



# Library Director's Report

**August 2025**

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## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

- Follow-up on last month'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.
- SMCo Elections has reached out to us to host an 11-day Vote Center leading up to and including a potential November 4, 2025 Special Election. If this is confirmed, we will move our October 28, 2025 Library Board meeting from the Community Room to another room in the Library | Parks and Recreation Center.
- Save the Dates:
  - September 20, 2025, SSF Concert in the Park @ Orange Park
  - September 30, 2025, Library - Citizens Academy @ LPR
  - September 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
  - 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
The wedding people : a novel / Alison Espach.	Espach, Alison, 1984-author.	BOOKS	247
Nightshade : a novel / Michael Connelly.	Connelly, Michael, 1956-author.	BOOKS	187
Wild dark shore / Charlotte McConaghy.	McConaghy, Charlotte, author.	BOOKS	159
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	144
Amarrriage at sea : a true story of love, obsession, and shipwreck / Sophie Elmhirst.	Elmhirst, Sophie, author.	BOOKS	119
The tenant / Freida McFadden.	McFadden, Freida, author.	BOOKS	102
Apple in China : the capture of the world's greatest company / Patrick McGee.	McGee, Patrick (Reporter), author.	BOOKS	98
THESE SUMMER STORMS : a novel / Sarah MacLean.	MacLean, Sarah, author.	BOOKS	93
THE WHITE LOTUS SEASON 3 [DVD].		DVD	88
THE ACCOUNTANT2 / produced by Ben Affleck, Lynette Howell Taylor, Mark Williams ; written by Bill Dubuque ; directed by Gavin O'Connor.	Affleck, Ben	DVD	83
King of ashes : a novel / S.A. Cosby.	Cosby, S. A., author.	BOOKS	82
Murder takes a vacation : a novel / Laura Lippman.	Lippman, Laura, 1959-author.	BOOKS	77
The correspondent : a novel / Virginia Evans.	Evans, Virginia, 1986-author.	BOOKS	74
The doorman : a novel / Chris Pavone.	Pavone, Chris, author.	BOOKS	73
HEARTLAMP : Selected Stories	Mushtaq, Banu/ Bhashti, Deepa (TRN)	BOOKS	72
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	69
The amateur / directed by James Hawes.		BLURAY	69
The Satisfaction Café : a novel / Kathy Wang.	Wang, Kathy, author.	BOOKS	68
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING [videorecording].		DVD	63
How to lose your mother : a daughter's memoir / Molly Jong-Fast.	Jong-Fast, Molly, 1978-author.	BOOKS	60
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON [DVD].		DVD	55

The compound : a novel / Aisling Rawle.	Rawle, Aisling, 1998- author.	BOOKS	54
The Phoenician scheme / written & directed by Wes Anderson.		DVD	53
THE SECRETS OF SECRETS	Brown, Dan	BOOKS	52
The perfect divorce / Jeneva Rose ; cover and book design by Sarah Riedlinger.	Rose, Jeneva, author .	BOOKS	52
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING [videorecording].		DVD	52
The haves and have-yachts : dispatches on the ultrarich / Evan Osnos.	Osnos, Evan, 1976- author.	BOOKS	51
This American woman : a one-in-a-billion memoir / Zarna Garg.	Garg, Zarna, author.	BOOKS	49
MAGIC OF THE WIZARD DRAGON / by Tracey West ; illustrated by Graham Howells.	West, Tracey, 1965- author.	BOOKS	49
Coastal : 130 recipes from a California road trip / Scott Clark with Betsy Andrews ; photography by Cheyenne Ellis.	Clark, Scott (Writer on cooking), author.	BOOKS	49

- Top eBook and eAudiobook checkouts:

Title	Checkouts
Just for the Summer	12
Sunrise on the Reaping	12
Fourth Wing	9
Onyx Storm	9
The Tenant: (unabridged)	9
Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed	8
The Housemaid: (unabridged)	8
The Storyteller's Death: (unabridged)	8
The Women: A Novel	8
A Court of Thorns and Roses	7
All the Colors of the Dark: (unabridged)	7
Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism	7
Fourth Wing: (unabridged)	7
Iron Flame	7
None of This Is True	7
Pride and Prejudice: (unabridged)	7
The Covenant of Water	7
The God of the Woods: A Novel	7
The Serpent and the Wings of Night: (unabridged)	7
The Storyteller's Death: A Novel	7

The Women: A Novel (unabridged)	7
A Court of Mist and Fury	6
Demon Copperhead: A Novel (unabridged)	6
Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life (unabridged)	6
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: (unabridged)	6
James (Pulitzer Prize Winner): A Novel	6
Kristy's Big Day	6
Pachinko	6
Part of Your World: (unabridged)	6
Project Hail Mary: A Novel	6
The Nightingale: A Novel	6

## **ADULT SERVICES**

### *Digital Literacy & Online Resources*

#### *August – Key Stats & Updates*

- Programs: **39** total; **462** attendees or participants
- Streaming Movies, TV & Music:
  - Hoopla: **134**
  - Kanopy: **733**
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines check-outs: **7,708**
  - eBook and eAudio checkouts (combined Libby & Hoopla):
    - Hoopla: **538** (includes comics)
    - Libby: **5,315**
  - EMagazines checkouts (Libby): **1,915**

### *Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships*

The July 5th Independence Day Picnic brought many happy families to the Main Library. The brown bag picnic drew over 165 people who joined us during the holiday weekend. Participants brought lunch and picnic blankets, and the library provided games, a popcorn machine, drinks, cupcakes, and red, white, and blue pin wheels.

We have partnered with San Mateo County Human Services Agency to have regular information sessions for California residents on BenefitsCal and other public service programs. In July they offered a general information session and a session on how to sign up for BenefitsCal. The organization used the Library's Digital Media Lab so residents could sign up in real time and get assistance as they completed their application.



### *History Room*

A new display, "School Days in South City" is now available at the Grand library. Pulled from the History Room's collection, the small exhibit includes photos, yearbooks, and other ephemera of South City's public school district since its origins in the early 1900s. Curated by archivist Eva Martinez and summer intern Marisol Medina Cadena.

### **CIRCULATION**

- Total raw circulation for July 2025 (Main and Grand): **40,476**
- Total circulation including Overdrive (Main and Grand): **47,706**
- Total number of materials checked in: **17,799**
- New library accounts: **452**
- Number of items lent to another library: **6,298**
- Number of items borrowed from another library: **3,430**

### **MARKETING and PROMOTION**

Total Library Newsletter opens in July: **52,833**

- Notable features in Mayor Newsletter:
  - SSFPL Toy Drive for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital (**16.4% of total clicks**)



## Social Media

- Total library content views: **26,235**
- Community members reached: **9,716**

## Popular Content:

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**South San Francisco Public Library** ✓ is at **Grand Ave Library**.  
Published by Instagram · July 26 at 3:52 PM ·  
South San Francisco, CA...

This photo of SSF Grammar School in the early 1900s is now on view at Grand Library as part of the "School Days in South City" display. It covers the origins of the South San Francisco School District and the contributions of beloved teachers including, Rue Randall Clifford. [#ssf](#)  
[#history](#) [#archives](#) [#librarydisplay](#)

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## GRAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

### *August – Key Stats & Updates*

Programs: **18** total; **678** attendees or participants

Self-Directed programs: **586** participants



- In July, the Library completed its **Big Lift Inspiring Summers** class visits, with three sessions consisting of over 140 attendees who participated in bubble-making activities, a read aloud, quiet reading time, and checkout of books.
- We continued to enhance the library's self-directed activities with a paper bag craft that turned into **Paper Bag City**. Using surplus paper bags from when the library offered curbside book pickup in 2020-2021, staff designed a craft that enabled children to create houses, apartments, stores, and public buildings they could either take home or add to the library's play city. Staff arranged toy cars and other appropriate toys that could be integrated into the city and used painters' tape to design a streetscape. Staff encouraged use of the paper bag city as a play area after storytimes as well as all day long. Library staff offered use of robots for older children to maneuver through the "streets." Many patrons, including adults, remarked on how fun the cityscape was and how much they appreciated the opportunity to participate.

#### *Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships*

- On Saturday, July 5, the Library hosted **Aguacate**, a performer of children's music with a focus on Latin American musical traditions and with songs themed around healthy eating. The program was part of the series of Summer Learning Programs. 37 attendees danced and sang with the performers and received reading logs and free books to keep.

