



Library Director's Monthly Report

February 2026 Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees

Library Director's Executive Summary

Enclosed is the Library Director's Report to the Board of Trustees for February 2026, including program highlights, statistics, and photos celebrating America 250, Black History Month, Lunar New Year and Women's History Month, as well as Measure K sponsored programming in support of social gathering.

- In January, South San Francisco Public Library held 153 events, with 5,209 program attendees, and circulated 48,625 books and movies.
- The Lunar New Year Celebration on Saturday, February 7, 2026 was attended by nearly 1,000 people, including Vice Mayor Mark Nagales who delivered welcoming remarks. Directly after the lion dance performance and photo opportunities, staff welcomed families for crafts and face painting. The combination of great weather, a lion dance performance and family-friendly activities also brought difficult parking and traffic conditions that we will consider more closely when planning next year's celebration.
- National Library Week is April 19-25 this year. Mark your calendars for a National Library Week Proclamation at the April 8, 2026 City Council meeting.
- At this month's meeting, staff will present the results of *Every Story Counts*, a statewide initiative to gather stories from the community about how they use their public libraries.
- Library staff have been working with the Information Technology Department in reviewing accessibility standards for our website. CA law requires that government agencies comply with WCAG standards to ensure websites are accessible to visitors. Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA are a set of internationally recognized standards developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) to ensure that digital content is accessible to all users, including those with disabilities. You may see some upgrades on our website and our flyers to ensure full accessibility of our information. The Peninsula Library System is doing the same with our online website and resources, including the catalog.
- Library Board packet attachments include the 2026 California Library Association Priorities as well as Governor Newsom's preliminary proposal for library funding.

These documents are useful when speaking with State Legislators as well as at upcoming “Day in the District” meetings.

Circulation Statistics

- Total raw circulation (Main and Grand): **39,621**
- Total circulation including Overdrive (Main and Grand):**48,625**
- Total number of materials checked in: **17,839**
- New library accounts: **445**
- Number of items lent to another library: **6,679**
- Number of items borrowed from another library: **3,528**

eBook Collection Statistics

- The charts below provide a snapshot as of December 27, 2025, of the OverDrive/Libby eBook, eAudiobook and eMagazine collection shared by Peninsula Library System members (please note that the inflated number of eBooks reflect the fact that OverDrive counts the lending model “metered access:100 checkouts (concurrent users)” as 100 items.:

Formats	# of Titles Held Jan 2 2025	# of Titles Held Dec 27 2025	# of Copies Held Jan 2 2025	# of Copies Held Dec 27 2025
eBook	76,014	88,789	175,526	1,850,000
Audiobook	26,110	37,497	71,290	98,781
Magazines	5,729	6,558	5,729	6,558
Total	97,090	132,844	252,545	1,955,339

Usage Trends

Year	Total Checkouts	Unique Users	Holds
2025	2,096,997	73,047	839,704
2024	1,731,151	65,897	717,035
2023	1,302,891	55,489	538,220
2022	1,089,321	49,652	462,540
2021	1,144,397	46,077	473,347
2020	1,052,411	47,139	551,954

High Demand Holds

	Title	Author	Material Type	System Holds
1	The correspondent : a novel / Virginia Evans.	Evans, Virginia, 1986- author.	BOOKS	703
2	1929 : inside the greatest crash in Wall Street history-- and how it shattered a nation / Andrew Ross Sorkin.	Sorkin, Andrew Ross, author. Author.	BOOKS	251
3	Strangers : a memoir of marriage / Belle Burden.	Burden, Belle, author.	BOOKS	158
4	Mona's eyes / Thomas Schlessler ; translated from the French by Hildegarde Serle.	Schlessler, Thomas, author.	BOOKS	132
5	Theo of Golden : a novel / Allen Levi.	Levi, Allen, 1956- author.	BOOKS	123
6	The look / Michelle Obama with Meredith Koop ; foreword by Farah Jasmine Griffin.	Obama, Michelle, 1964- author.	BOOKS	113
7	HAMNET [videorecording].		DVD	110
8	The rest of our lives / Ban Markovits.	Markovits, Benjamin, author.	BOOKS	98
9	Theo of golden : a novel / Allen Levi.	Levi, Allen, 1956- author.	BOOKS	97
10	Mother Mary comes to me / Arundhati Roy.	Roy, Arundhati, author.	BOOKS	95
11	The secret of secrets : a novel / Dan Brown.	Brown, Dan, 1964- author.	LARGE PRINT	84
12	The art of spending money : simple choices for a richer life / Morgan Housel.	Housel, Morgan, author.	BOOKS	84
13	My husband's wife : a novel / Alice Feeney.	Feeney, Alice, author. Author.	BOOKS	80
14	The widow : a novel / by John Grisham.	Grisham, John, author.	LARGE PRINT	78
15	NOW YOU SEE ME: NOW YOU DON'T [DVD].		DVD	78
16	Something from nothing / by Alison Roman ; photographs by Chris Bernabeo.	Roman, Alison, author.	BOOKS	77
17	PREDATOR: BADLANDS [videorecording].		DVD	75
18	Heated rivalry / Rachel Reid.	Reid, Rachel, author.	BOOKS	74
19	Dear Debbie / Freida McFadden.	McFadden, Freida, author.	BOOKS	73
20	The psychology of money : timeless lessons on wealth, greed, and happiness / Morgan Housel.	Housel, Morgan, author.	BOOKS	67
21	AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH [videorecording].		DVD	65
22	THE RUNNING MAN [DVD].		DVD	63
23	What we can know : a novel / Ian McEwan.	McEwan, Ian, author.	LARGE PRINT	62
24	SONG SUNG BLUE [DVD].		DVD	61

