

Annual Report FY 2025–2026

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Public Affairs Division
November 19, 2026
San Francisco Library Commission

SFPL Annual Report

- Theme and look:

  Sparking Connections

- FY26 accomplishments (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)
- Includes Library milestones, year in review
- Data-focused, with support from the Research, Strategy and Analytics Unit
- Draft for review; final version available in December

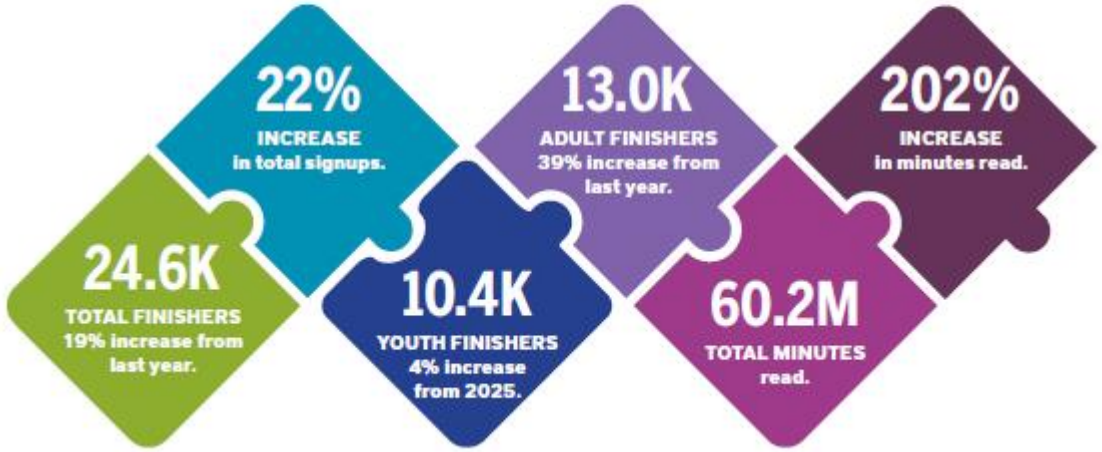


Accomplishments





Stride Readers Reach 60.2 Million Minutes of Reading –A Record-Breaking 202% Increase from 2025!







In June 2026, San Francisco Public Library received the prestigious 2026 John Cotton Dana Award from the American Library Association (ALA)'s Core Division in partnership with EBSCO Information Services for *Skateboarding San Francisco: Concrete, Community, Continuity*, recognizing excellence in strategic library marketing and communications.

The marketing campaign generated 11 media hits, including *Thrasher* Magazine, NBC, KQED, SFGate, KCBS, KALW and even a mention in the *New York Times*, along with 23,244 social media interactions and 314,311 views across 18 posts and stories. The campaign intentionally reached beyond SFPL's traditional audiences through partnerships with skaters, skate shops, clubs, civic organizations and cultural brands. By the time the exhibition closed its doors, it had welcomed 10,764 visitors, more than double the attendance of comparable 2024 exhibitions.

Through targeted marketing, bold design and community partnerships, the exhibition connected the Library with San Francisco's influential skateboarding culture. The campaign generated extensive media coverage, increasing visibility for the exhibition and the Library's role as a cultural destination. The award highlights SFPL's measurable success in using exhibitions, partnerships and communications strategies to expand audience engagement and elevate the Library's visibility.



Year in Review

City's Longest-Running Art Show Celebrates 65 Years











Dolly Parton Imagination Library

The Library launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in fall 2025, together with the Department of Early Childhood and Sparkler. Through this program, any child under the age of five can sign up to receive a free book mailed to their home every month. By the conclusion of FY26, 9,828 children in San Francisco were enrolled in the program, and a total of 64,064 books were sent to their homes.

