

Annual Report FY 2024–2025

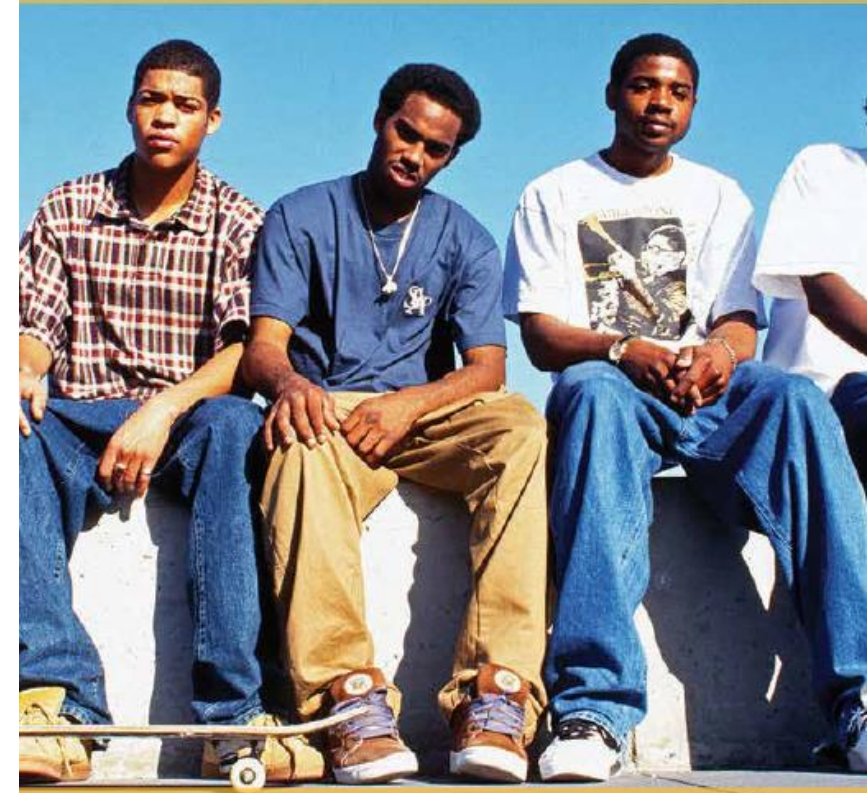
Jaime Wong, Director of Communications
Community Programs & Partnerships
November 20, 2025
San Francisco Library Commission



SFPL Annual Report

San Francisco Public Library

- Theme and look:
***Skateboarding San Francisco:
Concrete, Community, Continuity***
- FY25 accomplishments (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)
- Includes Library milestones, year in review
- Data-focused, with support from the Research, Strategy & Analytics Unit
- Draft for review; final version available in December



Accomplishments

A Blockbuster Exhibit: Skateboarding SF

San Francisco has long been a mecca for skateboarders, with the Embarcadero and other downtown spots serving as just a few must-visit destinations for skaters from around the globe. In February 2025, SFPL unveiled a landmark exhibit, *Skateboarding San Francisco: Concrete, Community, Continuity*, in the Jewett Gallery at the Main Library. Spanning 50 years—from 1975 to 2025—the exhibit celebrated the unique urban features that make the city so skateable, including its iconic concrete ledges and epic hills.

Artworks related to skateboarding, skate magazines, archival photographs, memorable skate videos and urban detritus from iconic skate spots like the Embarcadero Ribbon and Hubba Hideout were featured alongside interviews with world-renowned locals and legendary skateboarders. In addition, satellite displays showcasing urban culture from the Library's storied collections and work by local artists were installed throughout the Main: zines from the James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center and Small Book Arts Collection, issues of *Thrasher Magazine*, hand-lettered signs by Margaret Kilgallen, Karl Watson's picture book *My First Skateboard* and hand-painted skate decks by Felicia Gabaldon.

