



San Francisco Public Library  
Annual Report  
2017/2018

# A Day in the Life of the Library of the Year



**6:00 a.m.** (8 a.m. CST) San Francisco Public Library receives **Library of the Year award** at American Library Association convention in New Orleans.

November 2018

Dear friends,

I'm pleased to share with you our fiscal year 2017-18 annual report, highlighting a day in the life of our library system. This year, San Francisco Public Library reached the pinnacle of our profession, being named the Gale/Library Journal Library of the Year for 2018.

Calling San Francisco Public Library, "a model and inspiration for public libraries worldwide," Library Journal editors highlighted the Library's "committed staff, transformational leadership, amazing array of programs, partnerships, popularity, and community connections."

As you read through our annual report, you can see that each day at San Francisco Public Library is filled with making those connections. Whether its answering our patrons' questions, ordering books, stocking shelves, teaching classes, cleaning our buildings, working with neighborhood partners, hosting storytimes, and doing myriad other tasks, it is done in the spirit of welcoming all the diverse communities in San Francisco to our anchor institution.

We couldn't have done this without our dedicated and hard-working staff. And, as always, we must thank the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library for their ongoing advocacy and financial support for our library system.

Perhaps most importantly, we want to thank you—our library users, card holders, partners, volunteers and visitors—all of you who recognize the value of the Library as a community connector and a temple of learning, and come through our doors, day and night, to share in this special place.

*Michael Lambert*

Acting City Librarian Michael Lambert

*Dr. Mary Wardell*

Library Commission President  
Dr. Mary Wardell



A day in the life of the Library of the year.







**7:00 a.m.** Riders still read books on the bus, though many now access eBooks through **Hoopla**, **Access360** and **Overdrive**. And thousands of Bay Area car commuters listen to digital audio books free with their library card, especially *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil deGrasse Tyson, which was the top circulating audio book this year.

**8:00 a.m.** A gathering of scientists, land managers, and Bernal Branch neighbors trek to Bernal Hill for a **BioBlitz**, an innovative Green Stacks program to survey plant species in the neighborhood.

**8:30 a.m.** A student submits his final school project from home, using a **Tech'd Out** laptop and mifi device, as part of our project allowing borrowers to check out laptops and mobile hotspots, putting useful tools into the hands of library users who need them most.



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**9:00 a.m.** More than 400 people attend the Library's **Financial Planning Day** and receive free one-on-one financial coaching. The library also offers bi-monthly SmartMoney Coaching and other programs to enhance financial well-being and business skills.



**9:30 a.m.** To explore the City of San Francisco, two separate families **visit** all 28 San Francisco library branches.

**10:00 a.m.** A sports fan walks into his library for the first time to sign up for a library card and receives a special **Golden State Warriors library card**. Players from the NBA Championship winning team also dropped by dropped by San Francisco branch libraries several times to spread the importance of reading.



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**10:15 a.m.** Our newest addition to the Library's fleet on wheels, **Libroterero**, a twist on the traditional popsicle wagon, appeared at many branch open houses and street fairs. The mobile cart is outfitted with free books, iconic chime bells and surprises. Though it may not be in the Libroterero, *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* by Mo Willems was the top book for kids this year.



**10:30 a.m.** Our **bookmobile** cruised around San Francisco visiting City Hall and neighborhood bookstores to launch Dave Eggers' book *The Monk of Mokha*. Dave and Mohtar Alkhanshali, the star of the story, were on board providing coffee and autographs.

**11:00 a.m.** The Library's mobile food cart, **Biblio Bistro**, visits the Heart of the City Farmer's Market for a live demo on how to cook healthy meals with fresh vegetables. Our chef librarian also teaches cooking to teenagers at The Mix Teen Center.



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**11:30 a.m.** Families meet at their branch to take a free shuttle excursion to visit national parks such as Alcatraz and Muir Woods, many for the first time, a program in partnership with the **National Parks Service** for the Library's summer learning and exploration program, **Summer Stride**. More than 33,000 children and families participated in Summer Stride this year.

**12:00 p.m.** Author Dave Eggers and illustrator Shawn Harris, the creators of *Her Right Foot*, a picture book about the history of the Statue of Liberty, hold an interactive storytelling collaboration with children at the Main Library. This was one of the more than 900 fun, informative and timely **Summer Stride** programs for all ages at every branch, every week of the summer. This year's theme – Life.Liberty.Libraries.



