



City of Alameda, California

September 2, 2025

Dear President Amarasiriwardena and Members of the Library Board,

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

ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS

Fiscal Year 2024-25 was successful thanks to library workers. More than 216,000 people visited the Library, and they checked out 759,514 items. Additionally, 44,436 people attended an event at the Library or spoke to a staff member at an event across the City. Each data point represents a significant amount of work, dedication, and expertise on their part. While numbers alone do not tell the entire story, they tell a compelling story about the Library's community impact.

- Visitors to all locations increased 16% as compared to Fiscal Year 2023-24
- Total attendance at programs and outreach events grew 18%
- Total checkouts increased 5%
 - Checkouts at Bay Farm increased 7%
 - Checkouts at West End increased 20%
 - Checkouts of digital materials increased 22%
- Computer sessions increased 31%
- The number of questions answered increased 12%

The numbers are equivalent to the following.

- Every Alamedan checking out 9.7 items from the Library
- Every Alamedan visiting the Library 2.8 times
- Total library visitors last year would fill the Chase Center in San Francisco almost 12 times
- 57% of Alamedans attended a library event last year

PERSONNEL

Staffing Update

On August 17, Victor Avalos started as a library services manager. He will oversee operations at the Main Library, including direct supervision of adult and teen services, and oversight or circulation. Before joining Alameda Free Library, Victor was the Library Desk Supervisor at the

Civic Center Library, which is part of Marin County Free Library. He also worked at Oakland Public Library.

Virginia Hill was promoted from Library Technician to Librarian I on Monday, August 11. Virginia has worked for the Library for many years and is adored by parents and children alike for her engaging storytimes and programs. Virginia will continue to work at West End Library in her new role.

On August 25, Laura Klatt started as a Library Technician at the West End Library. Laura has worked for the Library in different capacities for many years, including managing the move from the high school to the Main Library. Most recently, Laura worked part-time as an administrative specialist in Technical Services.

Two part-time library aides recently left employment with the Library.

Classification Revision

On July 9, the Civil Service Board approved revisions to the Librarian classification, which will now be known as Librarian I. The revised classification provides multiple ways for applicants to meet the minimum qualifications. Importantly, the minimum qualifications focus on skills rather than credentials. By doing so, the Library provides a career path that is not solely tied to educational attainment.

COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES

Realigned Hours Begin October 6

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Main	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	9-5	9-5	12-5
Bay Farm Island	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6		9-5	
West End	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6		9-5	

Alongside the realigned hours, the Library will restructure its programming schedule to meet community needs. The new hours will also provide greater opportunities for the Library to extend its reach beyond its walls.

Library Card Design Contest

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month and to celebrate the Library is having a library card design contest. The theme is Alameda Free Library is the Heart of the Community. The contest is open to Alameda residents and features four age categories: 4-6, 9-12, 13-17, and 18+. The winning design in each category will be made into a library card that will be available at all

locations. Submissions will be accepted until 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 30. Full details and rules are available by clicking [here](#).

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Summer Reading Challenge

The Library had its most successful Summer Reading Challenge ever! More than 4545 people participated in the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge, which ran from June 1 to July 31. Participation increased 20% as compared to last year. Furthermore, a remarkable 45% of participants finished the Summer Reading Challenge. The Summer Reading Challenge is open to people ages 0-100+, and more than 1200 adults participated this year.

At the Main Library, each child who earns the first prize get to select a scoop of ice cream; write their name on it; and post it on the bulletin board. The bulletin board couldn't contain all the scoops by the time the Summer Reading Challenge ended.

The Summer Reading Challenge is successful because the entire department gets behind the effort. It is truly a team effort. Thank you to Team Library for a record-breaking year!



Sensory Science

More than 50 people enjoyed making their own oobleck stress ball and fluffy slime at the Main Library last month.

Dog Man Day

More than 170 people attended Dog Man Day at the Main Library on Saturday, July 26. The event included crafts, giveaways, and a visit by a very special guest. Additionally, the Library hosted a Dog Man art contest and screened the Dog Man movie for those who wanted to watch or rewatch it. Library staff enjoyed seeing the kids share their enthusiasm and love for Dav Pilkey's Dog Man graphic novel series.



Coding with LEGO



In the most recent Coding with LEGO session, participants paired up to create a super cleanup device and tested their creations in a round of friendly competition.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Eitner
Library Director