

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT

FY21 – 22

Every Library. Every Day.



Dear San Francisco Residents,

When I think about this past year and all that we collectively went through, the word “recovery” comes to mind. San Francisco Public Library’s own recovery witnessed the resumption of seven-day service at all 28 of our locations, making our collections available for browsing and our public computers and high-speed network accessible once again for the community. In addition to restoring our favorite tagline “*Every library. Every day.*”, I’m proud of staff’s efforts to resume our in-person public programs, most notably our popular storytimes, which delight our youngest patrons. We also spent a lot of time addressing the recovery of our patrons and our City. The pandemic disrupted so much for all of us; we felt strongly that the Library had to play a role in helping us all get back to “normal”.

The Library continued to build on the success of its economic recovery-themed programs, chiefly *Work it* and *Tech Time*. We launched a robust advertising campaign with the tagline “*We’re Here to Get You There*” to convey the message that no matter where people are in their journey, the Library has the resources to help them realize their full potential. We saw attendance at these programs grow by 10% and we introduced these services to more than 150,000 new prospective patrons.

The Library also sought to assist the City’s beleaguered commercial corridors by using the Library’s reopening as an invitation to the public to rediscover San Francisco. In October 2021, we launched the SFPL Explorer Map to promote and encourage foot traffic into each of our 27 branch libraries, the Main Library and bookmobile service sites. The goals of the Explorer Map are to rekindle love for our branches, celebrate the unique identities of its neighborhoods, build bonds through staff and community interaction and help support the economic recovery of local businesses and commercial corridors that were hard hit by the pandemic. The content-rich map, a tribute to San Francisco, is available at every location as well as our bookmobile sites. When visiting an SFPL branch, explorers may stop by the checkout desk and receive



City Librarian Michael Lambert (center right) with SFPL staff and Library Commissioners on Explorer Map walk.

a sticker featuring an architectural detail unique to that location or a symbol of that neighborhood.

Since the launch, the community response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. A team of cyclists visited 19 branches in a single day to collect stickers. One Twitter fan wrote, “Drove to Presidio Branch and then walked to Richmond Branch and took the 38 back. Thus creatively satisfying my commitment to either walk or take transit on the sticker hunt.” Local elementary classrooms have been collecting stickers together. A comparison of October 2021 and July 31, 2022 revealed a 39% increase in visitors across the system. In June 2022, the campaign received a Best in Show PReXcellence Award from the California Library Association.

The SFPL Explorer Map has brought so much joy to our community and staff, which is why we made it the theme of this year’s Annual Report. In the following pages, you will get to visit each branch and read about all of their amazing accomplishments this past year. We hope this report inspires you to venture out and discover a new pocket of our beautiful Library system and City. And we hope you will continue your lifelong journey with us, because we are here for you every step of the way.

In community,

Michael Lambert
City Librarian

Library Leadership

London N. Breed
Mayor

Commissioners

Connie Wolf 2018 – 2026
President

Pete Huang 2018 – 2025
Vice-President

Jarie Bolander 2022 – 2026

Dr. Eurania Isabel López 2020 – 2026

Susan Mall 2013 – 2025

Teresa Ono 2009 – 2025

Dr. Mary J. Lomax-Ghirarduzzi 2014 – 2026

Michael Lambert
City Librarian 2019 – present

Maureen Singleton
Chief Operating Officer

Margot Shaub
Commission Affairs Analyst

Shellie Cocking
Chief of Collections and Technical Services

Charles Coleman
Custodial Services Manager

Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor
Chief of Branches

Terry Carlson
Assistant Chief of Branches

Katrin Reimuller
Acting Chief of Main

Mike Fernandez
Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Jeffers
Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships

John Cunha
Director of Facilities

Jason Blandon
Acting Chief Information Officer

Randle McClure
Chief Analytics Officer

Kate Patterson
Director of Communications

Lori Regler
Library Human Resources Director

Tramaine Johnson
Manager of Security Operations and Emergency
Planning

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San Francisco
Public Library



San Francisco Public Libraries Map



LIBRARY BRANCH	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
Anza	1, 18, 31, 31AX, 38, 38AX, 38R
Bayview/Linda Brooks-Burton	T, 23, 24, 44, 54
Bernal Heights	24
Chinatown/Him Mark Lai	1, 8, 10, 12, 30, 45 Cable Cars: Powell-Hyde, Powell-Mason, California
Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial	F, J, K, L, M, 22, 24, 33, 35, 37
Excelsior	14, 14R, 14X, 44, 49, 52
Glen Park	BART*; 23, 35, 36, 44, 52
Golden Gate Valley	41**, 45, 47, 49
Ingleside	K, 8, 8BX, K-Owl, 29, 49
Marina	22, 28, 30, 30X, 43
Merced	M, 18, 28, 28R, 29, 57, 91-Owl
Mission	BART*; 12, 14, 14R, 48, 49, 67
Mission Bay	N, T, 10, 30, 45, 47, 55, 83X, Caltrain
Noe Valley/Sally Brunn	J, 24, 35, 48

* Use your Clipper Card for travel within San Francisco.

LIBRARY BRANCH	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
North Beach	8, 8BX, 30, 39, 41**, 45; Cable Car: Powell-Mason
Ocean View	M
Ortega	7, 7X, 7R, 29, 48
Park	N, 6, 7, 7R, 33, 37, 43
Parkside	L, 48, 66
Portola	8, 8AX, 9, 9R, 29, 44, 54
Potrero	10, 19, 22
Presidio	1BX, 1, 2, 3, 24, 43
Richmond/Senator Milton Marks	1, 2, 38, 38BX, 38R, 44
Sunset	N, NX, 7, 7R, 7X, 28, 28R
Visitacion Valley	T, 8, 8BX, 9, 9R, 56
West Portal	K, L, M, 48, 57
Western Addition	2, 22, 24, 38, 38R
Main	BART*; F, J, K, L, M, N, T, 5, 6, 9, 19, 21, 26, 47, 49, 71
MOS - Treasure Island	**The 41 operates 6 am to 8 pm & 4-6 pm weekends

Treasures Around for Readers Around Town

Pick up a map and collect all 29 stickers, representing a unique feature of each branch.



"Love, love, love this as a way to get people back into libraries post-COVID. Love the creativity of the map and stickers. Love the map icons, too."



"I love this project and cannot wait to do it the next time I'm in San Francisco. I love including sights and local business recommendations from library staff. What a wonderful way to get folks out and about in the communities. And it sounds like a lot of groups did it together. I am so jealous. What a unique way to highlight the library's strengths."



"An interesting, visual, and welcoming approach to increasing interest in local branches and SFPL as a whole. And the stats demonstrate that the campaign had a strong community impact. Nicely done!"

Merced Branch welcomed the first kindergarten class to visit the branch since reopening and were given Explorer Maps.

Explorer cyclists and SFPL fans Allison Mercurio, Nick Dunlap and Danielle Raynal visited 20 branches in a single day.

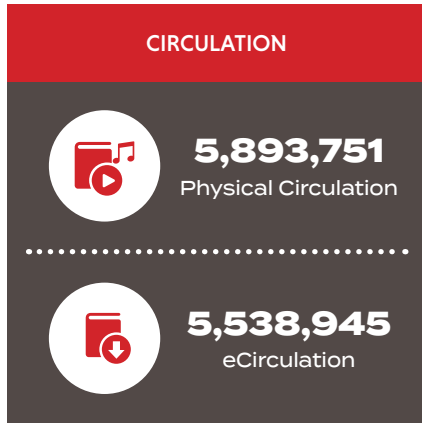
Chicago visitor Melissa Baysingar joined the 29 Libraries Club by visiting all 28 branches via foot and public transportation in 4 days (and driving to Treasure Island.)

In Spring 2022, Library staff went on a SFPL Explorer walk starting at Anza Branch.

The SFPL Explorer Map won the 2022 California Library Association (CLA) PRExcellence Award – Best in Show. Kudos to Lisa Weddle, Michelle McNeil and Jaime Wong for creating an engaging award-winning campaign.

On the Up and Up!

SFPL saw steady growth throughout the year in circulation, attendance and in its staff, most notably in the Branch division, which added 161 new hires.

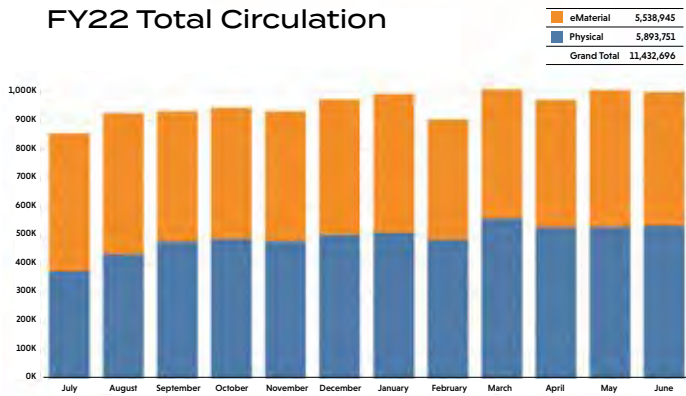


NUMBER OF HIRES BY DIVISION

161
New Hires

FIN	2	CTS	9
HR	1	Custodial	5
CLO	1	Engineering	3
COB	106	Security	4
COM	27	FAC (Office & Del. Serv.)	2
CPP	6		

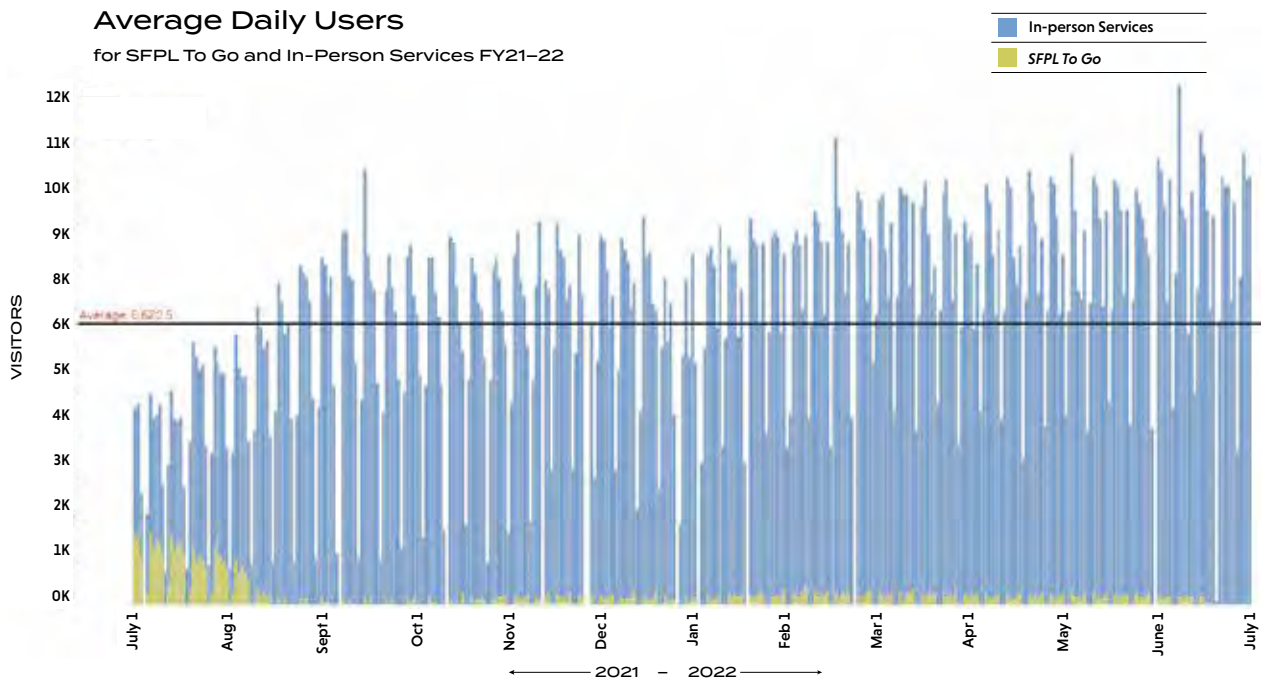
FY22 Total Circulation



"Thank you so much. You have made my day so much better. I am so lucky to have the best library in the world in my city with the best group of librarians I could ask for."

