



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

LIBRARY BOARD REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 26, 2024

TO: Library Board

FROM: Jessica Cadiente, Library Director

SUBJECT: Library Director's Report

SUMMARY: An overview of Library activities during January 2024.

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Digital Library Hour**, a virtual and in-person help hour, saw 8 participants receive assistance with the Library's digital resources including: LinkedIn Learning, Consumer Reports, Libby, and more.
- SBPL launched **El Grupo de Apoyo Posparto**, a postpartum support group for Spanish speakers in collaboration with the Solar Road Foundation at the Eastside Library.
- **Summer Reads** and **SB Reads 2024** planning is now underway! SB Reads 2024 will dive into the world of romance! Library Board members are invited to send the director suggestions. Below are the questions to consider:
 - Do you have a title you would like to suggest?
 - What topic/themes should we explore around the romance genre?
 - What programming ideas do you have?
 - Who should we collaborate with?
- SBPL launched **Sustainably SBPL Monthly Challenges!** These challenges are sustainability-related themed book lists and call to actions that are posted on social media. These challenges will continue through the end of 2024 and highlight the Library's grant-funded programming aimed at increasing literacy around sustainability which has so far included a composting workshop, master gardening workshops, and an upcoming fix-it fair!
- The Resource Recovery & Waste Management of Santa Barbara County, after facilitating the composting workshop, expressed that the county has never had a more successful event than the one at the Eastside Library. They were impressed with the attendees and are eager to repeat this workshop again in the future

- We officially concluded the **PLA Grant for digital literacy**. During the final review with the grant manager, we received congratulations for our outstanding achievement. The high attendance and the abundance of informative comments from participants were particularly commended.
- A regular patron stopped by the weekly **Shoreline Park Library on the Go stop** and shared that it was their birthday. They expressed a desire to visit places that bring them joy, which is why they decided to stop by the van and check out the books!
- **January Foot Traffic Camera Counts**
 - **Central:** 19,991
 - **Eastside:** 3,153
 - **Montecito:** 1,557

PROGRAMMING/OUTREACH

- **The Hangout**, a weekly space at Eastside Library for teens to relax and gather in a safe, supporting environment, launched in January with over 20 teens in attendance! The Hangout features crafts, video games, board games, popcorn, and connection. Each month will feature a surprise activity, this month was a MarioKart Contest!
- This month, SBPL introduced evening sessions of **Baby & Me** at 5:30pm at Central Library. Multiple caregivers expressed appreciation for the new timing saying they were glad to be able to continue coming after their maternity leave ends.
- **Kinder Ready** – a series of classes designed for families of children ages 3.5 and up to prepare for Kindergarten – kicked off this month. Eight families joined, some of which were new to the library. Many of the children in the group had never been to daycare or school before so this was their first opportunity to socialize and practice routines.
- Three visits to A-OK at Franklin, Harding, and McKinley schools this month brought robotics lessons to 4th-6th graders with Cubelets and Mini Spheros.
- The outreach team distributed 25 **Maker Challenge Kits** to Transition House where 95% of the children are from Spanish-speaking families. We also embarked on a new collaboration with the **Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation** to distribute 15 Maker Challenge Kits and a [teen-intern created video](#) to home-bound patients each month. The Maker Challenge is a monthly interactive literacy-related craft project that kids and caregivers can participate in while learning about a new topic each month.
- The **Library on the Go Van** made an extra stop at Samarkand Senior Living Center in January because the previous month's visit had to be canceled due to rain.
- The **Library on the Go Farmer's Market Stop** is seeing an average of 49 adults each week. Patrons are loving the opportunity to check out books and passes on their way to the Farmer's Market!

- Over 100 people showed up to a super exciting and well-attended **Music & Movement at Shoreline Park** on January 18.



