



Library Director's Report

September 2025

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

A few items will be repeats from the last report

- Follow-up on July's item on a pending Eichler Network article; the article is now online: <https://mailchi.mp/eichlernetwork.com/time-for-an-eichler-museum-to-rise-up-in-the-bay-area-15069747?e=1c2f52c4fe>
- We received very positive feedback on the August 4 author talk by retired National Park Ranger John Goodwin. Thanks to Library Board President Hector Camacho for introducing the speaker and getting the program started.
- As usual, National Night Out was a lot of fun and a great outreach opportunity. The Library hosted tables at four neighborhood sites, Clay Park, The Elks Lodge, Paradise Valley Recreation Center and the Westborough Park picnic shelter. The Project Read Learning Wheels van visited Paradise Valley and Westborough.
- From October 25, 2025, through November 4, 2025, South San Francisco Main Library, Library | Parks and Recreation Center, second floor Community Room, will serve as a Vote Center for the upcoming November 4, 2025, Special Election. If passed, Proposition 50, in response to Texas' mid-decade congressional redistricting, temporarily requires new congressional district maps as passed by the State Legislature in August 2025, to be used in California's congressional elections through 2030. Although San Mateo County has gone to an all-mailed ballot election, Vote Centers are still needed to assist those residents with ballot issues or to complete the voting process. Traditional polling places have been replaced by Vote Centers, which are open for voting for an extended period, and which offer expanded voter services, including voter registration, multilingual assistance, and disabled access voting options. This will be the 13th election for which the Library, partnering with the City Clerk, provides Vote Center services. Establishment of accessible Vote Centers is an important factor in securing successful voter turnout. Funding will support library staff scheduled on site around regular library hours and Peninsula Library System Network setup costs.

- Save the Dates:
 - September 20, 2025, SSF Concert in the Park @ Orange Park
 - September 30, 2025, Library - Citizens Academy @ LPR
 - October 25, 2025, Celebrating Filipino American History Month: Film Screening of *Song of the Fireflies*; CC Chambers 11am & 2pm screenings
 - November 7, 2025, Project Read Trivia Challenge @ the SSF Conference Center
 - November 13, 2025, State of the City @ the SSF Conference Center
 - December 9, 2025, tentative City Council Reorganization

- High Demand Holds:

	Title	Author	Material Type	System Holds
1	The wedding people : a novel / Alison Espach.	Espach, Alison, 1984- author.	BOOKS	236
2	A marriage at sea : a true story of love, obsession, and shipwreck / Sophie Elmhirst.	Elmhirst, Sophie, author.	BOOKS	135
3	THE IMPOSSIBLE FORTUNE	Osman, Richard	BOOKS	122
4	Original sin : President Biden's decline, its cover-up, and his disastrous choice to run again / Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson.	Tapper, Jake, author.	BOOKS	121
5	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING [videorecording].		DVD	112
6	These summer storms : a novel / Sarah MacLean.	MacLean, Sarah, author.	BOOKS	109
7	The secret of secrets : a novel / Dan Brown.	Brown, Dan, 1964- author.	BOOKS	104
8	The white lotus. The complete third season.		DVD	103
9	The correspondent : a novel / Virginia Evans.	Evans, Virginia, 1986- author.	BOOKS	102
10	SUPERMAN [videorecording].		DVD	99
11	Jurassic World, rebirth / written by David Koepp ; directed by Gareth Edwards.		DVD	99
12	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING [videorecording].		BLURAY	96

