



Library Director's Report

June 2025

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

- Congratulations to one of our library staff members and one of our volunteers for receiving a certificate honoring them as Women of the Year at the May 21, 2025, City Council meeting:
 - **Maria Barcelata Long** - Gene Mullin Community Learning Center and additional Library programs and initiatives
 - **Leslie Fong** - general Library and Friends of the Library volunteer and supporter

The certificates thank them for their "great service and sense of community brought significant positivity to our community!"

- Thanks to Council member Nagales for supporting our grant application for Supervisor Jackie Speier's District-Designated Measure K funding to participate in a Peninsula Library System-wide project to support public libraries as community hubs and safe spaces for residents to learn, collaborate, meet fellow community members, and participate more fully in civic life. At the June 10 meeting of the SMCo Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Speier championed this project and the resolution passed.
- On June 1, Library Director Valerie Sommer and Youth Services Manager Jess Koshi-Lum met with our Genentech liaison for this year's generous grant funding in the amount of \$30,000 for Summer Learning Challenge (SLC) 2025 books and programs. A grant request to support next summer's SLC is pending. We were proud and happy to provide a tour of the building, focusing on the Genentech Youth Library and SLC 2025. Summer vacation had just started; the youth library, story time area and community room were packed with families and teen volunteers.
- I took the opportunity to attend a virtual presentation and interview with Amanda Jones, the author of *That Librarian*, a school librarian in Louisiana who has been harassed, defamed and threatened for standing up for reading and equity and

against book banning. Her uplifting message and positive approach to accusations is a model for all. With book banning and library/community culture wars on the rise, her response and lessons are invaluable.

- High Demand Holds:

Title	Author	Material Type	System Holds
Careless people : a cautionary tale of power, greed, and lost idealism / Sarah Wynn-Williams.	Wynn-Williams, Sarah, author.	BOOKS	374
The let them theory : a life-changing tool that millions of people can't stop talking about / Mel Robbins.	Robbins, Mel,	BOOKS	343
The wedding people : a novel / Alison Espach.	Espach, Alison, 1984-author.	BOOKS	261
The brutalist / directed by Brady Corbet.		BLURAY	197
Nightshade : a novel / Michael Connelly.	Connelly, Michael, 1956-author.	BOOKS	173
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	159
Wild dark shore / Charlotte McConaghy.	McConaghy, Charlotte, author.	BOOKS	111
ATMOSPHERE : A Love Story	Reid, Taylor Jenkins	BOOKS	109
Marble Hall murders : a novel / Anthony Horowitz.	Horowitz, Anthony, 1955-author.	BOOKS	106
The tenant / Freida McFadden.	McFadden, Freida, author.	BOOKS	96
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	75
Apple in China : the capture of the world's greatest company / Patrick McGee.	McGee, Patrick, 1949-author.	BOOKS	72
Super agers : an evidence-based approach to longevity / Eric Topol, MD.	Topol, Eric J., 1954- author.	BOOKS	70
SINNERS [videorecording].		DVD	68
A MINECRAFT MOVIE [videorecording].		DVD	68
DON'T LET HIM IN	Jewell, Lisa	BOOKS	64
THE ACCOUNTANT 2 [videorecording].		DVD	60
HEART LAMP : Selected Stories	Mushtaq, Banu/ Bhasthi, Deepa (TRN)	BOOKS	59
Nintendo Switch sports.		VIDEO GAMES	57