- **Trail Talks** partner John Wapotich and Library staff organized part two of the Trail Talks Open Mic event on January 18. Eight community members shared stories about trails they've run, hikes they've taken, places they've explored, and herbs and plants they've learned about along the way to a crowd of about 30 people in the Faulkner Gallery.
- SBPL visited Radio Bronco station and participated in a 15-minute interview focused on library resources. We covered everything from the requirements to access physical materials, the digital library, and Library of Things, to all of the services tailored to specific age groups: babies, school-age children, teenagers, adults, and seniors. Key events such as the Job Fair and the Family Literacy Carnival and the Immigration Resources Fair were highlighted.

COLLECTIONS

- SBPL was approved to receive four hiking backpacks provided by the **Parks Pass Grant** to add to our Library Of Things Collection. Shipments of items will begin to arrive in February and they should be available for check out in March.
- 30 new **Botanic Garden passes** have been created and all expired passes were pulled from the collection.
- In January 2024 SBPL hit its Hoopa budget limit of \$15,000 for the first time. This caused patrons to get notices that they were unable to check-out Hoopa items. We have increased the monthly budget to \$16,000 while we investigate options and budgeting for FY25.

- Several State Library funded databases are slated for removal due to the State of California budget deficit. These include: LinkedIn Learning, New York Times, brainfuse, teaching books and Coursera.

FACILITY/CONSTRUCTION

- **Eastside**
 - Water intrusion into the MLK and Children's section has occurred with each rain. Contracts are being executed to abate mold and repair flooring and walls.
 - Exterior water issues are still being identified.
- **Library Plaza**
 - Water intrusion issues into the lower level staff space continue to delay the project. The work to repair the stormwater system continues.
 - Punchlist is being generated by architect and inspector.
- **Elevator**
 - Framing of the interior beams is underway.
- **Lower Level Staff Space**
 - Water intrusion continues to delay staff entry into this space. Water intrusion during one storm reached the Children's Library and electrical room.
 - Punch list is being created and it continues to be difficult to determine if issues are related to water introduction or craftsmanship.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS/SECURITY

- **Community Support Specialists** assisted patrons in enrolling in the Cox Access program for discounted internet, unlocking opportunities for education and connectivity. As well introduced them to the BCycle membership that the library offers.
- SBPL teamed up with FSA and Health Linkages to host a Medi-Cal Enrollment Night at the Eastside Library, where 17 families successfully enrolled in the program. A second enrollment event is scheduled for February.
- The YMCA has expressed interest in resuming tabling activities at the Eastside Library. This collaboration aims to facilitate outreach efforts targeted towards at-risk teens and young adults aged 18 to 24 who are experiencing homelessness. YMCA is working closely with the Teen Librarian to come up with an optimum time for these tabling efforts.
- **January Incidents/Suspensions**
 - 29 incidents at Central
 - 3 incidents at Eastside
 - 2 incidents at Montecito
 - No suspension letters in January

TECHNOLOGY

- Tech team continues to look for an option to replace Library scheduling software.
- Library calendar Spanish translations are having issues and staff are working on an internal solution.
- The tech team received 134 unique tech tickets in January 2024
- Launched the start up of SCRUB service Quipu uses to identify the cardholders' exact address locations, based on USPS data. This will help identify users outside of Zone 1 service area.
- **January public computer use**
 - **Central:** 1,491
 - **Eastside:** 563
 - **Montecito:** 77
- **January Wi-Fi use**
 - **Central:** 10,044
 - **Eastside:** 3,751
 - **Montecito:** 89

STAFFING

- The Library had one retirement of 45 year employee in January.
- Three new hourly Library Assistants were hired for Eastside Library
- One new hourly Library Assistant was hired for Central Library
- The recruitment for Youth Services Supervisor remains open.
- The Montecito Branch Supervisor remains an acting position while we train and onboard the newly hired supervisor. They will begin their role in earnest at the end of March.
- Heather Walsh started as Circulation Supervisor for Central Library in January.
- On January 25, 2024 all SBPL locations were closed for an All Staff Training Day. Staff received training sessions on:
 - Admin Updates and Service Model overview
 - Reader's Advisory hands-on Training sessions
 - Reference Interview training
 - Koha: Test Your Skills gamified training
 - Train the Trainer
 - Lighting Round Trainings

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