The exhibit was a huge success, drawing in crowds throughout the months that was open to the public, demonstrating the appetite for our local communities have for innovative, educational and timely exhibitions. *Skateboarding San Francisco* had the highest attendance in the Library's recorded history. Kit, the gallery's attendant, observed, "Having served as the gallery attendant for *Skateboarding San Francisco: Concrete, Community, Continuity*, I was able to experience firsthand the outstanding level of community enthusiasm, engagement, love and curiosity that this



exhibition sparked. *Skateboarding San Francisco* drew in a wide range of visitors: skaters and non-skaters, folks who grew up skating in the 80s and 90s and the newest vanguard of skate culture, SF locals and guests visiting the city (even some just to see the show!). I even had a fair share of repeat visitors, some even bringing friends upon each re-visit."

Summer Stride




30,234
**READERS
SIGNED UP**
including 15,584 children
and 12,907 adults



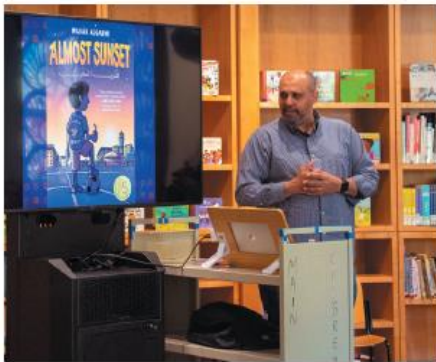

20,829
**STRIDE
FINISHERS**
14% increase from the
previous year!




\$520K
**SUMMER BOOK
GIVEAWAYS**
budget



Year in Review



Comic Book Arts Fest

SFPL debuted a Comic Art Fest this spring as part of the Main Library's open house, which aimed to welcome in neighborhood families. Highlights of the event included a photobooth for fun family photos, hands-on activities, featuring the creativity and spirit of the SF art scene. The Fest featured local comic artist, Wahab Algarmi, author of *Almost Sunset*, visual storyteller Fred Noland and artist Jessica Jane Robinson.

Lastly, resident librarian for PBS and PBS kids, as well as the new host of "Reading Rainbow," Mychal Threets delighted youth and their families with a vibrant storytime.



One City One Book: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

In Fall 2024, SFPL announced its surprise 19th One City One Book selection, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Dr. Maya Angelou. The title was chosen to time with the unveiling of the new monument honoring Dr. Angelou, *Portrait of a Phenomenal Woman* by Lava Thomas, on the front steps of the Main Library overlooking Civic Center. Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.

Exciting programs offered by the Library included a panel on women in public art, a celebration of poetry and performance to honor the legacy of Dr. Angelou curated by Dr. Kim McMillon and an exhibition, *Dear Sister Maya Angelou*, which drew from the San Francisco History Center's recent archival acquisition, the GLIDE Historical Records.

Delivering Results on Vision 2030



Genny Lim, San Francisco's Newest Poet Laureate

In fall 2024, SFPL was thrilled to announce Genny Lim as SF's 9th Poet Laureate. Lim is the first Chinese American poet to serve in this role. A beautiful inauguration ceremony took place in the Asian Art Museum in September 2024, and Lim quickly became involved in Library programs, delivering on her mission to bring poetry to San Franciscans.

One memorable event was the Drumbeats, Heartbeats: Communities As One program. San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) and SFPL, in partnership with Booker T. Washington Community Service Center, the API Heritage Foundation and Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, presented this celebration of the Lunar New Year and Black History Month. An exciting, kinetic procession of Indian and West African dance and drums joined together with Chinese lion dancers to kick off an electrifying evening of music, dance and poetry with Lim and former San Francisco Poet Laureate Tongo Eisen-Martin.



Year in Review



Read to Recovery

A major milestone was achieved this year: SFPL delivered on its promise to fully roll out its Read to Recovery collection to all 27 branch locations and the Main Library. Legislation was signed into law in fall 2024 to make books on addiction recovery free of charge at all SFPL libraries. This initiative provides free-to-keep recovery program titles from Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, LifeRing and Refuge Recovery, along with supplemental and supportive volumes addressing various aspects of addiction and recovery. San Francisco was the first city in the country to fund universal access of free-to-keep literature related to all recovery traditions.

