



## City of Alameda, California

November 5, 2024

Dear President Amarasiriwardena and Members of the Library Board,

I write to update you on significant activities occurring at the Alameda Free Library in September and October 2024 as well as inform you of future activities.

### **PERSONNEL**

On October 1, Oliver Mills started as a librarian and will focus on events for adults and outreach. Prior to joining the team, Oliver worked at the Western Addition Branch of the San Francisco Public Library and Hayward Public Library.

Two new part-time library specialists have joined the Alameda Free Library team. Micaela Clark works in Technical Services and has experience at Berkeley Public Library and Ingram Content Group. Xochil Frausto will work primarily at the Main Library and has worked at Calle 24 Latino Cultural District.

Kayla Ngai started as a part-time library aide in late October and will work at all three libraries.

Finally, two part-time library aides and three part-time library specialists recently left employment with the Library.

### **COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES**

#### Alameda Reads Completes Another Successful Year

Alameda Reads, the adult literacy program funded in part by California Library Literacy Services, assisted 70 learners during Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Central to the program's success is that learners set their own goals. During the most recent Fiscal Year, one learner achieved their goal of becoming a citizen, and another completed their goal of earning a high school diploma. Other achieved goals were obtaining a driver's license, receiving a license or certificate, reading a book, having their writing published in the *Change Agent*, and gaining new technology skills. Additionally, 11 learners achieved their goals by being hired for a job or were hired for a better job.

During the most recent fiscal year, the participating learners logged 3,097 hours of instruction, which is equivalent to more than four months of nonstop learning.

Volunteer tutors power Alameda Reads. During Fiscal Year 2023-2024, 53 volunteer tutors provided 1,969 hours of instruction to learners.

Barb Papik expertly leads Alameda Reads in partnership with Peter Connolly and former colleague Lenore Lustig. Together, the Alameda Reads team trains volunteer tutors, conducts initial assessments of new learners, and provides support to new and continuing learners. Alameda Reads operates out of the Veteran's Memorial Building.

### New Software and Services Under Consideration

On December 17, City Council will consider a contract amendment with Innovative Interfaces, Inc. for a mobile app, enhanced online public access catalog, event calendar, online room reservations, and digital marketing platform.

The mobile app, which will feature Library branding, will provide a fully integrated experience for users including account information, upcoming events, and permit users to check out materials through the app.

The enhanced online catalog improves and simplifies the interface by showing one entry for multiple formats of a title. The catalog also automatically integrates the Library's digital materials through an application programming interface (API), which is not possible with the Library's current catalog.

The event calendar's display does not truncate the names of events, and the online room reservations will permit Library customers to reserve a room prior to visiting the Library. Finally, the digital marketing platform will improve promotion and engagement, while protecting customer data.

### Incident Tracking Software

The Library is working with the Quipu Group to launch PITS (Patron Incident Tracking System). PITS is a hosted, web-based application that allows library staff to log and track incidents and the people associated with those incidents. PITS will standardize how the Library reports incidents and make it easier to track people who are currently suspended from using the Library.

Before launching PITS, the Library needs to revise its Behavior Policy. The Behavior Policy was last updated and reviewed by the Library Board in 2011. The Library intends to bring a revised Behavior Policy to the Library Board for consideration in early 2025.

## **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

### Sustainability Programs Draw an Audience

On Saturday, September 14, the Main Library hosted Climate Solutions: What Alameda Youth Are Doing. The event was in partnership with Youthpower Climate Action, and young people

Additionally, the Library hosted two programs promoting sustainability through reuse. On Sunday, October 24, 130 people participated in a costume exchange at the Main Library. And 18 people participated in a mug swap on Wednesday, October 9.

The Library celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on Sunday, October 6 with a game of Lotería at the Main Library. Families enjoyed Mexican candy, conchitas, and prizes. Everyone left a winner!



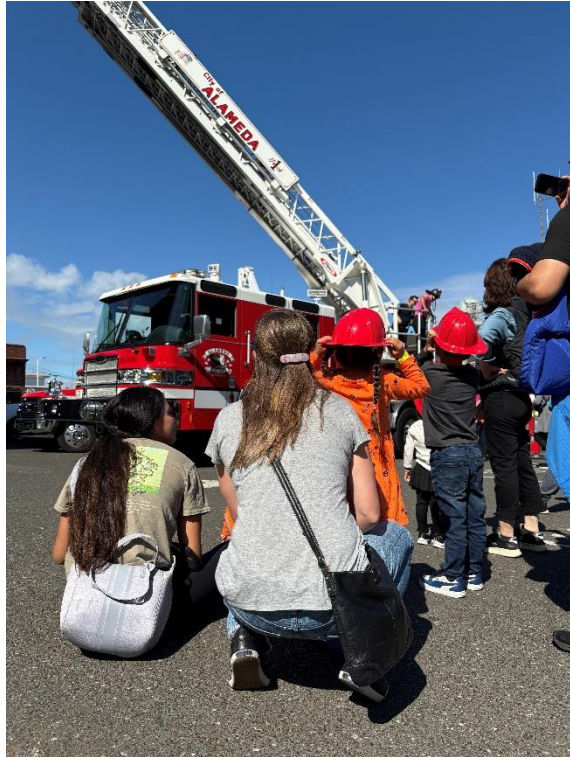
On the night of October 15, twenty-six furry participants slept over at the Bay Farm Island Library. Each participant was emailed five photos featuring the fun and mischief their stuffy engaged in while at the library. When their human friends came to the Library the next day to pick up their stuffed animals, they were given a Halloween picture frame kit as a memento.





## Big Truck Bonanza

More than 700 people attended the Big Truck Bonanza in the City Hall parking lot on Saturday, October 12. Thank you to the Alameda Fire Department, the Alameda Police Department, Alameda Municipal Power, and Alameda Family Services for participating and making the event a memorable experience for all. And a special thank you to Eva Volin for organizing the event.



### Bilingual Storytimes at West End Library



Families enjoyed an English-Spanish Bilingual Storytime at the West End Library on Tuesday, October 1 presented by library workers Fernanda Nuñez Gutierrez and Virginia Hill.

Additionally, the West End Library hosted a Tagalog-English Bilingual Storytime on Saturday, October 19, in partnership with Kababayan Kids.

### Fantasy Book Club at Bay Farm Island Library



Fourth and fifth graders enjoyed the first installment of the Fantasy Book Club at the Bay Farm Island Library on October 16. The October title was *The Spiderwick Chronicles* by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black. Library worker Oli Joyce facilitated the lively and engaged discussion.

### College 101: Navigating the College Experience

On October 5, 38 people learned about the first-year experience, financial aid, and ways families can assist students navigating their college journey. The event was held at the Main Library in partnership with Study Smart Tutors.

## **OUTREACH**

On Saturday, October 5, I represented the Library at Alameda Pride in Chochenyo Park. Despite the heat, families were excited to learn about library resources, upcoming events, and take home a free book courtesy of the Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

The Library also attended Rhythmix Cultural Works's 'Round the World Music, Dance & Art Festival on September 21.

## **QUARTERLY ALL-STAFF MEETING**

Library staff gathered on Wednesday, October 23, at the Main Library for an all-staff meeting. During the meeting, staff presented their takeaways from the Future of Libraries Conference in San Francisco on October 2, which 8 people attended. The Training and Communication Task Forces updated their colleagues on the information they have gathered and their plans moving forward. Finally, staff received an update on upcoming projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Eitner  
Library Director