



Library Director's Report

November 2024

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

- Project Read Trivia Challenge 2024 on November 15, 2024, was a success, with 300 reserved seats and 27 teams. The top three winners are: #1 Zap Think Tank; #2 Winston No Manners; #3 The Usual Suspects. We received \$23,500 in sponsorships and over 55 donations for the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction brought in \$5,000. We owe a huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers who helped with this event. When the final accounting is complete, we will present a Trivia Challenge Recap to Library Board.
- The Friends of the Library hosted a one-day Book Sale on Saturday, November 16, 2024, and sold \$1,600 worth of books, DVDs and more.
- Honoring Filipino American History Month Celebration, the Library partnered with the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) and Kaiser Permanente on October 20 to present *Nurse Unseen, A documentary film which explores the little-known history and humanity of the unsung Filipino nurses who risked their lives on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic while facing a resurgence of anti-Asian hate in the streets.* This screening filled all the seats, with “standing room only” spots at the back of the room. The story of Filipino nurses during the pandemic was inspiring and heartbreaking.
- On Election Day, November 5, nearly 1,100 people voted in person in the Library | Parks and Recreation Center - 2nd floor Community Room. There were so many people in line at 8pm when the Vote Center closed, that it took until 9:35 p.m. for the last voter to submit their ballot. The parking lot was quite hectic from about 4 – 7pm; however, it eased up for latecomers arriving to cast their ballot in the final hour. The last few days, Saturday through Tuesday, of the Vote Center were very busy; we appreciate the team effort between Library, Parks and Recreation and San Mateo County Elections to provide this essential service in our community.
- **Save the dates:**
 - City Council Reorganization Ceremony, December 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m., SSF Conference Center
 - Lunar New Year Event with Lion Dance Ceremony, January 25, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Library | Parks and Recreation

- Poet Laureate Celebration, January 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m., City Council Chambers
- October Checkouts and High Demand Holds/Reserves:

October 2024 Top 30 eBook and eAudiobook Checkouts		
	Title	Checkouts
1	Funny Story	9
2	The Women: A Novel	9
3	A Court of Thorns and Roses	8
4	It Ends With Us (unabridged)	8
5	The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work: A Practical Guide from the Country's Foremost Relationship Expert (unabridged, revised and updated)	8
6	Yellowface	8
7	First Lie Wins (unabridged)	7
8	Fourth Wing	7
9	The Teacher (unabridged)	7
10	It Ends With Us	6
11	It Starts With Us	6
12	A Thousand Boy Kisses: A Novel (unabridged)	5
13	Educated: A Memoir	5
14	Funny Story (unabridged)	5
15	Hello Beautiful	5
16	How to End a Love Story: A Novel	5
17	I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944	5
18	Icebreaker	5
19	Just for the Summer (unabridged)	5
20	Karen's Haircut	5
21	Spare (unabridged)	5
22	The Covenant of Water (unabridged)	5
23	The Midnight Feast: A Novel	5
24	The Paris Apartment: A Novel (unabridged)	5
25	The Psychology of Money: Timeless Lessons on Wealth, Greed, and Happiness (unabridged)	5
26	The Three-Body Problem (unabridged)	5
27	You Shouldn't Have Come Here (unabridged)	5
28	A Court of Thorns and Roses (unabridged)	4
29	A Game of Thrones	4
30	Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants	4

October 2024 High Demand Holds/Reserves				
	Title	Author	Material Type	System Holds
1	Tell me everything: a novel / Elizabeth Strout.	Strout, Elizabeth, author.	BOOKS	235
2	The wild robot / by Peter Brown.	Brown, Peter, 1979- author.	BOOKS	225
3	The grey wolf / Louise Penny.	Penny, Louise, author.	BOOKS	222
4	The god of the woods / Liz Moore.	Moore, Liz, 1983- author.	BOOKS	219
5	The waiting / Michael Connelly.	Connelly, Michael, 1956- author.	BOOKS	206
6	The wedding people: a novel / Alison Espach.	Espach, Alison, 1984- author.	BOOKS	186
7	Be ready when the luck happens: a memoir / Ina Garten.	Garten, Ina, author.	BOOKS	181
8	All fours: a novel / Miranda July.	July, Miranda, 1974- author.	BOOKS	172
9	Creation lake: a novel / Rachel Kushner.	Kushner, Rachel, author.	BOOKS	160
10	DOG MAN 13: Big Jim Begins: A Graphic Novel from the Creator of Captain Underpants	Pilkey, Dav/ Pilkey, Dav (ILT)	BOOKS	147
11	Nexus: a brief history of information networks from the Stone Age to AI / Yuval Noah Harari.	Harari, Yuval N., author.	BOOKS	145
12	Impossible creatures / Katherine Rundell.	Rundell, Katherine, author.	BOOKS	127
13	Revenge of the tipping point: overstories, superspreaders, and the rise of social engineering / Malcolm Gladwell.	Gladwell, Malcolm, 1963- author.	BOOKS	116
14	The boyfriend / Freida McFadden.	McFadden, Freida, author.	BOOKS	93
15	ONYX STORM	Yarros, Rebecca	BOOKS	92
16	On call: a doctor's journey in public service / Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.	Fauci, Anthony S., 1940- author.	BOOKS	90
17	Super Mario RPG.		VIDEO GAMES	88
18	Good energy: the surprising connection between metabolism and limitless health / Casey Means, MD, with Calley Means.	Means, Casey, author.	BOOKS	87
19	In too deep: a Reacher novel / Lee Child and Andrew Child.	Child, Lee, author.	BOOKS	84
20	Kirby and the forgotten land.		VIDEO GAMES	79
21	What to cook when you don't feel like cooking / Caroline Chambers.	Chambers, Caroline, author.	BOOKS	76
22	Hot mess / by Jeff Kinney.	Kinney, Jeff, author, illustrator.	BOOKS	75
23	BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE [videorecording].		DVD	72
24	The Friday afternoon club: a family memoir / Griffin Dunne.	Dunne, Griffin, author.	BOOKS	71

25	Nintendo Switch sports.		VIDEO GAMES	70
26	FLY ME TO THE MOON [videorecording].		DVD	69
27	The Legend of Zelda: tears of the kingdom.		VIDEO GAMES	69
28	The vegetarian: a novel / Han Kang; translated from the Korean by Deborah Smith.	Han, Kang, 1970- author.	BOOKS	65
29	TO DIE FOR	Baldacci, David	BOOKS	63
30	ALIEN: ROMULUS [videorecording].		DVD	63

ADULT SERVICES

Digital Literacy & Online Resources

Tech Tuesday classes are going strong – staff taught classes to over 26 patrons! Our most popular class was teaching video editing and recording.

Due to budget constraints this fiscal year, our digital Wall Street Journal subscription is ending in December 2024. Information about this change will be posted to the website and active users will be notified via email.

October – Key Stats & Updates

- Programs: 20 total; 640+ attendees or participants – *this total includes numbers from the Senior Showcase outreach and the Filipino American History Celebration*
- Streaming Movies & Music:
 - Hoopla: 113 Plays
 - Kanopy: 654 plays
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines check-outs: 4923 total
 - eBook and eAudio checkouts (combined Libby & Hoopla):
 - Hoopla: 319 (includes comics)
 - Libby: 6184
 - eMagazines checkouts: 1420

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

People’s History of SFO – We welcomed author and professor, Eric Porter, to discuss his recent book profiling the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). Patrons had an engaging conversation with the author after the presentation, as they shared their personal connections to the airport and asked questions about the book.

Fixit Clinic Repair Advice Workshop - We started a series in partnership with San Mateo County’s Office of Sustainability to offer regular Fixit Clinic sessions 1-2 times per month. Our first event took place in October to assess demand, and we had a great turnout with over 14 people attending on a Monday night. This collaboration ties in well with the Library’s goals and mission in the Discovery Center which promotes a do-it-yourself mentality and encourages life-long learning alongside your community!

Senior Showcase Outreach – The Adult Services team participated as a vendor in the San Mateo Daily Journal’s Senior Showcase event which highlighted local resources and services for older adults. We had a great time connecting with our senior community and shared information about our upcoming events and library services. The event drew in over 260 attendees to the Library | Parks & Recreation Center.

Filipino American History Celebration – Staff helped coordinate a city-wide celebration on October 5th for Filipino American History Month. The community was invited to an all-day event complete with a documentary film screening of *Delano Menongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers*, music, food, dancing, storytime, and crafts. There were over 250 attendees at the event.

For information about this event and other programs in October, please see our News Story: <https://www.ssf.net/News/Filipino-American-History-Month-2024>



Praise & Glorify Choir at Filipino American History Month Celebration



Patrons enjoy arts and crafts



Library Asst. Louella Angeles and Councilmember Buenaflor Nicholas during Filipino storytime



St. Augustine’s Children’s Choir

CIRCULATION

- Total circulation for October 2024: **37,169**
- Total number of materials checked in: **17,191**
- New library accounts: **484**
- Number of items lent to another library: **5,381**
- Number of items borrowed from another library: **3,709**

GRAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

October – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: 19 total; 483 attendees or participants

The Grand Avenue Library went all out for Halloween, holding three Halloween-themed storytimes and an all-ages DIY Trick or Treat Bag program. The four events attracted a total of 169 attendees.



As part of our series of self-directed programs, 196 children participated in an election for...their favorite Halloween monster! Boo the ghost won the race, garnering 71 of the votes, many more than the second-place candidate, Bram the Vampire, was able to get: 42.

The branch continued its STEM Storytime series, with such themes as Rocks, Fungi, Robots, and other broad topics of interest to children. 96 people attended the programs.

In pursuit of encouraging play in the library, the Library is soft-launching afternoon self-directed activities such as origami, Keva plank challenges and much more, with the idea that by mid-November we will hold daily afternoon activities.

LITERACY SERVICES

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Youth Services

The Homework Club (HWC) program celebrated Halloween with a festive array of arts and crafts and a creative costume display. To honor tradition, the HWC also constructed a beautiful Day of the Dead altar. Staff and students shared stories and discussed the significance of the traditional Day of the Dead meal, deepening their appreciation for cultural heritage.

In addition to the Halloween festivities, GMCLC Youth Services staff participated in Classroom Management training to enhance their skills in creating positive and supportive learning environments. The training focused on effective communication, behavior guidance, and personalized approaches to classroom management, empowering staff to foster engaging and inspiring spaces for program youth.



Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Adult Services

In June 2024, two older adults began attending the English Lab on Saturdays. Though they communicated solely in traditional Chinese and stood out as the only two adult learners who didn't primarily speak Spanish, they remained steadfast to their learning. At first, they understandably seemed to feel out of place, shy, and hesitant to engage. As they committed themselves to learning they maintained perfect attendance ever since. As a result, their confidence has grown, they participate more actively, and they are beginning to speak some English.

One of the English Lab instructors expressed great pride and honor in witnessing their remarkable transformation. She compared their progress to that of a caterpillar evolving into a majestic butterfly, spreading its wings with joy. Most importantly, the joy is now shared between teacher and learner, especially when they reach out for help, always referring to the instructors as "teacher."

At Gene Mullin Community Learning Center, we remain deeply committed to the success of adult learners, and the journey is just as rewarding for the instructors as it is for the students.