25	One battle after another / written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson.		BLURAY	61
26	WELL ENDOWED: THE SECRETS TO STRATEGIC SPENDING, BUILDING A FINANCIAL FOUNDATION FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, AND CREATING LASTING GENERATIONAL WEALTH	TU, VIVIAN	BOOKS	58
27	WICKED : FOR GOOD [4K]		4K ULTRA HD	57
28	Vigil : a novel / George Saunders.	Saunders, George, 1958-author.	BOOKS	56
29	The sea captain's wife : a true story of mutiny, love, and adventure at the bottom of the world / Tilar J. Mazzeo.	Mazzeo, Tilar J., author. Author.	BOOKS	56
30	The amazing generation : your guide to fun and freedom in a screen-filled world / written by Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price ; illustrated by Cynthia Yuan Cheng.	Haidt, Jonathan, author. Author.	BOOKS	56

- High Demand Checkouts:

	Title	Checkouts
1	The Women: A Novel (unabridged)	15
2	Pride and Prejudice: (unabridged)	13
3	The Wedding People: A Novel	13
4	The Let Them Theory	12
5	The Nightingale: A Novel (unabridged)	12
6	The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life (unabridged)	12
7	Wuthering Heights	12
8	Great Big Beautiful Life: (unabridged)	11
9	Say You'll Remember Me: (unabridged)	11
10	The Women: A Novel	11
11	Abundance: What Progress Takes (unabridged)	10
12	Intermezzo: A Novel	10
13	James: A Novel	10
14	Throne of Glass	10
15	Yellowface: (unabridged)	10
16	Game Changer: (unabridged)	9
17	Heated Rivalry: (unabridged)	9
18	Just for the Summer: (unabridged)	9
19	Martyr!	9
20	Say You'll Remember Me	9

21	Sunrise on the Reaping	9
22	A Court of Thorns and Roses	8
23	Great Big Beautiful Life	8
24	Iron Flame: (unabridged)	8
25	Sunrise on the Reaping: (unabridged)	8
26	The Housemaid's Secret: (unabridged)	8
27	Beautiful Ugly: A Novel	7
28	Caught Up: (unabridged)	7
29	Deep End	7
30	Funny Story: (unabridged)	7

LIBRARY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORTS – January 2026

Adult Services Program

Key Stats & Updates for January 2026

- Programs: 33 total; 389 attendees or participants
- Streaming Movies, TV & Music: 1,036
 - Hoopla: 182
 - Kanopy: 854
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines check-outs: 11,824
 - eBook and eAudio checkouts (combined Libby & Hoopla): 9,721
 - Hoopla: 717 (includes comics)
 - Libby: 9,004
 - EMagazines checkouts (Libby): 2,103

Measure K Programming - Mahjong Meet Up

In January, the library introduced its weekly Mahjong Meet Up, which is funded in part by a Measure K grant from the County of San Mateo. During the program, participants learn how to play different styles of mahjong while enjoying tea and building community. We have hosted an average of 22 attendees each week, with many returning attendees who have incorporated the program into their weekly schedule. One patron, Leslie, said this program has introduced her to "new friends," and she is excited to learn all the different forms of mahjong.



