



Cozy Capers & Mysteries at Presidio Branch



Read in Nature with the Bookmobile



Silent Book Club at Magnolia (Park Branch)

SFPL Book Clubs: Building Community Through Books

Lori Talarico, Adult Community Engagement Coordinator
Community Programs & Partnerships
August 20, 2026
San Francisco Library Commission



SFPL Book Clubs at a Glance (FY 26 data)

[334]

Book Club
Programs

[31]

Active Recurring
Book Clubs

[22]

Locations hosting
Book Clubs

[2682]

Book Club
Attendees

75% of U.S. adults read at least part of a book in the past year —
but only **7%** participated in a book club.

Source: Pew Research Center, October 2025 national survey



Many Ways to Read Together



Silent Book Club at Saluhall



Virtual
Book Clubs

[53]



Silent
Book Clubs

[51]



International
Language
Book Clubs

[29]



Accessible
Book Clubs

[18]



Longform
Article Clubs

[6]



Stories that Stay with Us

Community Voices

"Letting the librarian choose the book is like ordering the chef's choice at a restaurant, a chance to explore genres I'd never pick on my own." — Regular member, VVA Book Club

"Book club is another way [to] create an opportunity to connect... especially if families struggle to talk because there's nothing to talk about."

— Jeremy, Virtual Book Club participant

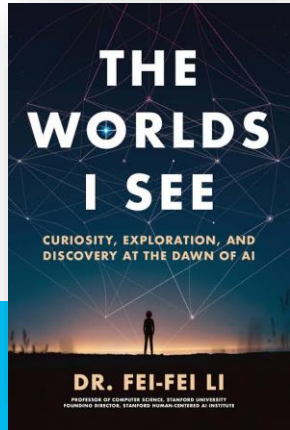
Librarian Insights

"The Glen Park book club came about because members of the community said they wanted one — and it's remained strong because it's stayed community-driven." — Ren, Glen Park

"Interest seems driven by the mystery genre, not necessarily by looking for a neighborhood book club. Regular members come from all over [the city]." — Amanda, Bernal Heights



Shared Reading, Citywide



One City One Book

[34]

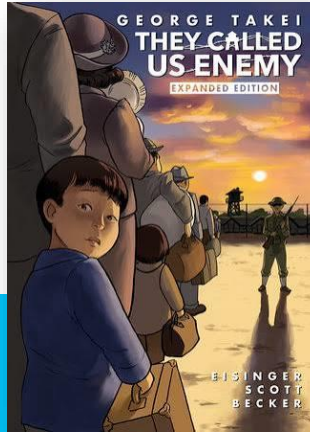
Programs

[1182]

Total Attendance

[5030]

Circulation



One Book, One Coast

[10]

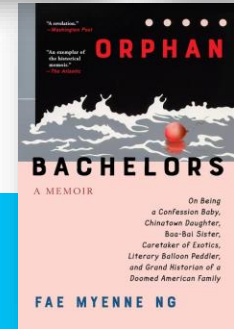
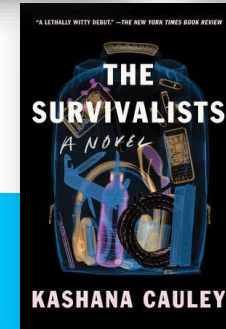
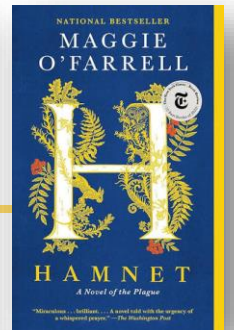
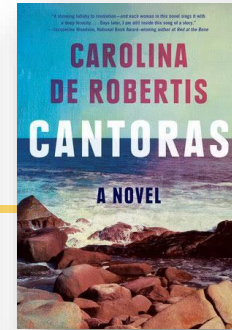
Programs

[748]

Total Attendance

[3673]

Circulation



On the Same Page

[14]

Programs

[239]

Total Attendance

[8062]

Circulation



Lessons From the Year



Reading
doesn't have
to be solitary



Successful book
clubs meet
regularly



Different
formats attract
attendees



Success can
depend on
the book

88% of adults agreed libraries can help people experiencing isolation or loneliness, while
75% identified reading groups as a way libraries can promote health and well-being.

