



# City of Alameda, California

January 5, 2026

Dear President Amarasiriwardena and Members of the Library Board,

I write to update you on significant activities occurring at Alameda Free Library in November and December 2025 and inform you of future activities.

## **PERSONNEL**

### Staffing Update

Natalie Canellas (she/her) and Mika Permutt (they/them) start on January 12. Natalie is the Librarian I at Bay Farm Island Library and Mika is the new School Resource Services Librarian.

## **COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES**

### De-escalation Training

On January 13, Rick Jenkins from Safer Libraries will offer a three-hour training session to all staff. The session, titled Transformational Security: Making Libraries Safer through Compassionate De-escalation, will include a scenario-based discussion. Rick served as the Lead Security Officer for Seattle Public Library and has presented de-escalation training to libraries across the Bay Area, California, and the country.

All libraries will be open on from 2:30-6:00 pm on Tuesday, January 13 to accommodate the training.

### Clinical Social Worker at the Main Library

Clinical Social Worker Maria Temporal began working at the Main Library on Monday, December 22. Through a 12-month contract with Alameda Family Services that is managed by Housing and Human Services, Maria will provide best-practice social-work interventions, informal mental health support to Library patrons, consultation with library staff, and linkage to services including case managers. She will also assist with legal aid, mental health, housing, food banks, social services entitlement, non-emergency medical care clinics, immigration support, and domestic violence programs.

Maria will be at the Main Library Monday through Thursday from 12:10-6:10 pm and Friday from 11:10 am – 5:10 pm.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### Edison Elementary School Maker Fair

On Saturday, December 13, the Library attended the Maker Fair at Edison Elementary School. The Library engaged with at least 50 families who made buttons using illustrations from library books that were withdrawn from the collection due to damage.



### Ohlone Star Stories

On November 22, more than 60 people attend the Bay Farm Island Library's program facilitated by Café Ohlone cofounders Vicent Medina and Louis Trevino. They listened to Ohlone stories about the stars and learned how to sing a song about stars in Chochenyo, the language of the East Bay Ohlone people.

## NorCal Bats

115 people visited the Main Library on November 22 for a presentation about the importance of bats in Northern California. As part of the program, Corky Quirk from NorCal Bats brought three different species of bats: Pallid, Mexican Free-Tailed, and Big Brown. In addition to seeing the bats up-close, those in attendance saw the bats snack on insects through a projection. After the presentation, participants were able to ask questions and create a bat craft.



## Anime Art Workshop

On November 15, the Main Library hosted the second installment of its anime art workshop for kids. The facilitator taught the participants how to draw different Pokémon characters while learning about composition, perspective, and cross-hatching.



## STEAM Wednesdays

### Main Library, 4:00 PM

Starting January 7, the Library will offer STEAM programs at the Main Library every Wednesday afternoon at 4 pm for children ages 8 and up. Because space is limited, registration is required. [Learn about STEAM Wednesdays and register.](#)

## Drop-In Chess Club

Adults: First Saturday

Kids, ages 8+: Third Saturday

West End Library, 1:00-4:00 PM

Starting January 3, the West End Library will offer a drop-in chess club each month for adults and kids. Boards will be provided, however, there will be no instruction.

## Tween DIY Canvas Bag Workshop

Wednesday, January 14

West End Library, 2:00 PM

Bags and art supplies provided. Please register in advance.

## 3D Modeling Basics

Saturday, January 17

Main Library, 2:00 PM

Patrons ages 7 and up are encouraged to share and advance their learning of 3D modeling techniques in community. We will begin by progressing through the basic lessons made available by Tinkercad, the free app of 3D design, electronics, and coding. A range of backgrounds, skills, and experience levels is desired for this community of practice-style workshop. Registration is required, and bringing your own device is preferred.

## Vision Board Workshop for Teens and Adults

Saturday, January 20

West End Library, 2:00 PM

It is time to turn your new year's resolutions into a beautiful work of art! Local artist Cristina Edwards will present the workshop, and all materials will be provided. Due to space limitations, please register in advance.

## Toy Swap

Saturday, January 24

Main Library, 2:00

Back by popular demand, the Children's Department will host another eco-friendly toy swap. Participants are limited to two donations per child. [Learn more about the toy swap.](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Eitner

Library Director