# MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION
## Proposed Agenda
### Wednesday, March 13 2024
#### 4:00 p.m.

**South Novato Library**
931 C Street, Novato, CA  94949

Directions: From either North or South 101 exit at Nave Drive and turn onto Main Gate Rd. Follow Main Gate Road to C Street and turn left. The Library is past the North Bay Children’s Center on the right. In order to assure a quorum, please notify us, if you are unable to attend meeting **473-3222**.

“There is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”
– Amanda Gorman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRESENTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Call to Order</td>
<td>Ream</td>
<td>Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Roll Call</td>
<td>Ream</td>
<td>Action</td>
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<td>3. Approval of Agenda</td>
<td>Ream</td>
<td>Action</td>
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<td>4. Approval of February 16, 2024 meeting minutes</td>
<td>Ream</td>
<td>Action</td>
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<td>5. Open Time for Public Expression</td>
<td>Ream</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<td>6. Reading &amp; Correspondence File</td>
<td>Ream</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<td>7. President’s Report for February</td>
<td>Ream</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<td>8. Old Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Strategic Plan Update</td>
<td>Adlawan</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<td>b. Annual Event Committee</td>
<td>Ream</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<td>9. New Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Measure A/B Fund Review Facilities Overview</td>
<td>Galiani/Chan /Adlawan</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<td>b. Measure B Formula</td>
<td>Adlawan/Galiani</td>
<td>Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Director’s Report for February 2024</td>
<td>Adlawan</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<td>11. Announcements</td>
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<td>5:30pm</td>
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<td>12. Adjournment</td>
<td>Ream</td>
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Late agenda material can be inspected in Library Administration, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m (Monday-Friday). Library Administration is located in Room 414 Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael.

All County public meetings are conducted in accessible locations. If you require American Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices or other accommodations to participate in this meeting, these may be requested by calling (415) 473-3222 (Voice) or (415) 473-6172 (TTY) **at least** 72 hours in advance. Copies of documents used in this meeting are available in accessible formats upon written request.
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### Numbered List of attachments:
- 4. Minutes for February 16, 2024
- 9.a Measure A Fund Review
- 11. Library Director’s Report for January

### Unnumbered Attachments:
- MARINet Board minutes of January 14, 2024 held at Library Technical Services, 1600 Los Gamos, Suite #180 San Rafael, CA 94903

### Marin County Free Library
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite #414, San Rafael CA 94903 [www.marinlibrary.org](http://www.marinlibrary.org)

### Brown Act:
The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. Cal. Gov't Code §54953(b)(1). A "teleconference" is "a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both." Cal. Gov't Code § 54953(b)(4). A local agency may provide the public with additional teleconference locations. Cal. Gov't Code § 54953(b)(4).

The teleconferenced meeting must meet the following requirements:
1. it must comply with all of the Act's requirements applicable to other meetings;
2. all votes must be taken by roll call;
3. agendas must be posted at all teleconference locations and the meeting must be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or public appearing before the body;
4. each teleconference location must be identified in the notice and agenda and each location must be accessible to the public;
5. during the teleconferenced meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body must participate from locations within the boundaries of the body’s jurisdiction; and
6. the agenda must provide the public with an opportunity to address the legislative body at each teleconference location. Cal. Gov't Co).

### Meeting Locations

**Bolinas Library**
14 Wharf Road, Bolinas, CA 94924

**Civic Center Library**
3501 Civic Center Drive, Ste. #427, San Rafael, CA 94903

**Corte Madera Library**
707 Meadowsweet Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925

**Fairfax Library**
2097 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Fairfax, CA 94930

**Inverness Library**
15 Park Avenue, Inverness, CA 94937

**Marin City Library**
164 Donahue Street, Marin City, CA 94965

**Novato Library**
1720 Novato Blvd., Novato, CA 94947

**Point Reyes Station Library**
11431 State Route One, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

**South Novato Library**
931 C Street, Novato, CA 94949

**Stinson Beach Library**
3521 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970
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CALL TO ORDER
There was a quorum. Meeting called to order @ 10:05 am.