Never flinch : a novel / Stephen King.	King, Stephen, 1947-author.	BOOKS	56
PROBLEMATIC SUMMER ROMANCE	Hazelwood, Ali	BOOKS	54
THUNDERBOLTS* [videorecording].		DVD	52
SNOW WHITE [DVD].		DVD	52
Wicked. Part I / Universal Pictures presents ; directed by Jon M. Chu ; screenplay by Winnie Holzman and Winnie Holzman & Dana Fox ; produced by Marc Platt, David Stone ; a Marc Platt production ; a Jon M. Chu film.		BLURAY	49
The doorman : a novel / Chris Pavone.	Pavone, Chris, author.	BOOKS	49
Raising hare : a memoir / Chloe Dalton.	Dalton, Chloe, author.	BOOKS	48
AN INSIDE JOB	Silva, Daniel	BOOKS	48
A WORKING MAN [videorecording].		DVD	47
THE LAST SHOWGIRL [DVD].		DVD	47
THE WHITE LOTUS SEASON 3 [DVD].		DVD	45

- Top eBook and eAudiobook Checkouts:

Title	Checkouts
A Court of Thorns and Roses	13
1984: (unabridged)	9
Onyx Storm: (unabridged)	9
The Covenant of Water	8
The Handmaid's Tale	8
Funny Story: (unabridged)	7
The Four Winds: A Novel (unabridged)	7
The Joy Luck Club: A Novel (unabridged)	7
Dust: (unabridged)	6
Lights Out: (unabridged)	6
Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed	6
Pretty Girls: (unabridged)	6
The Tenant: (unabridged)	6
The Women: A Novel (unabridged)	6
Throne of Glass	6
Throne of Glass: (unabridged)	6
House of Earth and Blood	5
Pachinko	5

Rich AF: The Winning Money Mindset That Will Change Your Life (unabridged)	5
The Coworker: (unabridged)	5
Wrong Place Wrong Time: A Novel (unabridged)	5
Altered Carbon	4
Cinder: (unabridged)	4
Do You Take This Man (unabridged)	4
From Blood and Ash	4
Great Big Beautiful Life: (unabridged)	4
Happy Place: (unabridged)	4
I Will Teach You to Be Rich: No Guilt. No Excuses. Just a 6-Week Program That Works ()	4
One by One: (unabridged)	4
Somewhere Beyond the Sea: (unabridged)	4
The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness (unabridged)	4
The Count of Monte Cristo: (unabridged)	4
The Rom-Commers: A Novel (unabridged)	4
The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane: A Novel (unabridged)	4
Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know (unabridged)	4

ADULT SERVICES

Digital Literacy & Online Resources

The California State Library was notified by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that, effective April 1, 2025, the 2024-25 federal grant awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) has been terminated. This grant paid for many services and programs including California library card holder access to the New York Times. As a result, Califa has been working with the New York Times to secure a discounted annual subscription rate for interested California libraries. We hope Califa can

secure a group rate so we can continue our subscription without any disruption to our patrons. The current subscription expires June 30, 2025.

May – Key Stats & Updates

- Programs: **38** total; **540** attendees or participants
- Streaming Movies & Music:
 - Hoopla: **129**
 - Kanopy: **625**
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines check-outs: **9,450**
 - eBook and eAudio checkouts (combined Libby & Hoopla):
 - Hoopla: **483** (includes comics)
 - Libby: **7,029**
 - EMagazines checkouts (Libby): **1980**

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

May was AANHPI and the library celebrated all month long! We hosted storytimes, a presentation by the Oyster Point Dragon team and the Asian Art Museum, a screening of documentary Nurse Unseen, and a final collaboration between the Library & Parks and Recreation departments where we had Cantonese, Tagalog, and Hindi storytimes and performances by the ukelele and hula classes. All these programs were well attended with close to 700 patrons in attendance.



Mayor Eddie Florez and Shirley Lau, along with 5 young people, presented a talk and exhibition on the Oyster Point Dragons, dragon boat team.



Adult Crafternoon attendees making Kupee, Hawaiian bracelets, while watching the Merry Monarch Festival.



Children participating in Hindi Storytime presented by Parks & Recreation instructor Monita. Part of the AANHPI Library & Parks and Recreation collaboration.

Outreach



Adult Services Librarians along with staff from Literacy Services, tabled at the Senior Fair on Friday, May 16th in the Library Parks and Recreation Ball Room.