13	Apple in China : the capture of the world's greatest company / Patrick McGee.	McGee, Patrick (Reporter), author.	BOOKS	96
14	Magic of the wizard dragon / written by Tracey West ; illustrated by Graham Howells.	West, Tracey, 1965- author.	BOOKS	85
15	F1: THE MOVIE [videorecording].		DVD	79
16	Heart lamp : selected stories / Banu Mushtaq ; translated by Deepa Bhasthi.	Mushtaq, Banu, author.	BOOKS	69
17	The hallmarked man / Robert Galbraith.	Galbraith, Robert, author.	BOOKS	68
18	The unexpurgated code : a complete manual of survival and manners / J. P. Donleavy ; with drawings by the author.	Donleavy, J. P. (James Patrick), 1926-	BOOKS	67
19	This American woman : a one-in-a-billion memoir / Zarna Garg.	Garg, Zarna, author.	BOOKS	66
20	THE BLACK WOLF / Louise Penny.	Penny, Louise, author.	BOOKS	66
21	THE PROVING GROUND	Connelly, Michael	BOOKS	65
22	THE WIDOW	Grisham, John	BOOKS	62
23	THE NAKED GUN [videorecording].		DVD	62
24	Ballerina / produced by Basil Iwanyk ; written by Shay Hatten ; directed by Len Wiseman.		DVD	61
25	The amateur / directed by James Hawes.		BLURAY	61
26	The compound : a novel / Aisling Rawle.	Rawle, Aisling, 1998- author.	BOOKS	54
27	The perfect divorce / Jeneva Rose ; cover and book design by Sarah Riedlinger.	Rose, Jeneva, author.	BOOKS	50
28	FANTASTIC 4: FIRST STEPS [videorecording].		DVD	50
29	How to lose your mother : a daughter's memoir / Molly Jong-Fast.	Jong-Fast, Molly, 1978- author.	BOOKS	49
30	Coastal : 130 recipes from a California road trip / Scott Clark with Betsy Andrews ; photography by Cheyenne Ellis.	Clark, Scott (Writer on cooking), author.	BOOKS	48

- Top eBook and eAudiobook checkouts:

Title		Checkouts
1	Iron Flame	10
2	Sunrise on the Reaping	10
3	All the Colors of the Dark: (unabridged)	9

4	Pride and Prejudice: (unabridged)	9
5	The Housemaid: (unabridged)	8
6	A Court of Thorns and Roses	7
7	Onyx Storm	7
8	Revenge of the Tipping Point: Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering (unabridged)	7
9	Say You'll Remember Me: (unabridged)	7
10	Smile	7
11	The God of the Woods: A Novel	7
12	The Perfect Marriage: (unabridged)	7
13	The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life (unabridged)	7
14	The Wedding People: A Novel	7
15	All the Colors of the Dark	6
16	Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism	6
17	Fourth Wing	6
18	Just for the Summer	6
19	Little Women	6
20	The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness (unabridged)	6
21	The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue: (unabridged)	6
22	The Song of Achilles	6
23	A Court of Thorns and Roses, Part 1	5
24	Abundance: What Progress Takes (unabridged)	5
25	Adult Children of Emotionally Immature Parents: How to Heal from Distant, Rejecting, or Self-Involved Parents (unabridged)	5
26	Boy-Crazy Stacey	5
27	Butter: A Novel of Food and Murder	5
28	Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism (unabridged)	5
29	Catching Fire	5
30	Esperanza Rising	5

ADULT SERVICES

Digital Literacy & Online Resources

August – Key Stats & Updates

- Programs: **30** total; **232** attendees or participants
- Streaming Movies & Music: **1,043**
 - Hoopla: **169**
 - Kanopy: **874**
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines check-outs: **8,176**
 - eBook and eAudio checkouts (combined Libby & Hoopla):
 - Hoopla: **658** (includes comics)
 - Libby: **5,466**
 - EMagazines checkouts (Libby): **2,052**

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

Author Talk: 50 people attended “Echoes of the Badge” author talk by John Goodwin, retired national park service ranger and former Colma city councilmember and mayor. Mr. Goodwin shared stories of his adventures during his service at various national parks. He also signed copies of his recently published book and took photos with attendees.



CIRCULATION

- Total physical + electronic circulation for **Aug 2025**: **50,233**
- Total number of materials checked in: **18,052**
- New library accounts: **512**
- Number of items lent to another library: **6,222**
- Number of items borrowed from another library: **3,275**

MARKETING and PROMOTION

Total Library Newsletter opens in August: **52,768**

- Notable features in Mayor Newsletter:
 - Learning Wheels Makeover + Outreach Location Push



Social Media

- Total library content views: **14,191**
- Community members reached: **11,048**

GRAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

AUGUST – Key Stats & Updates

Public Programs: **17** total; **643** attendees or participants

Self-Directed Programs: **423** participants

- The library successfully completed its transition from using a Ultimaker 3D printer to a Prusa MK4S after a month of preparation that included assembly, staff training, and prototype testing. The new printer offers a number of elements that patrons have already shown appreciation for:

- Ease of changing filament colors. It takes approximately a minute to change colors.
- Speed: the Prusa is approximately 50% quicker than our previous printer.
- Prints using more than one filament color are easy to do and all staff have been trained to help patrons interested in doing so.
- The Prusa software integrates searching for models with the slicing/coding element of print preparation, which means fewer steps need to be taken when preparing a print. The database of models is well-designed and enables patrons to filter search results by such things as an item's estimated print-time, object weight, or by the date it was added to the catalog, among other fields.

In addition, the printer is less prone to errors, clogs, and other challenges we commonly saw with our previous printer.

Staff are assembling a second Prusa MK4S 3D-printer that will be available for use by Grand Ave Library patrons by the end of September.

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

- The library held its final Summer Learning Challenge Program on Saturday, August 2, with a puppet show from Jelly Jam Puppets. 63 attendees experienced old-fashioned “crank” puppetry in which backgrounds are changed via a looped mechanism. The show included a workshop to enable children and families to create puppets to take home.



LITERACY SERVICES

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Adult Services

- August marked an energizing start to our Adult Services programming. As we prepared for upcoming workshops and learning activities, our team focused on outreach and resource sharing, welcoming community members during our open house on Community Day. We also participated in National Night Out at Paradise Valley, a nationwide event designed to strengthen relationships between communities and local public safety agencies. It was a great opportunity to meet families, share information about our adult programs, and build visibility for the center. Our registration days followed, with staff on hand to support adult learners through the enrollment process—ensuring we captured accurate information and helped participants feel confident and welcomed. We're excited to officially kick off programming in early September and look forward to a season of learning, growth, and connection.

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Youth Services

- GMCLC Youth Services launched the school year with a strong focus on community engagement, starting with our open house during Community Day. Families toured the center, met our dedicated staff, and connected with a variety of resource partners. We were proud to host the San Mateo County Department of Child Support Services (SMCDCSS), which offers financial, medical, and emotional support to families; Familias Tomando Acción, providing culturally responsive advocacy and education; San Mateo County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) Health Ambassador Program (HAP), which promotes mental health awareness and access to care; and our very own Parks and Recreation Preschool, offering subsidized early childhood programs. These partnerships reflect our commitment to supporting families holistically. Following this successful outreach, 48 students enrolled in our after-school Homework Club, and we continue working to expand access to academic support and enrichment throughout the school year.



Project Read – Adult Services

- Project Read launched a streamlined volunteer onboarding process in July to better vet and prepare new tutor volunteers. Former Colma mayor John Goodwin was the first to complete the updated process, and since then, eight new volunteers have joined through this initiative. John is currently tutoring a learner in vocabulary and reading comprehension using classic literature and program-provided materials. At Project Read, we're proud to foster meaningful connections—where volunteers serve not only as literacy tutors but also as leaders and changemakers in our community.



- Project Read Adult Literacy Services hosted its second book club meeting since relaunching in July, continuing to build a vibrant and empowering space for adult learners. This month's selection, *Two Old Women* by Velma Wallis, sparked meaningful conversations around perseverance and resilience, with participants reflecting on its cultural significance and themes of survival. The club's July pick, *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, was so impactful that learners and tutors drew parallels between the two stories, viewing them as powerful narratives of personal growth. Through thoughtful member feedback and library-vetted selections, the book club has grown into a close-knit community that supports literacy development through engaging, high-interest titles. We look forward to our next meeting on September 25th, where we'll dive into *Paula* by Isabel Allende.

Project Read – Family Literacy Services and Learning Wheels

- This was a vibrant and meaningful month for Family Literacy Services and Learning Wheels, filled with celebration, outreach, and preparation for the fall. Our *My First Years* program wrapped up its summer session with a joyful graduation ceremony for children heading to preschool, marking an important milestone in their early learning journey. After a brief pause in August, the program is set to resume on September 2nd with renewed energy and focus. *Learning Wheels* continued its weekly visits to the South San Francisco Health Clinic and San Bruno Library, while also making special appearances at National Night Out and Cultura Fest. These events allowed us to connect with over 360 community members and distribute more than 200 free books—bringing literacy resources directly to families in fun, accessible ways. Our *Wednesday Bilingual Storytime* at CLC remains a warm and welcoming space for families, with recent sessions ending in birthday celebrations that highlight the importance of honoring children's growth and achievements. In Colma, we concluded our summer contract with a final nutrition lesson, proud of the consistent, high-quality programming our team delivered despite challenges. Across all programs, August reinforced our commitment to supporting families through literacy, learning, and community connection.