ROLL CALL
Present
Ann Kaplan      Claudia Wilson      Linda Ward
Sally Hauser    Nick Javaras        Amelia Lahn
Margaret Kathrein    Sue Ream

Absent with Notification
Ali Iqbal   Daniel Sherman     Glynda Christian
Anya Schandler

Also Present
Lana Adlawan, Director of County Library Services
Raemona Little Taylor, Assistant Director of Library – Public Services
Gina Turrini, Administrative Assistant I
Leslie Galliani, Administrative Services Manager
Leching Chan, Administrative Services Technician
Madeline Bryant, Senior Librarian-Education Initiatives Coordinator – W. Marin
Natalie McCall, Senior Librarian- Education Initiatives Coordinator – South Novato
Rashida Skaar, Senior Librarian- Education Initiatives Coordinator – Marin City
Amanda Kondrashova – Librarian I – Marin City
Etienne Douglas – Library Technology Program Coordinator – Marin City

ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S/C – Ream Agenda approved as submitted

ADOPTION OF January 10, 2024 MINUTES - M/S/C Javaras/Hauser
Minutes approved as submitted.
(5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION – Ann Kaplan wanted to say to the group that she was grateful of the updates the library gives every month.

(6) READING & CORRESPONDENCE FILE – Materials were sent to the Library Commission prior to meet

(7) PRESIDENT’S REPORT FOR JANUARY

President Ream reported the following:
- Sue let the commission know that they are looking for volunteers for the June Social meeting.

(8) OLD BUSINESS
Lana Adlawan gave an update on the Strategic Plan with a slide show walk through of what the timeline has been of this plan from 2016 to now. This included going over the info and statistics that have been put together by the planning committee and the strategic planners. Lana Adlawan and Natalie McCall answered questions regarding how we received the statistical data and how metrics were measured. At this time Sue Ream amended that we move the Education Equity Initiatives Update to the first item for New business. Old business ended at 10:52am.

(9) NEW BUSINESS –

Education Equity Initiatives Update

Library Commission Meeting
Friday, February 16, 2024
Marin City
Introduction

Education Equity Initiatives Coordinators

Madeline Bryant - West Marin
Natalie McCall - South Novato
Rashida Skaar - Marin City

Education Equity Initiatives Overview

Established to address race and income-based barriers to early childhood education, literacy and graduation rates in Marin County through:

- Culturally relevant programs and services
- Increased access to educational and creative opportunities for youth
- Building relationships with community partners and stakeholders
Education Equity Goals

- Increase Kindergarten Readiness and Literacy success for Third Graders and up through partnerships and interventions in targeted schools
- Promote youth leadership and racial equity in youth services
- Create targeted education programs and partnerships to promote 21st century learning outcomes, environmental education, and STEAM programming, including project-based learning and immersive learning
- Engage students, parents, and caregivers in opportunities for self-development
- Celebrate Cultural Identity and Heritage to enliven and amplify a sense of belonging

Marin City

Community Partnerships & Library Services:
- Bridge the Gap: Out of school learning partner
- Golden Gate Nature Conservancy: Community nature exploration and educational opportunities
- Sausalito Library: Literacy learning partner
- Book Rich Environments: Culturally relevant book giveaways
- Programming: Bilingual Storytimes; Learning through Collaboration, Little Learners play space

The Lab Makerspace:
- Coding Classes
- Making (Light Up Scarves) and Computer building/Programming opportunities
- Teaching Tech: 3D printing; using sound/podcast equipment, laser cutters and textiles
- Professional Development: Webstars train kids in using the Makerspace; using tools and equipment for DIY/crafting
- Community Partnerships: Branson Academy, Bay Area Discovery Museum

SMC3D Partnership:
- Weekly Class Visits (Nevada Campus)
- Continuing Afterschool Programming
- Smarties: Phonics and Literacy Learning Program
- Community Partnerships: Bridge the Gap, Marin City Live!
- Onboarding New Staff: Community Library Specialists, Librarian II, Re-evaluating/re-launching services at Phillips Campus
South Novato