Source: BMC Public Health, 2024



Building on What Works

Prioritize recurring book clubs

Create a targeted marketing plan for Language Book Clubs

Create a post-attendance survey to capture missing data

Expand and promote successful formats



SFPL Silent Book Club Pop-Up at Cal Academy



Introducing One City One Book 2026

Awake in the Floating City

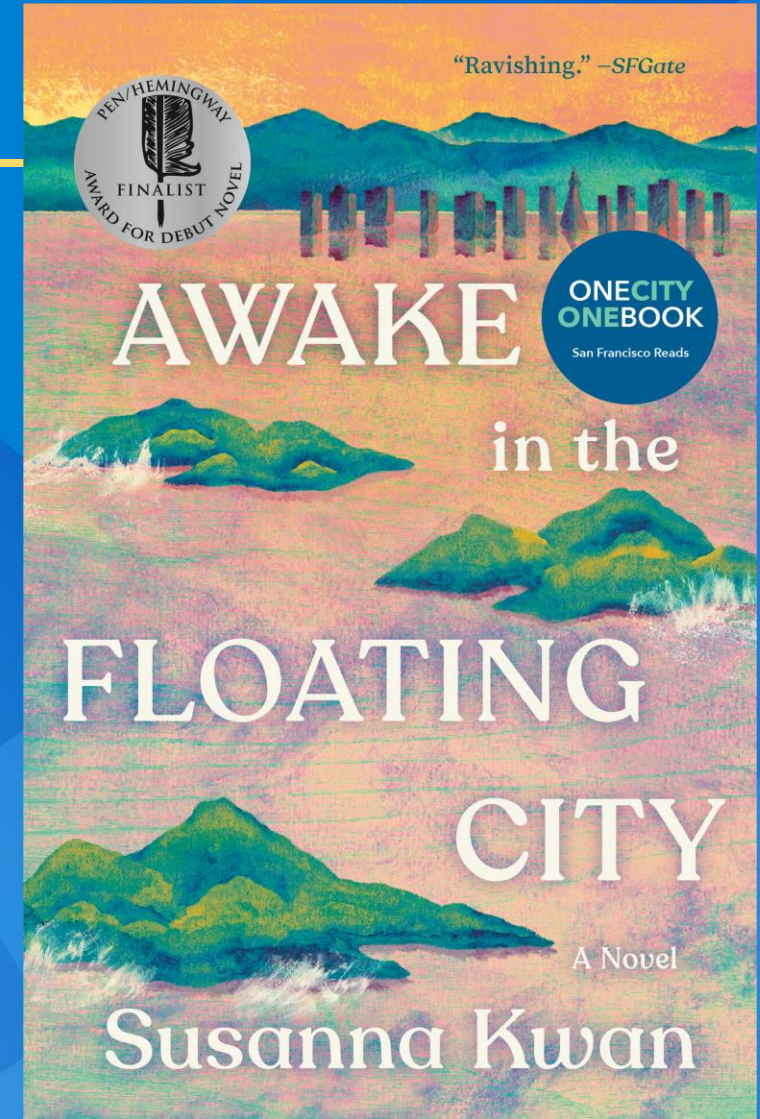
by Susanna Kwan

WHY THIS BOOK, WHY NOW

- San Francisco is the main character, not just a setting
- Our climate future, already unfolding
- Themes: chosen family, legacy, connection

PROGRAM PLANS

- Author events
- Book Clubs
- Climate panel and sustainability workshops
- Caregiving & end-of-life planning
- Writing
- History
- Preserving Memories





Thank you!