Average Daily Users

for SFPL To Go and In-Person Services FY21-22

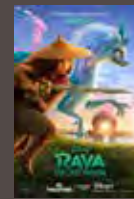


Top 5 Circulating Titles

Adult Fiction		
1	<i>The Vanishing Half</i>	Brit Bennett
2	<i>Klara and the Sun</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro
3	<i>Beautiful World, Where Are You</i>	Sally Rooney
4	<i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i>	Delia Owens
5	<i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i>	Anthony Doerr

Adult Non-Fiction		
1	<i>Why We Swim</i>	Bonnie Tsui
2	<i>The Undocumented Americans</i>	Karla Cornejo Villavicencio
3	<i>Crying in H Mart</i>	Michelle Zauner
4	<i>The End of the Golden Gate</i>	Gary Kamiya
5	<i>The Premonition: A Pandemic Story</i>	Michael Lewis

Adult DVD/Blu-ray		
1	<i>Minari</i>	
2	<i>Nomadland</i>	
3	<i>A Quiet Place, Part II</i>	
4	<i>Venom: Let There Be Carnage</i>	
5	<i>Free Guy</i>	



Teen Fiction		
1	<i>Last Night at the Telegraph Club</i>	Malinda Lo
2	<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins
3	<i>Six of Crows</i>	Leigh Bardugo
4	<i>Shadow and Bone</i>	Leigh Bardugo
5	<i>The Cruel Prince</i>	Holly Black

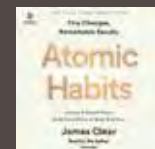
Juvenile Fiction		
1	<i>Dog Man</i>	Dav Pilkey
2	<i>Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild</i>	Dav Pilkey
3	<i>Dog Man Unleashed</i>	Dav Pilkey
4	<i>Guts</i>	Raina Telgemeier
5	<i>Dog Man and Cat Kid</i>	Dav Pilkey

Juvenile DVD/Blu-ray		
1	<i>Raya and the Last Dragon</i>	
2	<i>Soul</i>	
3	<i>Luca</i>	
4	<i>Tom and Jerry</i>	
5	<i>Frozen II</i>	



eBooks		
1	<i>People We Meet on Vacation</i>	Emily Henry
2	<i>Project Hail Mary</i>	Andy Weir
3	<i>The Midnight Library</i>	Matt Haig
4	<i>The Last Thing He Told Me</i>	Laura Dave
5	<i>Crying in H Mart</i>	Michelle Zauner

eAudio Books		
1	<i>Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones</i>	James Clear
2	<i>The Midnight Library</i>	Matt Haig
3	<i>Crying in H Mart</i>	Michelle Zauner
4	<i>Dune</i>	Frank Herbert
5	<i>The Last Thing He Told Me</i>	Laura Dave





Public Programs

Last year saw the resumption of in-person programming, a significant milestone in the Library's post-pandemic recovery. The Library also continued to offer virtual and hybrid programs so that patrons could enjoy seeing their favorite artists, performers and authors from home.

NUMBER OF YOUTH PROGRAMS



1,870

Youth Programs

38,896

Youth + Children
Attendance



NUMBER OF STORYTIMES



459

Storytimes/
Sweet Stories

147

Virtual
Programs

312

In-person
Programs



NUMBER OF ADULT PROGRAMS



1,443

Adult
Programs

62,478

Adult
Attendance



Public Programs Continued

The Library increased its efforts to assist residents with their economic recovery by promoting its digital literacy program, *Tech Time*, and the *Work it* program series, which focuses on jobs & careers, business and personal finance.



Library Love

"I thank you for all the people you have helped during these trying times. I feel you are my 'first responders.' Without you and your staff these past couple of years would have been so much harder. Thanks for working so hard and taking care of us." – Marshall Lawhon

"Thank you for the incredible work that you are doing supporting SF with literacy information and more. Your passion and dedication has inspired many students and families to getting a library card including me! I am proud to say that the SF library helped my children to be a success story!"

– Nkechi M Nwankwo

Dear Public Affairs at SFPL;

I just read the latest newsletter.

And each time I get one (and read it, every single time,) I want to tell you all how much I love you. I'm sorry I haven't done this before now.

Of course, I love librarians, I mean, who doesn't?

But I also love all those whose titles and jobs are unknown to me, for I assume they are essential to the Libraries.

I do love all of you.

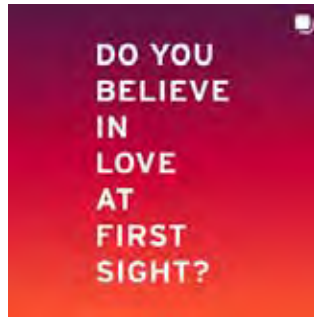
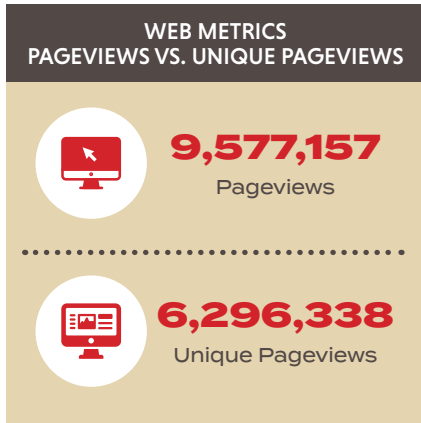
I just do.

I'm hoping this tiny love letter will reach those who may most need it.

*Truly yours,
Marykate Connor*

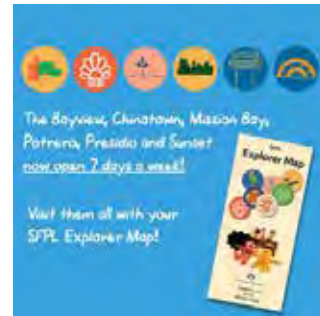
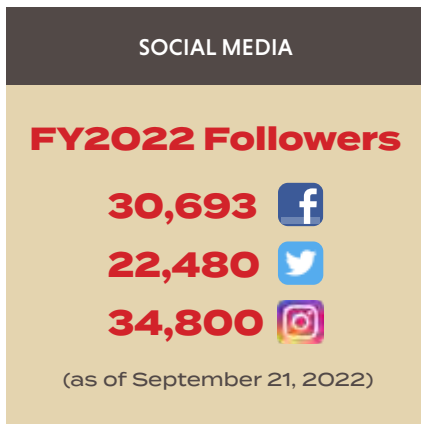
Web and Social Media

The Public Affairs team continues to innovate on the Library's primary social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, growing the Library's reach and community in the digital space.

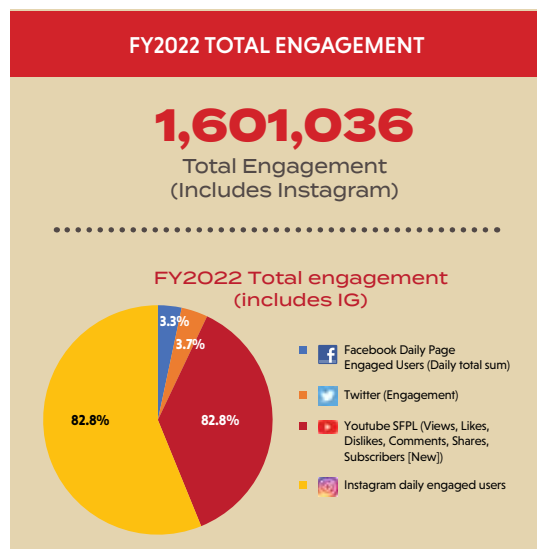


*"Who says you can't touch people on Zoom!
Really great presentation of the heart felt
work being done. Thank you very much."*

— Lisa Bolognese



Total Social Media Engagement



Summer Stride

NUMBER OF SUMMER STRIDE FINISHERS

↑ 327.8%
Increase from FY21



2,458
FY21 Stride
Finishers

10,515
FY22 Stride
Finishers



Youth	Programs	Attendance
Summer Stride	220	7,121
Youth Group Visits	431	9,968
Community Event	29	9,655
Passive*	177	5,845
Storytime	318	10,255
Other Programs	111	1,378
Totals	1,286	44,222

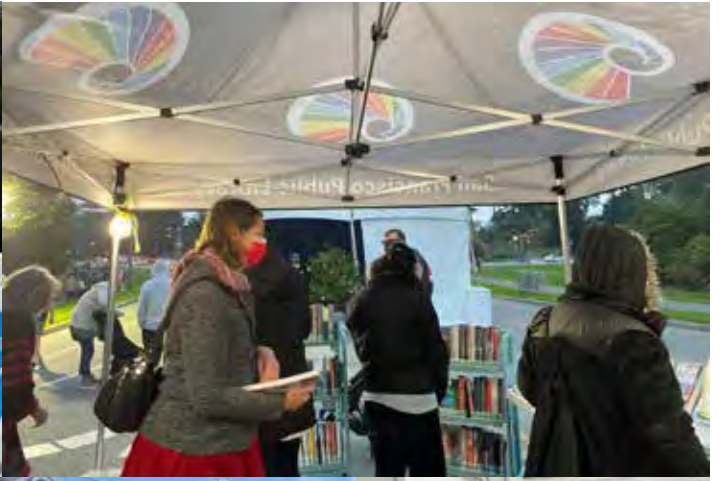


Adult	Programs	Attendance
Summer Stride	103	4,636
Visits	14	278
Community Event	10	1,396
Other Programs	514	8,129
Totals	641	14,439



*Refers to "grab and go kits" or other drop-in activities.





Racial Equity Work at the Library



Naomi Jelks, Racial Equity Manager at SFPL

The Library's Racial Equity Committee (REC) continued to make progress on the Library's groundbreaking Racial Equity Action Plan, which was formally adopted in FY 2020–21. Activity highlights from

this year include the development of a Racial Equity Lens tool to help guide staff in their planning to ensure that communities of color are centered in the Library's initiatives. The Committee

"Literacy is a racial equity issue and libraries are uniquely positioned to model evidence-based learning interventions that are effective and grow lifelong readers." – Naomi Jelks

also succeeded in completing the most comprehensive staff survey to-date to assess how the Library is doing in its efforts to advance racial equity in the workplace.

Another major milestone was the hiring of the Library's first-ever Racial Equity Manager. Librarian Naomi Jelks was promoted into the role in April 2022. She previously served as the Third Floor Manager at the Main Library.

The end of the fiscal year saw the transition of the Library's inaugural REC members, including the founding co-chairs Alejandro Gallegos and Shawna Sherman.

"In helping inaugurate REC work here, I learned there are no easy solutions to racial inequality. We made some small changes, but the journey continues. I'm excited to support the work of our new racial equity leaders." – Shawna Sherman

FY 2022–23 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

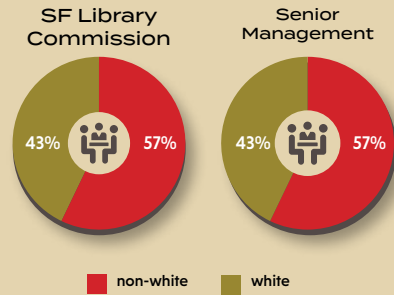
Naomi Jelks, Co-Chair	Lisa Hubbell
Maria Mastrokyriakos, Co-Chair	Tramaine Johnson
Barakah Aly	Marcus Lange
Joanna Arteaga	Eun Lee
La Spina	Cristina Mitra
Jaena Cabrera	Kate Patterson
Luis Francisco Cardona	Maureen Singleton
Catherine Cormier	Tami Suzuki
D'Arion Curry-Matthews	Jensa Woo
	Victoria Yam

FY 2021–22 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Big thank you to outgoing Committee members for your incredible work!

Alejandro Gallegos, Co-Chair	denise schmidt
Shawna Sherman, Co-Chair	Meredith Steiner
Queen Chen	Jimmy Tran
Jason Hill	Michelle Waddy
Gregory Hom	Michele Williams
Melissa Mendiola	Jennifer Woo
Janine Mogannam	

RACIAL DIVERSITY OF TEAMS



Jail and Reentry Services (JARS)

In January 2022, Mayor London Breed announced a \$2 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support a collaboration between SFPL and the American Library Association (ALA) aimed at improving and expanding library services for incarcerated individuals both locally and nationally.

"For many who are incarcerated, access to information and resources through the library is a lifeline and critical to their rehabilitation process," said Mayor Breed. "I want to thank The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for recognizing the pioneering work of this collaboration between San Francisco Public Library and the American Library Association, which will improve access to resources for incarcerated individuals nationwide."

Led by SFPL's Jail and Reentry Services team with ALA as a sub-grantee, the Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People initiative includes a comprehensive survey of existing models for library services to people in jails and prisons and a revision of outdated standards in collaboration with formerly incarcerated people and librarians. Additionally, the project involves the development of an interactive map that can be used to locate library services for incarcerated individuals nationwide, and a year-long virtual training series led by SFPL staff and other experts in the field. This project received critical acclaim and visibility at the ALA 2022 conference in Washington, DC. While in DC, JARS staff Rachel Kinnon and Dr. Jeanie Austin participated in a hearing on the

standards for library services in jails and prisons.

The grant helped create three new positions at SFPL, and the JARS team was thrilled to welcome librarian Nili Ness and administrative analysts Bee Okelo and Sally Durgan.

