

**Library Board, Santa Monica Public Library
Secretary's Report
November 2021**

Citywide:

On October 28th, the Library welcomed new City Manager, David White and was able to tour the Main and Montana Branch Library. He even handed out treats to Montana Branch visitors during curbside service!

The City welcomed new [Chief of Police Ramon Batista](#) on October 18th. Chief Batista comes to us with 35-years of experience in law enforcement, most recently in Mesa, Arizona. His focus on 21st Century Policing initiatives and his dedication to strengthening police-community trust makes him an ideal leader and partner to guide us into the next era of public safety.



David White, City Manager

In an ongoing effort to avoid being a victim of cybercrime, the Information Services Department has been focused on cybersecurity awareness training for all staff, and Boards and Commissions. Every day the City of Santa Monica experiences thousands of attempts to steal information and hack and disrupt our Information Technology Infrastructure and if one staff member were to click on a malicious email the entire City network could be disrupted, disabled, or even held hostage to cyber criminals, potentially costing the City millions of dollars in lost revenues.

Mid-year Budget Timeline

- October 11: Mid-year Budget Instructions released
- October 26: Year-End Budget Report to Council
- October 29: Mid-year Budget Enhancement Requests due
- February 8: Mid-year Budget Council Meeting

Santa Monica Public Library Operations:

Reimagining the Santa Monica Public Library – Library leadership continues to move staff forward in its efforts to rebuild the Library following new framework of services that are patron focused. This month Main Library opened its 2nd floor allowing visitors to know have full in-person access to the entire collection. Library hours were also extended in an effort to provide afterschool support for youth and families. Plans are underway to advertise new hours and opening of 2nd floor. For more information about the Library's new hours, click [here](#).

Staff are working on plans for reopening the Pico branch for in-person services. This is the 2nd branch reopened for in-person services—the first being the Ocean Park Branch, thanks to the help of a grant for the Open+ system, which allowed us to promote a new self-service model.

The **recruitment for Director of Library Services** is underway. During the month of October, Library stakeholders had the opportunity to meet with The Byers Group to provide their input.

The **Library's website** will be transitioning to the City's new domain at www.santamonica.gov around the first of the year. Staff have been diligently working to build pages and create content.

Programming

November's Calendar of Events is now available at [https://smpl.org/uploadedFiles/NOVEMBER2021CalendarOfEvents\(1\).pdf](https://smpl.org/uploadedFiles/NOVEMBER2021CalendarOfEvents(1).pdf)

In celebration of **Native American Heritage Month**, the Library will be featuring a Hoop Dancing program on November 4th with award-winning Terry Goedel! The art of hoop dance honors cultural traditions from multiple indigenous communities as an artistic expression to celebrate and share Indigenous traditions.

On October 28th, the Main Library Courtyard transformed into a not-too-scary **Halloween Trail** filled with activities and goodies for kids and families.

Sugar Skull paint kits are available now in **celebration of Day of the Dead**.

The City wrapped-up **Hispanic Heritage Month** with a plethora of amazing programs. The Library led Storytime & Loteria (Mexican Bingo), along with Champurrado (Mexican Hot Drink) Take & Make Kits which were a hit.

Book Group Discussions - On October 21, 2021, the Coalition of Asian & Pacific Employees Professional Development Committee hosted its first Book Reading and Discussion. Led by Co-Facilitators Karen Reitz (Library Department) and Susan Cola (City Attorney's Office), 18 City staff members shared their insights on George Takei's *They Called Us Enemy* graphic novel. Starting in 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard. The book is Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the terrors and small joys of childhood in the shadow of legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's tested faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future. What does it mean to be American? Who gets to decide? Borrow a copy from the City's Library today!

Staffing

As part of restoration and funding approved in the last budget, the Library was able to welcome back four of its previously hired librarians: Ingha Chophra, Myleen De Jesus, Jeff Kaplan and Simran Khalsa.

In addition, the Library also welcomed back a number of As-Needed Library Pages these past few months Juanita Moore, Hadass Elnathan, Margo Paster,

Partnerships:

Library Board – Council appointed Dr. Sidonie Cheryl Smith to the Library Board, filling the vacancy left by Arlene Hopkins. Dr. Smith is scheduled to join the November 4, 2021 Library Board meeting.

Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library – Come and support the Friends book sale on Saturday, November 6 from 11am – 3pm at the Main Library.

Safety/Health & Security:

The LSO team has had a busy month leading into October with the preparation of the Main Library for the opening of the 2nd floor for public use. The team sectioned off areas and removed furniture to limit areas with low visibility and lessen opportunities where patrons can settle for long periods of time. LSOs have had a key impact on the 2nd floor not only maintaining security by patrolling but also aiding patrons in finding items and directing them to areas of interest. The LSOs have also taken on the responsibility of creating and administering banning letters to patrons who have consistently been non-compliant with Library Rules. LSOs continue to focus our attention to the parking structure as the fall and coming winter tend to bring more incidents and encampments. We continue to monitor the Ocean Park Branch Open +. LSOs are still responsible for emptying the Fairview branch book drop. LSO Supervisor has been working with the City's Police Homeless Liaison Program team to address and lessen incidents related to homelessness.

October 2021- Data below only reflects incidents and not day-to-day rule violation interactions

38 monthly incidents (36 major/ 2 minor)

31 incidents at Main / **7** Branches

5 calls in to police

4 active bans

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Cuyugan, Interim Director of Library Services