CIRCULATION

- Total circulation for May 2025: **37,427**
- Total number of materials checked in: **16,876**
- New library accounts: **615**
- Number of items lent to another library: **5,461**
- Number of items borrowed from another library: **3,260**

MARKETING and COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Total Library Newsletter Opens in May: **52,388**

- Notable features in Mayor Newsletter:
 - Oyster Point Dragon Boat Presentation (**32% of total clicks**)
 - Nurse Unseen Event (**24% of total clicks**)
 - AANHPI Event (**12.7% of total clicks**)



Social Media

- Total library content views: **8,619**
- Community members reached: **6,302**

SSFUSD

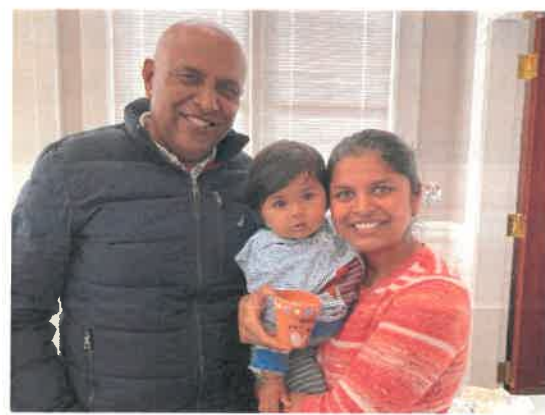
- Provided Free Book Vouchers from library-to-door for **1,380 students**
- Schools served: Monte Verde, Ponderosa, Martin Elementary
- Delivered **over 100** Early Literacy Totes to SSFUSD Preschools

GRAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

MAY – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: **23** total; **546** attendees or participants

- The library hosted an all-ages Mother's Day craft hour that proved popular, with 29 attendees. Patrons painted ceramic pots and were provided with soil and seeds for a fun Mother's Day gift.



- For AANHPI Month, the library hosted a graphic novels exploration program and offered a self-directed eye-spy with my little eye activity with the theme of national flowers from Asian and Pacific Island countries.
- The library's two weekly storytimes were very well-attended in May, including 65 patrons who attended a special Mother's Day themed storytime on May 5th.



Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

- The library continued to host school visits in May, including five third and fourth grade classes from Spruce Elementary School.



- The Library has received many of the materials funded by the Sunlight Giving grant of \$10,000 received earlier this year. The Big Blue Blocks have proved extremely popular as part of our Stay and Play storytimes.

LITERACY SERVICES



The South San Francisco Public Library and the Office of the California Surgeon General partnered to host a dynamic teen wellness event as part of the Live Beyond initiative. With a focus on mental health and self-care, the event welcomed 36 teens, offering a refreshing break from academic pressures. Participants engaged in hands-on activities, including a succulent-making station, an affirmation and goal-setting wall, and access to valuable mental health resources.

A key highlight was the Gene Mullin Community Learning Center's Teen Internship program, where interns played a pivotal role in planning and executing the event. Thanks to funding from the California State Library Teens Succeed grant, this initiative provided teens with workforce readiness and social-emotional learning opportunities.

The event fostered a sense of community and emotional support, with the affirmation wall encouraging uplifting interactions and peer encouragement. Interns gained invaluable event coordination and leadership experience, enhancing their ability to engage and support fellow youth. The collaboration successfully connected teens with mental health tools in a welcoming environment, aligning with the California State Library's LSTA grant priorities—promoting innovation, capacity-building, and community-driven library services. The Teens Succeed grant offered interns a meaningful and empowering experience, helping them develop future leadership skills while making a lasting impact on their peers.

