

Library Board, Santa Monica Public Library
Secretary's Report
July 2023

Citywide:

On June 27, the City Council adopted the FY 2023-25 Biennial Budget. The budget sets forth the City's management and spending plan for the two years spanning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025.

Santa Monica Public Library Operations:

The Library's 2023-25 Biennial Budget is \$11.6 million, and includes a 2% increase in the overall operating budget, a 3% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in staff salaries and a \$510,000 budget enhancement. These additional funds will add:

- 3.0 FTE permanent positions, 1.94 FTE as-needed, an add/delete of a Librarian II/Librarian I, and supply & expense funds to support expanded service.
- Restore Saturday hours at the Main Library.
- Extend M-Th evening hours until 8 pm at all locations.
- Open the Main Library at 10 am M-Th.
- Resume reservations of Montana's meeting room.



The **California State Parks Passes** will now be available for checkout for a 4-week loan period. This is a change from the 1-week loan period originally established. The Library was happy to make the change, due to feedback from patrons and increase in passes!

The **2nd Floor Workspace at the Main Library** is now available for 4 hours per day per person. This has been requested by patrons who use this service and now allows patrons more dedicated time to do their work. This policy change is possible due to a revision of the Library Policy allowing patrons to stay more than 2 hours a day.

Programming

The Library's **Human Library** series has provided participants with an opportunity to connect on a one-on-one basis, to have 30-minute conversation challenging stereotypes and prejudices. Recent topics covered: Bipolar, PTSD, Blind and Gay. To read more about the Human Library, read this article by KQED:

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11953016/at-this-library-you-check-out-a-human-not-a-book-and-sit-down-to-talk>

Positive Parenting Workshops

Three Positive Parenting workshops were held at the Pico Branch. Presented by LA County Dept. Of Mental Health's United Mental Health Promoters, the workshop focused on parenting children and teens with anxiety and depression. Promotion went to underserved populations in our community through VAP, Connections for Children, Upward Bound House transitional family shelter, and others. Childcare was provided to remove barriers for adult caregivers and parents to attend. Attendees were actively engaged in the program. They

received information on resources, as well as a selection of free books provided by the library. The program is funded by a Family Literacy grant from the California State Library.

Literacy Program News: Career Online High school student Diamond T. was nominated by her Academic Coach Alanna as July's Student of the Month! Her coach shared, "Diamond is on pace and always a pleasure to talk to. Her passion makes it easy to discuss future goals of working in the food and hospitality industry. Diamond is smart, witty, and on pace to meet her goal before her deadline."

Youth Summer Reading at the Library!



In the month of June, efforts to promote this year's Summer Reading program began with visiting local elementary schools. At Grant Elementary School, Youth Services Librarian Ann Wilson had the opportunity to speak to over 800 students (wearing a crab hat!). Kids had the opportunity to pre-register and get excited about reading in the summer months. Youth Services Librarian Ingha Chopra also visited Franklin Elementary school-wide assembly. In-person outreach at the schools has a significant effect, and kids love seeing their local librarians at their school.



Branches have had tremendous success in signing up youth and had over 1,000 sign-ups!



On July 13, Montana Avenue Branch filled the community rooms with families as part of a Summer Reading show "Kiddle Karoo's Barnyard Bash". The show got the kids laughing and dancing and guessing the names of farm animals.

1/4 of the attendees were new to the library, including parents with babies and inquired about what other programs the library held.

Little patron comments:

"I want to sign up for Summer Reading. Someone came to my school with a crab hat and sunscreen lotion".

"I already started reading!"

Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library: At the June 28th Board meeting the Friends approved \$111,500 in funding for the Santa Monica Public Library. The funds will be used for Soundwaves, Summer Reading, Santa Monica Reads, cultural and educational programs for adults, families, teens, and kids and a Marketing and Communications Assistant to support the Library and the Friends of the Library.

By Erica Cuyugan, Director of Library Services

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