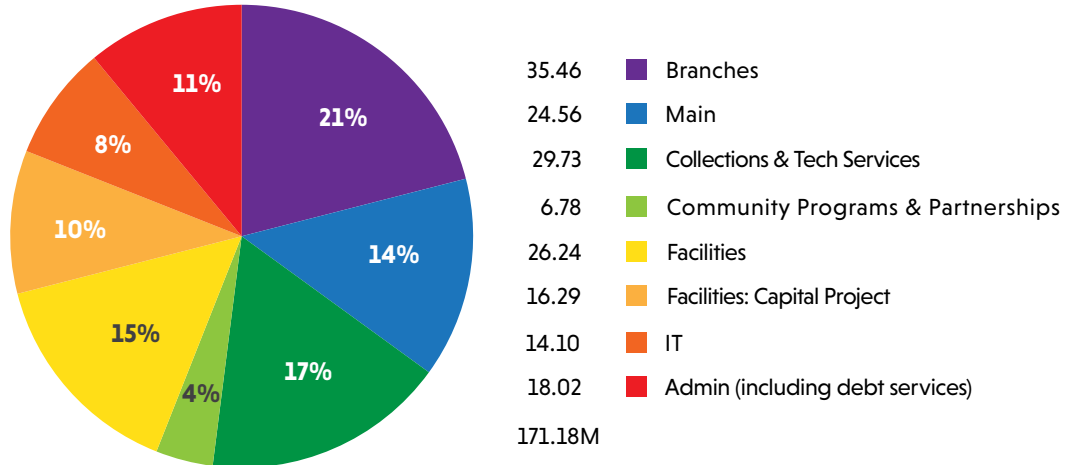
In FY 2021–22, JARS responded to 1996 Reference by Mail Letters, circulated 125,034 books, including books in languages other than English:

- Spanish: 1872
- Italian: 20
- Arabic: 24
- Chinese: 31
- Vietnamese: 16
- Hindi: 16
- Talking books for vision impaired/blind patrons: 8

SFPL Budget

FY 2022 Adopted Budget

Total Expenditures: \$171,180,00



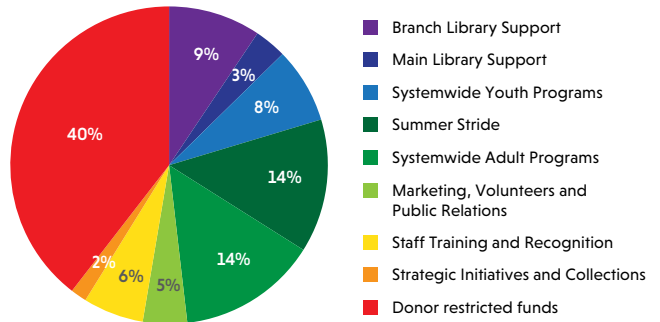
Friends of San Francisco Public Library

Friends and Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library assisted the Library in reigniting in-person programs and services at the Main and all 27 branches. Friends covered \$573,320 in direct costs for materials, supplies, authors, experts, curators and performers for thousands of programs, marketing and promotions and staff training and support.* Friends' support is essential in underwriting many of our most beloved programs, including:

- Main Library programs at the History Center, affinity centers, The Bridge at Main literacy and learning center and for special collections;
- Literacy and learning programs, such as Summer Stride, STEM classes and The Mix at the Main media learning center;
- Literary events, cultural programs, exhibitions and branch events and activities;
- System-wide cultural celebrations, such as: ¡VIVA! Latinx Heritage, More than a Month Black History & Culture, HERStory, Weaving Stories: Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage, Filipino American History Month and PRIDE;
- Adult lifelong learning programs that cover topics including jobs and careers; small businesses; digital literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL), to name a few; and

Grant Expenditures FY 2021-2022

Total Expenditures: \$573,320



- Helping the SFPL remain one of the best libraries in the US, by supporting leadership, service innovation and implementation of the Library's Racial Equity Action Plan.

Friends also spent the year gearing up to launch and fund the electoral campaign to renew the Library Preservation Fund on the November 2022 ballot.

* Direct costs do not include additional in-kind costs to SFPL from Friends.





ANZA BRANCH



Library History

In 1930, San Francisco voters approved a charter amendment to increase taxes to fund the construction of the Anza Branch Library. Using the site of the old Lafayette School, architect John Reid, Jr., designed and landscaped the new Branch building. It was dedicated on April 10, 1932, with 11,823 new books on the shelves. Total cost for the building and its furnishings was \$57,117.29. Anza Branch Library was the 17th branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system. The Branch closed temporarily for renovation in May 2009.

The Anza Branch reopened on Saturday, June 18, 2011.



During the pandemic, Anza Branch staff and patrons braved the elements and a protracted construction project on 37th Avenue to be reunited with books at the Branch's *SFPL To Go* service. Despite the noise, the cold, the rain, the fog and COVID protocols, patrons were in good spirits and some shared their appreciation with staff. According to Branch Manager Colleen McDonald-Smalarz, "One woman said to me that while the library was closed, she'd just come up and peer into the windows and look longingly at the untouched books and videos on the shelves. She said, 'They just looked so sad there. I wanted to rescue them.'"



Staff describes the Branch reopening as a relief and "real renaissance." One patron commented, "I felt adrift when the library was closed. I'd walk around the neighborhood for hours. I'm so glad you're open again. I went to use the computer at Balboa Business Center but I couldn't afford to do that every day."



The Branch has seen the return of regular patrons at monthly book clubs and knitting circles, and growing families return to storytime. Middle school book clubs and tech help programs have been a much-needed breath of fresh air to the young and young-at-heart patrons. Some patrons are at the Branch for several hours a day once again, absorbed at the computer terminals or reading every single newspaper cover to cover.

ANZA
550 37th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121
(415) 355-5717

... LIBRARIES FOR ALL ...
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BAYVIEW/LINDA BROOKS-BURTON BRANCH



Rec & Park Play Day event – Child holding “Reptiles” book while another camper browses the books on the table.



Hoops4Peace – Parent showing child a book while another young child picks up a title.

In the summer of 2022, the Bayview/Linda Brooks-Burton Branch staff supported many community events in the 94124 and surrounding areas by tabling and distributing free books. Staff brought titles in English, Chinese and Spanish for different ages and that featured diverse characters. Some tabling events included: Sunday Streets at Mendell Plaza, Recreation & Park Department’s Play Day 2022 at KC Jones Playground, APRI’s (A Philip Randolph Institute) Hoops4Peace at Palega Playground, National Night Out and BMAGIC’s 19th Annual Backpack Giveaway at NOW Hunters Point. Staff saw lots of happy faces while promoting literacy by helping kids and families build their home libraries.



Library History

The original Bayview/Anna E. Waden Branch Library was opened as a storefront facility in 1927. It was the 13th branch in the San Francisco Public Library system, replacing a “library station” that had been established in 1921. In 1969, a red brick building was built on the corner of the 3rd Street and Revere Avenue in the Bayview/Hunters Point district with a bequest from Anna E. Waden, a clerical employee of the City of San Francisco. Her gift of \$185,700 paid for the development of this cooperative community project. The building was completed in February 1969, and the formal dedication took place on July 12, 1969. The architect was John S. Bolles & Associates and the contractor was Nibbi Brothers.

During an in-depth community assessment process undertaken as part of the Branch Library Improvement Program, which included many community meetings and input from neighborhood groups, it was decided to replace the building in favor of a new, larger branch library for the Bayview / Hunters Point Community.

The new Bayview Library opened February 23, 2013.



BAYVIEW/LINDA BROOKS-BURTON
 5075 Third Street
 San Francisco, CA 94124
 (415) 355-5757

... SF ♥ LIBRARIES ...
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BERNAL HEIGHTS BRANCH



Library History

A "library deposit station" was established in 1920 at 303 Cortland Avenue. As the neighborhood and library grew, it was moved, in 1936, to 324 Cortland. When that proved inadequate the neighbors lobbied for a new building. The one floor branch library at 500 Cortland was the 21st in the system and built on the site of the original Bernal School at a cost of \$94,600. It was designed by Frederick H. Meyer, one of the most prolific and versatile architects in San Francisco at the turn of the 20th century, funded by the Work Projects Administration and dedicated on October 21, 1940.

After 68 years of use, the Branch closed for renovation, as part of the Branch Library Improvement Project, in February 2008. The renovation, with a budget of \$5.7 million, was designed by staff of the City's Bureau of Architecture under the supervision of Andrew Maloney.

Bernal Branch anchors its community and the much anticipated reopening was held on January 30, 2010—just in time for the 70th anniversary of this important civic building.

According to Acting Branch Manager Luis Cardona, "Bernal's greatest highlight was being able to stand on the front steps and walk back into the Branch."

Over the fiscal year, staff reintroduced popular public programming like their book club, Older Writer's Lab and watercolor group relatively quickly. But it wasn't until they brought back storytime at the start of Summer Stride that the cacophony of the pitter-patter of small feet running through the Children's Room ushered in a sense of relief and optimism that the worst of the pandemic was finally starting to recede into the past. Over the summer, the Branch held STEM programs every Wednesday evening that brought families in to learn from their dedicated children's staff. Audience attendance picked up for their Summer Stride events, and staff were excited to award one of their most loyal patrons Giants tickets, one of this summer's raffle prizes. According to Cardona, "He called us twice on different days to tell us how much he and his mother enjoyed the game. And he also returned in-person to tell us that the Giants were #1 and this moment brought a great amount of joy to all the staff on the desk who were able to share this experience."



BERNAL HEIGHTS
500 Cortland Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 355-2810

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CHINATOWN/ HIM MARK LAI BRANCH 華埠分館/麥禮謙



On February 1, Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library hosted its first library program since reopening, a Chinese New Year calligraphy program. Staff re-launched the Book-a-Librarian one-on-one program in April 2022, which has since picked up momentum, especially for the monolingual Chinese-speaking elderly community. From April to June, they hosted 43 sessions, including drop-ins. Storytimes came back in May and so did class visits. The Library hosted 32 classes in June 2022.

DIY take-home craft kits were given away with great popularity. These included: Chinese New Year paper lanterns, embroidery kits and felt seashells.

Also in June, the Branch hosted a plant exchange and resumed its annual National Parks Service shuttle trip, which was filled to capacity, to the Presidio Visitors Center and to the new Tunnel Tops park.



NPS shuttle trip to Presidio Visitor Center: Group check-in and boarding the shuttle bus at Chinatown Branch Library on June 25, 2022.



DIY Take-Home Felt Seashells Kit.

"As I enjoy crafts, I appreciate the craft kit giveaways, and it is great to be able to pick up at my convenience."

– Anonymous patron

Library History

Chinatown Branch Library, built in 1921 by architect G. Albert Lansburgh is a Carnegie library originally named the North Beach Branch. It is the third branch in the system. Located in Chinatown, on Powell Street between Washington and Jackson, the name was changed in 1958 to more accurately reflect the community served. In 1972, the Chinese language, and the Chinese American Interest collections were started in response to the needs and interests of the Chinatown community. In 1991, public and private funds were obtained for a major renovation and expansion of the Chinatown Branch Library. The Branch was seismically retrofitted and expanded to twice its original size with a community meeting room and story-room available to use for programs and special events. After renovation the Branch reopened on June 15, 1996. Chinatown Branch Library was renamed Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library on November 4, 2010.



CHINATOWN/HIM MARK LAI
1135 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA 94108
(415) 355-2888





EUREKA VALLEY/HARVEY MILK BRANCH



Branch Reopening July 20, 2021.F



Preschool visit on June 9, 2022 for the first Summer Stride program—DIY chia pets.

Library History

The first branch building was the second branch in the system and opened on January 2, 1902. It was named the McCreery Branch in honor of Andrew McCreery who donated the land and paid for construction. This original neoclassical building was damaged in the Daly City Earthquake of 1957 and demolished. A new building designed by Appleton and Wolford at a cost of \$192,335 and opened on December 20, 1961. It was named the Eureka Valley Branch.

In 1981, the Library Commission officially changed the name of the Branch to Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library to honor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. In 2006, the City honored José Sarria, the first openly gay man to run for Supervisor (in 1961) by renaming the section of 16th Street adjacent to the Branch as José Sarria Court.

The Eureka Valley Renovation was completed on October 24, 2009.

With the arrival of summer, the Branch finally felt like it had come all the way back to being able to fully offer services and programs to the community. It was also PRIDE month in San Francisco, which is always honored and celebrated each year at Eureka Valley Harvey Milk Memorial Branch. Since the PRIDE celebration had been curtailed for two years, it was extra special to be able to share PRIDE month with patrons once again.



Staff Shares

"Reopening Eureka Valley Library to in-person service was such a memorable and happy occasion. For staff it was so great to see friends again that we had not seen in over a year, and it was great to welcome new friends inside that we had met during SFPL To Go. It was a highlight for all of us to see patrons back in the library, and our patrons were clearly glad to be back."

– Branch Manager Casey Crumpacker, July 20, 2021

"It's been such a delight to be able to offer in-person storytimes again to our patrons. Eureka Valley is so lucky to have a dedicated outdoor space for this vital programming. We missed the kids and their families so much and they were so happy to be back!"