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Adult Services

This month's programs saw great success across our Citizenship workshop, English learning activities, and community outreach. In the Citizenship Workshop, five students received free immigration consultations, while two officially became U.S. citizens, passing their naturalization interview—one even returning to her native country after years. English Workshop participants focused on textbooks, conversation skills, and technology, with Thursday learners working on American Speech Sounds, while Saturday's advanced group worked independently. Meanwhile, the Parent Advisory Committee Zoom meeting gathered 12 parents and teachers, sharing details on GMCLC resources, Project Read, and library events. On May 1st, staff partnered with Spruce Elementary School to promote adult education programs and summer registration.

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Youth Services



This month, 10 Teen Interns completed social emotional learning workshops, with teen interns finishing their "A Day in the Life of a Teen Intern" video. As their time in the program came to a close, many expressed sadness as the internship ended, they shared their gratitude through a reflective assignment, "A Letter to My Past and Future Self." One

intern shared, *"this will be one of the most fulfilling experiences you will ever have... This internship forced me to step up, not only as a fellow peer and intern, but as a person. For the first time in my life in a professional setting, I was looked up to and admired. With my being an example for others, I had to conduct myself professionally—not only in the corporate sense, but in how I carried myself with integrity and care for others. The developments I have mentioned are invaluable in the sense that they are applicable to any situation, be it now or later on in life. The skills I've gained, the challenges I've overcome, and the confidence I've built will shape the next steps in my career and personal development."*

As we near the end of another fun and engaging after school Homework Club program, our 5th graders wrapped up the year with Shark Tank presentations and graduation cap decorating, while staff set up a personalized beverage experience for students to practice ordering and purchasing. Our math volunteer and Guadalupe celebrated students' progress, noting increased math confidence and improvement.

Project Read – Adult Literacy Services

On May 14th, Project Read staff, representing Literacy Services and the South San Francisco Public Library, participated in the Second Annual Purposeful Partnership Community Learning Exchange, held from 5–8 PM at Baden High School. Organized by the South San Francisco Unified School District (SSFUSD), the event aimed to foster collaboration among students, families, educators, and community members by promoting partnerships that support student success and community engagement. Throughout the evening, staff connected with attendees and contributed to discussions focused on bringing SSFUSD's "Portrait of a Graduate". A wide range of local organizations also took part, sharing resources and ideas to help build strong, meaningful connections across the South San Francisco community.

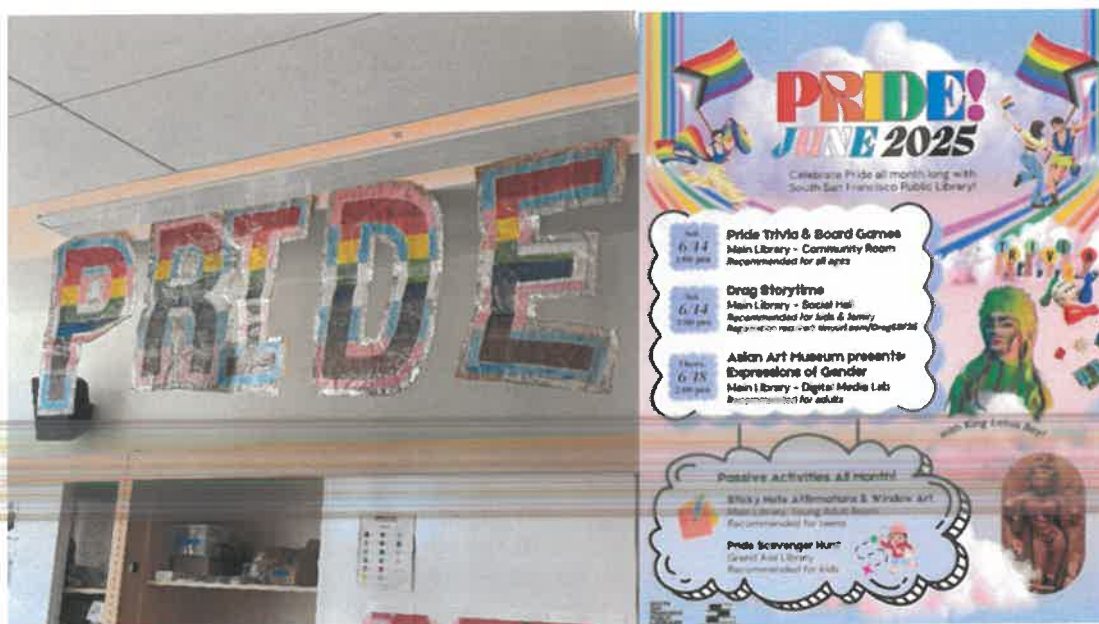
Project Read – Family Literacy Services & Learning Wheels