### **LITERACY SERVICES**

#### *Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Adult Services*

- In July, our Adult Program launched a short but intensive session, offering a variety of workshops twice a week. Our ESL (English as a Second Language) program hosted both English I and English II workshops, giving learners the opportunity to strengthen skills such as vocabulary and conversational fluency. Longtime facilitator Maria Barcelata-Long continues to lead our English Workshops and also facilitates our Saturday English Lab—an open and welcoming space for learners from all English workshops, as well as community members, to practice speaking skills in a supportive environment.
- We also continued our Citizenship Workshops, helping residents prepare for this important milestone. We are now in our third and final year of receiving the California State Library grant for ESL, which has been invaluable in enhancing our programs. We began trying a variety of resources to support our learners. The Oxford Picture Dictionary Low Beginning Workbook, purchased through Readers Press, has been especially successful, and we will continue using it for its engaging exercises, practical vocabulary, and updated topics such as job search, career planning, and digital literacy—equipping learners with both language skills and tools for real-world success.

## Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Youth Services



- Our regular youth programming at GMCLC is typically on pause during July, but our staff stayed busy. Leads dedicated time to planning for the upcoming school year as well as planning for outreach, while many of our youth staff lent their skills and talents to support other programs during this break. This included assisting with Project Read's children and family services, supporting activities at Colma, My First Years and Bilingual Storytime, as well as helping in our Adult Services Creative Center, which provides activities for children 4-12 years old whose parents are attending our adult programs. In the Creative Center, youth staff implemented a special American Sign Language activity—an engaging experience that introduced children to a new form of communication while also helping them strengthen their English skills. Other activities included arts and crafts, reading, and computer-based learning, offering children a variety of fun and enriching experiences throughout the month. Staff also helped conclude our insect–butterfly activity. Although the larvae reached their final stage after the close of our summer program at the end of June, our dedicated team returned to host a special follow-up media session the first week of July. We will share photos, videos, and stories of the butterflies' transformation, allowing students to see the magical final chapter of their project at the start of the school year in mid-August.

### *Project Read – Adult Services*

- Project Read's new onboarding process has been a great success! In July, we welcomed three new volunteers and reintroduced a returning one, who felt even more inspired and connected to our mission.

We're especially honored to welcome former Mayor of Colma, John Irish Goodwin, to our volunteer team. He began tutoring in July, and his involvement highlights the incredible strides Project Read is making in uniting our community through literacy.



With a strong learner-centered approach, Project Read continues to empower individuals—not only to grow, but to give back. This month, one of our learners applied to become a volunteer, ready to join the library team and inspire others this fall.

### *Project Read – Children and Family Services*



- July was an exciting month as our Learning Wheels truck debuted its new look and returned to the road on July 22nd. In the weeks leading up to its debut, our team delivered books to the SSF Clinic and San Bruno Library, ensuring community members continued to have access to free reading materials. Our summer session of My First Years began on July 8th, welcoming our infant and toddler participants and offering a special drop-in space for older siblings. The season ended with a heartfelt graduation celebration for five children who will begin preschool in the fall. Bilingual Storytime at the Gene Mullin Community Learning Center continued to grow, bringing families together to enjoy stories in both English and Spanish. In Colma, weekly guest lessons in the summer program inspired up to 50 students each day with hands-on science experiments, creative art projects, delicious nutrition activities, and outdoor reading—keeping curiosity and enthusiasm high.

### **DISCOVERY CENTER**

- **17** programs and **12** pop-up activities were conducted in the Discovery Center with over **270** participants. The Makerspace had an estimated **10,300** visitors and a total of **97** 3D printer appointments for the month of July.
- A high school student and Discovery Center volunteer is teaching an 8-week **Introduction to Scratch Coding** series for July and August. The kids learn

fundamental programming concepts like variables and loops using an online block-based environment. Scratch Coding also fosters creativity and problem-solving skills.



- Project Read and the Discovery Center team collaborated in designing, modeling and 3D printing a custom miniature of the new Learning Wheels truck! The 3D printed truck will be used at outreach events to advertise Project Read services as well as Discovery Center Makerspace resources.





