

**Library Board, Santa Monica Public Library
Secretary's Report
April 2023**

Citywide:

Last month, City Council held its annual workshop to discuss Council priorities guiding the FY 2023-2025 biennial budget. Council identified the following as its priorities for the next two years:

- Addressing Homelessness
- Clean & Safe Santa Monica
- Cultivate Economic Recovery & Expand Community and Cultural Offerings
- Racial Justice, Equity & Social Diversity
- Sustainable & Connected Community

On March 14, City Council adopted the next version of the Sustainable City Plan, providing a work frame to achieve water self-sufficiency, zero waste, and carbon neutrality: santamonica.gov/sustainable-city-plan.

Santa Monica Public Library Operations:

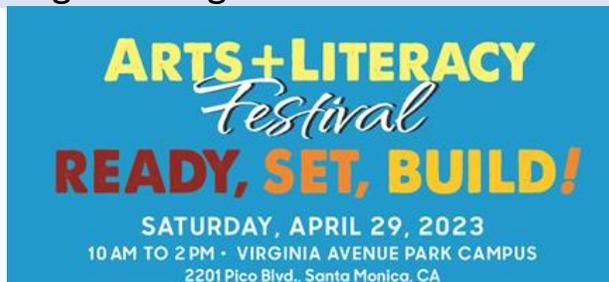
Operations

The Main Library is opening a new workspace area on the second floor, focused on providing working space for visitors by reservation only. A soft launch is scheduled for later this month.

The City six-month pilot program with **Good Guard Security** to provide overnight security in ten city owned parking structures has begun. The Main Library parking structure is part of the pilot and has already observed a decrease in camping around the facility and structure.

27 Library staff members received **CPR/AED certification and training** in March, thanks to coordination and support from our Office of Emergency Management. Library staff who work on public desks and on the library floor, especially our Library Services Officer (LSO) Team, interact with a variety of people and situations, including folks experiencing physical or emotional distress. The certification lasts 2 years.

Programming



Arts & Literacy Festival "Ready, Set, Build!" is taking place on April 29 from 10am –2pm at Virginia Avenue Park. Library staff will be onsite offering activities, and story times.

Fierce Friday & YALLWEST

Yallwest returns to SMPL for its ninth annual young adult and middle grade book festival. Festivities will begin on Friday, April 28 at Pico Branch, finishing on Saturday at Santa Monica High School. The festival includes author panels, book signings, games, food trucks and more. Visit yallwest.com for more information.

Computer classes are back as a series, allowing patrons to learn basic computer skills. Patrons participating have also taken advantage and participated in other classes such as Stop Senior Scams, Walk-in Tutoring and APPY Hour programs.



Tuesday Tales Traveling Storytime has a new weekly schedule as of March, visiting a different location every week! Storytime at Fairview Branch, an Open+ location allows families to spend time reading in the kids' area. Families have expressed how appreciative they are seeing programming gradually return to the branches.

Resources

In the month of March, a total of **4,059** items were added to the library's collection. Behind the scenes, staff work to prepare materials and get them onto the shelves and into patrons' hands!

[Sustainability Toolkits](#) are back! In collaboration with the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.

As part of the city's work towards advancing racial equity and social justice, the library has created the **Library Equity Think Tank** to identify priorities, develop recommendations while looking at services and programs with an EDI lens. At the March meeting, the team reviewed statistics showing that the library's collection has about 20% subject headings that fall into diversity, equity and inclusion.

Coming Soon! Our **NEW Online Library Card Registration** process will soon be available to community members who live within LA County. Patrons can simply complete the online registration form, and upon approval, they will receive a digital library card number that can be used with our [SMPL Mobile App](#), just like a physical card. If a patron wants a physical card, they can still visit a library location in person, and our dedicated staff will replace their barcode with a library card. This is another way that our Library Team is working hard to remove barriers and make sure that our community can access all the excellent resources SMPL has to offer. Stay tuned!

If you visit one of our locations or come to a program, please take time to thank a staff member. It is because of their commitment that our Library continues to enrich the lives of so many people, through our programs, services, and daily interactions.

By Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian