San Francisco Public Library

Library Fines & Fees Amnesty Program

SFPL Commission
8.18.16
Background

- Fine Amnesty programs are designed to forgive outstanding fines and fees, typically in exchange for patrons returning overdue items.
- SFPL has offered previous fine amnesty in 1998, 2001 and 2009.
## 2009 SFPL AMNESTY PROGRAM

### Estimated Replacement Value of Recovered Library Materials and Foregone Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>2009 Estimate</th>
<th>2009 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Material Returned - 1-60 days overdue</td>
<td>10,764</td>
<td>5,666</td>
<td>26,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Material Returned - over 60 days overdue</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>3,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Library Material Returned</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,958</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,296</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,228</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Replacement Value of Recovered Library Materials over 60 days overdue (Average replacement value of library materials multiplied by the total number of returned library materials)</td>
<td>$25,074</td>
<td>$15,750</td>
<td>$78,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Foregone Fine Revenues from Library Materials between 1-60 Days Overdue</td>
<td>$10,764</td>
<td>$5,666</td>
<td>$39,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Foregone Fine Revenues from Library Materials over 60 Days Overdue (Maximum fine of $5 multiplied by the number of returned library materials over 60 Days overdue)</td>
<td>$5,970</td>
<td>$3,150</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Foregone Late Fee Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,734</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,816</strong></td>
<td><strong>$39,410</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Replacement Value less Total Estimated Foregone Revenue</td>
<td>$8,340</td>
<td>$6,934</td>
<td>$39,365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SFPL Fine Amnesty Goals

- Recover library collections
- Eliminate barriers to access
- Welcome back patrons
- Increase library patronage and usage
Benchmarking Results

- Researched 14 libraries
- Frequency: one-time – weekly or annual
- Durations: 1 – 45 days
- Scope: overdue fines vs. library fees
LAPL Misses You

NOTHING CAN KEEP US APART. NOT EVEN LATE FEES!

From February 1-14, return your overdue Los Angeles Public Library materials with no overdue fines.

#laplmissesyou

With love in the air the two weeks leading up to Valentine’s Day, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) will be playing cupid, reuniting you, your overdue books and our library shelves. These former sweethearts have missed each other, and the library has missed you! Reconnecting has never been so easy.
“What’s Your Excuse?” PSA

• “I was abducted by aliens, they just brought me back after 2 months.” – Antonio

• “I immensely enjoyed reading the book and thought it was my own copy.” – Frederick
SFPL Amnesty Components

• Forgive outstanding overdue fines and fees for patrons returning overdue or billed items

• Waive outstanding overdue fines for any other individuals during Library Fee Amnesty Program
Desired Outcomes

- Lower outstanding liability: $4,549,833
- Recover materials from 29,554 patrons with billed items
- Restore access to 55,256 patrons who owe $10.01 or more
SFPL Fine Amnesty Next Steps

• LC Resolution for BOS approval (September)
• BOS Resolution (October)
• Communication Strategy (November)
• Holiday Season Fine Amnesty (December)
• Partnership with Treasurer & Tax Collector