In May, My First Years launched its spring session with a Mexico Children's Day celebration at Orange Park, where families gathered for songs, bilingual storytelling, outdoor games, and a piñata. Learning Wheels continued its weekly visits to SSF Clinic and San Bruno Library, while also participating in the AANHPI History Month celebration at SSF Main Library, engaging over 300 visitors and distributing 200 books. Bilingual Storytime on Wednesdays saw an increase in new families, with special crafts for Star Wars Day and Mother's Day, while preparations began for a temporary move to Grand Ave Library in June, returning to CLC in July. Lastly, Colma Activities featured a nutrition lesson, where students read about fruits and made fruit salads, alongside a storytime and comic book creation session, allowing students to take home books from Learning Wheels.

DISCOVERY CENTER

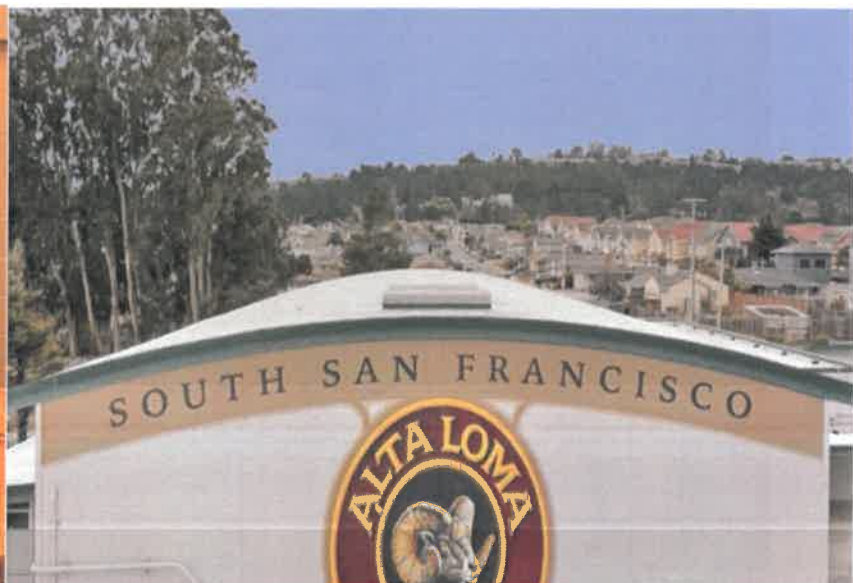
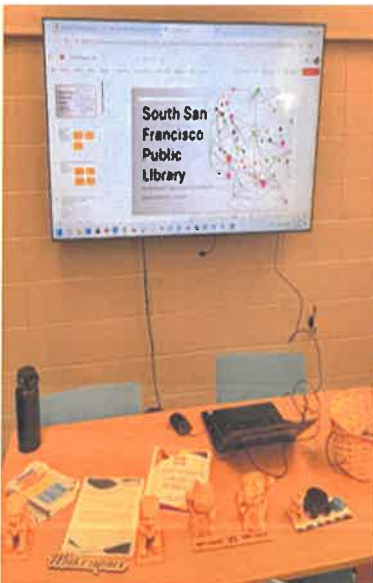
- 12 premier programs and 17 pop-up activities were conducted in the Discovery Center Makerspace, Community Room and Digital Media Lab with approximately **260** participants. The Makerspace had an estimated **10,600** visitors during the month of May.
- A total of **68** 3D printer appointments and **32** 3D printer walk-in appointments were fulfilled.
- In celebration of Pride month, the Makerspace is being decorated with colorful signage and staff will be hosting Pride themed workshops and passive programming during the month of June.