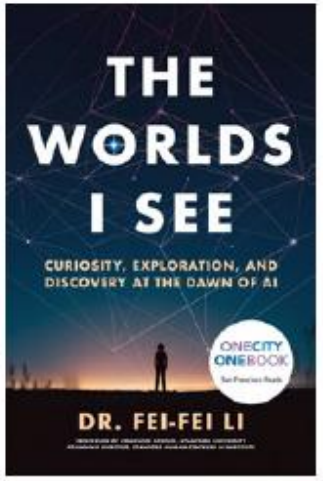
Year in Review



Youth Poet Laureate

SFPL partnered with Youth Speaks, 826 Valencia and the Mayor's Office to relaunch San Francisco's Youth Poet Laureate program, investing in the City's next generation of literary voices. The 2025–26 program brought together 13 teen poets ages 13–19 for advanced workshops led by accomplished Bay Area poets. Participants developed their writing, performance and civic engagement skills while preparing to represent San Francisco as cultural ambassadors and ultimately contributed to *I Can Feel You Across the Seas,* a published collection of their work. In January, 17-year-old Karan Gupta was selected as Youth Poet Laureate and 17-year-old Aisha Rae McCulloch was named Vice Poet Laureate, continuing the City's longstanding tradition of elevating young artists and storytellers.





One City One Book and AI Week

SFPL celebrated the 20th anniversary of One City One Book with the compelling memoir *The Worlds I See: Curiosity, Exploration, and Discovery at the Dawn of AI* by Stanford computer scientist and AI pioneer Dr. Fei-Fei Li. The citywide reading campaign invited San Franciscans to explore AI through Dr. Li's personal story of immigration, scientific discovery, mentorship and her vision for human-centered technology. Throughout November and December, SFPL presented programs, book discussions and conversations examining AI, creativity, labor, technology and its impact on society, including a featured conversation with Dr. Li.

The 2025 selection also connected with San Francisco's inaugural AI Week, extending the conversation beyond the Library and into a citywide exploration of responsible and equitable innovation. By pairing a widely accessible memoir with diverse public programming, One City One Book continued its tradition of bringing San Franciscans together through shared reading and civic conversation.

Library Programming Data

	Total Programs	Attendance
Storytime	4.1K	163.4K
Youth	9.4K	288.7K Including storytime attendance
Family/ All Ages	1.1K	87.7K
Adult	4.4K*	91.7K*