– Children's Librarian Bix Warden, November 2021



**EUREKA VALLEY/
HARVEY MILK MEMORIAL**
1 José Sarria Court
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 355-5616

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EXCELSIOR BRANCH



What a year at the Excelsior Branch Library! According to Librarian Leni Matthews, "Our patrons are returning and life at the B ranch is getting back to 'normal.' Storytime is always exciting and our regulars make the Branch feel like home."



The Excelsior Branch team did a great job preparing for the additional days and hours to re-welcome the community. Staff managed to restart seven-day service and host their Open House on the same day, June 12, 2022. It was a blast! There were performances by the Tradicion Peruana Cultural Center "Jaranon y Bochinche" Afroperuvian Music & Dance and the Flying Angels Chinese Dance Company. There were activities such as button-making, book giveaways, a book talk, a bike course, the famous smoothie bike and more. It was a such a great event that the community stayed even when it rained.



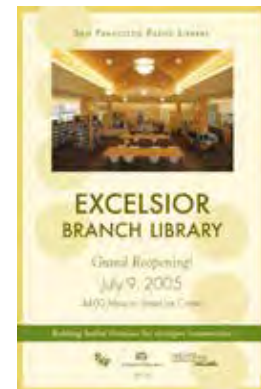
Open House, June 12, 2022.

Summer camp classes came back in full force as well. The Children's Librarians hosted 22 class visits from the Mission YMCA and local schools. They also performed outreach storytimes and themed events at community organizations.

Library History

The Excelsior Branch Library was the 10th branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system. Initially a "library station", the first branch library was installed in rental quarters at 7 Bauer Street. In 1925 the Branch was located on Ocean Avenue and later at 4465 Mission Street.

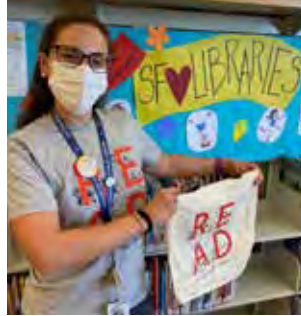
The current building at 4400 Mission Street was opened to the public October 1, 1967. The Branch was designed by architects Appleton and Wolfard and built for \$248,000. The Excelsior Branch was the first to be renovated under the Branch Library Improvement Program and reopened on July 8, 2005.



EXCELSIOR
4400 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415) 355-2868



GLEN PARK BRANCH



Library History

Glen Park Branch Library first opened in January 1927, at 700 Bosworth Street. The Branch was located at that site for almost 38 years, until the building that housed it was demolished during construction of Interstate 280. Glen Park Branch was then housed in several different locations over the course of 42 years until a multiuse building was constructed in the neighborhood at 2825 Diamond Street. Part of the new building was designated just for the library. The Branch opened on October 13, 2007 and became the sixth branch to be renovated through the Branch Library Improvement Program.

The greatest highlight of the Glen Park Branch in FY 2021–22 was re-opening for in-person public service on July 20, 2021. Many residents were happy to re-visit their neighborhood branch and see familiar staff. Petra Ferretti, then Glen Park’s Children’s Librarian, created a beautiful welcoming message for Glen Park patrons. The day marked a milestone in the recovery from COVID closures, and brought joy to many families, seniors and Glen Park neighbors.



Glen Park Branch brought back in-person programming in the Spring of 2022, another wonderful highlight of the year. The Glen Park knitting group, a very popular gathering of neighborhood enthusiasts, resumed their bimonthly meetings. Storytimes returned in May of 2022, bringing many caregivers and young children back to the Library. The Branch also hosted various Summer Stride programs in June, along with free book giveaways for children.



GLEN PARK
2825 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94131
(415) 355-2858

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GOLDEN GATE VALLEY BRANCH



Golden Gate Valley Library had a transformative year. During the 2021 spring semester, the Branch served as a Community Hub for 30 SFUSD students from the Marina neighborhood. When summer vacation arrived, the Branch transitioned to a *SFPL To Go* site. Patrons were glad to see the Branch back in action and let staff know every day, even more so when the Branch transitioned back to in-person service Monday through Friday in the fall of 2021.

Like the opening of a spring flower, in March of 2022, staff welcomed patrons to the Library for seven-day service. Since then, they have celebrated several meaningful cultural events such as the Danza Azteca program and Taiko drumming, gathering the community in front of the Library on Green Street. Artist Calixto Robles offered a very successful in-person program featuring designs from Mexican papel picado.

Staff enjoyed seeing Summer Stride winners come in for their beautiful READ bags and for the popular take-home craft and DIY projects. Another highlight were the many young LEGO fans who returned to the Branch to build new cities and worlds. Staff were delighted in displaying these masterpieces for all to see. And of course, the return of storytimes and button-making projects were a huge bright spot ushering in so much joy for the staff and community.



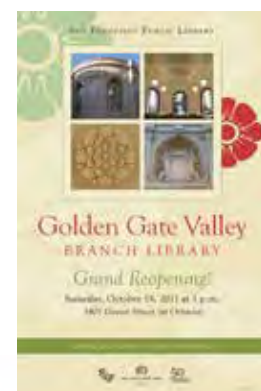
Taiko drumming on Green Street.

Library History

In June 1917, to serve residents of the growing Golden Gate Valley, Cow Hollow and Marina neighborhoods, construction of the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library was begun at a site on the southwest corner of Green and Octavia Streets that had been purchased by the City for \$7,500. The resulting brick and terra cotta Beaux-Arts structure was designed in the shape of a basilica by local architect Ernest Coxhead. The total cost of the building and furnishings came to \$43,000, and on May 5, 1918, the Branch was opened to the public. Golden Gate Valley Branch was the ninth branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system.

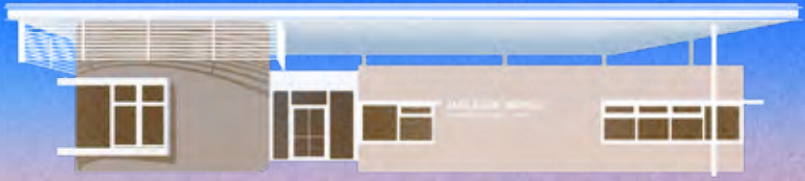
The historic integrity of the Carnegie building was maintained and restored to its original grandeur as the Branch reopened on October 15, 2011.

The Branch will be celebrating its 105th anniversary in May 2023.



GOLDEN GATE VALLEY
1801 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 355-5666

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INGLESIDE BRANCH



Library History

Ingleside Branch, the 11th library in the system, opened in 1925. The neighborhood was served by a "library station" at several locations, including 422 Holloway Avenue, 1612 Ocean Avenue and 387 Ashton Avenue. On May 30, 2001 the Library moved to a leased facility—the former Bank of America building, at 1649 Ocean (at Faxon). The eagerly anticipated new branch building at 1298 Ocean Avenue (at Plymouth) opened on September 12, 2009.



Fiscal year 21–22 signifies a vchhhhhry happy transition for the Ingleside Branch community! As the pandemic de-escalated, the Branch grew from hosting *SFPL To Go* to five-days-a-week in-house service. With a superbly service-committed staff, but only one in-house librarian, they managed to celebrate and support the Summer Stride program with endless book and signature tote giveaways, and even instituted storytime with a neighborhood daycare.

Heading into the fall, the Branch is open for seven-day service and fully staffed with three fabulous librarians, two of whom are fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, Taishanese and Vietnamese.



Branch staff celebrate a return to in-person service.
Storytime patron.
Staff enlivens Library space.



INGLESIDE
1298 Ocean Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415) 355-2898

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MARINA BRANCH



Marina reopened for full public service for the first time in September 2021, and patrons were overjoyed to fully use the Branch again, albeit wearing masks. Due to a leaky roof, the Branch had to close again October – November 2021 for repairs, but due to popular demand, Branch staff were able to open on weekends to allow for some access while construction was underway. The Marina Branch fully reopened again and resumed its pre-pandemic seven-day service hours in December 2021. Today, the Branch is busier than ever, with patrons of all ages enjoying the Library from opening to closing time. Often, there are days when every adult seat is filled!

To the delight of patrons, weekly storytimes on the outdoor courtyard patio resumed in early 2022, with a weekly average attendance of 120 happy children and caregivers, having fun while learning early literacy skills with beloved Children’s Librarian Katie McCluskey (and sometimes substitute storytime librarian Cathy Cormier, who returned to Marina as Branch Manager in April 2022).

Summer Stride programs were a big hit with patrons of all ages, and young patrons especially loved coming in for free books to build their home libraries. The bilingual children’s books were particularly appreciated by Spanish-speaking caregivers.



Many patrons of all ages come to the Branch daily with their SFPL Explorer Maps to collect Marina’s beautiful green tree sticker, giving staff an opportunity to connect in person with patrons and thank them for coming in and for using the many wonderful, free lifelong learning and reading for pleasure services that SFPL has to offer.

Library History

Marina Branch Library was the 23rd branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system and originally opened to the public in 1954. It was designed by the architectural firm of Appleton and Wolfard at a cost of \$156,742. Furnishings cost an additional \$12,926.

The Marina Renovation was completed on August 4, 2007. In addition to aesthetic and technological enhancements including a small addition, the Marina Branch is now seismically safe and fully accessible. The project was designed by architectural firms Tom Elliot Fisch and Field Paoli. Project costs totaled \$3.9 million.



MARINA
1890 Chestnut Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 355-2823



Summertime fun at the Marina Branch Library.



MERCED BRANCH



Library History

Designed by architects Appleton and Wolfard, the Merced Branch was the 25th in the SFPL system. Built at a cost of \$137,511, it was constructed in 1957 and opened on January 24, 1958.

The newly renovated Merced Branch reopened on Saturday, May 14, 2011. The renovated building was certified as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold by the U.S. Green Building Council. The renovation project was designed by Bureau of Architecture's Library Design Studio, Department of Public Works, City & County of San Francisco at a cost of approximately \$5.4 million.

The Merced Branch became one of the first branches to provide full, seven-day-a-week services beginning in October 2021.

On May 14, 2022, Branch staff and volunteers hosted a "Welcome Back" event celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Adult Services librarians restarted the popular Book Club and Book Swap, hosted a flu vaccination clinic, reinstated Book-A-Librarian appointments and celebrated the 10th anniversary of the monthly Knit and Craft Circle by displaying their creations. They hosted virtual programs commemorating the 101st anniversary of the ratification of the women's suffrage amendment, Juneteenth and Women's History Month.

The teen services librarian conducted outreach to Aptos Middle School and re-established the Teen Volunteer Corps. The youth services and the children's services librarians relaunched the much in-demand weekly storytimes, presented numerous special programs and resumed class visits from local schools. The youth services librarian and the circulation supervisor installed an impressive insect lab and hosted

an innovative summer Bug Club for families.

Merced patrons demonstrated their devotion to the Branch by returning in force, generating the third highest number of annual checkouts of any branch location and boosting the Merced collection to the fifth highest circulating collection in the branch system.



They expressed their thankfulness for the return to full library services and their enthusiasm for the "lovely, well-run branch," with comments that included:

"Today is my third time in this branch, and every time I experienced the same full satisfaction, not only in customer service skills from staffers, as they were exceptional, but the availability of various resources. The staff's desire to assist manifest in how they interact with library users, be they kids or adults. Good job everyone! Thanks!"



MERCED

155 Winston Drive
San Francisco, CA 94132
(415) 355-2825



Popular public programs at Merced reintroduced patrons to the Branch.



MISSION BRANCH



Like all of the libraries in the system, the Branch was closed during the shutdown. Because the historic Carnegie building was slated for a \$24.7 million renovation, staff had to prepare the collection for construction and could not reopen to the public. Until the Library was able to identify a temporary site, the Branch provided *SFPL To Go* front door pickup service and bookmobile access starting in October 2021.

The Branch renovation picked up momentum after a pandemic pause. In August 2021, Branch staff served on a public art panel organized by the San Francisco Arts Commission. The selected Bay Area artist, Juana Alicia Ariaza, will create a stained-glass window feature for the renovated main reading room. Staff also helped organize and host a series of public meetings to reacquaint the community with the design plans in the winter of 2021/22.

After some fits and starts, the Library succeeded in identifying a temporary site located around the corner—the former home of Yoga Tree at 1234 Valencia Street. On June

18, 2022, the Mission Temporary Branch opened its doors for seven-day, in-person service. The Branch held an official launch celebration during a Sunday Streets on July 10, 2022. Since opening the temporary Branch, staff has seen a steady increase in visits from both new and longtime patrons.

Public programs resumed at the Branch in collaboration with community partners. Highlights include: *Tocando la Historia*, featuring author Zelmira Aguilar, and *Tradicion Peruana Cultural Center* who presented Afro-Peruvian music, poetry and dance. In addition, this summer several Mission teens participated in the Youth Engaged in Library Learning (YELL) program, working closely with Library staff over several weeks. Branch staff were also successful in their outreach efforts, specifically to the Latino Task Force K-5th summer hub. Mission children's librarians led STEM activities, signed up students for Summer Stride, gave away free books and prize bags and celebrated the end of summer with a visit from the bookmobile to their site.

