

County Librarian's Report to the Library Commission

Thursday, November 20, 2025

2025 Read Contra Costa Culminating Event

The 2025 Read Contra Costa program concluded with author Percival Everett appearing at Los Medanos College on Saturday November 8. Everett discussed his novel *James* with LMC English Professor Chair Tess Caldwell. The in-person event was attended by more than 400 people with an equal number of folks attending the online webinar. The event was also livestreamed and broadcast on CCTV. The event was made possible, in part, by generous contributions from the Library Foundation of Contra Costa, Los Medanos College and the Richmond Public Library Foundation. The author event was the culminating celebration of the 2025 annual Read Contra Costa program which encourages all county residents to read and discuss the same book and share their experiences.

2025 Friends, Foundations, and Commission Forum

This year's Forum took place on Saturday October 4th at the Walnut Creek Library. The event was attended by almost 40 Friends and Foundation Board members and Library Commissioners. Alison shared some of the initial insights Library Leadership has had regarding the 2025 patron survey along with some preliminary action items. Ashley Stewart from Every Library Institute presented advocacy strategies and success stories from library supporters from around the country. The ask at the end of the day was for attendees to engage in advocating for additional extra hours at the library branches.

Baker & Taylor Shutdown

Baker & Taylor, one of the nation's largest and longest-serving book and media wholesalers for libraries, has announced it will shut down operations by January 2026 following a failed acquisition by ReaderLink. B&T has served the library community for nearly 200 years, and we are just one of many libraries nationwide that have relied on them for decades. The abruptness of this closure presents a significant challenge across the industry. Fortunately, we began diversifying our wholesale vendors over the past year and are well-positioned to resume receiving materials more quickly than many other library systems impacted by this change.

Impact on New Materials: We anticipate a temporary slowdown in the delivery of some newly ordered physical books. As we ramp up orders with new vendors, new materials should become more available in the next few months.

Holds and Waiting Lists: You may see slightly longer wait times for popular new releases that were scheduled to be fulfilled by B&T. We are actively reviewing these titles and re-ordering them through our other vendors as quickly as possible.

Digital Content: Our eBook, eAudiobook, and other digital resources are not impacted by the B&T closure and remain fully operational.

Oakley Library update

Architects Siegel and Strain have been selected for the new Oakley Library project. Library staff are working with the City through the early stages of planning and design. The City is planning on breaking ground one year from now and then construction is expected to take about 18 months, which would mean the new library would open in mid 2028.

Art Classes Funded by Measure X at Library Branches

[ARTSCCC](#) was awarded a contract by the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County to deliver music, art, and cultural programs to youth ages 12-18 in Supervisorial Districts 3 and 5 with Measure X Youth Center funding. The classes began at the Antioch, Prewett, Pittsburg and Brentwood Libraries on August 1, 2025 and will go for one year with an option to continue for a second year.