



MINUTES **REGULAR MEETING**

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026
6:00 P.M.

**LIBRARY | PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMUNITY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR
901 CIVIC CAMPUS WAY, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080**

CALL TO ORDER

Catherine Abalos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Catherine Abalos, President
Mary Giusti, Secretary
Hector Camacho, Board member

Absent: Claire Ramsey, Vice President

Staff Present: Valerie Sommer, Library Director,
Adam Elsholz, Assistant Library Director,
Erika Madriz, Administrative Assistant II,
Elliot Warren, Grand Avenue Library Program Manager,
Jess Koshi-Lum, Youth Services Program Manager
Brian Malibiran, Patron Services Manager

AGENDA REVIEW

- No changes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written Comments Submitted:

- 0

The following individuals addressed the Library Board:

- 0

ITEMS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

1. Every Story Counts Survey Update (Elliot Warren, Library Program Manager)

Elliot Warren shared Every Story Counts survey results with the Board.

The slide presentation is enclosed with these minutes, as it was not included in the agenda packet.

2. Lunar New Year Recap (Adam Elsholz, Assistant Library Director and Jess Koshikum, Youth Services Program Manager)

Adam Elsholz shared a recap of the Lunar New Year celebration at LPR that had almost 1,000 attendees. The Board also discussed parking and ideas for communicating alternative parking and commute options to patrons for next year's event.

3. Library Director's Report

The Board reviewed the Library Director's Report.

National Library Week will be April 19-25. The National Library Week Proclamation will be presented at the April 8 City Council meeting.

The South San Francisco Public Library was selected as one of the libraries to host the American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit. The exhibit will be in the Community Room from April 24 to May 1.

The April and May meetings of the Library Board will be moved to another location in the Library due to the Vote Center and the traveling exhibit. Locations TBD.

4. Communications and Statistics

The Board reviewed the Communications and Statistics.

5. Library Announcements

The Board reviewed the announcements.

6. Library Recruitments Update

The Board reviewed the list of open recruitments.

7. Continuation of Fiscal Year 2026-27 Pending Budget Requests Discussion (Valerie Sommer, Library Director)

Valerie Sommer continued the discussion of pending budget requests pending a City update.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

8. Motion to Approve the Minutes from the January 27, 2026, Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Motion – Mary Giusti / Second – Hector Camacho: To approve the Draft Minutes from the January 27, 2025, Library Board of Trustees Meeting. All members were in favor.

9. Next Meeting | Agenda Building

The Board discussed agenda items for the next Library Board meeting. Potential new items include Master Fee Schedule updates and showing the updated web page on transportation options to library facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, President Catherine Abalos adjourned the Library Board meeting at 6:53 p.m.