Library History

The Mission Branch Library was the first branch in the San Francisco Public Library system. It was opened in 1888 in a storefront two blocks from its present location. The fire following the 1906 earthquake stopped four blocks north of Mission Branch. The current building at the corner of 24th and Bartlett Streets was built under the supervision of architect G. Albert Lansburgh and funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Cost for the building and furnishings was \$50,877. The building opened in December 1915.

A major renovation of Mission Branch Library was begun in 1997. The renovation included seismic, electrical, and ADA upgrades. The first floor was completely redesigned, and the main entrance was relocated from 24th Street to Bartlett Street. The reopening was May 5, 1999.

In collaboration with the community and with architects from San Francisco Public Works, the Library aims to transform the Mission Branch Library into an energy efficient, safe and resilient neighborhood library while maintaining its inherent charm. We plan to incorporate 21st Century library practices, building systems and technology into this landmarked library.

MISSION TEMPORARY BRANCH
1234 Valencia Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 355-2800

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MISSION BAY BRANCH



Library History

The Mission Bay Branch opened its door on July 8, 2006. Located at 960 Fourth Street, adjacent to Oracle Park, Mission Bay Branch is the newest San Francisco Public Library branch to be built in 40 years. This 7,500-square-foot library caters to the burgeoning Mission Bay neighborhood. Designed by San Francisco-based Santos Prescott and Associates, construction cost \$3.9 million. It is located on the ground floor of a multi-use facility which also includes an adult day health center, affordable senior housing, retail space and a large community meeting room. The Mission Creek Senior Community development, which houses the Library, is a collaboration between the San Francisco Public Library, Mercy Housing California, North and South of Market Adult Day Health Center, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Mercy Services Corporation will operate the senior housing and programs, and manage the completed facility.



Fiscal Year 21–22 was a busy one at the Mission Bay Branch, one of the first branches to open for *Browse and Bounce* in May of 2021. By mid-January 2022 the Branch was back to full service, seven days a week. Live programming resumed in May 2022, when Mission Bay hosted Taiko Drumming with Kristy Oshiro. Much to the community's delight, the Mission Bay Adult Book Club and the very popular toddler storytime also made a comeback in May. Summer Stride found the Branch with programs for adults and children that included the Lizard Lady, Succulent Gardening and Jimbo the Clown.



Public programs at Mission Bay Branch.



MISSION BAY
 960 Fourth Street
 San Francisco, CA 94158
 (415) 355-2838

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**NOE VALLEY/
SALLY BRUNN
BRANCH**



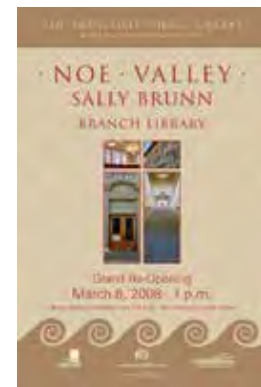
The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch was thrilled to open its doors to the community and offer physical materials and in-person programs and services. The local community came back in ever increasing numbers over the year. Patron support for in-person programming delighted Library staff. On May 7, the Noe Valley Branch participated in the Noe Valley Garden tour, drawing more than 200 people. Additionally, the Noe Valley Book Club—which met for lively discussions for over a decade prior to the pandemic—returned to the Branch. The Noe Valley Branch welcomed them back and instituted a blended in-person and virtual book club.

The resumption of storytime programming delighted local families and early childcare providers. The ability to gather in person and learn together, share songs, stories and other early childhood literacy activities is making a noticeable difference for young children, especially after the long period of shelter in place and virtual learning. A grandmother noted that storytime was the first time she had seen her grandson pay attention and engage as part of a group. Local schools began bringing their students for class visits shortly after the Branch reopened, allowing youth to engage with the substantial collection of juvenile materials and the helpful guidance of the children’s librarian. “Thank you for being a great part of our community!” wrote the children of one local school expressed in a letter of gratitude. The feeling is mutual: Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch is ever thankful for a great community that supports its library.

Library History

The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library was the seventh branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system. The first Noe Valley Branch building was located at 1308 Castro Street. Using a grant provided by Andrew Carnegie, SFPL built a two-story building with a Spanish-style facade of brick and terra cotta. It was completed September 17, 1916 at a cost of \$45,499, including furnishings. The architect was John Reid, Jr. In 2007/08 the Branch was renovated and recognized with a Governor’s Historic Preservation Award. The Branch has also been hailed for its green features—lighting, low-water plants, and the use of recycled plastic materials. Over the years, the Noe Valley community has contributed to the improvement and well being of the Library. During the 1970s, Noe Valley residents built a deck and a community garden adjacent to the library. During the 1990s, members of the neighborhood groups renovated the community room. Recently, the Noe Valley Garden Club redesigned and refurbished the garden behind the branch.

The Noe Branch renovation was completed on March 8, 2008.

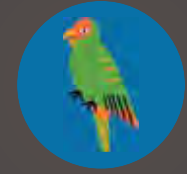


NOE VALLEY/SALLY BRUNN
451 Jersey Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 355-5707





NORTH BEACH BRANCH



Library History

The North Beach Branch Library was originally located at the site of the Chinatown Branch. The Branch was renamed in 1958 and a new North Beach Branch was erected at 2000 Mason Street next to Joe DiMaggio Playground. The new North Beach Branch located at 850 Columbus Avenue opened on May 10, 2014. It was undertaken by the firm of Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects. Funding was secured from voter approved Proposition D in November 2007.



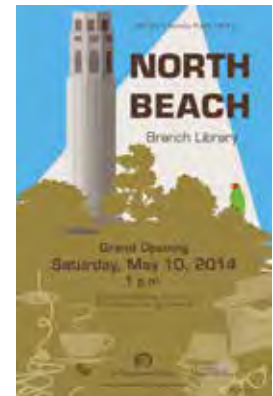
The North Beach Branch Library had a spectacular year. The Branch resumed its in-person service in August 2021 to meet the demand for increased library service. This past year, the Branch delivered remarkable service to the North Beach community of 22,000 residents. The Branch

circulated 137,293 items and was visited by 75,508 people, about 253 per day. As demand grew, 1,255 new library cards were issued. The Branch has become a popular gathering spot and community attraction.

Through innovative, community-focused programming, special exhibits and community engagement, the Branch achieved remarkable successes. Branch staff hosted 16 virtual programs, covering topics such as health, social change, financial literacy, museum collections and family history research. Staff partnered with the SFUSD Access Program to create an inspirational exhibit inside the Library featuring the LEGO creations of autistic and

special needs students. Another innovative program was the Fan Art Program, which asked kids to submit their artwork of favorite characters from books, television or movies. Their delightful submissions were then displayed in the Children's Room. Several teen DIY workshops (e.g., cartoon drawing, button-making and notebook painting) were also popular. They became the main attraction for local after-school activities. Equally in high demand were the take-home STEM kits for children. These kits provided a fun activity for children while reinforcing important scientific concepts. Another notable innovation is the ongoing Library Mail Program, which features a question of the month that kids answer via postcard and place in the Branch toy mailbox. Afterwards, their colorful and creative postcard submissions are displayed.

Indeed, the ongoing remarkable achievements and successes of this Branch are celebrated by the community. They are the results of a team of dedicated staff who love their work and the community they serve.



NORTH BEACH

850 Columbus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 355-5626





OCEAN VIEW BRANCH



Library History

Ocean View Branch Library was the 15th branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system. The first Ocean View Branch Library opened in 1903 on Broad Street near the corner of Capitol Avenue. The new Ocean View Branch Library, at 345 Randolph Street, was opened on June 7, 2000. It was the first branch building to be built in San Francisco since 1969. The San Francisco Bureau of Architecture designed the two-story building. The cost of the building was \$2.5 million. Private funds were raised for the equipment and furniture within the Branch.

Ocean View Branch Library gradually resumed service in July 2021. Over the year, staff noticed an obvious increase in the number of San Francisco State and City College students who recently moved to the neighborhood and who registered for library cards to save money on books and printing. The \$2 free printing seemed to be a big motivator!

E-resources were promoted to new patrons with personalized in-person demonstrations and via the Branch's monthly e-newsletter, which reaches 3,000 people. Staff also tried something new in the form of take-home

kits, which included origami bookmarks, calligraphy for beginner kits, origami butterflies and five Summer Stride STEM Kits. Families were excited to have activities they could do at home.

A highlight of the year was Ocean View's Open House on August 6, which reunited neighborhood families with the Library's friendly crew. It also attracted many first-time visitors. The event included a fire truck visit from the San Francisco Fire Department, free books, the Bookmobile, face-painting with Dana Fong, freshly popped popcorn and hands-on crafts.



OCEAN VIEW
345 Randolph Street
San Francisco, CA 94132
(415) 355-5615



Staff on opening day and summertime fun.



ORTEGA BRANCH



Staff on opening day and plant swap behind the library.



Staff on opening day and plant swap behind the library.

Library History

The original Ortega Branch was built in 1956 and designed by architects Appleton & Wolfard. Set back in a courtyard, next to A.P. Giannini Middle School, the West Sunset Playground clubhouse adjoins the Library. Square footage of the Library was 4,805 square feet and was built at the cost of \$144,854.32. The building opened to the public in August 20, 1956. Ortega Branch Library is the 24th San Francisco Public Library branch. In the summer of 2009, the original branch was demolished to make room for the new building.

The new Ortega Branch opened September 10, 2011. It is on the same site as the original, but closer to Ortega Street. The new branch is one story high and approximately 9,000 square feet. It features a community room for Library programs such as story time and after school homework help, with after hours access for community meetings, views of the ocean, enclosed study room, expanded children's area and space to accommodate school visits, more computers, public art and green building (LEED Gold).

After seven months of to-go only service, Ortega joyfully welcomed patrons back inside in June 2021. During such a difficult time, the importance of the Library—both for books and for community—became especially clear. Everyone shared their pandemic stories, and a few patrons were even moved to tears by this return to normalcy. Working in masks with ever-shifting health guidelines was challenging, but worth it. Seeing all the neighborhood regulars again and hearing how people missed the Library and what it meant to them made it a poignant time for the staff.

The ability to browse the collection again was huge for people of all ages. It was so satisfying for staff to watch the mountains of books fly off the shelves again! The books missed their readers, too.

The return of in-person programming was another milestone. Ortega's long-standing book club (including several original members since 2010!) reconvened in January 2022. Sorely missed storytimes returned in April. And summer looked almost normal again with a wide variety of children's performers and in-person crafts. Staff expressed that they feel a renewed appreciation for much of what was taken for granted before.



ORTEGA

3223 Ortega Street
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 355-5700

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PARK BRANCH



Park staff on opening day. Del Sol Quartet and Noe's Garden.



All of Park Branch's staff served as Disaster Service Workers during the 2020-2021 fiscal year in various roles. While staff was proud of the ways they served San Francisco during the Library's closure, they desperately missed library work, so the reopening to the public for in-person service, on August 3, 2021, was especially poignant.

Park Branch was one of the first SFPL locations to restart public programs, beginning with adult programming in January 2022. Library patrons and passersby on Page Slow Street loved the Lunar New Year celebratory performance of the Lion Dance, presented by the Jing Mo Athletic Association. Another great success was Del Sol Quartet, who performed in the courtyard for their Joy Project in March 2022.

Park Branch also hosted a number of virtual programs, featuring talented local presenters. For More Than A Month—Black History Month 2022, they hosted rock historian Richie Unterberger, who presented on blues greats. Musician and educator

Noe's Garden presented a music class and author Sherilyn Connelly read passages from her recent book *Beautiful Ghosts: A Queer Memoir of San Francisco* for Pride Month.



In February 2022, Park Branch began offering storytimes to its youngest patrons, many of whom were born during the pandemic and had never experienced one. Staff utilized the courtyard to offer storytimes *en plein air* and enjoyed making new connections with community members.

June 2022 saw the return of the magical Summer Stride initiative, and librarians led fabulous programs utilizing STEM Challenge kits masterminded by the Community Programs and Partnerships division.

Library History

Park Branch opened on October 29, 1909, and is the oldest existing San Francisco Public Library building. Park Branch was built with City funds: \$7,000 for the land and \$27,000 for the building. Designed by the McDougall Brothers, the two-story neo-classical brick and terra cotta building is set 30 feet back from the street to complement the primarily residential area around it.

The Park Branch Renovation was completed on February 26, 2011.



PARK
1833 Page Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415) 355-5656





PARKSIDE BRANCH



Reopening day, Pokemon Day, which welcomed 287 participants and Storytime



Parkside opened up its doors mid-2021 with a few open hour adjustments and new rules, and the community was happy to have them back.

Most of the in-person activities took place on the patio, including storytimes with staff finding inventive ways to space out people using seating pads and chalked designs on the ground. As staff became more comfortable, the children's librarians visited the schools.

As mask mandates relaxed, more people were vaccinated, staff saw more foot traffic, attendance and collection use. Branch engagement then graduated to large group outdoor programs as well as small group indoor programs.



