

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

Citywide:

On June 6, the City welcomed its new [City Attorney](#), Doug Sloan who previously served as the City Attorney for the City of Fresno since 2013.

On June 8-10, Santa Monica welcomed and supported the [Summit of the Americas](#).

On June 20, the City observed Juneteenth as an official holiday for the first time. A huge milestone for Santa Monica!

Santa Monica Public Library Operations:

Operations

On July 6, the Library began to offer an additional evening day and shifting its hours of operation on Wednesdays and Thursdays to 12pm - 7pm, allowing patrons to use the library in the evening for browsing, holds pick-ups, computer, meeting and study room use, checking out materials, and interacting with staff.

In addition, study and meeting rooms reopen at Main.

Budget

On June 28, Council adopted the City's Exception-Based Budget for FY 2022-2023. Previous requests submitted for as-needed hours for Library Pages and hours for a new as-needed Library Assistant I position were accepted and approved. The request also included converting a current half-time Librarian I position to full-time.

In addition, Council approved the deferring of a number of Capital Improvement Projects citywide that would provide the Library with additional one-time funding in order to activate library locations on Saturdays and continue expanding evening hours. Library leadership has begun to work on a proposal to present. The community has expressed the desire to open their libraries more!

Programming



This summer the community reading program **Santa Monica Reads** celebrates its 20th Anniversary. Join us in reading *Where I Was From*, by Joan Didion. Free copies of the book are available, while supplies last. Learn more about book discussions and special program dates in the [resource guide](#).



On June 4, over 1,100 visitors (730 at Main Library and 373 at Pico Branch) were welcomed as **Summer Reading** kicked off at Main and **Soundwaves** Outdoor Concert at Pico. In one week, over 300 kids/teens signed up for Summer Reading.

Juneteenth – The Library joined and hosted celebrations across the city commemorating the historical day when slavery ended in Texas. On June 16, Pico branch hosted a film and discussion program of Summer of Soul, an award-winning documentary about the Harlem Cultural Festival in 1969. On June 21, Youth Services is hosted a family-friends musical program, Letters to Harriet Tubman, a music presentation that uses songs and stories of the Civil war era to tell the adventures of the heroic women, who fought slavery.

Pride Month – On June 17, The Library hosted a Drag Queen Story Hour at the Annenberg Beach House. Celebrating differences, backgrounds, and love in every color. The interactive story time designed to challenge restrictive gender stereotypes, encourage self-expression, and promote diversity and inclusion.

To view all the programming taking place this month, see [July Calendar of Events](#).

Safety/Health & Security

Library Services Officers continue to patrol Library facilities and property, remaining vigilant and proactive in order to reduce the severity and impact of incidents toward patrons and staff alike. Incidents continue to occur with the vast majority observed to be unhoused. With the reopening of study and meeting rooms at the Main Library this week, the team has been preparing to provide support. Historically, study rooms have not been known to generate incidents but rather pose inherent risks due to its close quarters. Meeting rooms require both physical and digital setups as well as increase the number of entrances and area of patrol. Beginning, July 6th, the hours of operations for Wednesdays changed from a day shift to an evening shift. An influx of calls for service is expected, along with the ratio of people appearing unhoused increases in the later hours. LSOs continue to support the Friends of the Library Bookstore by collecting, disposing and moving materials. The safety and security incident database is being revamped in order to better collect and present more relevant data.

Staffing: One as-needed LSO has been added to the team with the hope that more are able to be acquired in order to maintain the level of productivity and presence. LSO Supervisor continues to work with the City's Police Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) team to address and lessen incidents related to homelessness.

June 2022- Data below only reflects incidents and not day-to-day rule violation interactions

25 monthly incidents

21 Incidents involving people who appear to be homeless

18 incidents at Main / **7** Branches

4 calls in to police

6 active bans

80 People who appear homeless prior to opening (encampments found)

Partnerships:

Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library – The Bookstore is now open on Thursdays from 3pm-6pm, including the 1st Saturday of the month from 11am-3pm. A lot of work went into cleaning, weeding, and getting it ready to welcome back patrons. On June 4, the Bookstore held a sale making over \$900 in a single Saturday!