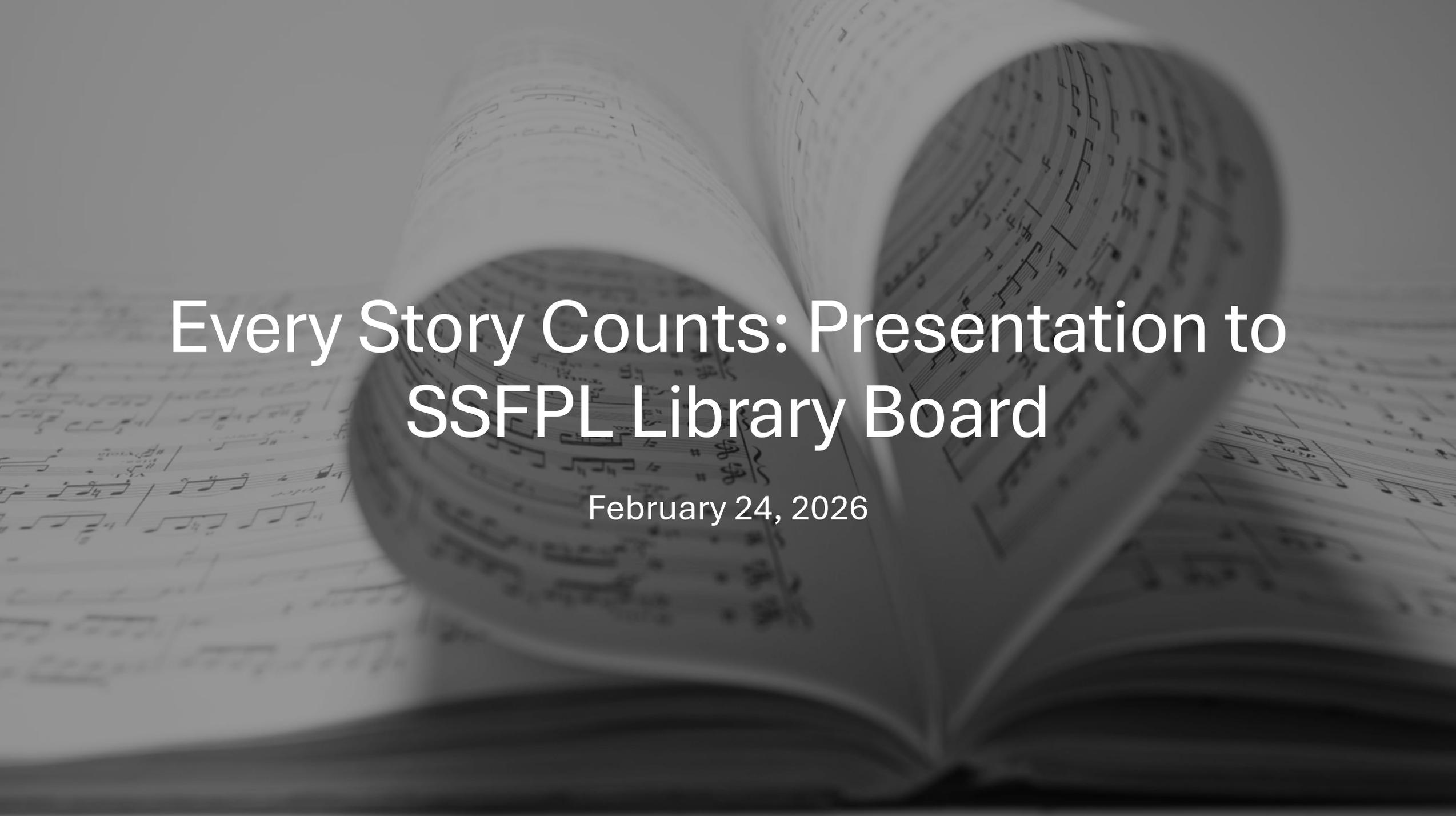
Submitted by:

Approved by:

Erika Madriz
Administrative Assistant II

Catherine Abalos
Library Board President

Approved by the [Body Name]: _____ / _____ / _____



Every Story Counts: Presentation to SSFPL Library Board

February 24, 2026

Goals



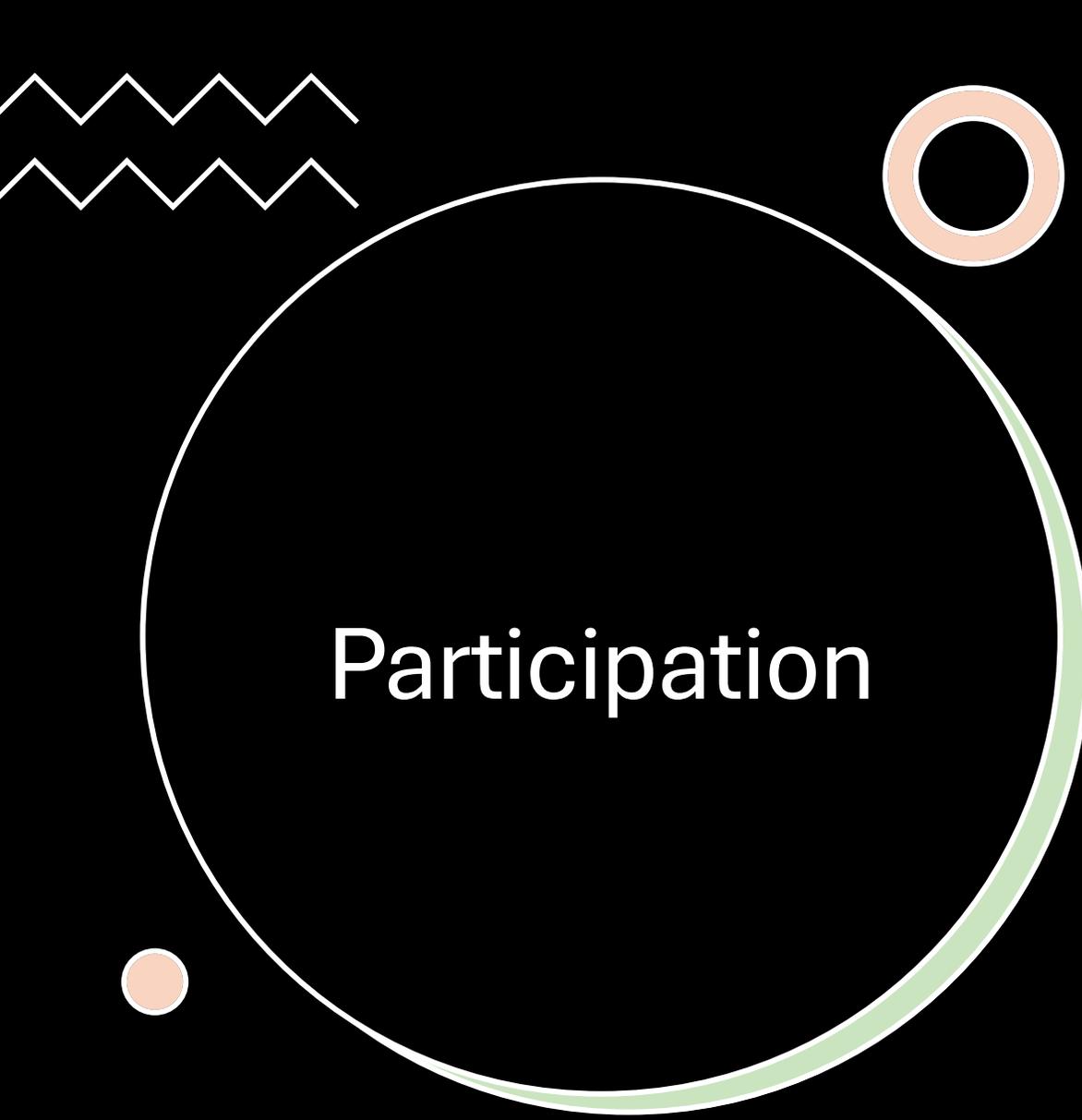
Gather stories for
sharing



Learn from
community members



Support State
Library's efforts



Participation

- 293 participants
 - Staff encouragement
 - QR codes
 - Website
 - Newsletter

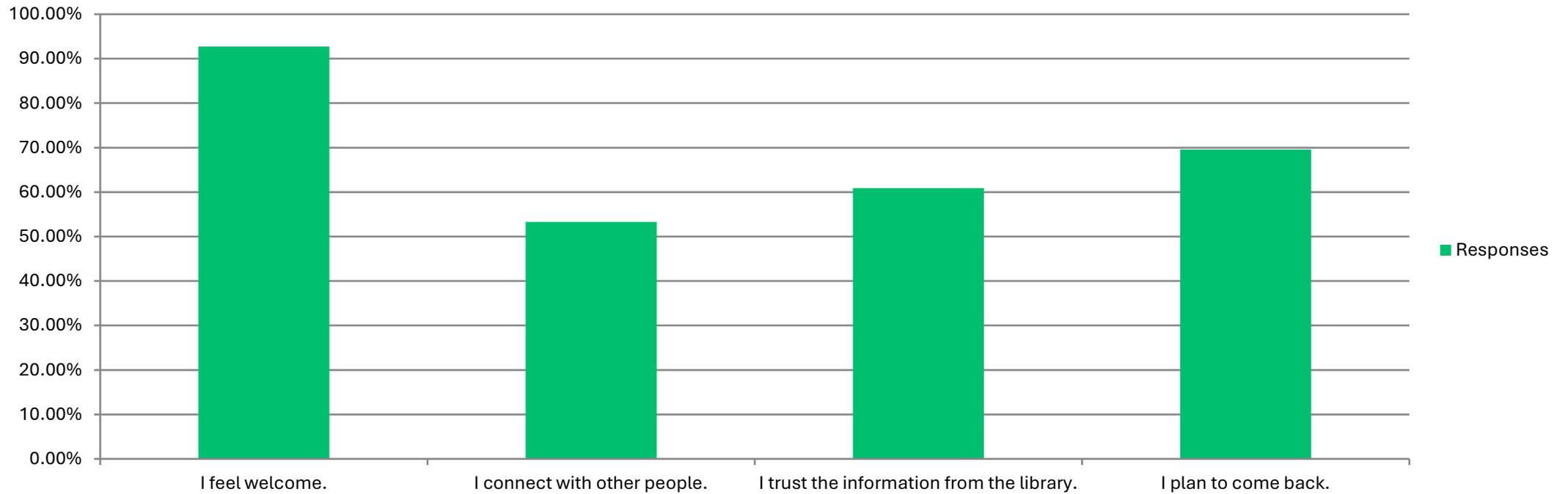


Age demographics of participants

- Adults up to age 65: 72%
- Child up to age 11: 13%
- Older adult (65+): 12%
- Teen: 3%



Tell us about your experience at the library!



Please tell us how
you use the library

I use the library to...
(Please select all
that apply):

1. Borrow Items (65%)
2. Attend programs and events (64%)
3. Use the library space (57%)
4. Learn something or try something new (52%)
5. Get information (46%)
6. Spend time with people (43%)
7. Be creative (39%)
8. Access services (32%)
9. Support my health and well-being (30%)
10. Do personal paperwork and routine tasks (28%)
11. Prepare for a job or career (22%)
12. Daily and essential needs (18%)

Every story counts! Please share anything else you'd like to tell us about how you use the library.

- Four themes:
 - Library as Space
 - Library as place for socializing
 - Library services (books, programs, English learning, homework club)
 - Staff support

Library as Space

- I love the children play areas at the library. There are a variety of different toys, and the play space is spacious and clean.
- My 18m son loves the play area here! Frequently plays with the green trucks and also will play with the fancier toys up front like the air shooting balls or train set! We also love the snacks after storytime
- This space is beautiful. I love how active it is. I wish parking was easier tho
- **We love this library and feel it is a hidden gem. I love the projects for kids and the big selection of toys. I feel it has great resources for a small space and is manageable. I appreciate that you are adding story times and activities but I actually value this library for its relative peacefulness**
- es un espacio tranquilo y educativo que me anima a leer e instruirme mas con la lectura.
- The SSF Library has plenty of work space for everyone as there are two floors. The wifi internet is always available for use.
- Great patio
- Needed a place to study and welcomed me with open arms

Library as Place to Socialize

- I love the library and have been going to the old library since I was a child. When moving back, I utilized the space to not only feel connected and get a feel of the community again.
- My libraries are my lifeline and social interaction platform. I always learn new software, art craft, etc. It is my daily routine to check out the events calendar for the month.
- After school hangout for the kids to do homework and activities together. My son's favorite activity is printing designs using the 3D printers.
- Like most seniors, I go to the library to socialize. I particularly enjoy interacting with other library patrons. Also watching the children at the Makerspace doing arts and crafts, exploring, and having fun.
- **I never knew about story times until I had my own child. It has been a beautiful and exciting way to meet people in our community. I have made so many connections with other families. And it's so wonderful that the events hosted by the library are free.**

