IMPACT REPORT 2024-2025









SAN MATEO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

CITY LIBRARIAN'S MESSAGE

This past year has been one of transformation and possibility for the San Mateo Public Library. We developed a new strategic plan and vision that will guide our work for the next three years. Our new vision, to cultivate boundless potential through exploration, learning, and connection, reflects our deep commitment to serving the evolving needs of our community. We are already making meaningful progress toward the goals we set in our strategic plan.

In April, the library hosted the third annual San Mateo Celebrates event during National Library Week. This citywide arts and culture festival brings people of all ages and backgrounds together to connect through shared experiences at the library. As an intergenerational "third space," the library plays a crucial role in addressing social isolation, especially at a time when loneliness has been declared a national epidemic. In a city like San Mateo, where the senior population is growing, these inclusive, community-building efforts are more important than ever and align with City Council priorities.

San Mateo Celebrates is one example of how the library reaches new audiences, but outreach is part of our work year-round. Over the past year, library staff engaged with residents across the city and expanded access through the purchase of a new outreach van, which will deliver library services and resources directly to neighborhoods. We continue to approach our work through an equity lens, ensuring that everyone in San Mateo feels welcomed and supported at the library.

Construction began on the Marina Library's structural improvement project, ensuring the branch will continue to serve the community for generations. Recognizing that our branches are vital community anchors, we expanded programming at the Hillsdale branch, including the launch of a popular romance book club and crochet group.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to promoting literacy, re-imagining spaces to meet evolving needs, and expanding outreach. Above all, our goal is to ensure the San Mateo Public Library continues to be a place where every member of our community can discover, connect, and learn.



Rukshana Singh
City Librarian





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FOUNDATION OFFICE

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:
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Karen Kvam

YEAR IN NUMBERS

San Mateo Public Library has continued to be a welcoming space for people to explore new ideas, meet others, and keep learning. From engaging programs and educational workshops to the everyday joy of finding a good book, each visit contributes to the vibrant spirit of our library. Every number on this page represents a moment of curiosity, creativity, or connection that shows how our library continues to grow alongside the community we serve.

331,360
Library Visitors

1,111,700
Total Circulation

87,920
Cardholders

108,500
Population Served



751,950
Physical Materials Circulated

286,870
Electronic Materials Circulated

69,250
Interlibrary Items Borrowed

95,940
Interlibrary Items Loaned Out

41,600
Public Computer Sessions

531,700
Wireless Sessions

SUPPORT/VOLUNTEERS

This year, the **San Mateo Public Library Foundation (SMPLF)** deepened their commitment to the library and the diverse communities it serves. SMPLF proudly hosted *San Mateo Celebrates*, a citywide arts and culture festival that united patrons across generations and added a vibrant touch to the National Library Week festivities.

SMPLF also played a key role in the library's Strategic Planning process, offering valuable insights to help shape its direction over the next three years.

In addition, SMPLF's financial contributions enabled the library to deliver enriching programs for children, teens, and adults alike. SMPLF's theme for the year ahead, *A Place for Everyone's Story*, will help build on the library's commitment to providing enriching and inclusive services.

For more information, please visit the San Mateo Public Library Foundation at **smlibraryfoundation.org**

San Mateo Public Library Foundation
A Healthy Library = A Healthy Community

$200,000
Annual Foundation Funds Granted

810
Library Volunteers

11,200
Total Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Groups

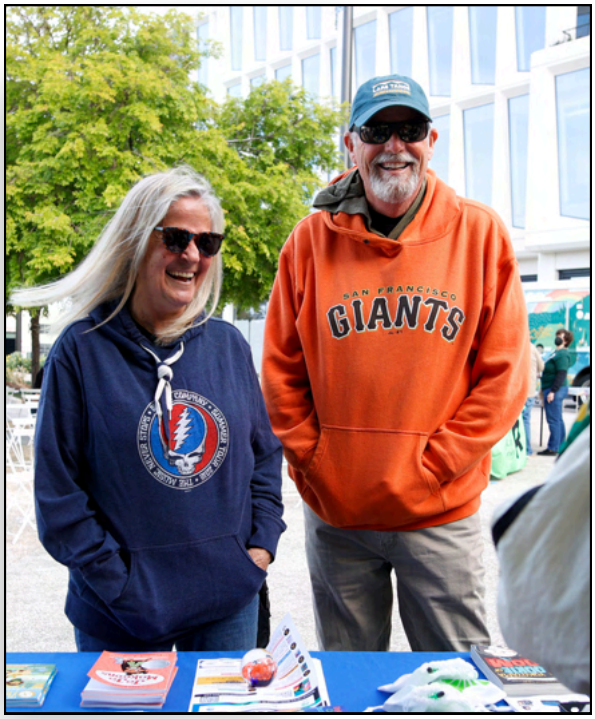
Friends of the Library
Project Read
Library Cultural Committees
San Mateo County Genealogical Society



ACCESS & OUTREACH

The library made new connections in the community with outreach to seniors, veterans, residential communities, and our neighbors in North Central San Mateo this year.

In celebration of National Library Week, the library hosted a Community Resource Fair at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, with eight government and nonprofit organizations. Representatives were invited to share information about their services to the families attending the "*Juega*" event of San Mateo Celebrates. Attendees enjoyed refreshments and contributed to a collective art project as they learned about the wealth of services available to the local area.