GMCLC Adult Learner after a fun day in class

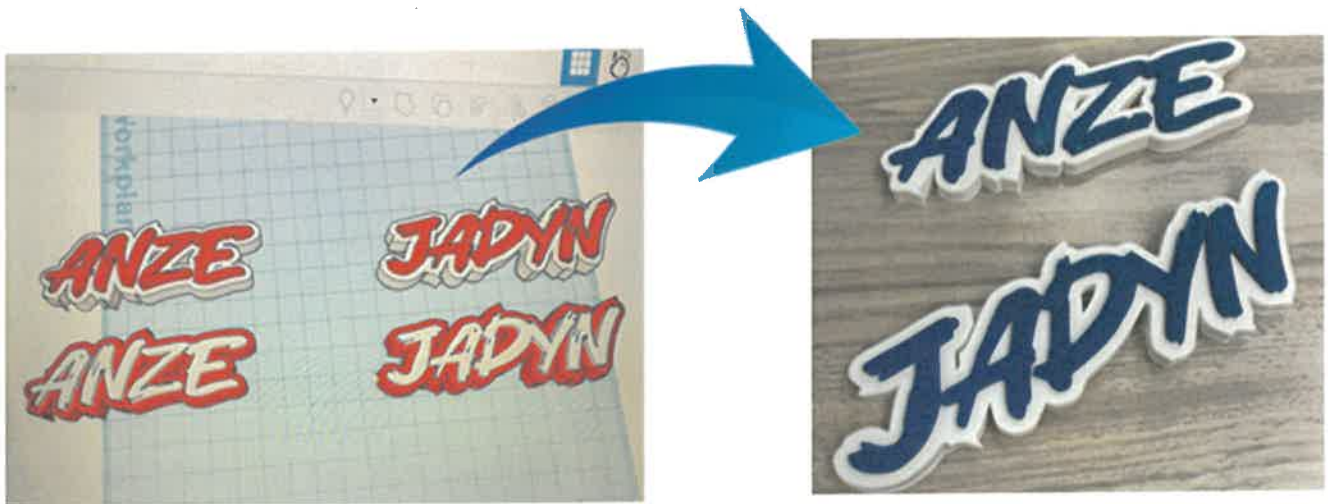
Project Read – Adult Services

In October, Project Read's Book Club engaged with "Rest Is Resistance" by Tricia Hersey. The selection of this book arose from discussions among learners and tutors regarding the challenges of maintaining a work-life balance. The program was attended by seven participants, including four learners, two tutors, and the spouse of one of our learners. The discussions highlighted themes such as the significance of rest, the value of dreaming, decolonization of the mind, communal care, and the importance of investing time in leisure activities. One participant remarked, "this book unlocked answers to questions I wasn't brave enough to ask." The Book Club concluded with a deeper appreciation for the notion that rest extends beyond mere naps; it represents a recommitment to pleasure and joy. Next month, Project Read will explore "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry to embark on a journey to reconnect with the readers' inner child.