As of July 2025, the program had distributed 8,205 free books through its locations. The Sunset and Chinatown Branches were the latest branches to launch Read to Recovery in June 2025. Word has quickly spread about this resource. Local recovery program organizers frequently visit the library to collect copies for their meetings. The initiative has already inspired at least one other library system; the Saratoga Springs Public Library in New York launched its own Read to Recovery program in May 2024 after consulting with SFPL.



Small Business Strolls

Building on the success of the Tenderloin Small Business Stroll from the previous year, the Main Library's Small Business Center (SBC) expanded the Stroll into a quarterly series responding to neighborhood needs and opportunities: Glen Park, a quiet corridor with low visibility; Valencia Street, a long-standing business district mobilizing against formula retail; and the upcoming Clement Street, a vibrant multicultural corridor. The SBC led a 2.5-hour guided tour spotlighting five small businesses through short interviews, shopping and socializing. By activating commercial corridors and connecting entrepreneurs with merchant associations, city partners and library resources, the Stroll transforms a simple walk into a meaningful, human-centered experience that supports SFPL's mission to connect communities to learning, opportunity and one another.

Capital Project Update

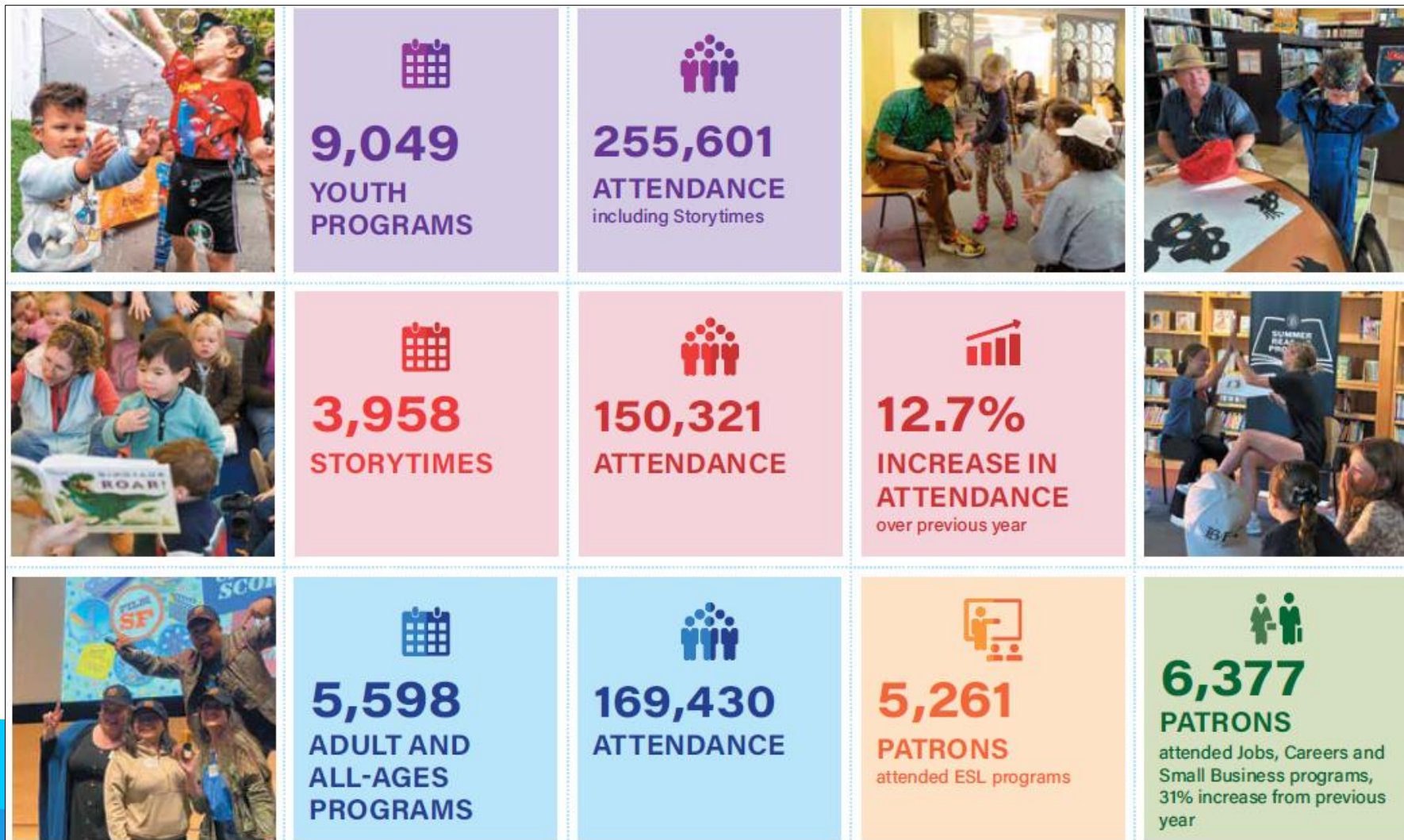


Mission Branch

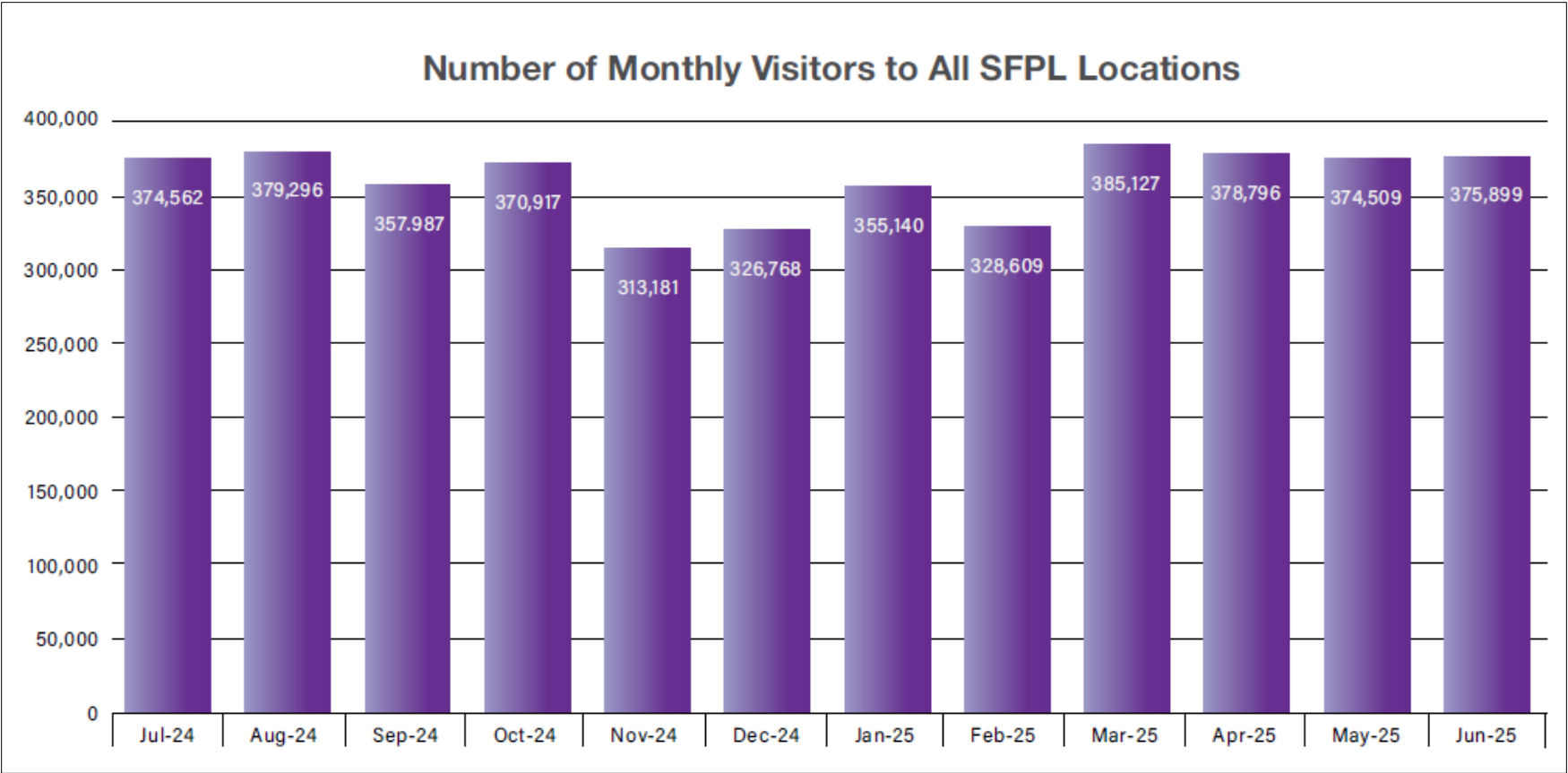
Work on the Mission Branch renovation continued apace this year, with 50% completion of the project in June, under the careful oversight of the Library's Facilities division in partnership with SF's Department of Public Works. While the Mission Branch staff continued to provide service excellence at the temporary branch location at 1234 Valencia St., just down the busy corridor, structural steel was being installed, concrete flooring was being poured and the historic stairway leading up to the refurbished reading room was being restored. In addition to their day-to-day operations and programming, the Branch staff and Chief of Branches office were also engaged with procuring shelving and furniture for the renovated branch and determining a fresh, exciting collection that would appeal to the Mission community upon reopening.