**12:30 p.m.** After viewing a StoryWalk of our **Summer Stride** book *Her Right Foot*, 30 children participated in a **special citizenship ceremony** at Crissy Field, celebrating both parks and libraries and what each institution brings to new immigrants and citizens.



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# San Francisco Public Library



**1:00 p.m.** Community members celebrate **centennial anniversaries** at both Golden Gate Valley and Sunset branches with live music, food, dancing and crafts.

**1:30 p.m.** Filipino-American families bring their personal photo collections to the **Kodakan Photo Day** for historians and volunteers to add to the City's archive of more than 300 historical San Francisco Filipino images.



**2:00 p.m.** Neighbors visit their local branch to take part in the world's largest **LED giveaway**, as the library distributes free 20,000 light bulbs to the public. SFPL also gave away more than 10,000 pairs of eclipse glasses so families could view the August phenomenon safely.



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**2:30 p.m.** A job-seeker visits his neighborhood branch, using the computers to search for employment opportunities before heading to a **resume workshop** at the Main Library.

**3:00 p.m.** An elder learns to use her new smartphone after one-on-one help at The Bridge at Main's **Digital Device Drop-in**. One of our most popular weekly programs, it pairs volunteers with people who need help with their cell phones, laptops or tablets—most often older adults. More than 70 classes and events citywide were also offered during **Connect with Tech Week**.



**3:30 p.m.** A genealogy class titled Finding Your Asian Roots is packed. Folks receive tips on how to get started creating their family tree and are introduced to free **genealogical library resources**.



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**4:00 p.m.** A second grader enrolled in the **FOG Readers** program sits down with his volunteer tutor at the Main Library Children's Center to work on his reading skills. The program won an Urban Libraries Council Innovation Award as it pairs volunteer tutors with struggling young readers to successfully improve reading skills.



**4:15 p.m.** North Beach neighbors come together to make spring rolls during our **Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration**. The library champions system-wide programming to promote community and cultural awareness including including !Viva! Latino Hispanic Heritage; More Than a Month: Black History, Culture & Heritage; Pride; Middle Eastern Heritage; and Green Gifts.

**4:30 p.m.** A young man attends an **improvisation storytelling workshop** to improve his communication skills and then discovers new friends. The library hosts more than 1,500 programs every month, providing educational opportunities and community connections for all San Franciscans.



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**5:00 p.m.** Teenagers learn film skills at the **Mix at SFPL**. They also read – *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas and *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green were the top three teen books this year.



**5:15 p.m.** A veteran gets help applying for benefits at the library's **Veterans Resource Center**.

**6:00 p.m.** A man from Jaurez, Mexico brings his documents to Immigration attorneys at the Library for free one-on-one consultation and assistance with his citizenship application. The Library won an **Immigrant Leadership award** from the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Committee for our Lawyers in the Library partnership.



**6:15 p.m.** **Librarians learn to save lives** as staff volunteer to be trained on how to administer Narcan, a nasal spray used to block the effects of opioids, especially during an overdose. The library also provides ongoing social services via a full-time social worker and a team of Health and Safety Associates who assist patrons experiencing homelessness and related issues.



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**6:30 p.m.** It's time for a free evening event at SFMOMA at **Public Knowledge**, the newest branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Public Knowledge is an exciting partnership that brings artists and scholars into the libraries and the museum to explore the changes happening in our city.

**7:00 p.m.** Kim Shuck, San Francisco's seventh **poet laureate**, begins her reign by reading her poetry to friends and fans. Since her inauguration, she has done storytelling workshops, poetry performances, craft workshops and much more.



**7:30 p.m.** A hospital patient learns about a new partnership between the Library and the University of California, San Francisco Hospital - Parnassus. The **Hospital Digital Access Program**, which issues digital access library cards to 900+ hospital patients so they can stream or download from the Library's extensive digital collection of books, newspapers, magazines, movies and music in multiple languages.



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**7:45 p.m.** Tourists view the Kalligraphia exhibit at the Main Library, getting a rare chance to view contemporary calligraphy on display. Other **major exhibits** included A Game of Color, The Imagination of American Poets, the Eragny Press, Summer of Love and Haight and Patient No More.