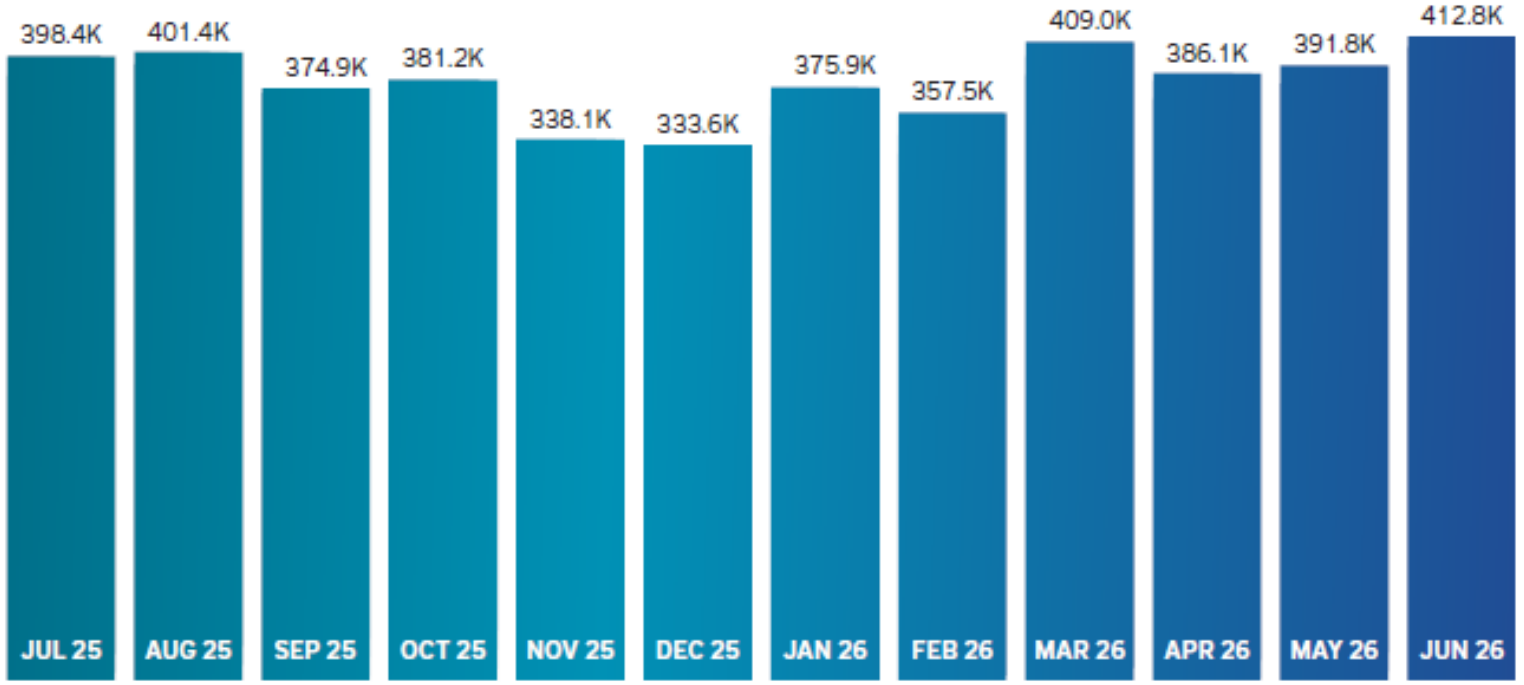
* Previous reports combined Adult, Family and All Ages programming under "Adult and All Ages." Last year, this included 5,598 programs with 169,430 attendees. These categories are reported separately this year.



Library Visits Data

Total Visits: **4,560,993**

Our foot traffic increased 5.7% in FY25–26, the **highest number of visitors in our locations since 2019**.