Library Programming Data




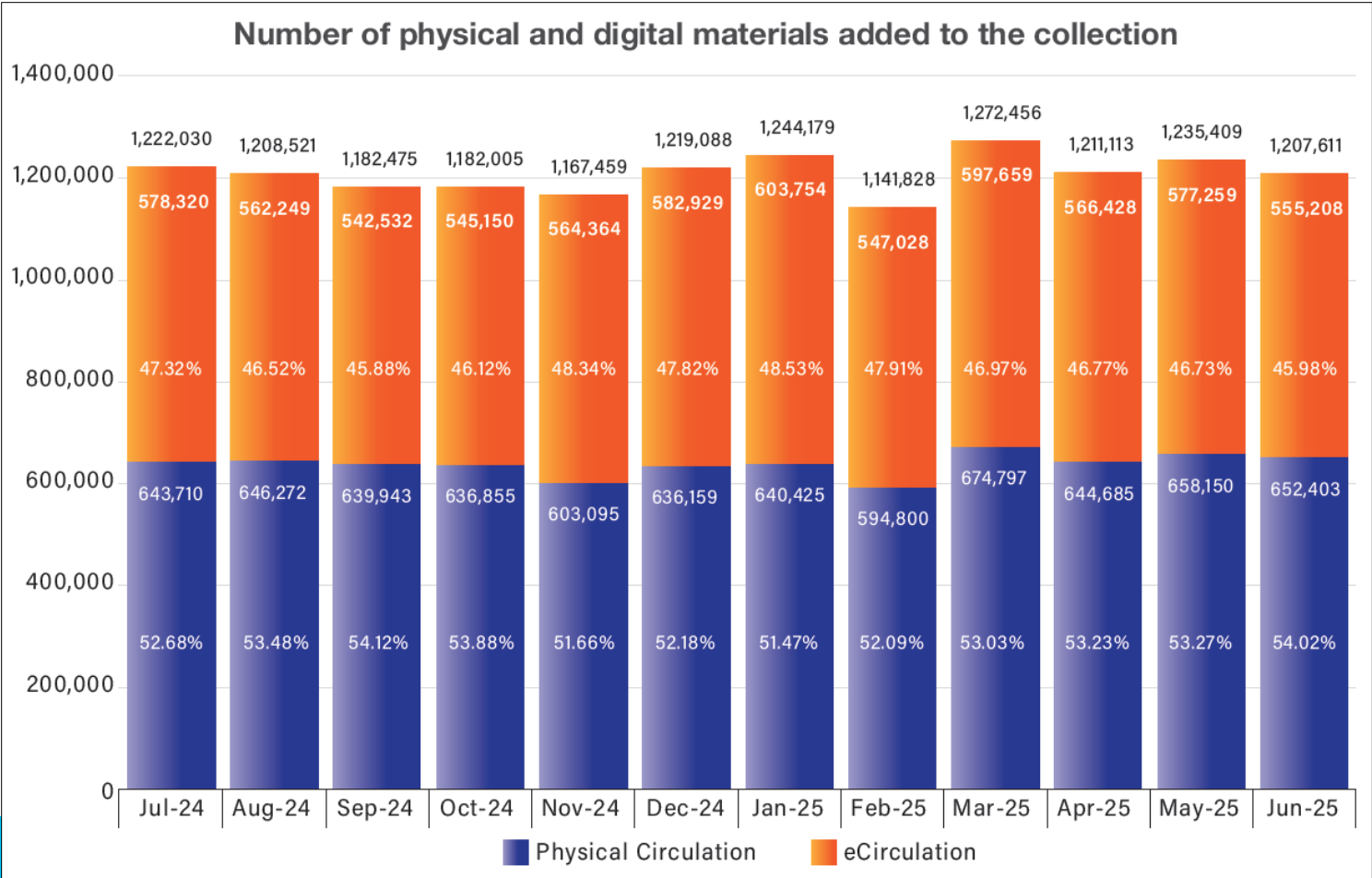
Library Visits Data





4,320,791
**NUMBER
OF VISITS**
in FY24-25



Library Circulation Data



7,671,294
PHYSICAL
Up 1.8% over prior year



6,822,880
ECIRCULATION
Up 4.8% over prior year

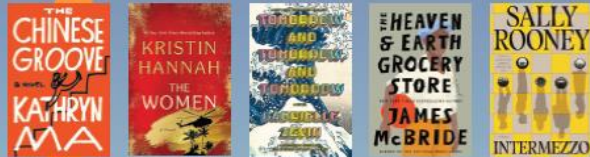


14,494,174
CIRCULATION
Up 3.2% over prior year



What We Read: Top Titles of 2024–25

Top 5 Circulating Titles



Adult Fiction

1. *The Chinese Groove* by Kathryn Ma
2. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
3. *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin
4. *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
5. *Intermezzo* by Sally Rooney



Teen Fiction

1. *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas
2. *A Court of Mist and Fury* by Sarah J. Maas
3. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
4. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson
5. *A Court of Wings and Ruin* by Sarah J. Maas



Juvenile Fiction

1. *Cat Kid Comic Club: Influencers* by Dav Pilkey
2. *Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea* by Dav Pilkey
3. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: No Brainer* by Dav Pilkey
4. *Dog Man: Grime and Punishment* by Dav Pilkey
5. *Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild* by Dav Pilkey



eAudioBooks

1. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
2. *Funny Story* by Emily Henry
3. *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
4. *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
5. *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang



Adult Nonfiction

1. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
2. *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond
3. *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt
4. *Solito* by Javier Zamora
5. *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner



Nonfiction eBook

1. *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb
2. *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins
3. *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Kimmerer
4. *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt
5. *The Psychology of Money* by Morgan Housel