T(we)en Winter Read sewing kit and monthly themed take home crafts.



Teen volunteers.

Library History

Parkside Branch Library, located in McCoppin Park, originally opened on June 21, 1951. The architects were Appleton & Wolfard; Lawrence Halprin was the landscape architect. Construction was by the Wm. Hortstmeier Company. The cost of the building was \$162,171. Parkside Branch Library was the 19th branch established in the San Francisco Public Library System.

The Parkside Branch Reopened on Saturday, November 6, 2010.



PARKSIDE
1200 Taraval Street
San Francisco, CA 94116
(415) 355-5770

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PORTOLA BRANCH



The Portola Branch was thrilled to welcome back the community. In-person garden storytimes resumed in May 2022 to the delight of many new families and regulars. One mom was overjoyed and practically in tears as she told Branch Manager Nicole Termini Germain about how much her "COVID baby" was enjoying the storytimes. She said that her son was born during the COVID lockdown, and his socialization had been limited. He usually cries everywhere she takes him, but not at the Portola Branch Library! She informed Termini Germain that these Library visits to storytime have been the first successful and happy outings he has experienced.

Portola's Summer Stride kickoff in June brought nearly 600 people to the Branch, and Library love was truly overflowing that day! The Portola community came out to enjoy, learn and engage with a learn-to-ride bikes event, tie-dyeing, Tree Frog Treks in the garden, live local music, plenty of book/prize giveaways, Summer Stride signups and more. The following summer months were filled with myriad programs inside the Library and outside in the garden.

Fire Truck visit and safety talk-always a hit.

The Fabulous Portola Team.

Summer Stride Kickoff. Ricky Isom with Tree Frog Trek Friends.



Library History

Opened in 1927 as a Deposit Station, Portola Branch Library was the 14th branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system. Previously located in leased sites on San Bruno Avenue, the Portola Branch opened in its permanent building at 380 Bacon Street (at Goettingen Street) on February 28, 2009.

Portola is the second of four leased-facility branches to open in a new City-owned building. The 6,300 Square foot library features a north-facing view garden, natural lighting from skylights and a stunning glass-shutter public art work by Dana Zed. The building was designed by the architectural team of Stoner Meek/ Noll and Tam.



"We always welcome the community with open arms and are proud to be the thriving community center of the Portola. Every day is a wonderful reunion with the people of the Portola!" said Termini Germain, *"As one loyal patron, Roland, commented: 'You are the friends I can never forget!'"*

PORTOLA
380 Bacon Street
San Francisco, CA 94134
(415) 355-5660





POTRERO BRANCH



Every month, children and their caregivers came to shake their tails at the Final Fridays Family Dance Party.

The Museum of Craft and Design's MakeArt Van brought hands-on craftiness to Potrero's loading zone.

The Library helped neighborhood Trainers catch 'em all during the 2022 Pokemon Go Community Day.

After a few months as an *SFPL To Go* site, the Potrero Branch threw open the doors to in-person, stay-as-long-as-you-want service in August 2021. Staff felt good about being able to contribute to the City's recovery, and the response to the resumption of library services on both sides of the sneeze guards was joy. There were many familiar faces, many new faces and a sense of melancholy about certain faces that did not make it back after closing in March 2020. Patrons who use the Branch as office space, because of its "mellow" atmosphere, were especially happy to be back using the free Wi-Fi and ample power outlets.

When the Potrero Hill Festival resumed its live shindig in October 2021 after its two-year hiatus, the Branch took advantage of being in the Festival's geographical center. Staff were also happy to partner up with the Museum of Craft and Design, doing outreach at their location as well as hosting regular visits from their MakeArt Van. The 2022 calendar year got off to a joyous start with the resumption of the Potrero Hill Recreation Center After-School Program's class visits on Tuesday afternoons. According to Branch Manager Sherilyn Connelly, "While we consider the notion of a *normal* to be a myth, seeing Miss Monique and her gaggle of students again felt like a return to the best part of the *before times*."

In-person programming ramped up in April 2022 with weekly storytimes, a twice-monthly Teen Movie Night and the toddler bacchanal known as the Final Fridays Family Dance Party. The Branch also made the program room available to legacy community organizations such as the Literate Goat Book Club and the Potrero Women's Group.

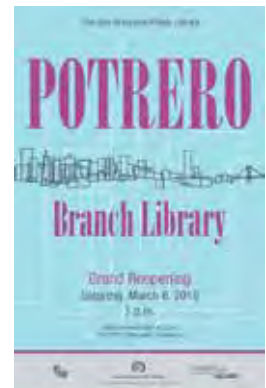
"All told it was a strange and challenging year, but it was also never less than rewarding," said Connelly.

Library History

Potrero Branch Library was the 22nd branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system and has a history that dates back to the 1890s. One of the earliest branch locations was at 1126 Kentucky Street. That facility was closed in 1902 and replaced by a "library station."

The present-day building, which was opened to the public on June 25, 1951, was designed by the architectural firm of Pollack & Pope. The cost of the building was \$97,168 and of the land, \$3,260.

The newly renovated branch opened on March 6, 2010. The building was designed by the City and County of San Francisco, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Architecture's Library Design Studio and cost approximately \$5.2 million.



POTRERO

1616 20th Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 355-2822



PRESIDIO BRANCH



Library History

The Presidio Branch was established in 1898 and was the sixth branch of the San Francisco Public Library system. It opened at its current location when the current building was completed in 1921. The building, designed by G. Albert Lansburgh, is Italian-Renaissance in style and was built with \$83,228 in Carnegie funds.

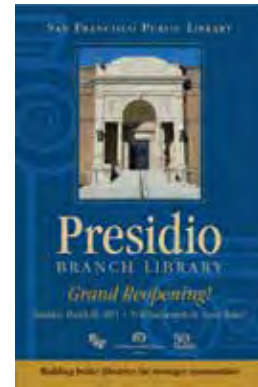
The Presidio Branch Renovation was completed in March 2011. The renovation project was designed by architects Field Paoli and Joseph Chow & Associates at a cost of \$4.1 million. Page and Turnbull, Inc. served as historic preservation consultants. The renovation was carried out by Roebuck Construction.

The Presidio Branch reopened in August 2021. Staff worked hard to ready the Branch for reopening. This included the unpacking of dozens of boxes of returned materials, weeding and reorganizing and training the staff on new procedures and policies. On their first open day, a regular library user waited outside for about an hour because, "I wanted to be the first member of the public back and to tell you how much I missed the library."

Over the year, the branch manager and children's librarian were able to reconnect with community partners. The branch manager was interviewed by *The Semaphore*, a local publication, for an article on the recently passed former Poet Laureate Jack Hirschman and attended neighborhood clean-ups, picnics, happy hours, a holiday stroll and meetings of The Friends of Alta Vista Park; North Neighbors; Sacramento Street Merchants Association; Presidio Heights Residents Association and The Fillmore Street Merchants Association as well as resuming the library card drive with

San Francisco University High School. The Children's Librarian was able to reconnect with visits to the local schools and daycare centers. The Branch received weekly and daily visits from the San Francisco Waldorf School and the Jewish Community Center Afterschool Program.

Prior to the pandemic closure, the Presidio Branch was on track to present 240 adult programs, which was amongst the highest in the branch system. Public programs at the Branch resumed in January 2022 with the Lion Dancers, followed by the Flying Angels Chinese Dance Company and an author talk in the spring. Programs really started to pick up in June 2022 when the Branch restarted weekly toddler storytimes, qigong and tai chi classes. A neighbor always goes out of her way to thank the branch manager for bringing back the weekly classes. The SFPL Explorer Map program has also proven to be very popular as staff meets and greets many new faces.



PRESIDIO

3150 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 355-2880



RICHMOND/ SEN. MILTON MARKS BRANCH



Library History

Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch was the fourth branch established within the San Francisco Public Library system. The first location of the Branch, in 1892, was at 809 Point Lobos Avenue (now Geary Boulevard) and Parker Avenue. In 1914 a new Richmond Branch opened at the current location, the first library building in San Francisco constructed with Andrew Carnegie grant funds. In December 2000, the San Francisco Landmarks Board nominated Richmond Branch Library for designation as a city landmark. Funded by both a City bond measure and \$6 million in Proposition 14 State bond funds, a newly renovated, seismically safe, accessible and technologically updated building opened on May 16, 2009.



While technically the Richmond Branch reopened in late FY 20 – 21 (June 21, 2021), the love kept pouring in long after. Many long-term patrons greeted staff with gratitude and thanks: "It's great to have you back!"; "We've missed the library—thank you for reopening!". Smiles were shared all around, patrons and staff alike, after 15 months of pandemic and no face-to-face library service.

Clement Street Autumn Moon Festival, September 18, 2021, returned and served as a reintroduction to the Library for many in the Richmond District. The Branch's booth received 900+ visitors who left with swag: extra Summer Stride tote bags, books, bookmarks, pencils, Reading Ranger badges and stickers.



March 7, 2022 was Pokémon Day, the Branch's first big event after reopening. Co-hosted with District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan's office, the event served 200+ patrons and kids and their families could make a Pokémon button, assemble a Pokémon craft and enter a Pokémon raffle.

The return of storytime in April of 2022 was a momentous occasion. The most beloved of library programs, storytime, was sorely missed. Determined to make the best of it, Children's Librarian Pauline Harris and Children's Services Manager Meghan Monahan reconfigured the storytime as an outside event in deference to COVID. Richmond's audience returned with an average of 70 kids and their caretakers attending each performance.



**RICHMOND /
SEN. MILTON MARKS**
351 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 355-5600

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SUNSET BRANCH



On September 10, 2022, Sunset Branch Library played a critical role in relaunching the Sunset Chinese Cultural District's Autumn Moon Festival Street Fair, the largest outreach event in the community since the onset of the pandemic.

Staff was extremely excited to get involved and dove into prepping giveaways, staffing the booth, greeting the public, giving out prizes and promoting Library services. Vinnie Zhang, the full-time Children's Librarian who wasn't even scheduled to work, volunteered to present four storytimes to the kids. The team distributed more than 200 books and gave out totes to the Summer Stride finishers. Every staff member in the Branch felt inspired and motivated by the super successful event.



Library History

Sunset Branch opened on March 25, 1918 and was the eighth branch in the San Francisco Public Library system. Its location, at 18th Avenue and Irving Street, was formerly the site of an old barn which had become quite a nuisance in the neighborhood because young boys used it for gun practice. Sunset Branch is a Carnegie building designed by architect G. Albert Lansburgh and cost \$43,955. It is a two story structure, Italianate in design, built of concrete frame and reinforced masonry.

The Branch closed in 1992 for seismic retrofitting and to add a ramp and an elevator. In September of 2005 it became the third branch to be renovated under the Branch Library Improvement Program. The Branch reopened on n March 31, 2007 with many improvements including a revamped children's area, new program room and teen area, 19 public computers and wireless (Wi-Fi) Internet access.



SUNSET

1305 18th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 355-2808





VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH



Library History

The Visitacion Valley Branch Library was the 18th branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system, having been opened as a "deposit collection" in 1934. Eventually the facility was upgraded to a full service branch library and installed in a leased storefront facility at 45 Leland Avenue. The new Library building at the corner of Rutland and Leland opened on July 30, 2011.

The Visitacion Valley Branch Library hosted Mayor Breed and California Attorney General Rob Bonta for a community safety roundtable event on September 9, 2021.

The Branch staff enjoyed participating in several well-attended community events: the District 10 Black History Month/ Lunar New Year Street Fair on February 26, 2022, sponsored by Supervisor Shamann Walton; the Mercy Housing Easter Celebration and Resource Fair BBQ on April 15, 2022, sponsored by Mercy Housing and the Peace and Unity Community event in the Greenway on August 27, 2022, sponsored by the Friends of Visitacion Valley Agricultural Garden.

Visitacion Valley had a very successful Summer Stride program with the help of 17 teen volunteers who contributed 479 hours to the Branch. With their help, the Branch distributed 170 free books to children and teens at Mercy Housing.

One of the Branch's regular adult patrons returned to the Branch during the summer to report that she received an A in her class. She had tears in eyes as she thanked the staff for helping her on the computer during the semester.



VISITACION VALLEY
201 Leland Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94134
(415) 355-2848

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WEST PORTAL BRANCH



West Portal Branch reopened for in-person service in August 2021. Children’s Librarian Meredith Steiner describes the reopening as follows:

“One thing that struck me as a children’s librarian when we opened our doors for in-person service in Fall 2021 was that some of the little ones who came into the library as babies and toddlers had never been to a library before. Or, some of the 2-3-year-olds had only been here as infants, so didn’t remember having come. It felt like a momentous moment—to be there for so many young children’s first library experience. And of course, we did our best to make it a joyful, positive experience. Many of the parents expressed their relief and delight that we were open, and that they were able to bring their children here for the first time or once again.”