1,041 Meeting rooms used by community groups

15,134 Patron contacts made by SFPL's Social Services Team

34,265 Online questions answered

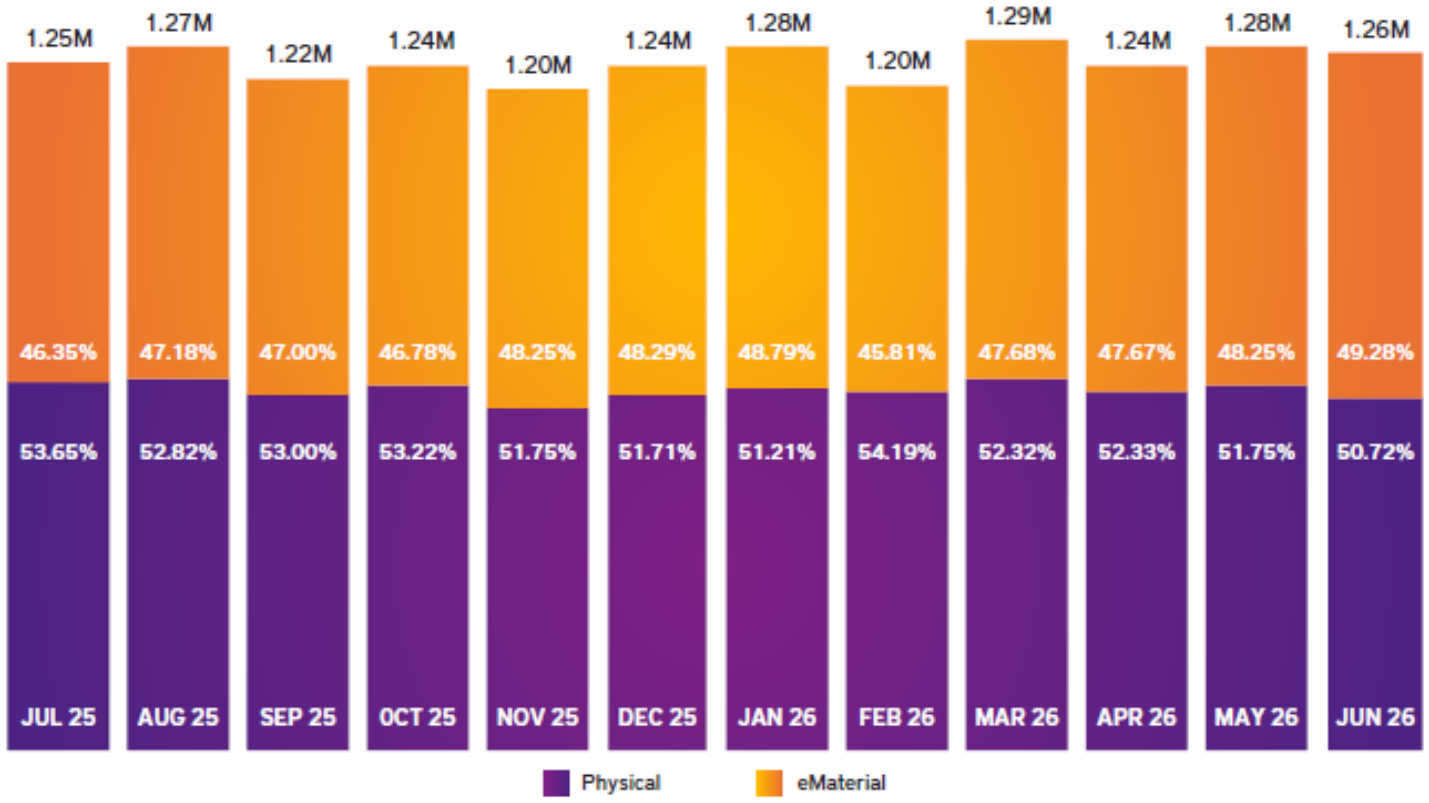
"I LOVE the library! It's such an incredible resource, available to everyone in San Francisco. I love that no matter who you are, your age, or wealth that you get to be a part of the library and are welcomed there. It's an incredible community resource, and place to 'be in community' with others."

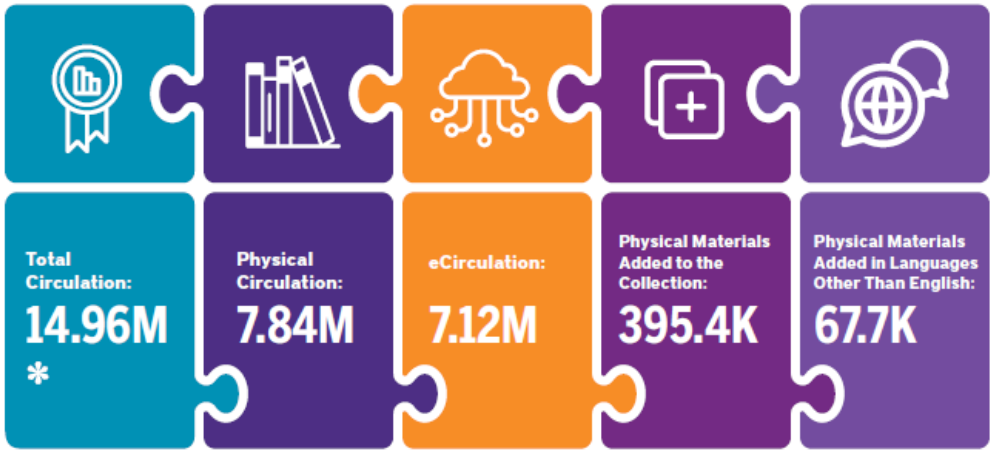
— Quote From Patron Satisfaction Survey

Library Circulation Data

Total Circulation: **14,960,802**

Physical: **7,836,620** eCirculation: **7,124,182**





* SFPL set a **new record for its circulation** in FY25–26, for the fourth consecutive year!