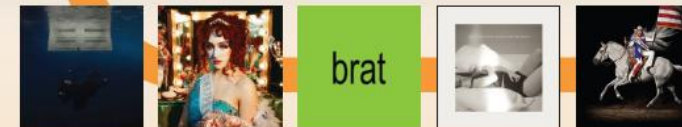
Fiction eBook

1. *Funny Story* by Emily Henry
2. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
3. *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros
4. *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese
5. *All Fours* by Miranda July



Movies – Adult/Teen DVD/Blu-ray

1. *Dune, Part Two*
2. *Oppenheimer*
3. *Deadpool & Wolverine*
4. *The Boy and the Heron*
5. *The Fall Guy*



Music CD

1. *Hit Me Hard and Soft* by Billie Eilish
2. *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess* by Chappell Roan
3. *Brat* by Charli XCX
4. *The Tortured Poets Department* by Taylor Swift
5. *Cowboy Carter* by Beyoncé

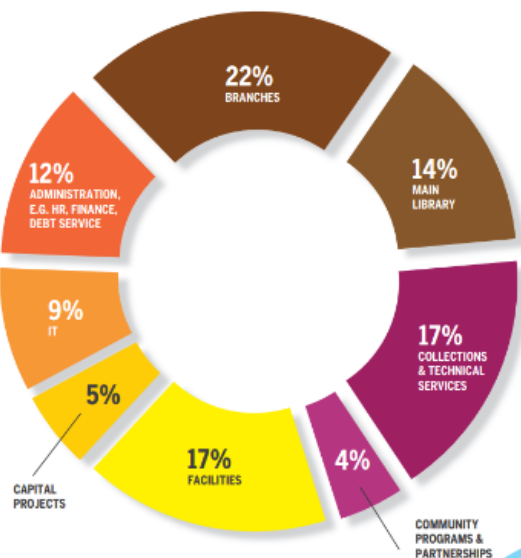


Budget

SFPL Budget

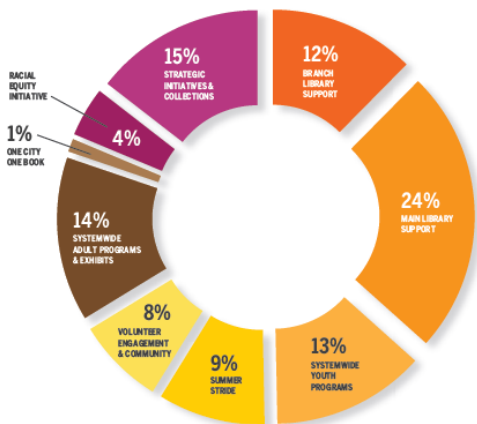
Total Expenditures: \$187.51M

USES BY DIVISIONS (BUDGET IN MILLIONS)	FY25
Branches	\$40.84
Main Library	\$26.31
Collections & Technical Services	\$32.06
Community Programs & Partnerships	\$8.31
Facilities	\$31.43
Capital Projects	\$9.87
IT	\$15.88
Administration, e.g. HR, Finance, Debt Service	\$22.81
Total	\$187.51



Friends of the SFPL Support

Total Grant Expenditures FY 2024–25: \$902,179



Branch Library Support	111,755
Main Library Support	218,804
Systemwide Youth Programs	117,663
Summer Stride	82,375
Volunteer Engagement and Community Outreach	67,268
Systemwide Adult Programs & Exhibits	125,969
One City One Book	9,790
Racial Equity Initiatives	37,818
Strategic Initiatives & Collections	130,737
Total Expenditure	\$902,179

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library underwrites the Library's incredible array of public programs, including:

