



July 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 May and June 2024 as well as inform you of future activities.

PERSONNEL

Three new part-time library specialists have joined the Alameda Free Library team. Holly Scheld has experience with Hayward Public Library, Pampas Cafe, and Music Together Tri-Valley. Holly works primarily at the Main Library. Vicky Lam has work experience with the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and San Mateo County Libraries. Vicky works at the Main Library and Bay Farm Island Library. May Wing has experience with Sacramento Public Library, Roseville Public Library, and Learning Solutions Kids. May works primarily at the Main Library.

We are currently recruiting a full-time librarian to work at the Main Library. The position will work with adults and offer robust programs in addition to assisting the public at the Reference Desk.

ALAMEDA POINT LIBRARY

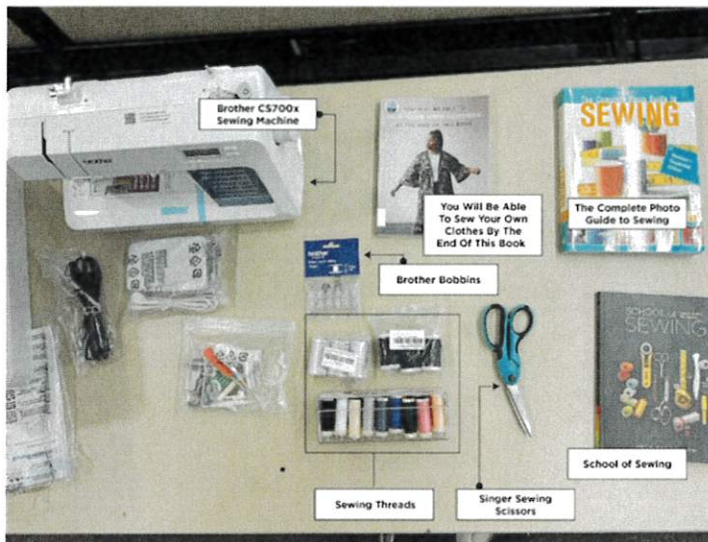
On June 18, 2024, the City Council asked the Library to proceed with additional planning and return with more developed designs and improved cost estimates for the proposed new library at Alameda Point. In addition to design work and budget estimates, the Library will also engage in broader community outreach in the coming months.

COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES

Supper & Support

We have paused future Supper & Support programming after the June 16 event. The Library was unsuccessful in its grant application to the State Library for funds to continue the series. In addition to funding issues, Supper & Support requires significant staff time to execute. As a result, the Library will reassess Supper & Support when Adult Services is fully staffed.

Pathway to Learning Kits



The kits are designed to have everything someone needs to learn a new skill. Members of the community will be able to check out these kits and learn at their own pace beginning at the end of July.

The Library will offer baking, birding, computer science, DIY, knitting/crocheting, and sewing kits. The kits were funded by a grant from the Pacific Library Partnership.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

2024 Summer Reading Program



The 2024 Summer Reading Program started June 1 and runs through July 31! The program is open to people ages 0-100+. The goal is to spend 24 hours reading and/or completing activities. Importantly, 12 hours must be spent reading.

Participants win a prize, while supplies last, for every 8 hours completed. All participants receive one free scoop of ice cream from Tucker's Ice Cream after completing 8 hours. At 16 hours, children receive a free book of their choice. Teens and adults receive a voucher for one book (up to \$10.00) at the Books for Friends Bookstore located in the Main Library for

completing 16 hours. At 24 hours, there are two prize categories for children. Read-to-me participants receive a rubber duckie and independent readers receive a coupon for one youth round of golf at Subpar Mini Golf. Teens and adults receive a raffle ticket to win one of three grand prize bundles. The last day to claim prizes is July 31. Please visit the library's website for full details.

As of June 24, 2,423 people have registered for the Summer Reading Program and 124 people have already completed it.

Police Storytime at West End Library



On May 7, Captain Emmitt from the Alameda Police Department participated in a special storytime at the West End Library. The community appreciated the opportunity to interact with Captain Emmitt, who was happy to participate in the learning and fun that occurs during storytime.

Music and Movement at Bay Farm Island Library

More than 70 people enjoyed the first installment of Music & Movement on June 11 at 10:30. Studies indicate that early literacy skills are enhanced through songs, movement to music, and stories. The program occurs outside the library in Leydecker Park every Tuesday through July 30.



Lucky Diaz Dazzles



Emmy and Grammy Award winning musician and children's author Lucky Diaz entertained an enthusiastic crowd at the Main Library on June 15. Lucky Diaz performed a mini-concert and book reading as well as a book signing. The Library provided free copies of Lucky Diaz's books *Palatero Man* and *La Guitarrista* for the book signing.

Coding with LEGO Summer Series Engages Kids



On June 15, the West End Library hosted Coding with LEGO (left). Fifteen children ages 6-9 used the well-known playful blocks with simple hardware and intuitive coding software to create hands-on purposeful play. The West End Library will also host a Family Coding with LEGO event on Saturday, July 13 at 3 pm.

The Main Library is also hosting Coding with LEGO. Running from June through July, the Library has a weekly session for kids ages 6-9 and one for kids ages 9-11. Both sessions were fully booked and those in attendance have been enthusiastic about their experiences. Participants collaborate with a partner and use their creativity, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills in this 90-minute activity.

ALL STAFF MEETING

On July 24, I will share my takeaways from the one-on-one meetings I had with all library employees. To accommodate as many colleagues as possible, there will be two sessions. The first session is from 10-11:15 am and the second session is from 4-5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Eitner
Library Director