

## **County Librarian's Report to the Library Commission Thursday, November 21, 2024**

### **Self-Service Sundays to Launch December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Cardholders who sign up in advance will be able to enter the Concord Library between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sundays beginning December 1. There will not be any staff on site, but two security guards will be present to ensure that only those who have signed up for the service are entering the library. Patrons can browse the collection and check out books, return items, pick up holds, connect to Wi-Fi, and use the space for studying or reading. Services not available include computers, printing, scanning, photocopying, restrooms, LINK+ pickups, and returns, use of the community meeting room, and the Friends bookstore. To sign up for the service, you must have a library card in good standing, a valid ID, attend an in-person orientation, and sign the user agreement. Once approved, you can scan your library card at the door and use a unique PIN code to enter on Sundays.

### **New Deputy County Librarian**

Lynne Noone retired from her position on October 4<sup>th</sup> and former Library Services Manager Amy Brunson was promoted into the Deputy County Library for public services. Congratulations Lynne and Amy!

### **Library Design Standards**

The Library's first ever Design Standards document is now complete and attached to this report. These standards articulate the Library's 'ideal' design standards for new facility projects, facility refresh projects, as well as furniture and shelving refreshes. (Please note that these standards do NOT contain anything that is already covered by CA building code and laws, ie changing tables in bathrooms, accessibility requirements, etc.) The standards will be distributed to all our partner City Managers, and we will also use them internally for county-owned facilities projects. These were developed in collaboration with Noll and Tam Architects.

### **Reminder on Rules for Remote Participation in Library Commission Meetings**

In order to meet quorum requirements, a minimum of 13 members must participate in person. Once the quorum is established, Commissioners may participate remotely but only pursuant to the following requirements and limitations:

- For "just cause," which is defined as 1) a child care or caregiving need of a child parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse or domestic partner, or 2) a contagious illness, or 3) a need related to a physical or mental disability, or 4) to travel for the board or another public agency.

- To participate remotely by “just cause,” the member must notify the board of the need to meet remotely and provide a general description of the reason. This notice can be given as late as the start of the meeting.
- Remote appearances for “just cause” can only occur twice a year per board member.
- If they meet these requirements, they can vote remotely, but they must participate via both audio and visual technology, and all votes still have to be done via roll call. A majority cannot participate remotely.
- If their address is published on the agenda and open to the public to attend and participate at that address.

Please note that if you notify staff that you will be attending a Commission meeting via Zoom and it is not for just cause or you do not publish your address, you are considered an excused absence.

### **2024 Friends, Foundation and Commission Forum**

The 2024 FFC Forum was held at the Walnut Creek Library on Saturday, October 5th. It was attended by approximately 40 folks plus Library Leadership and SCLMs Ree Satti, Michael Beller and Seng Lovan. Guest speakers Susan Hildreth presented the findings of the advocacy ad hoc group of the Library Commission; and Deborah Doyle spoke on advocacy and ballot measures. I presented on how the Library is funded and the 4 previous failed library ballot measures for CCCL between 1992 and 2000. At the end of the event, 13 attendees volunteered to begin working on discussing the possibility of a citizen-led ballot measure.

### **NTIA Digital Equity Grant Application**

A coalition of approximately 20 organizations across Alameda and Contra Costa Counties applied for an \$11.8 million NTIA Digital Equity grant. Contra Costa County would not receive any funds, but if granted, the non-profit organization Tech Exchange will provide digital equity classes and other activities to residents in Contra Costa primarily through the Richmond Public Library and the Contra Costa Public Library systems, as well as the Contra Costa Workforce Development Board. The results of the application will be announced by the end of this calendar year.

### **New Bay Point Library**

Bay Point residents met in person on Tuesday, September 24th at Riverview Middle School to look at some preliminary mock-ups of the new Bay Point Library. Noll & Tam Architects showed storyboards of proposed architectural spaces, materials, furnishings, and room configurations. Refreshments and Spanish translation was provided to community members. The community was excited to see how the plans are progressing and offered positive feedback.

### **Pittsburg and Bay Point Marsh Landing Grant Award**

The Pittsburg and Bay Point Libraries received \$15,000 from Federal Glover's office via a grant from Marsh Landing, LLC. The funds are designated for Pittsburg and Bay Point family programming. In the past this funding has been used to bring authors like Jason Reynolds, Kwame Alexander, Rafael Lopez and others to Pittsburg and Bay Point schools and libraries as well as the Bay Point Community Mural project. Congratulations to the Pittsburg and Bay Point Libraries!

### **California Freedom to Read Act**

On September 29, 2024 Governor Newsom signed AB 1825 (Muratsuchi) into law. This measure requires public library jurisdictions directly receiving state funding, excluding school libraries, to adopt a written and publicly available collection development policy and prohibit the governing board or body of a public library from proscribing or banning the circulation of any materials because of the topic addressed by the materials or because of the views, ideas, or opinions contained in those materials.

### **Additional Measure X Funding Requested**

At the November 12<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the Measure X Community Advisory Body and the Board of Supervisors, Alison requested an additional \$517,241 to cover a projected shortfall for the deferred maintenance facility projects at the Antioch, Pinole and Ygnacio Valley Libraries. Her PPT presentation is attached to this report.

*Respectfully submitted by Alison McKee, County Librarian*