DISCOVERY CENTER

- 27 programs and activities were conducted in the Discovery Center with over 380 participants. The Makerspace had an estimated 9,300 visitors and a total of 81 3D printer appointments for the month of August.
- On Tuesday, August 19, the Discovery Center team hosted the **Virtual Reality Event: Ancient China**. Over 25 patrons of all ages participated and explored

ancient Chinese ruins and landmarks using the RobotLab virtual reality (VR) headsets. The team plans to hold 5 more sessions through the rest of the calendar year to fulfill the Pacific Library Partnership grant.



VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) EVENT:
ANCIENT CHINA
Tuesday, August 19
in the
Community Room
SESSION 1 @ 3:00 PM
SESSION 2 @ 3:30 PM

Experience the splendor and mystique of Ancient China at no cost to you, and in the comfort of our beautiful Main library, using our brand new state of the art VR headsets.

There are a limited amount of VR headsets so it will be first come, first served.

Recommended for patrons age 18 and older (not afraid of heights)

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
Call (650) 829-3860 at least 10 weekdays prior to request sign language or other accommodations.
South San Francisco Public Library, 901 Civic Campus Way, CA 94080

Pacific Library Partnership

- Library Assistants, **Miriam Hart** and **Barbara Pereira**, lead **Digital Art Club** every Wednesday at 3pm in the Makerspace. Children and young adults work on individual projects and art challenges using the Makerspace iPads, Apple Pencils and ProCreate application.



- The Discovery Center held its final four sessions of **Introduction to Scratch Coding**, led by one of our high school volunteers, to finish off the summer season. Participants learned fundamental programming concepts like variables and loops using an online block-based environment. Scratch Coding also fosters creativity and problem-solving skills.



- The Discovery Center team hosts Ability Path on Thursdays at 1pm in the Digital Media Lab. The Ability Path leaders use the lab computers to host lessons on independent learning, math, reading, and basic computer skills to support the participants.



- On Thursday, August 7, the Discovery Center team hosted the first **Kite Day!** program. Children and their families came together to create their own personal kite using dowels, fabric sheets and hot glue. After creating the kites, the patrons went outside to fly them in the air.





Felt-stuffed characters and laser cutter designs



Staff and patrons using the Virtual Reality headset in the Community Room

YOUTH SERVICES

AUGUST – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: **34** total; **2,331** attendees or participants

- *Summer Learning Challenge*

In August, the Youth Services team ended the Summer Learning Challenge with an Insect Discovery Lab program, where kids of all ages were able to meet, pet, and hold insects and arthropods from around the world. This program had over 126 attendees and families.





- *Sister Cities High School Student Visit*

15 high school students from our sister city, Kishiwada, Osaka, Japan visited the Main Library and participated in activities in the Makerspace. The students made felt stuffed animals, customized buttons, and beaded bracelets. Each student went home with swag and a personalized memento from the experience.



- *STEMsters: Science Programs for Youth*

The Summer 2025 STEMsters series concluded in August. Led by local high school students, these programs featured science projects that helped youth learn about various STEM topics. In November, a Winter series will begin and run through January 2026. The program will take place during select Wednesday evenings.



- *Brain Explorations: Hands-on Neuroscience Activities for Youth*

The Summer 2025 Brain Explorations series also concluded in August. Topics included somatosensory system, cognition & thinking, and vision.



- *Class Visit: Little Adventure Preschool*



- *Weekly Video Game Series in the Young Adult Room*

One of our Youth Services Librarians worked with volunteers to create an online form where patrons can vote in advance on which games to play at the Tuesday sessions. Patrons can also use the form to suggest new games to play in the future.



- *Storytimes in City Council Chambers*



- *Monday Pop-up Family Storytime with Library Clerk Cynthia*



Valerie Sommer

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Library Director