Outreach & Relationships:
- NUSD Class visits and Special Events
  - Fall Harvest, Winter Festival
  - Visits to The Library and The Shop
  - Library Card project engagement
  - Upcoming Partnerships & Collaboration
  - Hamilton Nursery
  - Boys & Girls Club

New Programs & Services:
- Spanish Storytime
- New Arrival Orientation & Welcome for children and families
- Saturday Storytime
- Monthly scavenger hunt in the Children’s Room to engage youth in the collection and space
- Music workshops

Evolution of Tentpole Programs:
- Reading Buddies: added bilingual cohort
- College essay help for Webstars
- Hispanic Heritage Month programs and displays

West Marin

Early Literacy - “Little Learners”
- Bilingual Storytime & Family Programs
- Celebrating cultural heritage
- Community partnerships
- Diablos del Ninos
- Free Books & Little Free Libraries
- Play & Learn Spaces

Work with Schools
- Bolinas Stinson School
- Nicasio School
- Shoreline Unified
- Tomales ES

After School Enrichment & Summer
- Marin Co Parks/NPS partnership
- Partnership with PRNSA
- Reading Buddies
- Reading on the Ranches
- Webstars & Career Explorers
Summary & Looking Ahead

**South Novato:** Create programs, services, and events for children and families that inspire a love of reading and storytelling.

**West Marin:** Librarian II in West Marin Literacy Services. Community Schools model and serving the whole family through connections and partners. Expanding literacy services for the whole family.

**Marin City:** Building a strong staff team that champions literacy and learning at all Marin City locations. Strengthening and improving culturally responsive programming, services, and community relationships in each area of service with every service population.

Questions & answers

Contact information:
Madeline.Bryant@MarinCounty.gov
Natalie.McCall@MarinCounty.gov
Rashida.Skaar@MarinCounty.gov

Sue Ream thanked Madeline, Natalie and Rashida for their presentation. At the end of this meeting Sue and Lana proposed that the Measure A Update be moved to the March 13, 2024 meeting. President motioned and membership approved.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2024 – Director Adlawan reported on the following:

- Lana spoke regarding Barbra Madrid of the Book Place receiving the Spirit of Novato honor and has been a volunteer in many capacities for the past 50 years.
- Reported that we are currently at 10% vacancy rate for positions across the library system. This is the lowest its ever been.
- Lana introduced Etienne Douglas the head of the Marin City Maker Space / The Lab to the assembled membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The next meeting will be on March 13, @ 4pm in the South Novato Library.

ADJOURNMENT – M/S Hauser/Javaras Meeting adjourned @ 11:33 am
## Yearly Budget Summary

### 5 Year Projection

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<td><strong>Property Taxes</strong></td>
<td>$12,658,651</td>
<td>$13,083,655</td>
<td>$14,300,383</td>
<td>$14,898,529</td>
<td>$16,106,558</td>
<td>$16,608,851</td>
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<td>$16,280,079</td>
<td>$16,528,340</td>
<td>$16,776,265</td>
<td>$17,027,909</td>
<td>$17,283,328</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Measure A</strong></td>
<td>$2,466,059</td>
<td>$2,519,181</td>
<td>$2,628,357</td>
<td>$2,689,034</td>
<td>$2,718,156</td>
<td>$2,791,066</td>
<td>$2,845,000</td>
<td>$2,906,403</td>
<td>$4,700,000</td>
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<td><strong>Other Revenue</strong></td>
<td>(960,282)</td>
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<td>(2,800,054)</td>
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<td>(2,829,858)</td>
<td>(1,834,940)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Services and Supplies</strong></td>
<td>$3,544,562</td>
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<td><strong>Other Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Library Costs</strong></td>
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### 5 YR Growth Rate
- Property Taxes: 1.5%
- Measures A & B: 2.2%
- Other Revenue: 12.9%
- Total Revenue: 4.5%
- Salaries & Benefits: 0.7%
- Services & Supplies: 2.1%
- Capital Assets: 141.3%
- Other Expenses: 19.9%
- Total Expenses: 4.5%

