



Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People

Jeanie Austin

Jail & Reentry Services Librarian

September 18, 2025

San Francisco Library Commission



Jail and Reentry Services

Since 2018, SFPL's **Jail and Reentry Services** program has been providing dedicated library service to incarcerated adults, including:

- In-jail library service
- Reference by mail
- Reentry support

Since 2023, Jail and Reentry Services has provided access to library eResources on free tablets available to people inside of the jails.



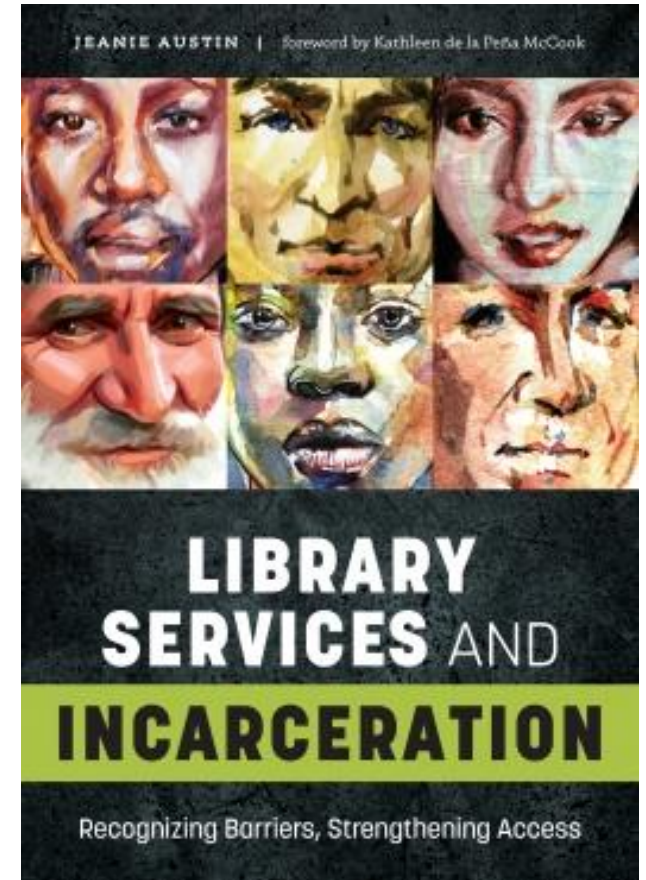
Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People

Mellon Foundation funded grant work to:

- Support professionals in the field
- Identify existing services
- Build connections
- Provide guidance for librarians nationwide

Advisory committee with extensive experience:

- Advocates
- Community archivist
- Formerly incarcerated people
- Thought leaders



Mellon Grants Snapshot

\$4,341,000 total funds awarded:

- \$2,000,000 for two-year period
January 2022 - December 2023
- \$375,000 award to continue grant work
October 2023 - December 2024
- \$1,966,000 for two-and-a-half-year period
November 2024 - June 2027

Sub-grantee:

- American Library Association (ALA)



Painting: I'm Free When I Read, by
Jebediah Dishman



Professional Development

Training Series

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Public Library Services to Incarcerated People

1:02:38

Training: Public Library Services for Incarcerated...

San Francisco Public Library

2

Prison Library Services to Incarcerated People

56:28

Training: Prison Library Services to Incarcerated...

San Francisco Public Library

3

Reentry Services for People Who Recently Experienced Incarceration

1:05:24

Training: Reentry Services for People Who Recently...

San Francisco Public Library

▶

Beginning Library Services for Incarcerated People

Training: Beginning Library Services for Incarcerated...

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Growing Services: Libraries Creating Access for Incarcerated People

by [Chelsea Jordan-Makely](#), [Jeanie Austin](#), and [Charissa Brammer](#)

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Aug 09, 2022 | Filed in [News](#)

Library workers who provide services for people negatively impacted by the prison industrial complex (PIC) are proud of their work—even though it can be difficult—from starting and keeping programs going, to carrying the load over time.



Content - My content

Expanding Information Access

← → ↺ 🏠

sfgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=7230a90051b64fdfaede4fdc5cc45718

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Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People

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General ⓘ

Books Through Bars Programs

Carceral Media Censorship

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Welcome to the EIAIP WebApp!

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This is a web app created by the SFPL JARS Team as part of its Mellon grant-funded project, Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People. Click on a tab to view map visuals on data the team has collected so far. When a tab is highlighted, click on the "i" icon to view further details on how to use/navigate the tab. In alignment with the SFPL JARS Team's core values, this app prioritizes the use of people-first language when referring to people who are incarcerated, but there may still be some elements that copy the language used in their corresponding data source.