What We Read: Top Titles of 2025–26



ADULT FICTION
1. *The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong
2. *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore
3. *James* by Percival Everett
4. *Intermezzo* by Sally Rooney
5. *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

ADULT NONFICTION
1. *The Worlds I See* by Dr. Fei-Fei Li
2. *Abundance* by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson
3. *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins
4. *Careless People* by Sarah Wynn-Williams
5. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

eAUDIO BOOK
1. *Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry
2. *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans
3. *Careless People* by Sarah Wynn-Williams
4. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
5. *Everything Is Tuberculosis* by John Green

FICTION eBOOK
1. *Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry
2. *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach
3. *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid
4. *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir
5. *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans

NONFICTION eBOOK
1. *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins
2. *Careless People* by Sarah Wynn-Williams
3. *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb
4. *Abundance* by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson
5. *Strangers* by Belle Burden

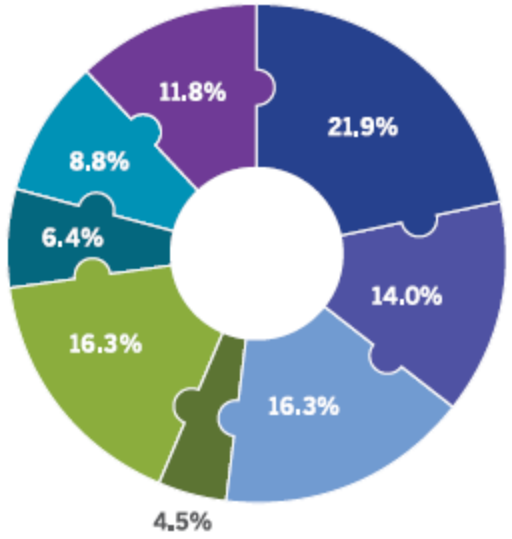
MUSIC CD
1. *The Life of a Showgirl* by Taylor Swift
2. *Mayhem* by Lady Gaga
3. *GNX* by Kendrick Lamar
4. *KPop Demon Hunters* by KPop Demon Hunters Cast, HUNTR/X and Saja Boys
5. *Anthology 4* by The Beatles

TEEN FICTION
1. *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins
2. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
3. *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas
4. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins
5. *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler

JUVENILE FICTION
1. *Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder*
2. *Cat Kid Comic Club: Influencers*
3. *Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties*
4. *Dog Man: Big Jim Begins*
5. *Dog Man and Cat Kid*
All 5 Books by Dav Pilkey

DVD/BLU-RAY MOVIE
1. *Sinners*
2. *Anora*
3. *Superman*
4. *F1*
5. *One Battle After Another*

SFPL Budget



"The San Francisco Public Library is one of the best public programs. Our tax dollars are well spent. The Library does so much to share all the many cultures that make up San Francisco. The programs share the literature, art drama and histories of these cultures that make San Francisco a world class city. The San Francisco Public Library is the brain and heart of San Francisco."

