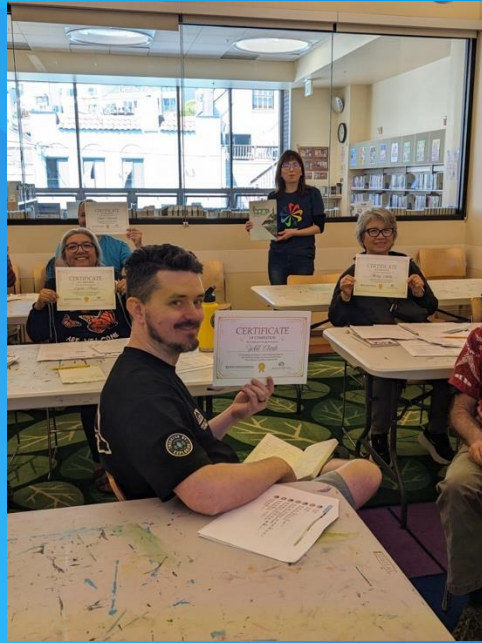


Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) Partnership

Hai-Qing Chen, Program Manager of Chinese Center Main Library
August 21, 2025
San Francisco Library Commission



The history of the Partnership

What is TECO-SF?

- TECO-SF is Taiwan's de facto consulate in Northern California, Nevada and Utah. It locates on 4th street in SF

Partnership Activities

- Mandarin Classes-Summer Learning
- Taiwanese LIS interns

Partnership Origins

Began with Luis Herrera's 2015 visit to Taiwan. During his visit, he:

- Visited New Taipei City Library and signed a sister library agreement
- Visited the National Taiwan Library University and one other University and he invited students to intern at SFPL and explore potential collaborations



This year

New Support from Ministry of Education

- Starting this year, the Ministry of Education began financially supporting the program.
- Three interns with different backgrounds are selected annually to learn and share experiences across various departments in Taiwan.
- The focus is on meaningful community service inspired by SFPL.

2025 Intern Profiles

- One library school graduate, one newly admitted LIS student, and one 24-hour second-hand bookstore owner
- All are young adults with strong community service motivation.

Activities

- Joined over 25 meetings or tours across the system
- visiting, observing, supporting, and participating in programs or events at 14 branch libraries and 3 Library Day events.



Mandarin Classes – A Systemwide Learning Opportunity at SFPL

Program Origins

- Launched in **2018** in partnership with **TECO**
- Initially offered **only at the Main Library: 8-week summer session**

Program Expansion

- Since **2022**, classes have expanded to **10 branches**. Branches will submit their interests to me, and I will collaborate with TECO to determine the branch assignments. TECO will then identify and assign teachers to the selected branches. This year:
- **Adult Classes:** Ingleside, Excelsior, Main, Noe Valley, Richmond, Sunset
- **Children’s Classes:** Marina, Glen Park, Oceanview, Portola

Branch (adult)	Att.	Branch (Children)	Att.
Excelsior	112	Glen Park	84
Ingleside	72	Marina	165
Main	171	Ocean View	53
Noe Valley	24	Portola	158
Richmond	135		
Sunset	67		



Comments

Branch librarians/managers for the Mandarin summer learning classes:

- “Class was very popular with children and their families coming from throughout SF and the Bay Area. The instructor is a master instructor, and she keep participants fully engaged for the entirety of each program. Each program had an average attendance of 25 participants. There was a LOT of interest this year and we are super thankful to you for organizing this program and allowing us to offer it to the Marina community. “
- “It was very well received in Glen Park and many people, including the students, asked when we would offer it again.”
- “I want to say thank you again for coordinating the Mandarin class again this summer. The Portola community love our teacher very much. It is extremely popular, and we have many students including returning students from last year and there was more students compared to last year. We very hope to have Mandarin class next year!”



Thank you!

We enjoyed our time in SFPL a lot and will definitely miss the days and people here. So much experience that we can't wait to show to our friends and libraries in Taiwan.

--Betty, Yi-Jun & Wade---

