Jewett Gallery. durch Jan. 23.

New Main Library 25th Anniversary It’s the Main Library’s silver anniversary. Enjoy images from when the Library opened its doors April 18, 1996. Through Dec. 31.

Youth

Early Childhood/Family

YouthMobile: Swing Into Stories
Park visits: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Storytime starts at 10:30 a.m.

Garfield Playground: Treat & 26th St, Dec. 7
Koret Playground: Golden Gate Park, by the carousel, Dec. 14

Hilltop Playground: Newcomb Ave. & Whitney Young Circle, Dec. 21
Redwood Grove Playground: McLaren Park, 200 John F. Shelley Dr., Dec. 28

Library on Wheels/Senior Bookmobile Info: sfpl.org/bookmobile
Mission Bookmobile 300 Bartlett St. Tuesday, Thursday–Saturday: 12–5:30 p.m.

Treasurer Island Avenue H & 11th St., near Island Cove Market, Wednesdays, 2–6 p.m.
In our 60th year, Friends continues to demonstrate the enduring value of its partnership with SFPL. We hope you find inspiration in this year’s annual report for the fiscal year 2020-2021. You can read the full document at friendssfpl.org.

Thanks to you, our mission is more secure than ever, especially as we look forward to renewing the Library Preservation Fund in 2022. This past fiscal year, Friends has coordinated with the Library in bringing the community library services during this challenging time.

During COVID-19, the Library proved to be more vital and expansive than we imagined, serving as an anchor for resident services. San Franciscans flocked to online programs and eResources. Participation in job search and career programs rose 500%, in ESL classes by 250%, and at literary events by 44%. Post-pandemic, the total circulation of materials is higher due to a 72% increase in the use of eBooks, streaming, and applications. Now we can check out books again!

As we look forward to the next year, we asked you for input on better addressing the needs of communities around the city. We conducted a robust survey that serves as a roadmap for Friends’ support for existing SFPL programs and initiatives, including targeted campaigns to promote free library resources in high-need and isolated communities. You can read the full survey at friendssfpl.org/communityneedssurvey.

Give the gift of support!

Friends Membership. Give the gift of a Friends membership, with which your loved ones will be a part of a community of book lovers. As a thank you for ensuring exceptional Library programming, members receive 10% off all book purchases in our bookstores and over thirty other independent bookstores throughout San Francisco. Along with discounts, members receive invitations to Library and Friends events, the Friends monthly eNewsletter and a copy of the At the Library monthly newsletter delivered straight to their home. For more information, visit friendssfpl.org/support.

Books, books and books! The Friends Bookstore at the Main Library and online are great places to find the perfect gift for the book lover in your life. Proceeds from book sales go toward providing necessary financial support and advocacy for the SFPL. For more information, visit friendssfpl.org/shop.

Friends Bookstore Gift Certificate. Invite your loved ones to browse amongst our bookstore stacks and enjoy selections from new and rare art books to incredible collections of history and fiction! Friends Bookstore Gift Certificates are available to purchase at the Friends Bookstore at the Main Library (30 Grove St. entrance).

As always, Friends’ member donors receive 10% off all book purchases in our bookstores throughout San Francisco. Along with discounts, members receive invitations to Library and Friends events, the Friends monthly eNewsletter and a copy of the At the Library monthly newsletter delivered straight to their home. For more information, visit friendssfpl.org/support.

Looking for the perfect gift for the bibliophiles in your life? Give the gift of support!

Friends membership, with which your loved ones will be a part of a community of book lovers. As a thank you for ensuring exceptional Library programming, members receive 10% off all book purchases in our bookstores and over thirty other independent bookstores throughout San Francisco. Along with discounts, members receive invitations to Library and Friends events, the Friends monthly eNewsletter and a copy of the At the Library monthly newsletter delivered straight to their home. For more information, visit friendssfpl.org/support.

The Friends Holiday Gift Guide ensures that the joy of your gesture reaches far and wide this holiday season.

The mission of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library is to create, steward and support a superior, free public library system in San Francisco. We are committed to raising the standard of excellence of our libraries by funding programs and services beyond what is allocated in the city’s budget. We believe in free and equal access to information for all.

The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library is an essential service.

During COVID-19, the Library proved to be more vital and expansive than we imagined, serving as an anchor for resident services.

Give the gift of a Friends Membership. Give the gift of support!

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Books, books and books! The Friends Bookstore at the Main Library and online are great places to find the perfect gift for the book lover in your life. Proceeds from book sales go toward providing necessary financial support and advocacy for the SFPL. For more information, visit friendssfpl.org/shop.

Friends Bookstore Gift Certificate. Invite your loved ones to browse amongst our bookstore stacks and enjoy selections from new and rare art books to incredible collections of history and fiction! Friends Bookstore Gift Certificates are available to purchase at the Friends Bookstore at the Main Library (30 Grove St. entrance).

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December 2021

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Free Jazz and Black Power + Playlist

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Red Poet
Tomorrow’s Memories
Nutcracker-Inspired

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Friends Holiday Gift Guide

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LIBRARY LOCATIONS AND HOURS

ANZA
350 37th Ave.  355-5717  1–5  10–6  10–8  1–8  10–6  1–6  10–6

BAYVIEW/BROOKS BURTON
5075 Third St.  355-5757  Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

BERNAL HEIGHTS
500 Cortland Ave.  355-2810  1–5  10–6  10–7  12–8  10–6  1–6  10–6

CHINATOWN/LAI
1135 Powell St.  355-2888  Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

EUREKA VALLEY/MILK
1 José Sarria Ct.  355-5616  1–5  10–6  10–8  10–8  10–6  1–6  10–6

(At 16th St., near Market)

EXCELSIOR
4400 Mission St.  355-2868  Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

GLEN PARK
2825 Diamond St.  355-2858  Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

GOLDEN GATE VALLEY
1801 Green St.  355-5666  Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

INGLESIDE
1298 Ocean Ave.  355-2898  Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

MARINA
355-2823  1–5  10–6  10–8  1–8  10–6  1–6  10–6

MISSION - SFPL TO GO
300 Bartlett St.  355-2800  Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

MISSION BAY
960 Fourth St.  355-2838  Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

PARK 1833 Page St.  355-5656  1–5  12–6  10–8  12–8  10–6  1–6  10–6

PARKSIDE
1200 Taraval St.  355-5770  1–5  1–6  10–8  11–8  10–6  1–6  10–6

PORTOLA
380 bacon St.  355-5600  Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

POTRERO
1616 20th St.  355-2822  Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

REDWOOD/LINCOLN
3150 Sacramento St.  355-2880  Tuesday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

RICHMOND/MARKS
351 9th Ave.  355-5600  1–5  10–6  10–8  10–8  10–6  1–6  10–6

SUNSET
1305 18th Ave.  355-2808  Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

VISITACION VALLEY
201 Leland Ave.  355-2848  Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

WEST PORTAL
190 Lenox Way   355-2886  1–5  1–6  10–8  10–8  10–8  1–6  10–6

WESTERN ADDITION
1550 Scott St.  355-5727  1–5  10–6  8–10  8–10  10–6  1–6  10–6

Bookmobile Services are listed on page 6.

*Marina Branch is temporarily closed on weekdays due to construction.
All phone numbers are in the 415 area code.

December 2021

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The San Francisco Public Library system is dedicated to free and equal access to information, knowledge, independent learning and the joys of reading for our diverse community.

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San Francisco Public Library

8 DECEMBER 2021 AT THE LIBRARY