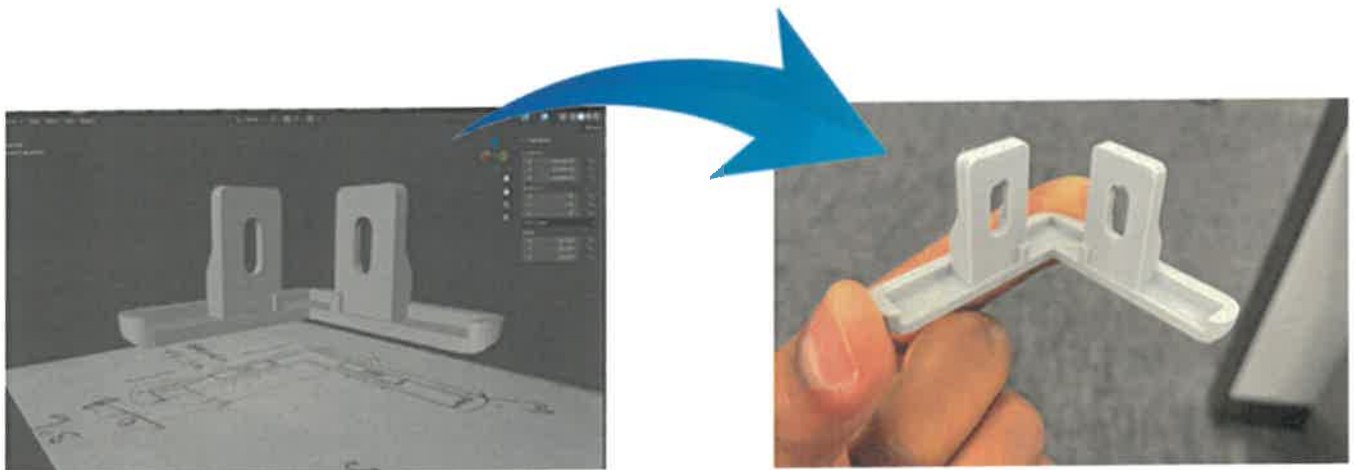
DISCOVERY CENTER

Twenty premier programs and daily pop-up activities were conducted in the Discovery Center with an estimated 455 patrons attending. The Makerspace had an estimated 7,100 visitors during the month of October.

A total of 54 3D printer appointments and 31 walk-ins were fulfilled. Patrons printed out figurines, replacement components, name plates and more.