Library Services

- Grand Avenue branch is my access to the world of books! i use it daily as pickup location for books Ive requested from across the peninsula library system.
- I usually take the kids to read kids books and check out books to bring home. It would be nice if you had classes for adults after 5pm and not during the day unless your target audience is the elderly
- the library has helped me improve my reading.
- La biblioteca me ayudo a convivir mas tiempo conmi niña y a tener tiempo y espacio para ella y a leer un poco tambien me ayudo a estudiar para mi ciudadania.
- **I appreciate that the library is a resource for all ages. I enjoy the programs/community events that are put together because I think there's always something for someone, the events are always so intentional and I think it resonates with different people in the community.**
- I love the story times. The pajama story times are very fun, interactive, and my daughter loves it.
- My grandson who is 3 and a half years old loves the Maker Space room. He always sings out, "Maker Space, Maker Space" loves the Maker Space room. love the activities in the Maker Space
- I love having a lot book choices. My favorite books are nonfiction because I love to learn. I love reading.

Library Staff

- The library staff are very friendly and professional in handling all of my child's homework and after school activities.
- **Books are my best friends. What to make of librarians? They're unsung, uncelebrated heroes for literacy and enlightenment.**
- I bring my 14 month old to the library regularly and he loves it and knows the staff. He loves books, especially ones that contain bicycles!
- Everyone helps and has patience
- Great for kids. Nice and friendly librarians

Combined Answers

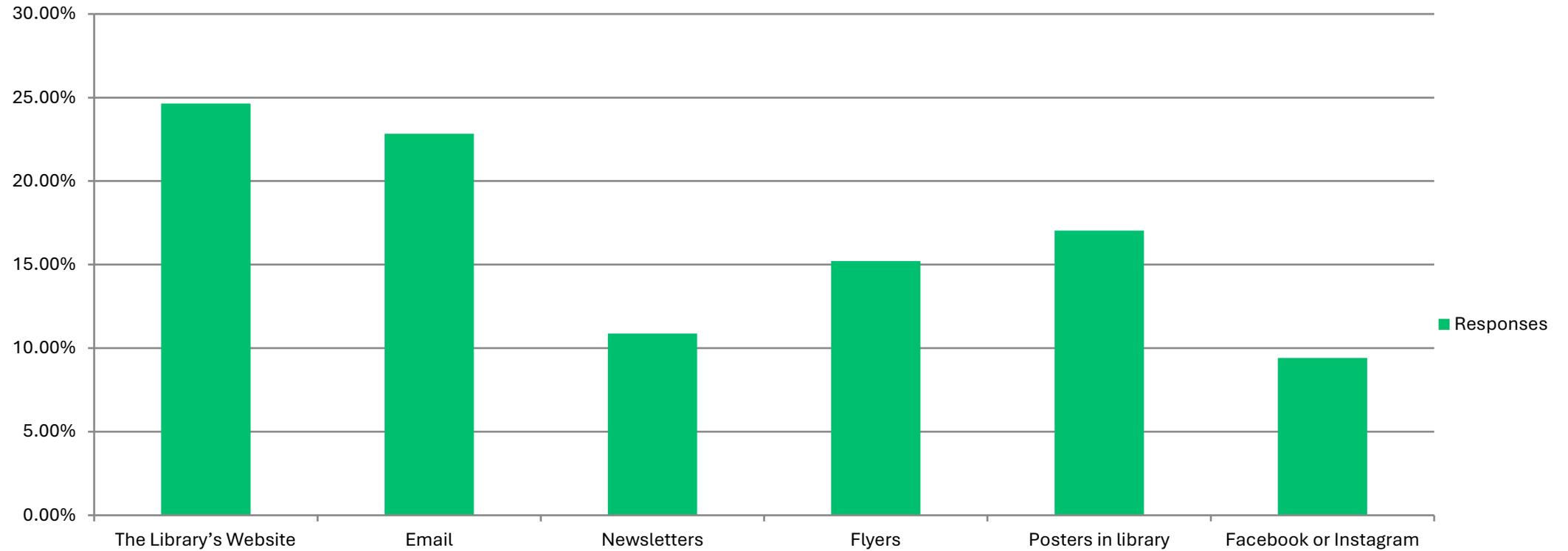
- I come to the library between 3-5 times a week. My children participate in weekly activities held at the library or with the recreational department. We always end up at the library. We love all the different story times. We participate in as many activities as we can, attend any events they put on, check out books by the dozen, catch up with friends, and even get to know the librarians. We love the library, we love the librarians. We are so very lucky.
- The library caters not just to adults but to babies. We have been coming to Storytime ever since my daughter was 2 months, she enjoys, feels like this is another home. The staff is very helpful, informative and passionate. This helps create a healthy community for families.