- On Thursday, May 29, the Discovery Center team hosted Ability Path for a special 3D design and printing workshop in the Digital Media Lab. Each patron was taught how to navigate the open-source design software, TinkerCAD, and utilize the different features to create a custom name plate.



- Monte Gordon (Supervising Library Specialist) and Rachel Huberman (Children's Librarian) participated in Alta Loma Middle School's first annual Career Day event to discuss careers in libraries. The team went over their educational backgrounds and individual journeys that led them to work for South San Francisco. The students asked great questions and learned more about the South San Francisco Public Library's resources and programs.



- Barbara Pereira (Library Assistant II) leads The Mending Hour program every Thursday at 1PM. Staff and patrons come together to work on individual projects using the Makerspace's sewing machines, needles and thread supplies.



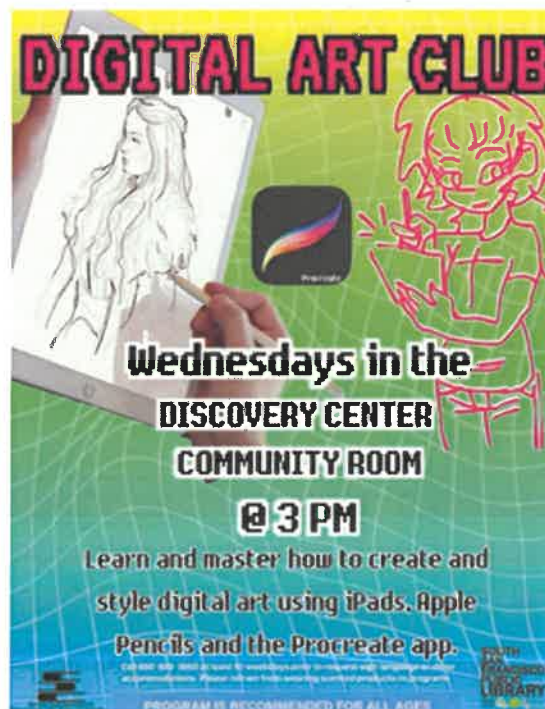
- The Discovery Center team hosted a special class visit for a group of El Camino High School students. The teens received a full tour of the library spaces on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Afterwards, the students explored the Digital Media Lab computer applications (Blender, Cura, Mavis Beacon Typing, etc.) and the resources in the Makerspace and Community Room. Most of the students experienced virtual reality for the first time and experimented with coding robots.



- One of our library patrons, Brent, along with his parents shared their son's Lego typewriter creation for the Discovery Center display in the 2nd floor hallway. Patrons and staff are encouraged to be creative and share their creations for the display case.



- Every Wednesday, Miriam Hart and Barbara Pereira (Library Assistants) lead Digital Art Club. Each week, patrons are challenged to recreate a variety of references, images and subject matter using the Makerspace iPads, Apple Pencils and ProCreate application.





Digital Art Club creations



Staff and patrons learning how to use the LittleBits electronics

Custom 3D-printed replacement piece for action figure



Lego wall creation



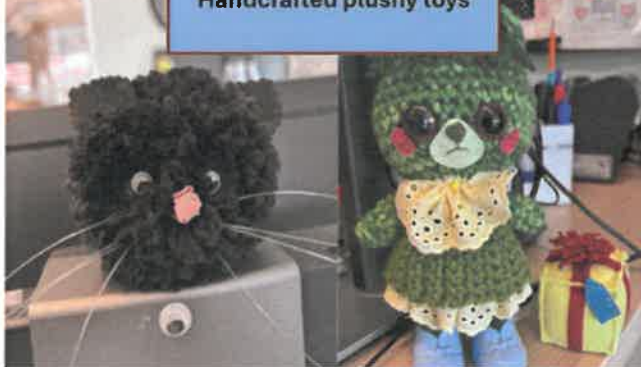
Patron using the Makerspace easel to paint their canvas