America250 Programming

The library kicked off America 250 with two screenings of the Hamilton Movie. The pre-show included trivia about Alexander Hamilton which offered a bit of context to the musical.

Machine Learning in an AI World

Madhura Raut and Veer Lade, two data scientists working at Workday and Uber, and living in South San Francisco, taught library patrons what data scientists do- how machine learning works, how they use AI professionally and personally, and what people can do to get the most value out of AI. Madhura and Veer answered several questions from patrons regarding concerns that using AI too much will cause them to lose their skills, saying it is important for people to develop skills in Python, statistics, critical thinking, and teamwork, as all of these skills will help someone evaluate the output of an AI model and develop more creative uses for AI models.

History Room

Thursday, January 28 was Eva Martinez's last day with the library. Eva has been the History Room librarian at the Grand Avenue Library since 2017. She has transformed the space into an organized library of thousands of photos, documents and ephemera that have been collected and donated over the years. She has been pivotal in starting and managing the annual Grand Avenue Walking Tour, where she shares the history of SSF with the community. She has managed many volunteers looking for archival experience and worked with staff to create databases and scans of materials and interesting displays. Philecia Harris, Adult Services Librarian, will take over working in the History Room on Thursdays.

Marketing, Promotion, and Outreach

Library Newsletter

- Total Library Newsletter opens in January: **35,142**
- Notable content: Photos of Historic SSF Movie Theater (1931)
 - 3,640 views, 108 likes (Instagram and Facebook), 28 shares

Social Media Statistics

- Total library content views: **41,432**
- Community members reached: **14,317**
**Spike numbers in collaboration with Stemsters and Brain Explorations.*



Grand Avenue Branch Library

Key Stats & Updates for January 2026

Public Programs: 17 total; 774 attendees or participants; Self-Directed Programs: 658 participants

In January, Grand Ave. Library staff introduced a third weekly storytime: *Musical Storytime* takes place on Thursday mornings and emphasizes participatory activities such as dancing, singing, and percussion.

The branch's Big Bubble show for children drew over 200 people to Grand Ave. Library and allowed staff to introduce newcomers to self-directed activities.



Throughout the month of January, children were offered four interactive stations in the library's programming area. Each station represented one of the five senses. Activities included smelling scented pencils, playing with various musical instruments, feeling various textured materials, and sorting stations related to our stuffed wool vegetable and fruit set. Topical children's nonfiction books were displayed, many of which were checked out.



- A teen craft allowed patrons to design their own canvas book bag. 50 bags were created over the course of the month.
- On a monthly basis, the library rotates through various quick-to-print 3D models available for both children and adults to learn the basic elements of 3D printing, including sizing, slicing, supports, rims, etc. Many such patrons quickly progress to more complex elements of 3D-printing, including searching databases for models and using computer aided design to adjust those models. These models are displayed near the front desk.

- Grand Ave. Library hosted three class visits in January from All Souls and Martin Elementary Schools.

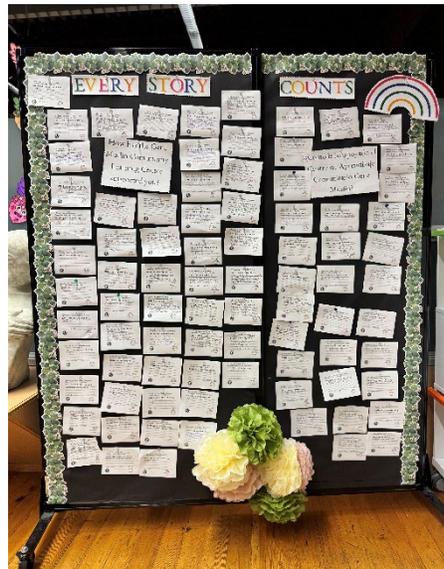
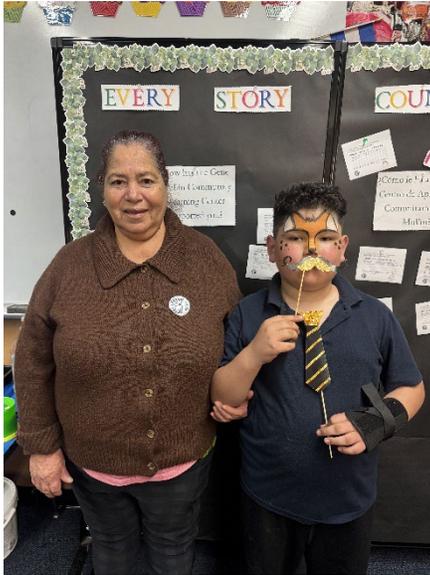


- Grand Ave. Library staff participated in Martin Elementary School's annual Career Day, reaching over 300 students.

