

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Implementing the 2025 Work Plan

# 2025 Work Plan Goals

## **Goal 1:** Help establish sustainable funding and support for library programs and services to better serve all segments of our patrons

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- Exploring ways of ensuring stable, equitable, and adequate public and private funding for the county library and its various branches.
- Advocating for additional funding for branch libraries for Increased resources to better serve their local communities.
- Providing input to the county and county librarian on budgetary issues and items.

## Goal 2: Collaborate with elected officials, community groups, and residents to engender broad support for the Library

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- Conducting legislative outreach at the local, state, and federal levels to advocate for libraries, the services they provide, and the allocation of resources to them. When possible, meet with legislative leaders in conjunction with other library districts.
- Taking an active role in the American Library Association and California Library Association lobbying efforts.
- Briefing appointing authorities (city/town council, Supervisor, board, or agency) periodically on Commission activities, initiatives, and library needs and seeking their advocacy or endorsement.
- Collaborating with library staff to promote library activities and services with public officials at the federal, state, and local level.
- Educating organizations and individuals at the local, county, state and national level about the value and services offered by the library.
- Involving the local communities in Library Commission meetings.
- Encouraging collaboration between the Library Foundation of Contra Costa, community library friends and foundation groups, and commissioners by convening the Friends and Foundation Council and holding the annual Friends and Foundations Forum.

# Goal 3: Advise the County on library issues

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- Understanding the needs, resources, and organizations of the local community
- Providing thoughtful, consistent, sound and prompt advice and counsel to the County Librarian regarding the Library's budget, the strategic plan, changes in policy impacting service and programs, and any other matters raised.

# Brief Appointing Authorities on Commission Activities and Library Needs

Contra Costa County Library Commissioners  
Report to Danville Town Council

November 2024

Nicole Gemmer, Library Commissioner

Bob Sanguedolce, Alternate Library Commissioner

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Report

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- Danville has **27,244 active patrons** with circulation of 199,312 in fiscal year 2023-24
- Danville had 181,566 checkouts of e-books and e-audio books in the Overdrive application
- There are over 65,800 items in the collection at the Danville Library
- The most popular resources include newspapers such as the East Bay Times, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Consumer Reports
  - Views of the East Bay Times were up 62% in the previous year

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Report

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- Popular resource: **BrainFuse**
  - A service that provides live real-time homework assistance in multiple languages
- And, a redesigned **Saturday Story Time** has returned

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Report

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Recently completed additional building upgrades:

- Two new coats of paint throughout the library's interior
- New carpeting in key areas of the library including Periodical Room, Friends' Book Store, Mt. Diablo Room, and staff area
- Refinished all original study tables throughout the library to remove deep scratches and graffiti and expand seating in children's study area
- Deep cleaned tile and grout in all the public and family restrooms plus the library lobby
- Deep steam cleaned all upholstered furniture in the library

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Report

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## Launch of Updated Library Strategic Plan

- Commissioners provided input along with other stakeholders and public surveys
- Goals and objectives modified to more fully address:
  - Rapid digitalization
  - The epidemic of loneliness
  - Low literacy levels
  - The need to address racial and other inequities in services
  - An increase in attacks on intellectual freedom
- Annual progress reports will be published
- In 2025, Danville staff will focus on increasing the number of library cards held through increased visits to schools

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Advocacy Ad Hoc Group

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- Formed in February 2024
- Goal is to explore alternative additional funding models for the Contra Costa County Library
- Members:
  - Sue Hamill (Co-Chair) – District 4
  - Susan Hildreth (Co-Chair) – District 2
  - Clifton Louie – District 3
  - Rachel Rosekind – District 1
  - Bob Sanguedolce – Town of Danville (Alternate)
  - Alison McKee – County Librarian

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Advocacy Ad Hoc Group

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## Local Income Per Capita (LIPC)

- Metric developed by California State Library
- Compares different funding levels across varying populations
- Calculated by: Library Income divided by residents served
- Data is for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

County Library System	LIPC-Funding per Person
Alameda	\$64.36
Contra Costa	\$36.31
Napa	\$91.83
Marin	\$121.29
Solano	\$ 63.73

CCCL is primarily funded by 1.5% of the 1% county ad valorem property tax

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Advocacy Ad Hoc Group

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## Why are Comparable Library Systems Better Funded?

Library System	Additional County Funding
Alameda	User utility tax
Contra Costa	\$0
Napa	Higher ad valorem of 2.07%
Marin	Measure B \$98 parcel tax
Solano	Measure L 1/8 cent sales tax

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Advocacy Ad Hoc Group

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Contra Costa County  
funds a base of 40  
weekly open hours  
across its 22 full-service  
library branches

## **40 Base Open Hours Schedule**

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 12 - 8

Wednesday: 10 - 6

Thursday: 10 - 6

Friday: 9 - 5

Saturday: 9 - 5

Cities may fund 6, 12, or 16 extra  
weekly hours

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Advocacy Ad Hoc Group

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## Let's Talk About Sunday Open Hours at the Library

- Surveys show Sunday open hours one of the most requested features by residents
- All peer libraries offer Sunday hours.
- Contra Costa Library did have some branches open on Sunday prior to Covid but was difficult to staff and cut to save costs.
- A trial of limited Sunday hour services will begin in Concord in December 2024.

Library System	Total number of branches	Number of branches open on Sundays	Number of Sunday open hours	Percent of Branches open on Sundays
Contra Costa	26	0	0	0%
Alameda	12	6	4	50%
Marin	10	2	5	20%
Napa	4	1	4	25%
Solano	9	3	5	33%

# Contra Costa County Library Commission Advocacy Ad Hoc Group

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A final report was presented by the Advocacy Ad Hoc Group on November 21, 2024. The commission voted and approved the following action:

- Recognize the Contra Costa County Library's limited funding.
- Endorse the goal of 56 fully-staffed service hours per week at all full-service branches - this would result in Danville no longer having to fund additional library hours
- Provide for at least 6 equitably distributed branches to be fully staffed for at least 4 hours on Sunday.
- To thank and close the Advocacy Ad Hoc Group

# Other Implementation Methods for Outreach

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- Write a letter to your state senate rep, state assemblymember, federal representative, or senator
- Call the board chair for a legislative committee to indicate you are in favor or against specific legislation
- Make public comment at a public hearing or meeting
- Inform community groups you are involved in about library services, value, and need – and encourage them to stay involved!