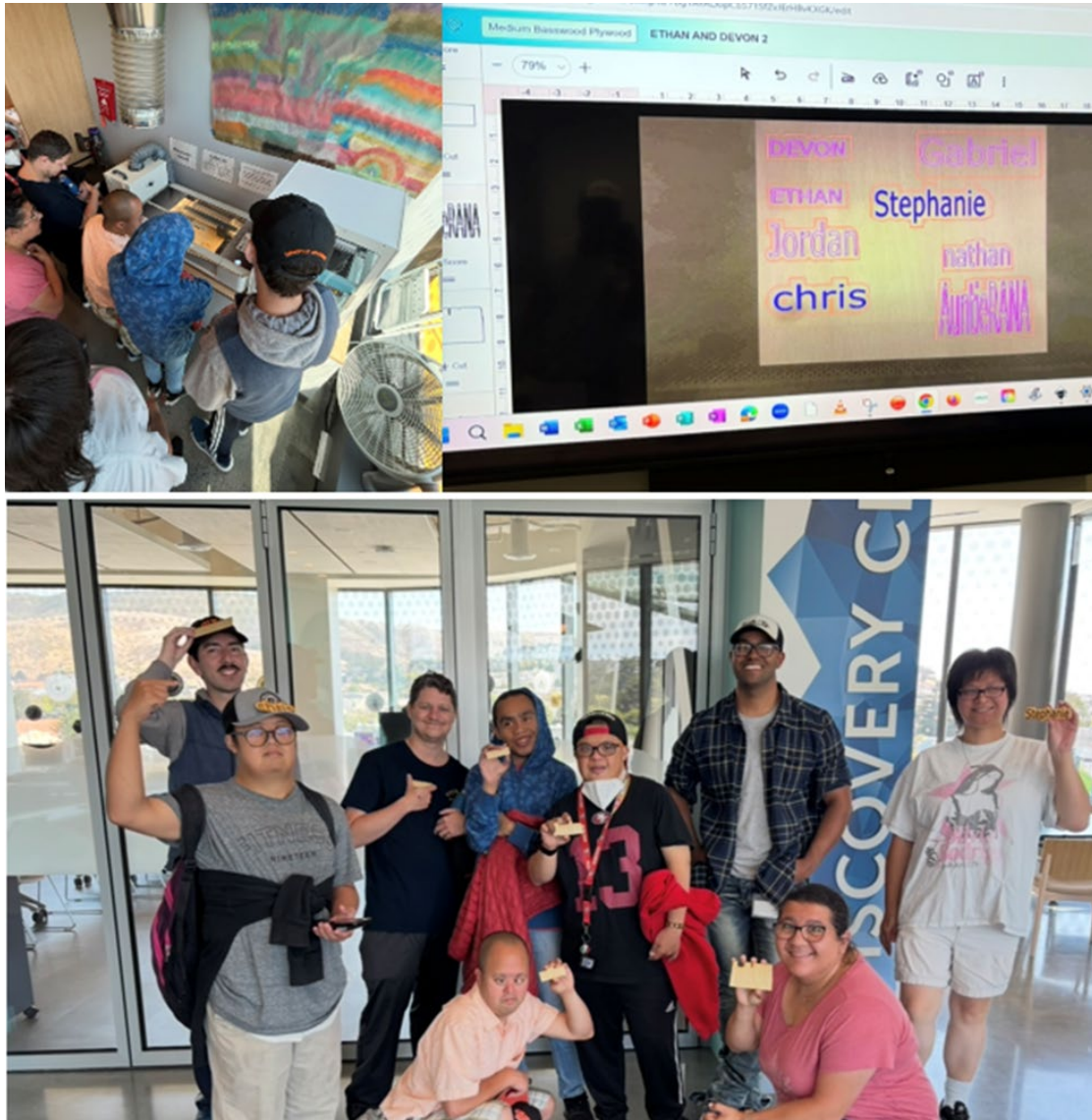
- Library Assistants Barbara Pereira and Miriam Hart lead **Digital Art Club** every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. Patrons work on timed drawing challenges and individual graphic design projects using the iPads, Apple Pencils and ProCreate app.



- Summer camp groups from Orange Park, Ponderosa and Los Cerritos came to visit the Discovery Center Community Room and Children's library. The kids and their camp leaders got to experience all of the fun activities like the robots, iPads, Ozobots, ProCreate/Apple Pencils, the RigAmaJig engineering kit, Imagination Playground engineering toy set, and much more.



- The Discovery Center team held a graphic design class and demonstration of the Glowforge laser cutter for the Ability Path groups. The patrons learned how to create custom nameplates using the free and open sourced software, Inkscape, in the Digital Media Lab. Afterwards, each participant was shown how the laser cutter functions and left with a special name plate.





Staff and volunteers  
creating decorations for the  
Makerspace.



Custom Glowforge laser  
cut design.