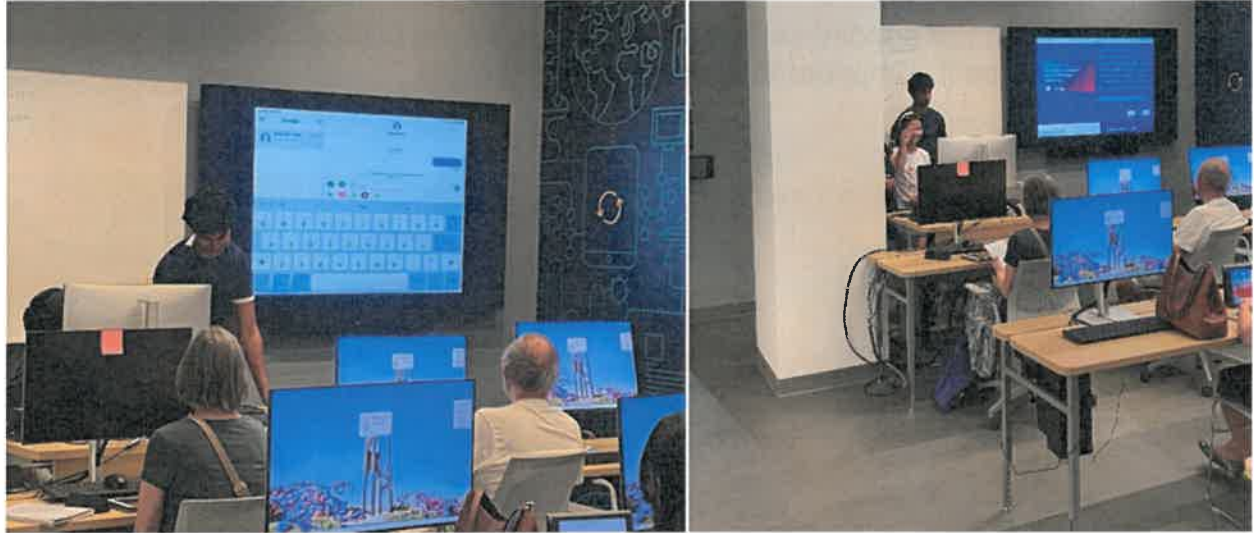


Custom 3D printed name plates

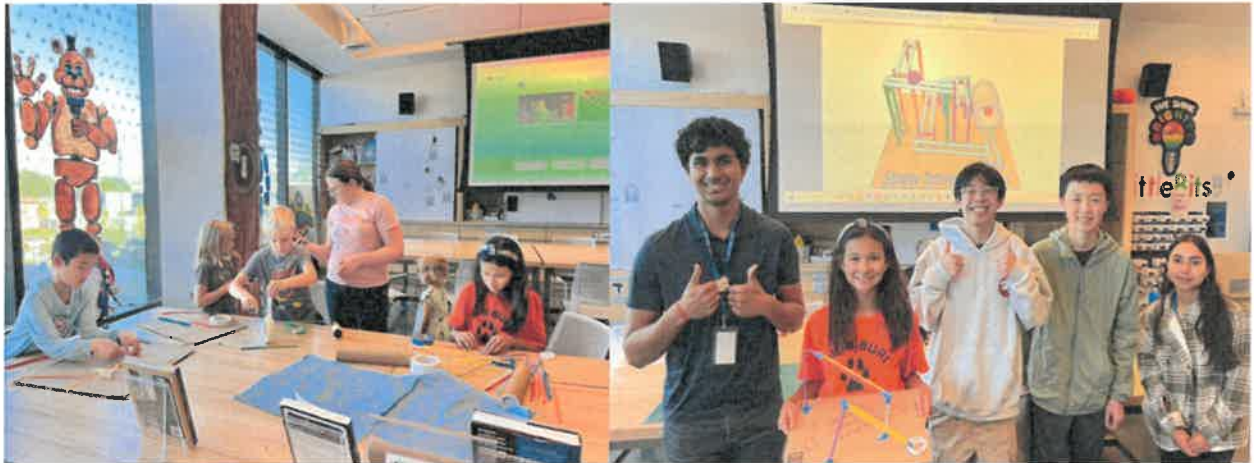


South San Francisco Building Maintenance staff collaborated with the Discovery Center team to design, create and print out over a dozen wall-corner covers to install throughout LPR.

Makerspace volunteer, Nicholas Nand, leads **Mastering the iPhone and iPad** program every month for our senior patrons. Participants get hands on experience using the Makerspace iPads to learn about cyber security, phishing scams, device navigation, drafting emails, photo management and social media.



Discovery Center volunteers, Nicholas Nand and Matthew Pun, led four more sessions of **Engineering Fun for Kids**. Over 80 patrons and their families learned how to engineer a bridge, a catapult, wind-powered car and a straw roller coaster.