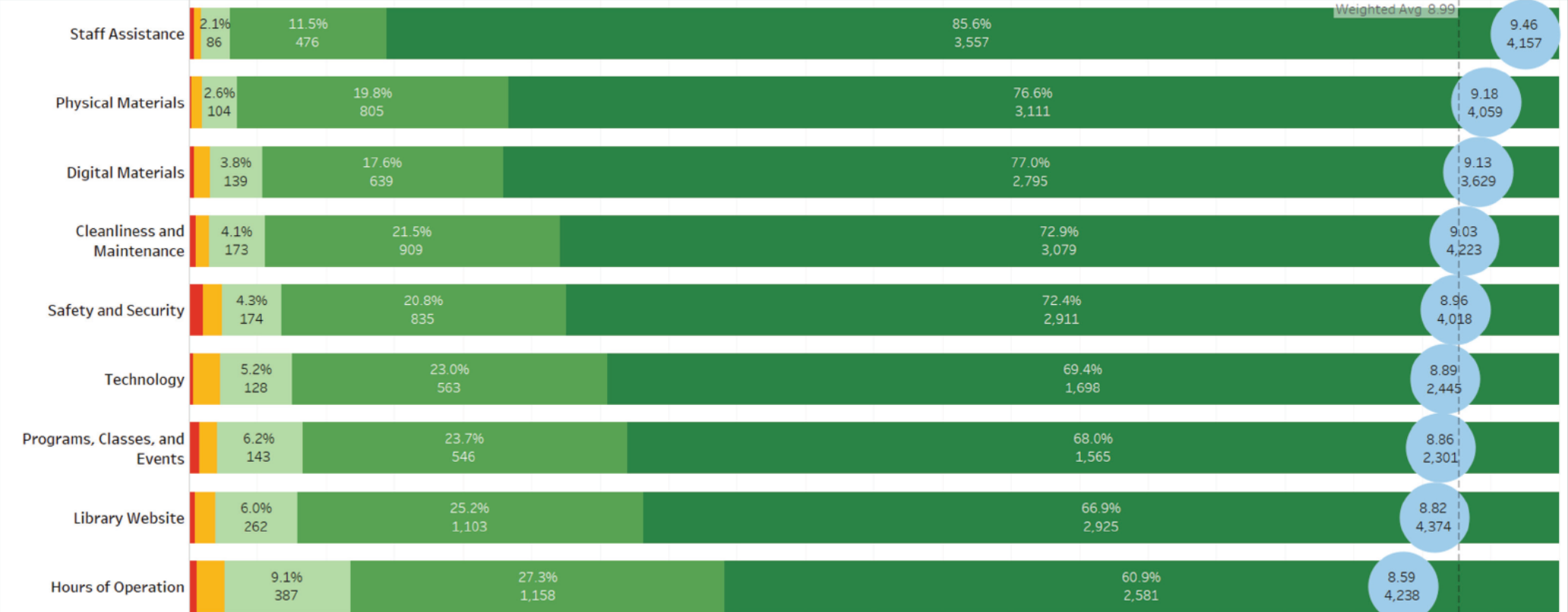
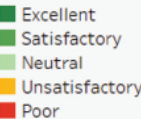
- Literary events, cultural programs, exhibitions, and branch events and activities, and cultural outreach ambassadors, including highlights such as Night of Ideas, One City One Book, the *Skateboarding San Francisco* exhibition and the *Phenomenal Woman* monument unveiling
- Youth literacy and learning programs, such as Summer Stride, STEM classes and The Mix at the Main
- Main Library programs at the History Center, affinity centers, The Bridge at Main and special collections
- System-wide cultural heritage celebrations, such as ¡VIVA! Latinx Heritage, More Than a Month: Black History & Culture, Weaving Stories: Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage, HERStory, Filipino American History Month and Pride
- Adult lifelong learning programs that cover topics including jobs and careers, small business, digital literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Helping SFPL remain one of the best libraries in the US by supporting leadership development, service innovation and implementation of the Library's Racial Equity Action Plan.



Patron Satisfaction

Satisfaction with SFPL Services

Please rate your satisfaction with the following SFPL services. If you have not used one of the services, please mark "N/A"



Patron Comments





Thank you!

FINAL REPORT COMING DECEMBER 2025

