

Library Board, Santa Monica Public Library
Secretary's Report
January 2022

Citywide:

The [Santa Monica Homeless Count](#) is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th from 11pm-3am. This event is conducted annually as part of the Greater LA Homeless Count where teams of volunteers count people experiencing homelessness throughout the City.

City Manager David White [announced](#) that he had named Susan Cline, as Santa Monica's Assistant City Manager. Ms. Cline, previously filled the role of Public Works Director but had been serving as Interim Assistant Manager for the past year.

Rick Valte is named as Public Works Director, and previously held the Assistant Director of Public Works position.

Santa Monica Public Library Operations:

On December 1st, Pico Branch welcomed back its patrons for in-person services. Visitors have the opportunity to browse the collections, pick up holds, use computers, access study rooms, checkout materials, and interact with staff. Hours remain the same. This marks the 2nd branch that is now open for in-person services.

Limited in-person programming and story time for children and families has been restored at the Main Library and Pico Branch.

New Year, New Website and Email Address! This month, the **Library's website** will transition to the City's new domain at www.santamonica.gov that will be ADA compliant, mobile friendly, and have a better user experience. Also, patrons will have a new way to reach library staff for reference, account, and general questions. Email us at library@santamonica.gov.

Budget

With support of the Library Board, the Library submitted its request for Fine Free for All in the Mid-Year budget set to be presented to Council next month. Fine free for all would mean equitable access to library resources and a positive experience for patrons.

Programming & Resources

Literacy Education for Adults and Families (LEAF) program – Last month, the Library hosted a celebration for L.E.A.F. program students, families and tutors to celebrate their accomplishments. Despite the challenges that 2021 brought, the L.E.A.F. program saw many wonderful achievements. A dedicated group of tutors and learners continued to meet regularly on Zoom or even over the telephone to work on their reading and writing goals. People who had never used a computer in their life received lessons online. Literacy tutors donated 750 hours of service helping learners earn their high school diplomas, navigated unemployment and social security websites, applied to and started

new jobs, read books, write letters and learn new ways to support their families. As the program has returned to in-person tutoring things are continuing to grow and thrive.

On December 17th, the Library participated in the **Las Posadas** event held at Virginia Avenue Park. This event is an annual winter tradition for the Pico community, where attendees enjoy food, music and dancing.

Over 70 children's books were given away to families, courtesy of the literacy grant.



[January Calendar of Events](#)

On January 8, a **“Wacky Winter Adventure”** family program will take place presenting a fun story with handcrafted puppets, original stories, and live interactive performances. Brought to you by the Luce Puppet Company.

Take & Make kits for children continue to be a hit. This month's [Take & Make kit](#) focuses on illuminating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's words.

New Databases - Our partners at the California State Library and the Southern California Library Cooperative (SCLC) have provided access to four databases. These resources provide digital magazines and several databases focused on skill-building, work-preparedness and literacy.

- **PressReader** - <https://www.pressreader.com/catalog>
Available through September, 2023
Provides digital versions of over 7,000 [newspapers](#) and [magazines](#) in more than 60 languages through its applications for [iOS](#), [Android](#), [Windows](#), [Mac](#) and various [e-readers](#) as well as its website, and operates digital editions of newspapers and magazines for publishers, including [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#) and [The Globe and Mail](#)
- **GetSetUp** - <https://www.getsetup.io/>
Available through September, 2022

A social learning platform for individuals 50+, taught by peers. The classes are live and consist of digital learning, physical health, mental health, social health, and vocational health. Courses include: *Introduction to Youtube, Google Docs basics, Get Started with Zoom, Apple iCloud basics, Common Scams and Frauds, Android Smartphone Security and Safety, TV Streaming Devices, Being the Best Grandparent*, and more!
- **LinkedIn Learning** - <https://www.linkedin.com/learning-login/go/smpl>
Available through September, 2022

Focuses on the skills needed to land jobs that are currently in-demand (based on workforce and labor market data, the future of work predictions, and current trends). Provides professional certificates that can be added to a LinkedIn profile. Includes a focus on the "whole" person during the pandemic, emphasizing and creating new mental health and wellness resources, guidance for managing stress/burnout, and other topical items like "Balancing Work and Life as a Work from-Home Parent." Offers critical soft skills training, such as resilience, teamwork, and time management. Course instruction available in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and four other languages.

- **Northstar Digital Literacy** - <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>
Available through September, 2022

Focuses on people with no, low, or limited technology skills. Provides assessments of 14 different digital skills. Is used by some CA literacy programs. Offers courses that include: *Your Digital Footprint, Supporting K-12 Distance Learning, Email, Internet Basics, Information Literacy.*

Staffing

We are currently recruiting for our **Library Program Specialist – Youth Services**. This position will provide necessary clerical and project support for Youth Services librarians, assist with programs, and provide coverage in library operations where needed.

We said farewell to our UCLA Library Youth Services intern, Dana Laderer, but not before she was able to do her own camp-fire themed story time, which was loved by all who attended. One patron commented, *"I wanted to express my gratitude for today's storytelling. As a person of low-income, I deeply appreciate this and it was so wonderful!"*



Partnerships:

Library Board – Has a vacancy due to an appointee withdrawal. City Clerk’s Office will begin the process to fill the vacancy upon Council approval.

Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library – Held a successful audiovisual sale on Thursday, December 9 which included a special sale on Monday, December 13 that allowed guests additional time to purchase AV materials. The 2 day sale made over \$1400. At this time the Friends are working on opening the Bookstore at least one day a week. Special thanks to LSO team and Friends of the Library volunteers for helping to set it up.

Safety/Health & Security:

Library Security staff continue to monitor and patrol all 5 locations. There was increased activity on the perimeter of the Main Library during New Year’s Eve weekend, which resulted in a small fire. SMFD responded, put out the fire, and checked the building. No suspects were found, and an LSO and Facilities staff member were called in on their day off to ensure that the building was once again secure.

Library team members will be assessing our security cameras, which need to be replaced and updated, as well as any additional measures we can take to ensure that our facilities are safe and unharmed, especially when staff are not present to patrol or activate specific areas. There has also been increased trespassing and loitering in the Main Library parking garage, even though it is gated and only open during Library open hours. Staff will continue to monitor and both SMPD and SMFD have been alerted to the Library’s concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Cuyugan, Interim Director of Library Services