- During the week of January 25-31, Grand Ave. Library staff used iPads and QR codes to offer patrons the opportunity to tell their library stories and answer a set of survey questions as a part of *Every Story Counts*, a statewide initiative designed to enable local public libraries to better understand how and why patrons use the library so that services can be customized for their users. We also offered a self-directed activity using our Clarus board in the children's area for children and caregivers to share what they like about the library. This was a library-wide initiative, led and planned by Grand staff, with similar survey activities at the Main Library and Gene Mullin Community Learning Center; results will be presented to the Library Board.

Literacy Services Programs

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Adult Services



- Returning from winter break, GMCLC Adult Services started a nine-week program series offering seven workshops focused on citizenship preparation, digital literacy, English language development, and conversation groups. Learners engaged in technology-supported instruction using digital tools to strengthen reading and writing skills, along with job development support and foundational learning for Spanish speakers through *Leamos*. Enrollment for the series took place over a two-day period and drew strong community interest, with fifty-four adult learners attending to enroll.
- With a new GMCLC Adult Services Coordinator in place, January reflected renewed efforts to revitalize and strengthen the volunteer program. Three volunteer orientations were held for volunteers supporting Homework Club, Teen Services, and Adult Programs, helping to rebuild engagement and expand program capacity at the start of the year.

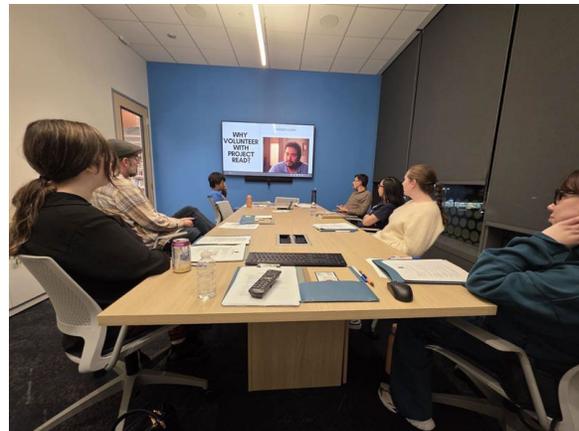
Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Youth Services

- To celebrate *Every Story Counts*, GMCLC hosted a family-centered community event focused on Youth Services. The event welcomed current families as well as families interested in learning more about library programs, including the after-school program, ESL, Project Read adult literacy, and family literacy services. As part of the community event, Homework Club held a parent orientation for both current participants and families considering enrollment. At the same time, youth-

friendly activities were offered so families could engage together while parents completed the *Every Story Counts* survey. Activities included face painting, hands-on science kits, and the distribution of free books provided by Learning Wheels. A total of 47 community members attended the event. To ensure the survey was accessible, it was offered in both English and Spanish and available in paper format, with responses later entered by staff. Through this approach, 67 community members completed the survey over the course of the campaign.



Project Read – Adult Services



- A volunteer tutor and learner have been meeting for several months and have thrived as a highly effective match. The learner is one of Literacy Services' success stories, having previously participated in the ESL program at the Gene Mullin Community Learning Center before successfully transitioning to Project Read. The pair has progressed quickly through workbooks focused on building English reading and writing skills and has advanced to a higher level of difficulty. The learner is motivated by the goal of securing a better job and improving written and spoken communication and hopes to one day give back to the literacy programs that supported this journey through the South San Francisco Public Library.
- After a holiday pause, a volunteer orientation for potential Project Read volunteers was held in January. Seven prospective volunteers attended the January orientation, the highest attendance to date. Typical attendance ranges from two to three volunteers per month, making this a strong start to the new year. Matching with learners will begin once volunteers are cleared through the library's background check process.

Project Read – Children and Family Services

- Family Literacy Services kicked off the new year with an exciting relaunch of programs, introducing new and refreshed opportunities for families to engage in hands-on, bilingual learning. As part of this relaunch, families can now check out STEAM kits to take home, complete creative projects, and return their finished work—or a photo—to share with Learning Wheels staff and earn a small prize. We also resumed weekly bilingual story time workshops at our Gene Mullin Community Learning Center with new songs and stories and launched guest lessons at the Town of Colma’s afterschool program, beginning with an interactive science activity. In addition, Learning Wheels supported *Every Story Counts* week by hosting patron interviews and photo opportunities on the Learning Wheels truck and participating in an evening community event at GMCLC



Discovery Center Program

The Discovery Center fulfilled 51 3D printer appointments, 20+ 3D printer walk-ins and 9 Tech Drop-in appointments during the month of January. The Friends of the Library received a \$400 donation from a Genentech employee named Nathan, who included a nice note thanking staff for helping him and his wife learn to use the 3D printers. The Discovery Center team plans to expand 3D printing services in the Makerspace to keep up with patron demand.