Community Input

- Parking
- Hours (nights & Sundays at Grand, longer hours at Main on Sundays)
 - Times of programs
- Staff and staffing

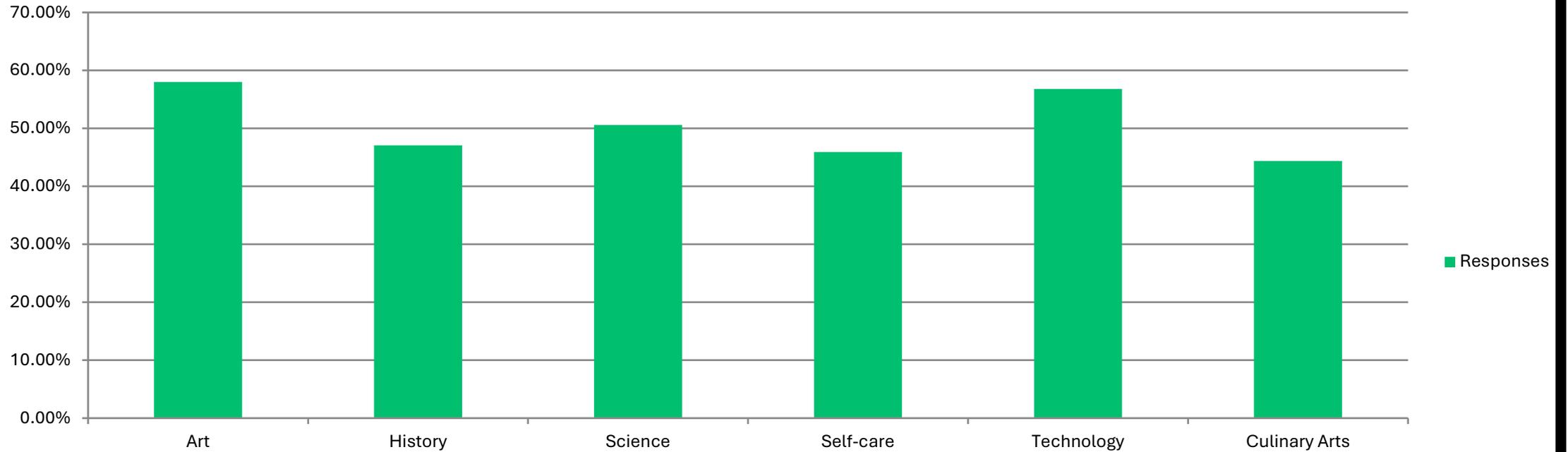


How do you prefer to learn about library programs? :





What topics are you interested in learning about at the library? (select all that apply)





Which of the following activities are you interested in doing at the library? (select all that apply)

