



September 3, 2024

Dear President Strickler and Members of the Library Board,

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

PERSONNEL

Interviews were held for the full-time librarian position at the Main Library on August 29, 2024. The selected candidate will likely start in late September or early October.

COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES

Pathway to Learning Kits



The Pathway to Learning Kits launched in August and have been well received by the community. As of August 30, the astronomy kit has the most people waiting to use it. Other kits with a waiting list are baking, computer science, knitting and crocheting, sewing, and ukulele.

The initial interest in the pathway to learning kits is a positive signal that offering a more robust library of things meets an existing community need.

Strategic Plan

The Library’s current strategic plan ends in 2025. The initial step in the process to draft a new five-year strategic plan will begin later this year with the release of a Request for Proposal seeking submissions from consultants that are interested in working with the Library to engage the community and draft a new strategic plan.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

2024 Summer Reading Program



More than 3800 people participated in the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge, which ran from June 1 to July 31. Participation increased 30% as compared to last year. The Summer Reading Challenge is open to people ages 0-100+ and the Library made a concerted effort to enroll adults this year. Those efforts were very successful as adult participation increased 85% over 2023. Furthermore, a remarkable 45% of participants finished the Summer Reading Challenge.

Participants

Year	Children	Teen	Adult	Total
2024	2,651	251	915	3,817
2023	2,132	308	493	2,933

Completions

Year	Children	Teen	Adult	Total
2024	1,347	95	294	1,736
2023	1,027	138	170	1,335



To celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Challenge, families enjoyed a Percy Jackson & the Olympians inspired celebration. Craft options included torch and shield making.

Museum of Children’s Art Events

In late June and July, the Museum of Children’s Art hosted events at the Main Library as well as Bay Farm and West End Libraries. Due to space limitations, the Bay Farm Library event occurred at the Leydecker Recreation Center. The Library is grateful to ARPD for its continued partnership.



Crab Cove Storytime



A naturalist from Crab Cove Visitor's Center led a special storytime and craft at the Main Library on July 9. The naturalist also brought along a few friends for the families to see and touch.



Fratello Marionettes



On Saturday, July 20, families at the West End Library enjoyed a performance from the Fratello Marionettes. After the performance, children had an opportunity to examine the marionettes up close and learn how they work.

OUTREACH

On Wednesday, August 14, I shared information about library services with older adults at Christ Episcopal Church after joining them for lunch. They were enthusiastic and impressed

about everything the Library offers to the community. They also supported a library at Alameda Point.

TASK FORCES TO ADDRESS TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

Two themes emerged from my discussions with library employees: communication and training. Colleagues consistently mentioned a need to improve these areas. As a result, two task forces, consisting solely of volunteers, will develop recommendations to improve training and communication. The task forces begin their work September 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Eitner
Library Director