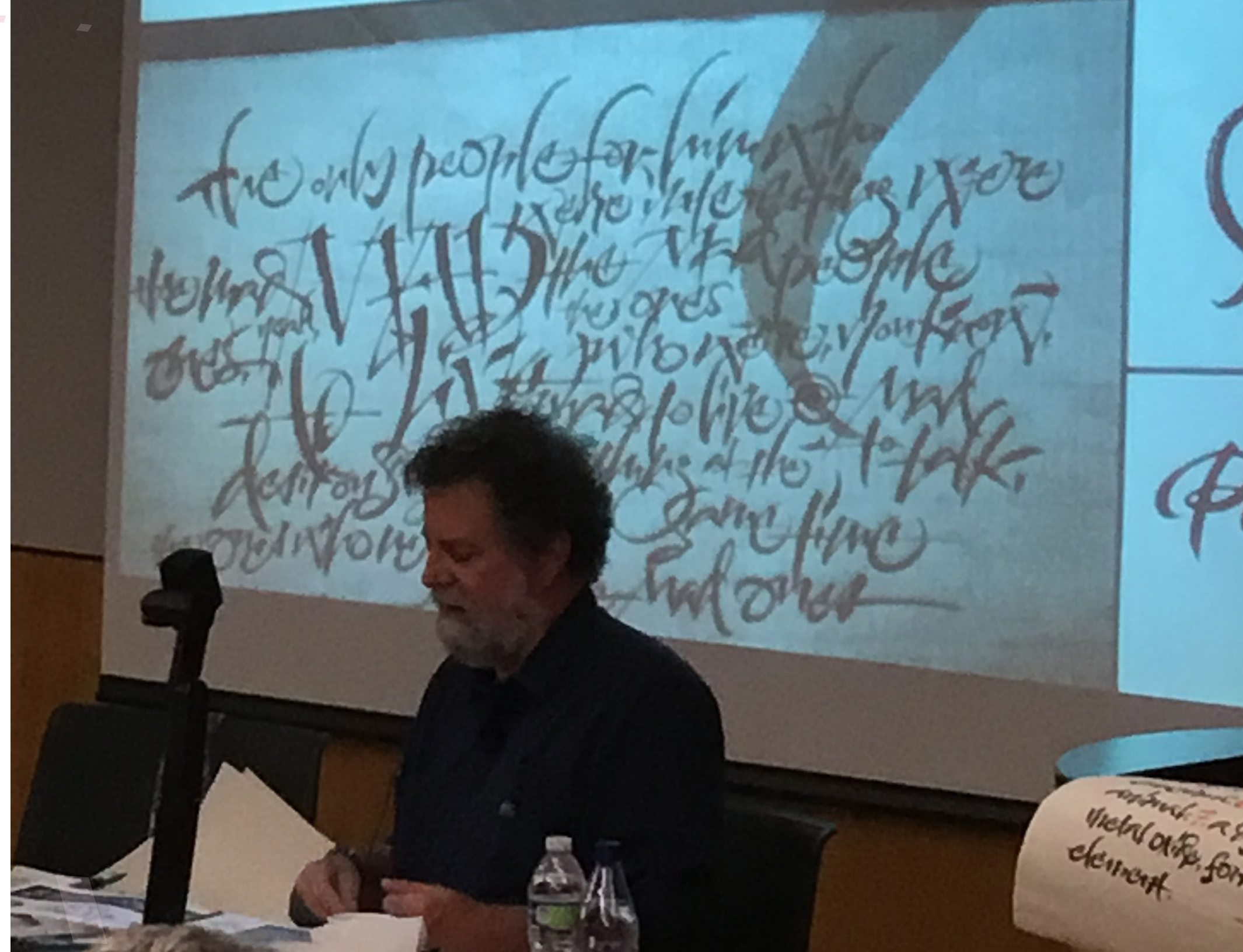
**8:00 p.m.** Music lovers check out LPs from the Library's newly expanded record collection, aptly titled **Vinyl Destination**. More than 3,000 newly pressed records are now available for check out. More people listened to *I Put a Spell on You* by Nina Simone, *Rumours* by Fleetwood Mac, and *The Velvet Underground & Nico* than any other record. And *Hamilton: The Original Broadway Cast Recording* by Lin-Manuel Miranda was the top CD.



**9:00 p.m.** It's a late take-out and stay in night for friends who browse through the large selection of Criterion Collection titles on the Library's free streaming service, **Kanopy**. Folks still borrow DVDs to watch movies the old fashioned way – *The Shape of Water* was viewed the most.