We'd love to hear any feedback you have on the map. It can be related to anything from user experience to suggestions for additional content to include. Use [this form](#) to let us know what you think!

-SFPL JARS Team

☐ Don't show this again

Continue

MEXICO

Havana

CUBA

Mexico City

Port-au-Prince

← No legend

Books through Bars Program Sites

> Library Partner Sites

Correctional Spending by State, 2017

Total People Incarcerated by State, 2022

Incarceration Rates by State, 2022

% of Individuals under DOC Jurisdiction Held in Custody by State, 2020

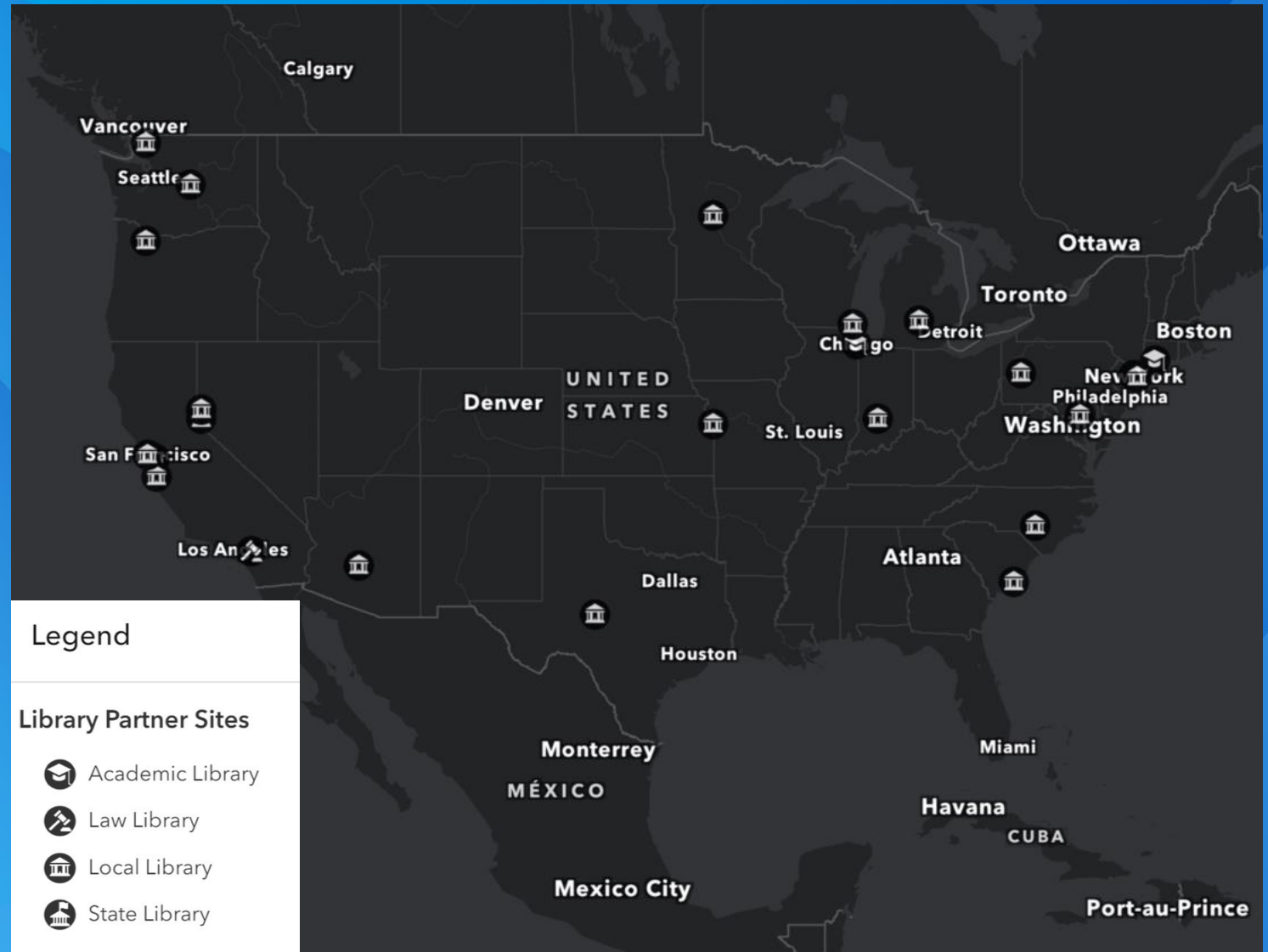
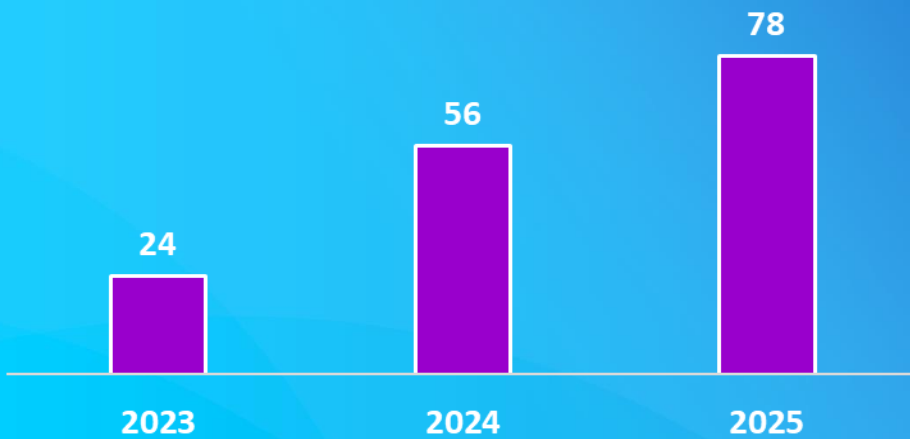
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Esri, TomTom, Garmin, PAQ, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS

Powered by Esri

Mapping Library Services

Number of Mapped Partner Libraries



Building Connections

Annual Convening

- **2022:** 57 participants, half-day in Washington, D.C.
- **2023:** 90 participants, half-day in Chicago, IL
- **2024:** 100 participants, full day in San Diego, CA
- **2025:** 110 participants, full day in Philadelphia, PA

Expanding Services Together Cohort

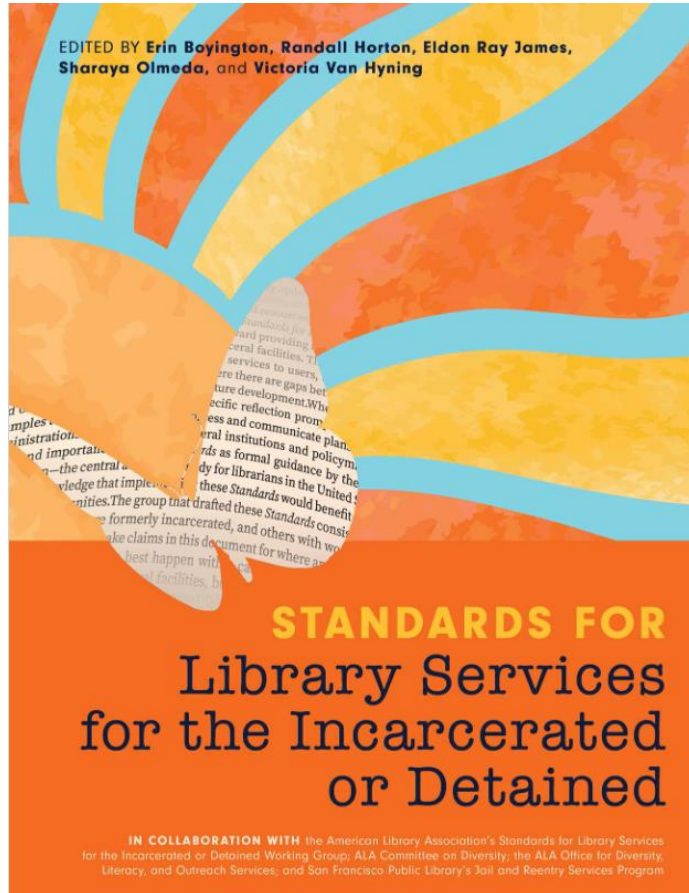
- 2025: 29 members!
- Will repeat in 2026



Painting on fabric: Agile Imagination, by Zack Freeman



American Library Association



T.E.C.H. FOR REENTRY

Are you returning home from incarceration?



Join us at Meridian Library District's UnBound Branch for **Technology Education and Computer Help (T.E.C.H.) for Reentry**, a 6-week long digital literacy workshop to help build your confidence navigating the digital world!

No prior experience necessary. Laptops will be provided for participants throughout the duration of this program.



TUESDAYS

JULY 8 - AUGUST 12
6:00-7:30 PM



UNBOUND BRANCH LIBRARY
722 E. 2ND ST.
MERIDIAN, ID 83642

LEARN SMARTPHONE AND
COMPUTER BASICS

FIND AND NAVIGATE REENTRY
RESOURCES

PRACTICE USING EMAIL, SOCIAL
MEDIA, AND ONLINE MESSAGING

WORK ON JOB SEARCH
SKILLS



Interested? Contact:
(925) 237-1415
techforreentry@gmail.com

ALA American
Library
Association

meridian
library
district



Thank you!