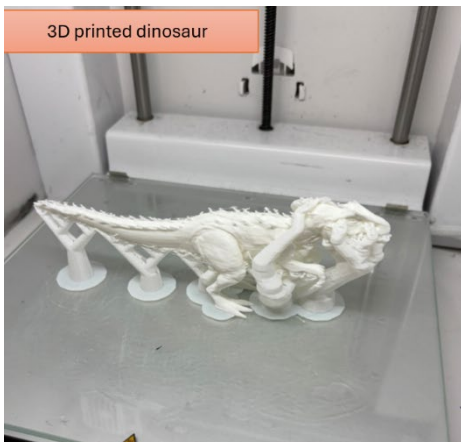
RigAmaJig creation



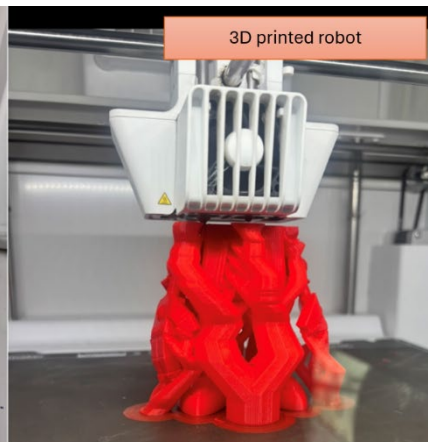
Laser cut Disney princess  
design



3D printed dinosaur



3D printed robot





## **YOUTH SERVICES**

### *August – Key Stats & Updates*

Programs: **33** total; **2,976** attendees or participants

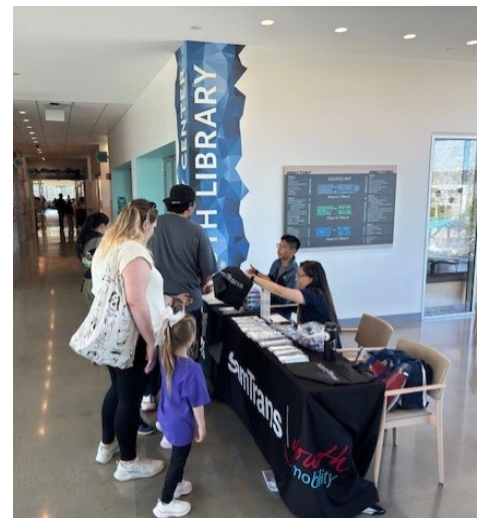
### **Class Visits**

In July, Youth Library staff hosted a group visit from SSF Parks and Recreation's Orange Memorial Park and Ponderosa Summer Camps. 150 students from rising-kindergartners to rising-7<sup>th</sup> graders were able to explore the library through a fun scavenger hunt and tour. At the end of each visit, students were able to take home free books and Summer Learning Challenge logs.



### **SamTrans Outreach:**

A representative from SamTrans conducted outreach on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor to promote their programs for youth, including Youth Unlimited, which provides free bus travel for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED) students. SamTrans provides free bus travel for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED) students. Families were able to connect with SamTrans to learn more about transportation options for youth.



## Toy Drive

In partnership with SSF's Brain Explorations, a teen-led group geared towards hosting STEM activities for children, SSF high school leaders hosted a speaker series featuring SSF Councilmember Mark Nagales and Daly City Councilmembers Juslyn Manalo and Pamela DiGiovanni that touched upon the importance of supporting our youth in our communities. After the speaker series, families were invited to participate in fun activities like face painting, Giant Jenga, and Giant Connect Four, as well as donate toys to children experiencing neurological conditions at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals.





## STEMsters: STEAM Programming Series

The Library continues to partner with STEMsters, a 501(c) non-profit organization run by local high school students, dedicated to inspiring and educating youth about STEM through fun and engaging activities. On July 11th, children got to make their own [UV house](#) with color-changing UV beads to learn more about the impact of light on objects. After the houses were made, children went outside to see if their houses' beads changed color once exposed to sunlight. Throughout the session, youth also got a special visit from the STEMsters' mascot, Tommy the Dinosaur!



## Summer Learning Challenge Performance: Puppet Art Theatre Co.

As a part of our Summer Learning event series, families got to enjoy a puppet show entitled, "Tommy's Space Adventure", from the regionally-renowned Puppet Art Theater, Co.



## Summer Learning Challenge Performance: Magic Show with Magician Perry Yan

In addition to a puppet show, local magician, Perry Yan, delighted a full house of SSF families as a part of our Summer Learning Challenge programming.



Valerie Sommer

Library Director