Our community partners engaged with over 100 guests during the fair in addition to connecting with each other for future partnership opportunities.

Other offerings include:

- **Self Help for the Elderly**
- **Summer Learning**
- **Veterans Christmas Event**
- **Home Delivery**

> *I love how the library brings all corners of our community together! It's much more than what I imagined a library to be.*
>
> -Library Patron



90
Outreach Events

9,900
Outreach Interactions

5,190
Free Books Given Away

EVENTS & PROGRAMS

The library hosted a special version of the film, **Free to All: The Public Library**. The film tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries from the pioneering women behind the "*Free Library Movement*" to today's librarians who provide service to the public despite working in a contentious age of closures and book bans.

The film chronicles those who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all. The film was followed by a discussion with the filmmakers, Dawn Logsdon and Lucie Faulknor, library staff, and a Library Board member.

Other events include:

- **Seasonal reading challenges for children, teens, and adults**
- **Book clubs for children and adults, including romance and silent clubs**
- **Women in Engineering storytime with Public Works department**
- **Free adult tutoring and ESL classes**
- **Teen Finals Café**
- **Seed Library and gardening programs**
- **Financial presentations**
- **Genealogy workshops**





700
Events and Programs

28,000
Patron Attendance at Events

> *The San Mateo Public Library expands our families' horizons! Chinese New Year, Persian Nowruz, Children's Reading Time, magic and music to name a few.*
>
> -Library Patron

STRATEGIC PLAN

As the Library's **2018-2023 strategic plan** came to a close, the work began to set the course for **2024-2028**.

Through a series of planning sessions with committed stakeholders, feedback from almost 700 surveys (in 3 languages), and careful consideration of upcoming challenges, a new guiding document was created to let everyone connected with the library know who we want to become and what we want to accomplish.

MISSION

San Mateo Public Library is a gateway to empowerment and understanding. We make knowledge accessible and offer free enriching experiences and welcoming civic spaces for people of San Mateo, Hillsborough, and neighboring communities.

VISION

To cultivate boundless potential through exploration, learning, and connection.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Intellectual Freedom
- Adaptability & Innovation
- Equity of Access
- Embrace Diverse Perspectives
- Welcoming Environment

GOALS

- To promote literacy for all ages and abilities
- To create beautiful and functional community spaces
- To increase and secure stable funding
- To proactively engage community





MARINA BRANCH RESTORATION PROJECT

An exciting new chapter is underway with the restoration of the **Marina Branch Library**. This comprehensive project, expected to span approximately 16 months, will deliver critical upgrades to enhance the safety, accessibility, and longevity of the facility. Planned improvements include:

- **Foundation and structural repairs**
- **Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades**
- **Accessibility improvements**
- **Exterior and landscaping improvements**
- **Newly updated interior**
- **Relocated deck**

This project is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by:

- The State of California, administered by the California State Library;

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

- A Community Project Funding Grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and
- A Member Agency Grant administered by the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority.

To ensure continued service during construction, a temporary satellite branch will operate at the Shoreview Recreation Center, offering holds pick up and limited programming.

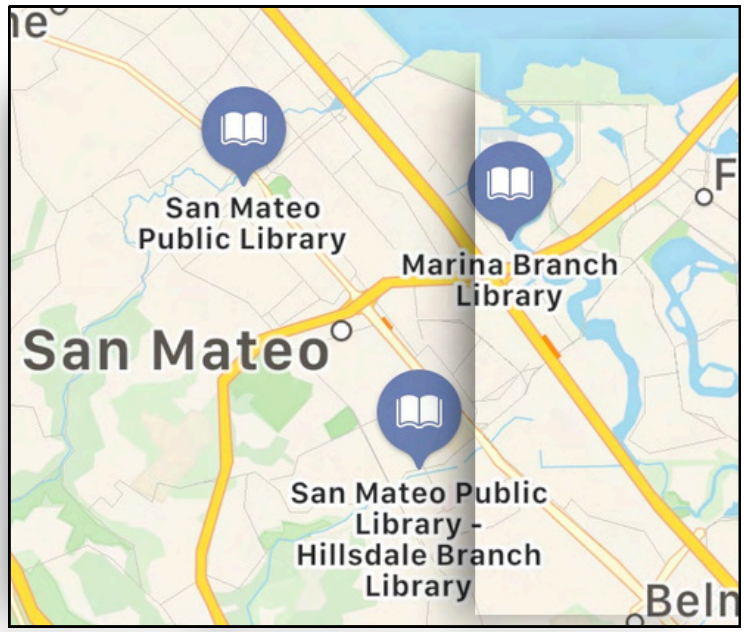




**Rendering, not exact display*



SAN MATEO PUBLIC LIBRARY



TO CULTIVATE BOUNDLESS POTENTIAL THROUGH EXPLORATION, LEARNING, AND CONNECTION

www.smplibrary.org



MAIN LIBRARY

55 WEST 3RD AVE
SAN MATEO, CA 94402
(650) 522-7800



HILLSDALE LIBRARY

1205 W. HILLSDALE BLVD
SAN MATEO, CA 94403
(650) 522-7880



TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MARINA LIBRARY

1530 SUSAN COURT
SAN MATEO, CA 94403
(650) 522-7890