Monday through Friday, the Community Room and its various attractions are made available to patrons during operating hours. Several notable stations that are very popular are robots, iPads, Imagination Playground blocks, Ozobots and more. The Discovery Center team plan to offer activities like the

Homework Hub and STEAM craft stations in the future to target teenagers and adults.

Green Room Project –

The Discovery Center, through the Friends of the Library, was able to purchase the following items for the Green Room: DJ controller turntable, sound dampening wall panels, light box kits and green screen backdrops.



2nd Floor Black History Month Display – During the last week of January, the Adult services and Discovery Center teams assembled a Black History Month Display on the 2nd floor. Each shelf features a different Black inventor throughout history and their

contributions to the world. Inventors like Valerie Thomas (invented 3D movies), Elijah McCoy (invented the automatic lubricating cup for steam machines) and Lewis Latimer (invented carbon filaments for light bulbs) are showcased in vibrant colors and collages.



Black History Month Programming – On Monday, February 2, Library Assistants Stevie Norman, Miriam Hart and Jessica Wong led *D.I.Y. During the Black Panther Movement: Revolutionary Screen-printing and Button Making*. Patrons received a concise history lesson of the Black Panther movement, followed by screen-printing and button making. The craft will continue throughout the month of February as a passive program in the Makerspace.



Lunar New Year – The Youth Services and Discovery Center teams worked together to create decorations, signage and artwork in preparation for the Lunar New Year celebration that took place on Saturday, February 7.



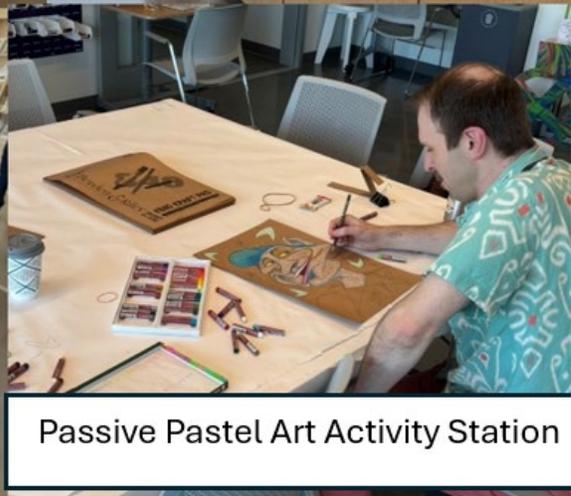
Winter Paint and Poem Program



Patron's Dremel Tool Project



The Mending Hour



Passive Pastel Art Activity Station

Youth Services Program

Key Stats & Updates

Programs: 36 total; 2,896 attendees or participants

Pet Supply Drive with Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA – On Saturday, January 10th, the Library and Youth Commission hosted a pet supply drive and fundraiser with the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA from 11am to 2 pm. Library patrons met therapy dogs and owners from the Pet Assisted Therapy program. \$125.80 in monetary donations were raised, and 100 physical donations were received, including pet beds, toys, treats, etc. This event was a collaboration between the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, the South San Francisco Youth Commission, and the Library.



STEMsters – During the January 14th STEMsters program, attendees built cars with gears. The Winter 2025/Spring 2026 STEMsters series will run on select Wednesdays until the end of February.



Letting Writing for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Cancer Patients – On Saturday, January 31st, more than 100 community members gathered in the Social Hall to write letters of encouragement, hope, and support for children undergoing cancer treatment at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital. Participants heard opening remarks from Councilmember Flor Nicolas and enjoyed library-provided crafts and facepainting by El

Camino High School students. This program was a collaboration between the SSF Youth Commission and Library staff.



Wicked Charms – On January 8, 70 participants of all ages created keychains and jewelry charms inspired by *Wicked* the movie.



Emoji Magic: Magic That Speaks – On January 15th, families enjoyed designing their own buttons based off popular emojis.



Valerie Sommer

Valerie Sommer
Library Director