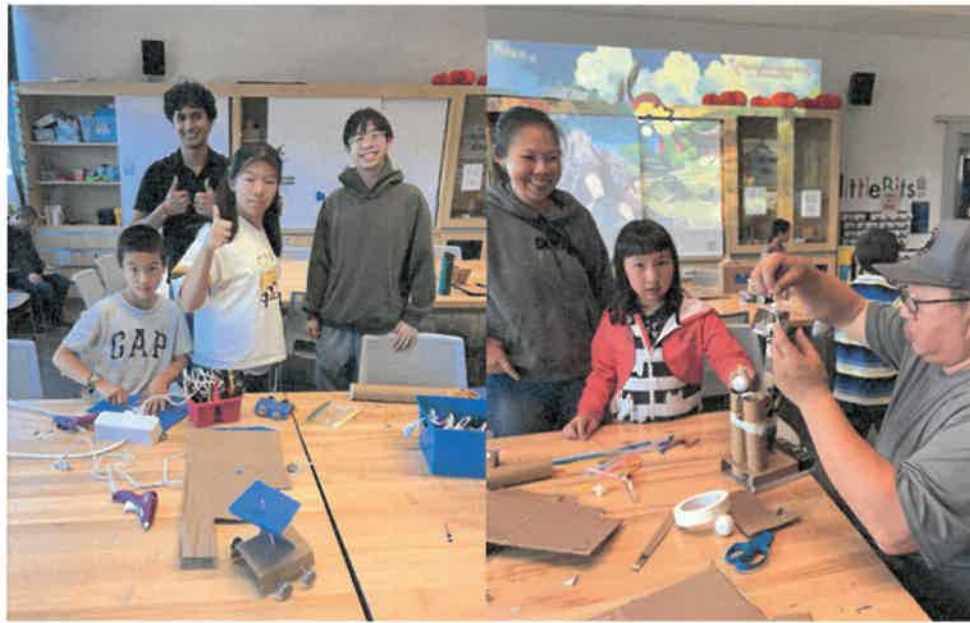


Make Your Own Straw Roller Coaster

Build Your Own Bridge



Build Your Own Catapult



Which Craft Wednesdays

Library Assistants, Miriam Hart and Libby Astabie, led five sessions of **Which Craft Wednesdays**. Each Wednesday, patrons could choose between one of two crafts to create such as lanterns/candles, bookmarks/buttons, pumpkins/bats, brooms/witch's brew, and candy pumpkins/pet costumes. Approximately 200 patrons joined in the festivities in celebration of Halloween.



Friday Night at Freddy's Lockdown

Miriam Hart (Library Assistant), Stevie Norman (Library Assistant) and Diana Flores (Library Clerk) facilitated the very successful **Five Nights at Freddy's (FNAF) Lockdown** program. The itinerary consisted of a movie screening of the Five Nights at Freddy's, a pizza party, laser tag, virtual reality, craft activities and a costume competition. Over 75 FNAF fans of all ages were in attendance.



YOUTH SERVICES

October – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: 39 total; 1,868 attendees or participants

- *Toddler, Baby, Cantonese and Filipino Storytimes*

Over 15 Storytime programs between Toddler, Baby, Cantonese, Filipino Storytimes with around 1,392 in attendance. Each storytime averages 85-100 kids/families, with storytimes being more in demand this month.



Storytime at Main Library



Weekly Video Game Series



Dungeons and Dragons Meet Up

Teen Movie Nights

During the month of October, Librarian Will Crabtree hosted a weekly Teen Movie Night in the Young Adult Room. Classic monster films from the 30's, 40's, and 50's were shown.



Halloween: Treat/Goodie Bags & SSFPL coloring sheets

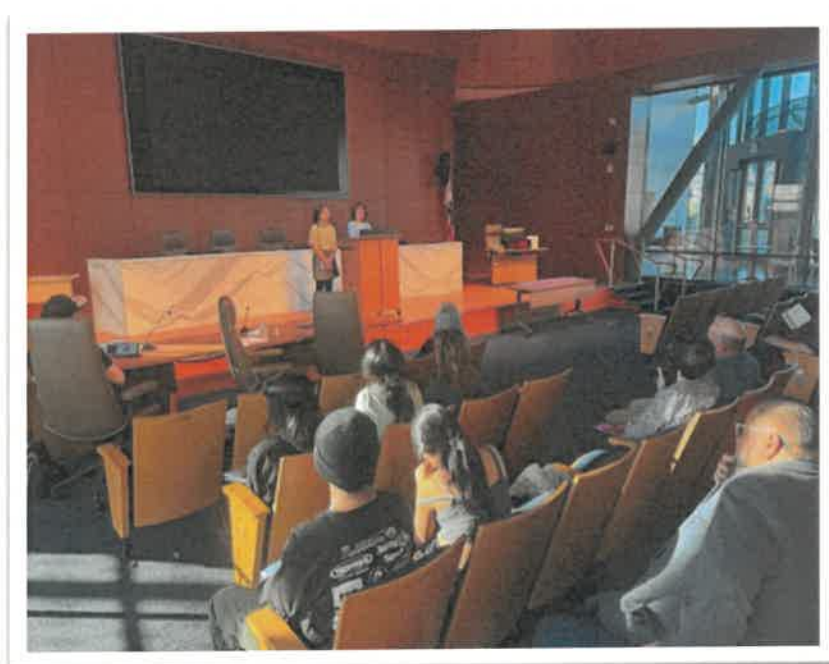
For Halloween, goodie bags filled with a combination of pencils, stickers, and scratch paper of specific Halloween designs were given out (approx. 125 that day and passed out the day after). Additionally, a SSFPL Halloween coloring sheet was created for this month as a passive activity.



Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

Youth Poet-in-Residence: Passing the Torch

On October 24th, the 2024 Youth Poet-in-Residence: Passing the Torch Event took place in the City Council Chambers. Elizabeth Wong (South City's 2023-2024 YPR) read her original works and attendees received a free copy of her chapbook, a collection of her poems. Andrada Tomisinet, South City's 2024-2025 YPR, was also introduced to celebrate her appointment.



Class visits

During the month of October, there were class visits with Buri Buri Elementary School 2nd graders, Izzi Early Education, and outreach to Parkside Day School. Over 60 students and families were served, including having a storytime session, checking out books, and doing our monthly scavenger hunt.



Storytime at Main Library

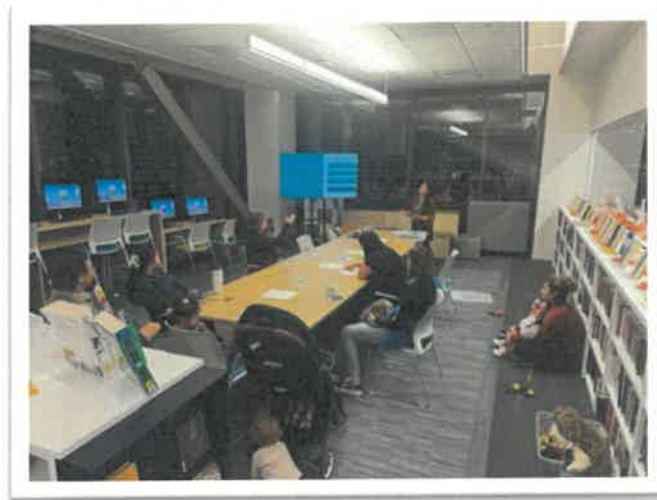


Fil-Am Storytime with Local Author Justine Villanueva

On Wednesday, October 16th we celebrated Filipino American History Month and had local author, Justine Villanueva come to do a special storytime session. Kids and families listened to a few of her published books. Justine also taught the group a butterfly dance – paying tribute and honoring elders and ancestors.

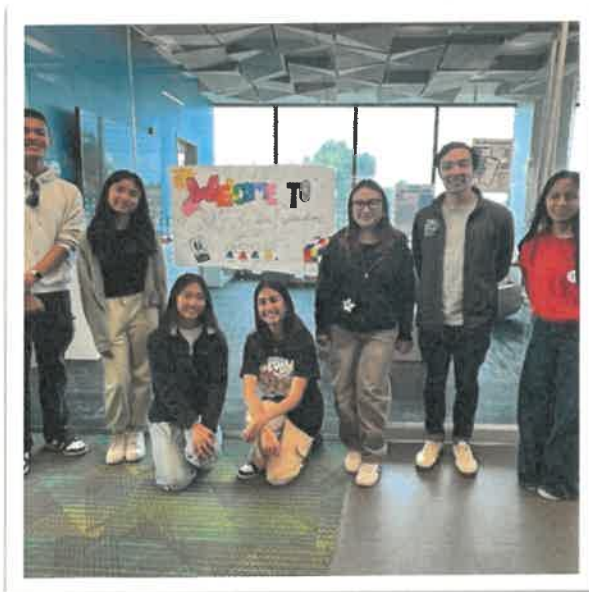
Parenting Workshop: Healthy Home, Healthy Boundaries

The workshop was the second of a three-part series led by early childhood educator & Parenting Coach Rachyl Alcantara. Rachyl has over 18 years of experience leading a bustling bio-tech childcare center! The final workshop of the series will take place in November.



Brain Explorations

Brain Explorations is a volunteer-led program that teaches neuroscience concepts to children ages 7-12. Fall 2024 workshops will take place on select Saturdays between September and November. On Saturday, October 26th Mayor Coleman served a surprise guest!



Tot Explorations

Tot Explorations is a new branch of Brain Explorations that is designed for younger kids (children 6 and under). The program features neuroscience themed storytimes and activities.



Valerie Sommer

Valerie Sommer

Library Director