A family storytime on April 27 marked the resumption of in-person public programs at the Branch. The Branch continued to build momentum over the summer with a very popular summer concert series in the courtyard that included Japanese Taiko Drumming, Classical Guitar with Josh DiChiachio and The San Francisco Guzheng Music Society. They also hosted Little Explorers Petting Zoo, a seed bomb craft, urban sketching, Lizard Lady Reptiles, Talking Wood and Talking Strings, plus two book clubs in May 2022 through July 2022.

Staff also resumed their outreach to local community organizations, schools and summer camps starting in May 2022.



Library History

The first West Portal Branch Library was built on a parcel of land which had been transferred from the Board of Education to the San Francisco Public Library in February of 1936. The Branch was opened to the public on May 2, 1936. Just three years later, on May 8, 1939, the Branch was reopened in a new building designed by architect Frederick H. Meyer and constructed by the Works Progress Administration for a cost of \$109,090.

West Portal Branch was designed in a Mediterranean style with colorful red, ceramic roof tiles. Inside, delicate paintings grace the ceiling beams. West Portal Branch reopened again on February 10, 2007, to become the second branch to be renovated through the Branch Library Improvement Program and is the 20th branch in the San Francisco Public Library system.



WEST PORTAL
190 Lenox Way
San Francisco, CA 94127
(415) 355-2886

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WESTERN ADDITION BRANCH



Staff was excited to welcome back Branch Manager Naima Dean just in time for the resumption of public service. It was great for staff to see remaining neighborhood elders return and express joy in response to regaining in-person access; to welcome students back after a long hiatus and to see how they'd grown over the last year and to invite new folks to share in and experience all that the Library has to offer.



Staff maintained enticing and colorful, themed displays to highlight collection attributes, both newly acquired and the well-loved. They implemented "passive programming" to create a warm, welcoming and creative environment. Staff reconnected with community partners, providing support and tabling at events, including Juneteenth and Children's Day at the Jewish Community Center. Another important milestone, the Branch made their entire collection accessible via LINK, including the Japanese collection.



In March, the Library hosted an event recognizing Maya Angelou by honoring her on a newly minted quarter and celebrating Women's History Month. The Branch welcomed Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi; Congresswoman Barbara Lee; Stephanie Floyd Johnson—Angelou's daughter-in-law; U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios; former Mayor Willie Brown; Rev. Amos Brown of the Third Baptist Church; Chair of the State Board of Equalization Malia Cohen; Director of the Human Rights Commission Sheryl Davis and BART Board Member Lateefah Simon. Many of these city leaders were raised in the Western Addition and/or began their careers in the community.



In May, staff were thrilled to reinstate the ever-so-popular "Toddler Tales" storytime in the cozy garden, which was the perfect setting to bring people together safely. Another proud moment was the opportunity to partner, inter-divisionally, with Exhibitions and the African American Center to install *Ode to Us*, curated by librarian Natalie Enright, in honor of the influence on culture of Black people, Black thought, Black hair.

Library History

Western Addition Branch Library was opened on June 27, 1966 as the 27th branch in the San Francisco Public Library System. The Branch was renovated in 2006-07, and reopened on February 2, 2008. The total renovation project cost \$4.3 million. It features a new and expanded teen area, updated children's room, a new program room, a landscaped courtyard, more computers and free Wi-Fi access to the Internet.



WESTERN ADDITION
1550 Scott Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 355-5727

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Mobile Outreach Services (MOS)

Once COVID restrictions relaxed, the team transitioned away from pop-up service to more consistent monthly children's and senior routes. They also had fun participating in civic, community and celebratory events like the Reading Rally and Black History Month celebration at Chase Center, which was the result of a new partnership with the Golden State Warriors. (Go Dubs!)

With the newly acquired YouthMobile back in action, Mobile Services spearheaded the return to in-person storytimes in December 2021 with Swing into Stories, a safe outdoor storytime experience presented in partnership with the Recreation and Park Department. Every Tuesday, the YouthMobile visits one of four parks, Garfield Playground, Koret Playground (Golden Gate Park), Hilltop Playground and Redwood Grove Playground (McLaren Park) to bring stories and songs to youth and their caregivers. These storytimes developed a loyal following with caregivers traveling to a new park location each week.

Other community event highlights include the BMAGIC backpack giveaway, Friends' 60th Anniversary Block Party, the Mayor's annual tree lighting in Civic Center Plaza, Eggstravaganza and Big Truck Day in Golden Gate Park and Día de los Niños.



MOS STATS

Mobile Services

16,944
Patrons Served

Book Giveaway

63,710
Books Received

Circulated Items

35,646
Library Materials



MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES

750 Brannon Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 554-9081





MAIN LIBRARY



FLOOR 2 Main Children's Center (MCC)

On January 27, 2022, MCC Librarian Elizabeth Perez joined students and teachers at John Muir Elementary School for a Peace Walk through the Lower Haight. The entire school turned out for the event. The students carried signs and sang songs about peace, raising their voices in hope for their futures and the future of their city. Perez has served as SFPL's liaison to John Muir for more than six years. She visits regularly to share stories and Library information and has become a true part of the John Muir community.

In April 2022, the Main Children's Center began hosting regular weekly in-person storytimes for the first time since the pandemic. MCC rock-star librarians Jim Jeske, Eric Auyeung and Lyn Davidson restarted storytimes with offerings in Cantonese-English and Spanish-English.

On June 18, 2022, the MCC welcomed back beloved local drag queen PerSia for Drag Queen Story Hour. PerSia delighted an audience of 55 children and adults with stories, music, and dance in this special early literacy program that celebrated the joy we can all take in being ourselves.

The Mix

A highlight for The Mix was the reopening of the audio studio, which gave access for the teens to use the music equipment. The studio has become one of the most popular spaces in The Mix.

"All the people here are really nice, really cool. It's fun to work with them, be creative together, and make some new ideas. It's a really nice area to meet new people."
– Raphael, teen patron

Library History

The doors of San Francisco's first public library swung open on June 7, 1879 in Pacific Hall, a rented space housing a collection of 6,000 books in a Bush Street office building in the Financial District. It was relocated to a wing of City Hall in 1888, a facility that was virtually leveled by the 1906 earthquake. A noble, granite structure housing 200,000 volumes opened as a monument to knowledge in the majestic new Civic Center on February 15, 1917. This library has since been repurposed as the Asian Art Museum when the "new" Main Library opened April 18, 1996. Over the course of its 142-year history, the Library has significantly expanded its footprint boasting the 2nd most libraries per square mile in the country.



MAIN LIBRARY
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4400





FLOOR
3

James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center

It was a big year for Hormel Center librarians Cristina Mitra and Kevin Darling. From March through August 2022, the Center hosted its first exhibition since the COVID-19 pandemic: *The Cockettes: Acid Drag & Sexual Anarchy*. Two years in the making and inspired by the recent book of the same title by original Cockette, Fayette Hauser, the exhibition cheekily cautioned audiences: "This exhibit contains images of nudity and glitter."

Curated by Fayette Hauser and inaugural Hormel Center program manager Jim Van Buskirk, with contributions from the Hormel LGBTQIA Center staff, the exhibit celebrated The Cockettes' adage—"Too much is never enough."—by covering the Hormel Center in intriguing and often humorous artifacts. These included photographs, many of them life-size, accompanied by intimate profiles of the Cockettes, an original costume from Hauser, a tableau exemplifying a typical scene in The Cockettes' Haight-Ashbury commune, ephemera and photographs from the Hormel LGBTQIA archives and

the book and a digital Spotify playlist. Six public programs welcomed 400 people to experience The Cockettes through a milieu of art forms and senses: film, photographic storytelling, circus arts, dance and cabaret. Together, the public programming and exhibition brought to life the outrageousness trailblazing counterculture psychedelic troupe that dazzled San Franciscans and beyond from 1969 – 1972, and whose legacy continues to be felt today.

In June 2022, the Hormel LGBTQIA Center hosted a zine-making workshop in partnership with SF Zine Fest. While doing outreach at SF Zine Fest in September, a participant from that zine-making workshop came up and let staff know that their partner, who had also been at the zine-making workshop, and who had never made a zine before, was super inspired by the workshop, so much so that they were at the Zine Fest selling their multiple, different zines that they had made in a zine-making frenzy since attending the workshop. Staff were delighted that the Hormel programs, like the zine-making workshop, sparked creativity and community-building.



Hormel LGBTQIA Center Librarians Cristina Mitra and Kevin Darling.

The Cockettes exhibition: Intergenerational conversations about the history of The Cockettes took place at the exhibitions' closing reception on August 12, 2022.

Friends for life: Original Cockettes Scrumby and Fayette Hauser.

Were you working at the Main when it opened?

"I was and I wasn't. 25 years ago, when the New Main opened, I was with one of 3 middle school bands (Ben Franklin M.S.) that performed at the opening ceremony. I believe we were set up on Larkin and Fulton between the old Main (now Asian Art) and the new Main. I couldn't fathom it at the time—looking up at that beautiful atrium and nautilus skylight - that years later, I would have the honor of working at the Main. The first time I walked in as a member of Main staff, I saw it all again with child eyes. Mouth agape, misty eyed, head tilted up, and body blocking the many patrons trying to get by.

It was just as inspiring, and hasn't lost any of its shine." – William Ching



FLOOR 3 African American Center

In addition to programs highlighting books available for checkout in the Library, the African American Center honored Black culture and history, with two show-stopping exhibits that brought community to the library and reinforced a positive narrative centered on Black achievement and pride.

An Ode to Us: A Celebration of Black Hair saluted the many stylists and hairstyles Black/African Americans have worn throughout history and included a selfie wall of historic *Ebony* covers. It was the first of the Center's travelling exhibits, starting at the Main Library and moving on to Western Addition and Bayview branches. Many visitors viewing the exhibit, including a special visit by Mayor London Breed, shared their hair stories.

From the exhibit comment book for *An Ode to Us*:

"So much identity wrapped up in something that literally can be here today and gone tomorrow. Clearly this exhibit hit a nerve and triggered a lot of emotion. There should be more exhibits like this."

Black Excellence, Black Invention: Working closely with community member Rev. Dr. Carolyn Ransom-Scott, the Center embarked on a bookmark and exhibit project to highlight Black inventors not usually found in textbooks. Rev. Dr. Scott has distributed a version of the bookmarks for many years, and this year, she partnered with the Library for a series of four bookmarks distributed at all Library locations. The bookmarks were accompanied by an exhibit: *Black Excellence, Black Invention*, curated by African American Center Program Manager Shawna Sherman.

From the exhibit comment book for *Black Excellence*:

"We've got to do more to not only change the narrative of our being a marginalized people, but also affirm our brilliance as this exhibit illustrates."

"So important. I didn't get to know this valuable knowledge in my education in the 50s and 60s."





FLOOR 3 **Chinese Center**

On February 5, 2022, the Chinese Center, which is led by Librarian Hai-Qing Chen, hosted a hybrid program for Chinese New Year, its first public program since the pandemic. The celebration included a lion dance, a folk art performance, folk singing and dance. More than 165 people attended in-person and 120 people watched the livestream. More than 650 people watched on YouTube over that weekend, and the program received 1.2k total views.

On March 12, the Center held an opening ceremony for the exhibit *Silent Spikes: Following in the Footprints of Chinese Railroad Workers*. A program presented in conjunction with the exhibit included keynote speakers who shared the little-known history of the Chinese railroad workers in California as well as a film screening and a panel discussion featuring historians who were happy to engage with the many college students (City College of San Francisco, San Francisco State University and University of California schools) in attendance. What made this program extra special was the incredible turnout of the many Chinatown organizations, demonstrating a great sense of unity in the community.

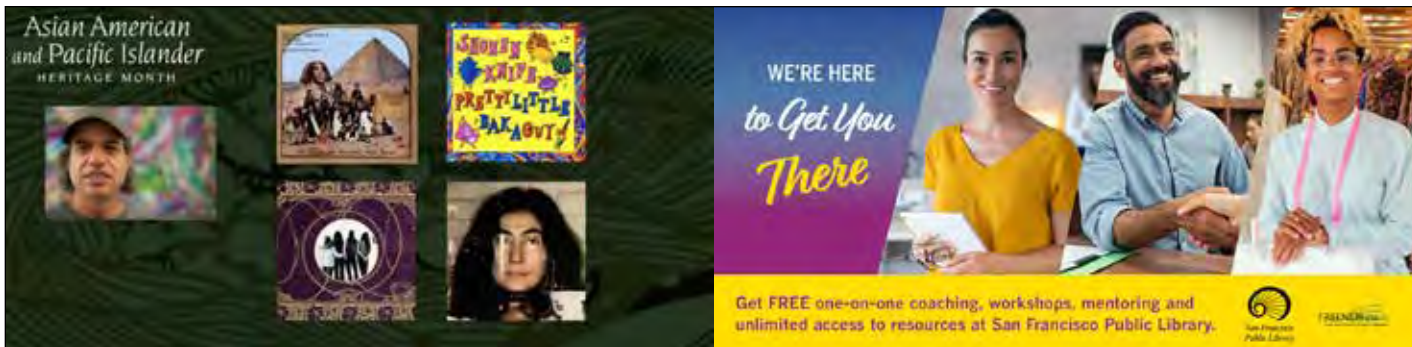
The Library kicked off a Mandarin Summer Learning program on June 3, marking the debut of the Library's free, high-quality Mandarin language classes for kids and adults at four branch libraries. The program included class presentations, performances and educational booths. More than 100 Chinese children's books were distributed to youth in attendance.