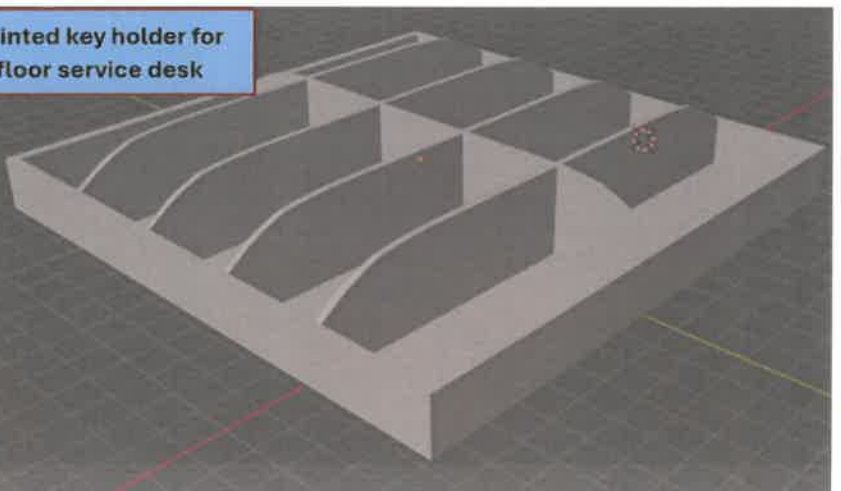
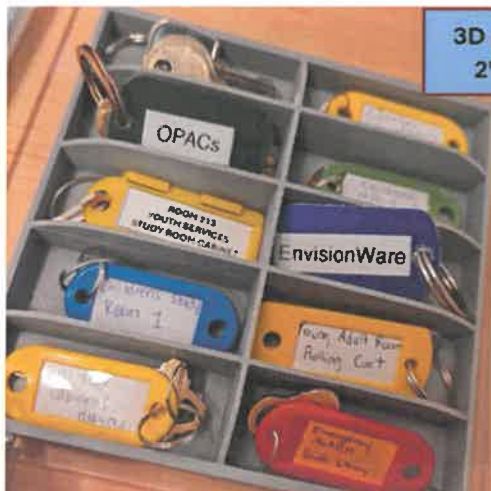
3D printed knight



Handcrafted plushy toys



3D printed key holder for 2nd floor service desk



YOUTH SERVICES

May 2025 – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: **27** total; **1,771** attendees or participants

- Cantonese Storytime attendees participated in a special Mother's Day craft after storytime.



- On May 9th, the library hosted a volunteer appreciation celebration in the Community Room. Teen library volunteers played Nintendo Switch with other volunteers and library staff. An assortment of food and beverages were provided.



- In May, the library hosted class visits from Monte Verde Elementary School and Baden Adult School. 117 students learned about the library, Digital Media Lab, and Makerspace resources.



- On May 3rd. The library promoted the 2025 Summer Learning Program in the Library | Parks and Recreation green space. The outreach took place during free soccer class demos for children ages 2-5. The activities were provided by Super Soccer Stars, an organization dedicated to providing creative and imaginative soccer classes for children in the San Francisco Bay Area.



- Weekly Video Game Series in Young Adult Room. In June, participants will have a chance to play the newly released console Nintendo Switch 2.



- On May 21st, Youth Services staff facilitated a set of an Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month craft activities. Three different craft activities took place between the Youth Library and Young Adult Room.



Valerie Sommer

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Library Director