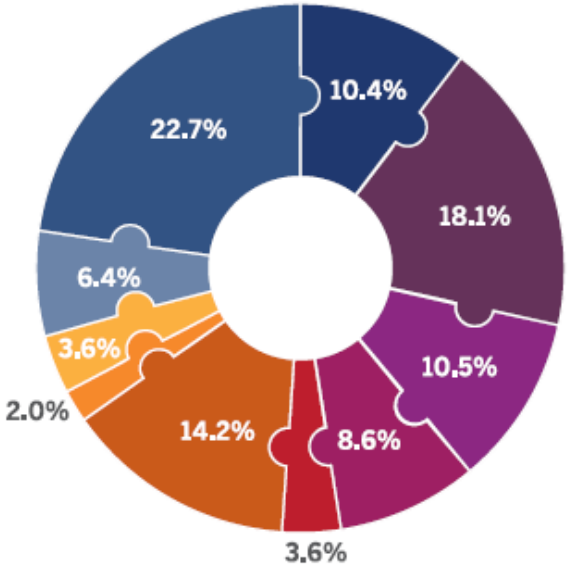
— Quote from Patron Satisfaction Survey

USES BY DIVISIONS	FY26
Branches	$42.25M
Main	$26.98M
Collections and Technical Services	$31.51M
Community Programs and Partnerships	$8.76M
Facilities	$31.60M
Capital Projects	$12.35M
IT	$17.04M
Administration	$22.87M
Total	$193.37M

Friends of the SFPL Support

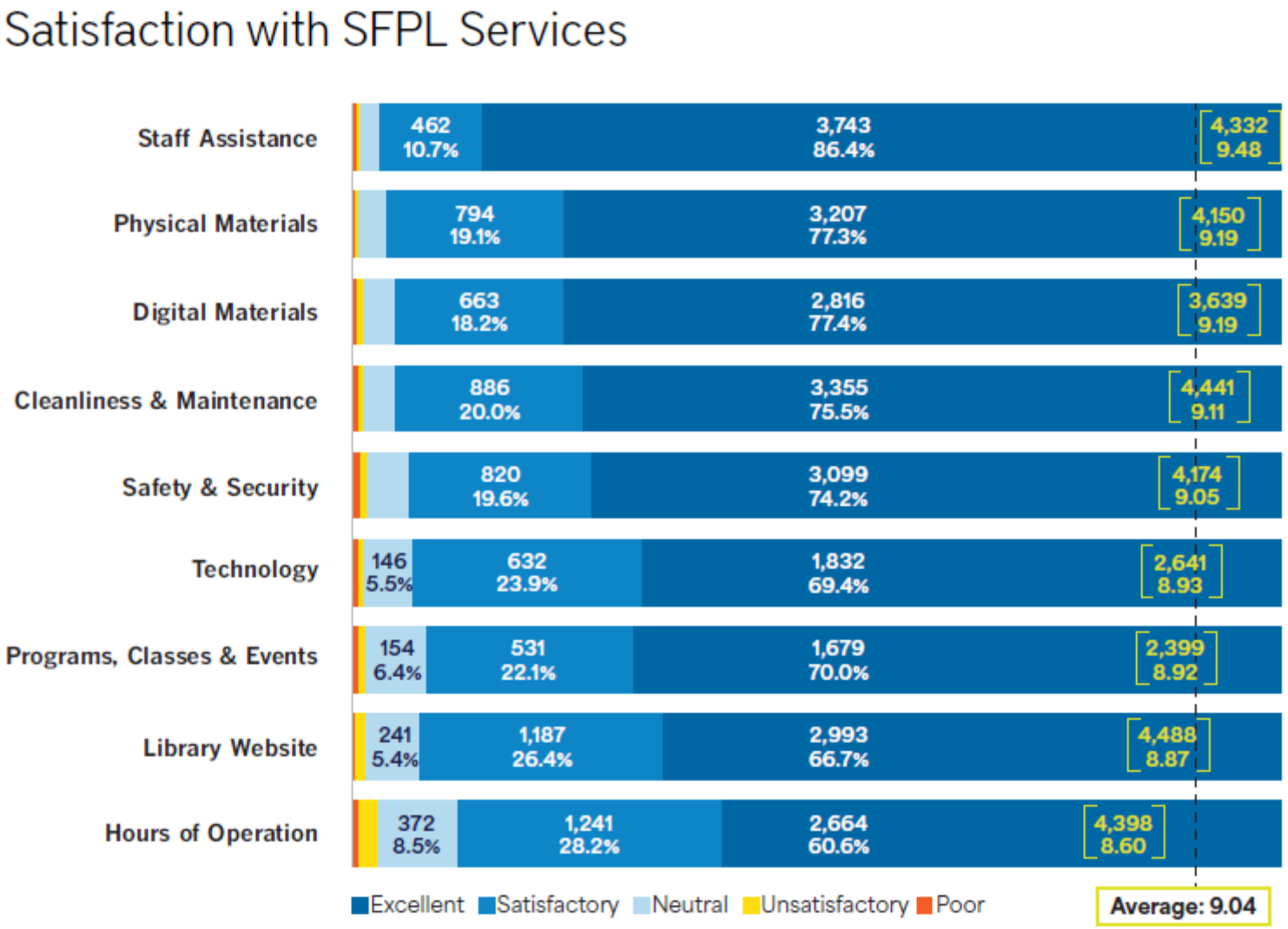
Friends of the San Francisco Public Library underwrites the Library's incredible array of public programs, including:

- 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 and *The Continuing Story of Life on Earth: 25 Years of Hamburger Eyes* exhibition
- 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 U.S. by supporting leadership development, service innovation and continued implementation of the Library's Racial Equity Action Plan



TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES	FY26
Branch Libraries	$125.39K
Main Library	$217.80K
Systemwide Youth Programs	$126.08K
Summer Stride	$103.78K
Volunteer Engagement and Community Outreach	$43.24K
Systemwide Adult Programs and Exhibits	$170.74K
One City One Book	$23.94K
Racial Equity Initiatives	$43.23K
Strategic Initiatives and Collections	$77.45K
Branch Library Renovation Project	$274.01K
Total Expenditure	$1.21M

Patron Satisfaction



"We have the best library system. It has helped me learn new skills and understand complicated things. I feel welcome at all branches and visit as many as I can. The digital resources have helped me detox my streaming. I get resources, printing and scanning that I would not have access to. This helps me to not be left out in the Digital Divide. I can participate at the same level as more resourced people. You have kept millions of San Franciscans from being left out."

— Quote from Patron Satisfaction Survey

Patron Comments

"To the San Francisco Public Library team, I just wanted to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for everything you do. The San Francisco Public Library is truly one of the city's greatest treasures. Over the past few months, while I've been out of work, the library has been a lifeline. Whether it was providing resources to help me in my job search, offering books and materials to uplift my spirit, or simply being a welcoming space to learn and grow—your services have made a meaningful difference in my life."



Photo by Kit Castagne

"Your services for the Blind And Print Disabled in San Francisco...saved my life. Ditto Library by Mail. If the world was run by librarians, everything would be fine."







"The public library is a very important part of our life. It is the center of the community. I appreciate that each neighborhood has a historical and cultural connection to its library. We have been able to live closer to our values by virtue of the library—we can avoid buying corporate media subscriptions or products because we can rely on the high quality items we borrow from the library."



(Bottom) photo by Frédéric Neema

"The SFPL is one of the City's 'crown jewels'. It is such a pleasure to go into a branch library to see people of all ages reading, browsing and exploring. It is also a quiet refuge for the life-weary and those who are facing hardship, or without a place to rest. And a place to connect with the world online, to explore, learn and access resources."



"SFPL is such an incredible blessing to everyone! It serves us so well as a bastion of democracy: inclusive, questioning, welcoming, diverse, equitable, dynamic, responsive. I read so many books that I would never know about if SFPL buyers weren't keeping up on the latest publications, as well as keeping older books that are important elements in our shared intellectual heritage."





"We absolutely love our libraries and are so grateful to all of you who put in the hard work to provide the community with such amazing resources, mostly for free, and for ensuring that local cultures and interests are well-represented and that all people of all identities/ages/abilities feel welcome and seen. Thank you for everything!!!"







Thank you!

FINAL REPORT COMING DECEMBER 2026