Library History

In June 2018, the Library was named Library of the Year by Gale/Library Journal for its active promotion of San Francisco's values of inclusion, diversity, and equity, and its ability to create programs and policies that support those democratic values. The library embraces its role as the most democratic of institutions, providing safe and welcoming facilities for all. Through a robust array of services and programs, the library places an emphasis on literacy and learning, racial equity, digital inclusion, social justice, and healthy communities.



Curator Jesse Dutton-Kenny speaking to an SFUSD class about the exhibit, *Silent Spikes: Following in the Footprints of Chinese Railroad Workers*.



**FLOOR
4**

The Art, Music and Recreation Center

The Art, Music and Recreation Center was one of the first departments to have in-person programming with the Thursdays at Noon film screenings in the Koret. Also popular was their rock music virtual programs with Richie Unterberger, which attracted 855 attendees.

Business, Science & Technology (BST)

It was a big year for the BST center as well, which continued to see steady growth for its *Work it* program series.

BST partner Senior Community Service Employment Program wrote:

In looking back at our intake spreadsheet, ever since we started the reoccurring monthly information sessions in partnership with SFPL, approximately 25% – 35% of all of our candidates are coming through SFPL sessions afterwards. The response in connecting participants to our training program has helped the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) assist all eligible candidates to go through workforce training and then move forward to employment success. Last year, Felton Institute SCSEP ended up assisting 77% of all of our enrolled trainees in our program find jobs outside of our program, which is our mission and goal of the program. So, SFPL has really been an instrumental part of our outreach and success efforts!

SHOUT OUT FOR BST PARTNERS

- Office of Financial Empowerment
- SF Assessor's Office
- SF Department of Human Resources
- SF Employment Development Department
- SF Office of Small Business Jewish Vocational Services
- BetterInvesting
- Reference Solutions
- Candid
- The Financial Planning Association
- SCEP
- Business Reference Solutions
- SBA
- Renaissance
- The Marin Health and Human Services
- SF Reserve
- Upwardly Global
- Climb Hire
- Legal Aid at Work
- Humanmade
- Chinatown Neighborhood Association
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- Weiss Ratings
- U.S. Department of Labor
- Professionals:
 - Heather Liston
 - Christine Gotuaco
 - Lynne Winter Gross
 - Stuart Bronstein
 - Carrie Friedberg
 - Shari Tishman
 - Gabrielle Dahms
 - Peter Karpathakis
 - Tim Bombosch
 - Jack Molisani
 - R. Paul Herman
 - Bob Lesser
 - Zoe Liston
 - Robert Leone and Annie Nogg
 - Molly O'Kane

BST Success by the Numbers

Financial Planning Day

823
Attendees

October 23, 2021

Financial Literacy Month

386
Attendees

April 2022

Small Business Week

344
Attendees

May 4-11, 2022

BST Newsletter

42 - 44%
Open rate

Smart Money Coaching

6
Days a week

BST continues to cultivate strong partnerships with the Office of Financial Empowerment, the Department of Human Resources, the Employment Development Department, Jewish Vocational Services, BetterInvesting, Reference Solutions, Candid, the Financial Planning Association, SCEP, Business Reference Solutions, the Marin Health and Human Services, SF Reserve, and Upwardly Global. They also established new partnerships with expert professionals specializing in education, law, finance and careers.

In addition to programming, BST librarians' reference skills made a significant impact on the community:

"You are a tribute to the librarian profession! The books, articles and website leads that you have already provided me to research the history of the Condor Club are a treasure trove."

"Thanks a trillion for taking the time to speak and this info/guidance, condensed is priceless!!"

"Very grateful again and thanks so much for everything you do for entrepreneurs (and people in general)."

"I don't know where I would be at this time if I didn't hear about this program through SFPL."

"Thank you for hosting the SF Reserve presentation on Nov 8th 2021. I listened, sent my resume the next day, and last Tuesday I was offered a job I was thrilled to accept."
—Alison Sasha De Vries



FLOOR 5 **The Bridge at Main**

The Bridge at Main last year returned to full service work in print and digital literacy. Enrollment in all of the Bridge's three tutoring programs (Project Read and ESL for adults; FOG Readers for children grades 1-4) increased by at least 25%. Hundreds of tutors and learners returned to our libraries, meeting in person for the first time since COVID and continuing their learning journeys.



During the course of the year, more than 4,000 people attended the Bridge's digital literacy trainings, gaining skills and comfort with everything from HTML to QR codes. The 1600 attendees at SF Tech Week, the Bridge's annual signature digital literacy event in May, overwhelmingly reported they learned useful skills to become tech-comfortable.

In the Bridge's Career Online High School program, 18 students enrolled during the year, and 7 previously enrolled students received their accredited high school diplomas. One graduate's statement sums up FY22: "There is nothing that you cannot do once you put your mind to it."



Digi Center

In FY 2021 – 22, the Library digitized physically at-risk materials from five different collections in the Hormel and San Francisco History Center archives with a grant from the California State Library. From police surveillance photographs of queer and sex-oriented businesses in the 1960s to the scrapbook of a lesbian bar raid in the 1950s, this digital collection showcases and preserves the experiences of LGBTQ San Franciscans in the 20th century. The selected materials contain personal photographs, a scrapbook, SFPD photo negative, and Harvey Milk's typed, hand-annotated speeches and "Political Will" audio cassette recording. More information at digitalsf.org.

FLOOR 6 **Book Arts & Special Collections**

The former Irish Ambassador to the United States Daniel Mulhall got a special tour of the Library's collection of rare and limited edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses*.



San Francisco History Center

History Center librarian Katherine Ets-Hokin helped a woman reunite with her childhood friend who had been taken away to a Japanese internment camp during WWII, using the resources at the Center.

"After 80 years they have met! And your work & you are a big part in this miracle!"
 – Lisa (daughter of Joan who was reunited with her long-lost friend Hisa)

COVID Community Time Capsule

The San Francisco Arts Commission partnered with the City's COVID Command Center and San Francisco Public Library to create a unique artist-in-residence program that allowed three Bay Area artists unprecedented access to the City's COVID-19 response, prevention and recovery operations and the hundreds of City employees deployed as Disaster Service Workers. Artists Mabel Jiménez, S. Renee Jones and Ajuan Mance presented their portfolios to the City archives where they are now available to the public in the San Francisco History Center, part of our larger COVID Time Capsule collections. All three artists documented San Francisco's resilience in the face of the pandemic and how government and community organizations worked alongside each other to provide COVID services throughout the city.

LibChat and LibAnswers



Chat
with us

415-723-4414

Did you know the Main Library is home to the LibChat and LibAnswers Team?

Librarians at the Main Library are standing by to help our patrons via email, chat and text. We call this our Information Services and TIP (Telephone Information Program).

Staff in the Information Services Department monitor the LibAnswers dashboard where "tickets" or emails are collected and responded to or forwarded to subject specific departments. Questions from patrons run the gamut from how to get a library card to the history of a particular San Francisco property.

Librarians in the subject departments around the Main Library monitor the live chat questions that come in daily while the Library is open to the public. Some requests are to renew library cards and reset passwords while there are also questions about how to locate a specific book, find an article in our deep collections of journals and inquiries about broader research topics.

The statistics below show how many tickets were received and how many live chat messages were answered in FY 21-22. Also included below are just a few of the hundreds of positive patron comments on the "virtual" interactions they had with our staff.

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

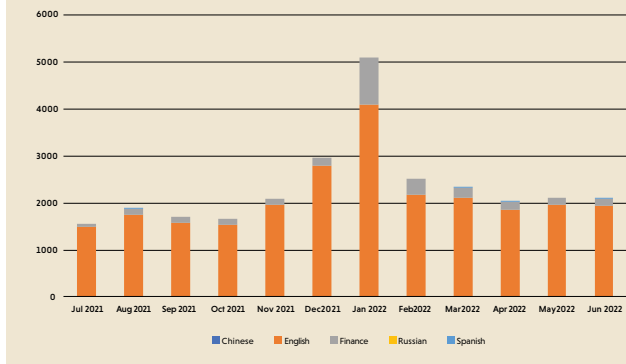
LibAnswers Stats

128,016
Total Tickets Answered

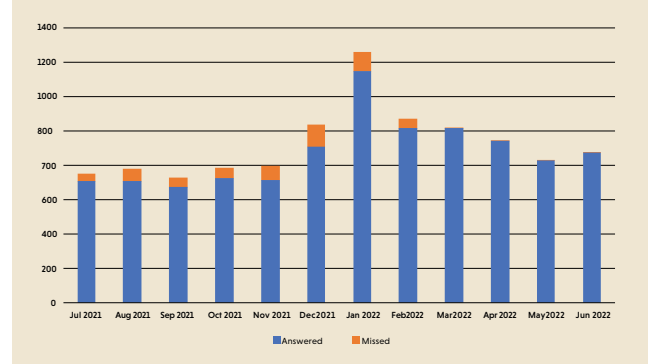
LibChat Stats

11,098
Total Chats

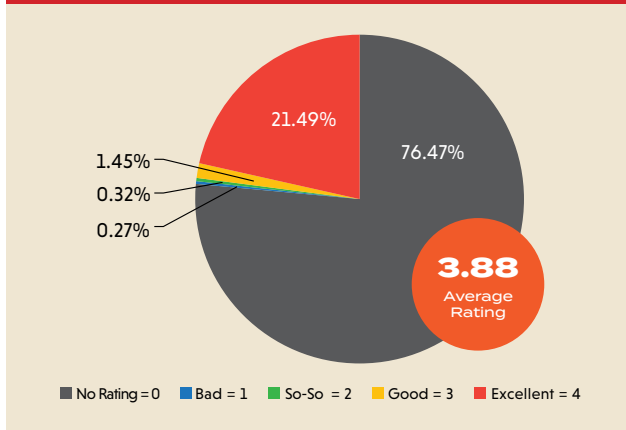
Inquiries, Monthly Breakdown



LibChat Admin, Monthly Status



LibChat Patron Ratings



Our Patrons Love LibAnswers!

"Nothing much, just to say that I love you guys, thank you for giving us some sense of normal in these crazy times."
– July 20, 2021

"Superb service! Quick and able to complete my request within 2 minutes! Wonderful agent!"
– August 2, 2021

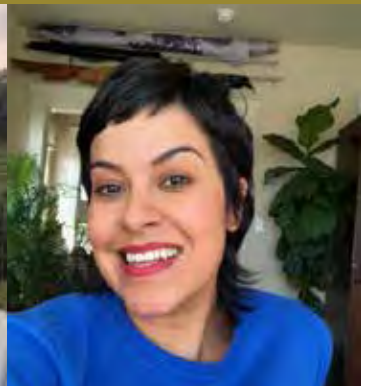
"I am grateful for this service, for its existence and for how quickly I was able to access a response."
– July 6, 2021

"Wonderful service. Helped me during the pandemic to have online service."
– September 19, 2021

"SFPL ROCKS and kudos to a great support staff!"
– October 26, 21



Meet the Library's Artists in Residence: Gazelle Samizay, tanea lunsford lynx, James Q. Chan and Xandra Ibarra.





San Francisco Public Library

BRANCHES OF SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY



ANZA



BAYVIEW



BERNAL HEIGHTS



CHINATOWN



EUREKA VALLEY



GLEN PARK



GOLDEN GATE VALLEY



INGLESIDE



MAIN



MARINA



MERCED



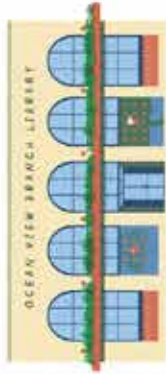
MISSION



MISSION BAY



NORTH BEACH



OCEAN VIEW



ORTEGA



PARKSIDE



PARK



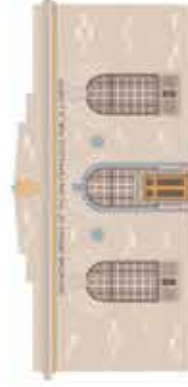
PORTOLA



POTRERO



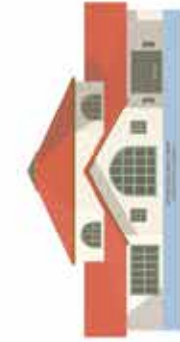
PRESIDIO



RICHMOND



SUNSET



VISITACION VALLEY



WEST PORTAL



WESTERN ADDITION



*San Francisco
Public Library*