A day in the life of the Library of the year.



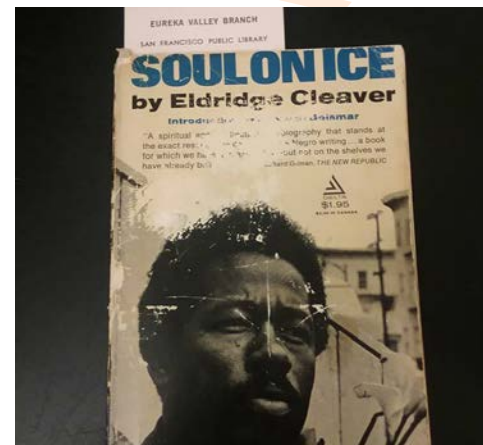




**10:30 p.m.** People all over the Bay Area read our **One City One Book** selection *Black Against Empire: The Irrepressible Politics of the Black Panther Party*—some of them before dozing off to bed. Others attended author talks, panel discussions, film screenings and related events. The similarities between the Black Panther Party and the Black Lives Matter movement fueled the conversation.

**11:00 p.m.** Patron watching late-night SFGOV TV sees a broadcast about the San Francisco History Center's **Punk Archives**, a collection..

**12:00 a.m.** *Soul on Ice*, by Eldridge Cleaver is anonymously returned to the book drop at the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library after being **47 years, 4 months and 29 days past due**. The incident received international media attention, though the borrower never came forward.



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The Award-Winning Formula  
Advocating + Investing + Championing

Since 1961, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library has galvanized San Franciscans to take action to create the Library we now treasure. Our award-winning formula asks every San Franciscan to become a Friend of the Library by taking action in strategic and mutually reinforcing ways:

- ADVOCATING  
Voting for and defending public funding
- INVESTING  
Making private donations  
Donating and buying used books
- CHAMPIONING  
Promoting Library values of democracy, free resources and equal opportunity

This year, Friends awarded \$753,851 in grants to SFPL in virtually every area of the Library. Support includes fees for subcontracted services providers; honorariums for authors, artists and curators; collections acquisition; equipment; program supplies; food; multilingual materials production; and professional training to keep SFPL Librarians on the leading edge of innovation.



2:00 p.m. A woman is excited to discover Jack London’s *The Seawolf* at the Friends of San Francisco Public Library **weekly book sale**. The Friends raise money and their voices to provide critical support to the library.

Friends’ initiated collaborative programs

- The Wiley Innovation Fund.** Supported by Peter Booth Wiley, the Innovation Fund provides Librarians with small grants to explore and pilot cutting edge approaches to library programs and services.
- The James Hormel LGBTQIA Center Fellow.** Mason Smith, works to raise visibility and patronage of the Hormel Center among younger generations and promote intergenerational engagement around important issues of representation, programs and collections.
- The Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler Writer’s Residency.** Thanks to Lisa and Daniel, Friends’ administrative office now includes a writer’s studio where five writers have access to work 24/7. The Residents will be matched with a Library branch to engage in community programs and activities.



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## SFPL BY THE NUMBERS



**1** National Library of the Year 2018



**2** Warriors' blue and gold library cards



**4** Bookmobiles



**6** Library Commissioners



**7** Open days of the week



**28** San Francisco library locations



**89** Story times offered every week



**872** Staff to serve the public



**900** Summer Stride programs



**1,500** Library programs every month



**444,491** Library card holders



**3.7 million** Items in the library's collection



**4.5 million** Library wifi access



**6.1 million** Annual visitors



**11 million** Annual circulation of materials



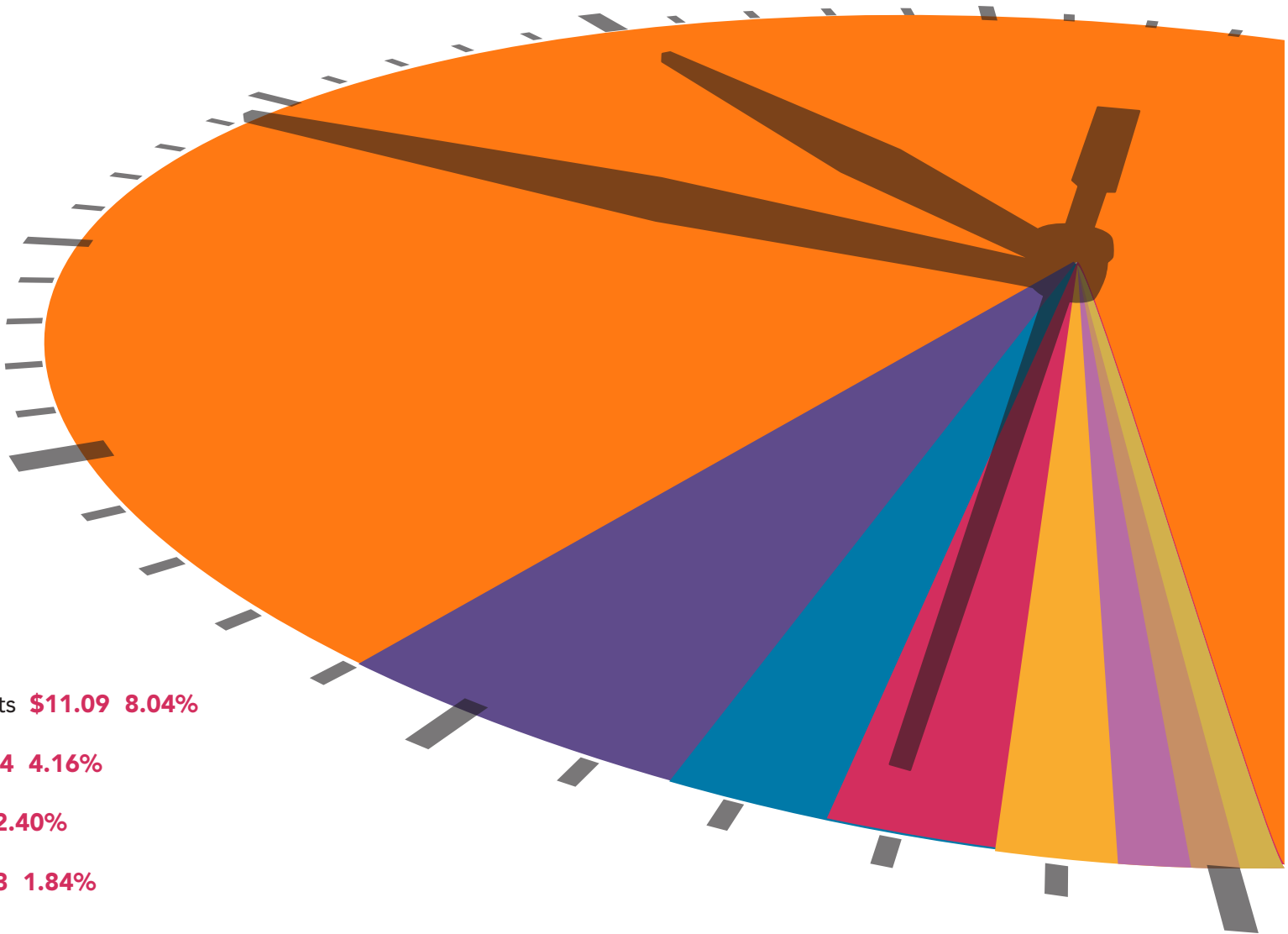
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# Budget

Numbers are in millions:

Labor	\$87.44	63.43%
Collections	\$14.78	10.72%
Capital	\$11.55	8.38%
Services of Other Departments	\$11.09	8.04%
Non-Personnel Services	\$5.74	4.16%
Materials & Supplies	\$3.31	2.40%
Debt Service Payments	\$2.53	1.84%
Equipment	\$1.41	1.02%
Total	\$137.85	100.00%



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## Library Commission

The San Francisco Public Library Commission is a seven-member commission appointed by the Mayor of San Francisco. The Commission sets policy and is responsible for the library budget for the San Francisco Public Library system. Commissioners serve four-year terms.

- Dr. Mary Wardell Ghirarduzzi, President
- Susan Mall, Vice President
- Zoe Dunning, Commissioner
- Pete Huang, Commissioner
- John Lee, Commissioner
- Teresa Ono, Commissioner

## Library Management Team

- Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian
- Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer/Acting Chief Operating Officer
- Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections & Technical Services
- Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches
- Tom Fortin, Chief of the Main Library
- Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs & Partnerships
- Michael Liang, Chief of Information Technology
- Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director
- Randle McClure, Chief Analytics Officer
- Lori Regler, Human Resources Director







*San Francisco Public Library*