As of 1-31-2024
### 5 Year Projection

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<td>(2,628,357)</td>
<td>(2,689,034)</td>
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<td><strong>Other Revenue</strong></td>
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#### 5 YR Growth Rate
- **Property Taxes**: 1.5%
- **Measure A**: 2.2%
- **Other Revenue**: 12.9%
- **Total Revenue**: 4.5%
- **Salaries & Benefits**: 0.7%
- **Services & Supplies**: 2.1%
- **Capital Assets**: 141.3%
- **Other Expenses**: 19.9%
- **Total Expenses**: 4.5%
### REVENUE SOURCES & FACILITIES EXPENDITURES: MEASURE A

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Measure A Tax Revenue (2480)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Measure A Tax Revenue</th>
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<th>Grant</th>
<th>Measure A Funds in County</th>
<th>Measure A Funds in Grant</th>
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<th>Green Project Community Contributions in Grant Fund</th>
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<td>FY 15-16</td>
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<td>$106,331</td>
<td>$124,887</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$132,572</td>
<td>$378,879</td>
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<td>FY 16-17</td>
<td>$347,012</td>
<td>$106,331</td>
<td>$124,887</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:**

- **County:**
  - Marin County Library Foundation: Learning Bus
  - SNO Hardscape
  - NOV Racker Assessment
  - FAI Roof
  - FAI Path of Travel
  - FAI Electrical Panels
  - CMA Children's Rm Shelving
  - CMA: Bike Rack Project
  - CALIF ROOM (ANNEX)
  - CA Room (Annex)
  - CA Room (Annex)
  - CA Room (Annex)

- **Measure A:**
  - CA Room (Annex)
  - CA Room (Annex)
  - CA Room (Annex)
  - CA Room (Annex)

- **Total:**
  - 283,840

**REFRESH PROJECTS (All Branches):**

- **County:**
  - County:
  - County:
  - County:
  - County:

- **Measure A:**
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:

- **Total:**
  - 333,801

**TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES:**

- 617,641

**REVENUE SOURCES & FACILITIES EXPENDITURES:**

- **Fiscal Year:**
  - FY 15-16
  - FY 16-17
  - FY 17-18
  - FY 18-19
  - FY 19-20
  - FY 20-21
  - FY 21-22
  - FY 22-23

- **Funding Source:** Measure A
  - **Fiscal Year:**
    - FY 15-16
    - FY 16-17
    - FY 17-18
    - FY 18-19
    - FY 19-20
    - FY 20-21
    - FY 21-22
    - FY 22-23

- **County:**
  - County:
  - County:
  - County:
  - County:

- **Measure A:**
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:

- **Total:**
  - 773,749

**SUMMARY:**

- **Fiscal Year:**
  - FY 15-16
  - FY 16-17
  - FY 17-18
  - FY 18-19
  - FY 19-20
  - FY 20-21
  - FY 21-22
  - FY 22-23

- **County:**
  - County:
  - County:
  - County:
  - County:

- **Measure A:**
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:

- **Total:**
  - 684,878

**2024 Funding Summary:**

- **FY 2024:**
  - **County:**
    - County:
    - County:
    - County:
    - County:

- **Measure A:**
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:
  - Measure A:

- **Total:**
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<th>Budget 21/22</th>
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**MEASURE A CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY FY 23/24**

2/16/2024 $380,565.46 $519,627.23 $825,131.95 $1,449,516.81 $299,492.36 $25,060.95 $3,499,394.76
## MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

### 5 Year Projection

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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>$ (21,171,327)</td>
<td>$ (21,654,572)</td>
<td>$ (21,234,857)</td>
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<td>$ (22,204,198)</td>
<td>$ (24,627,725)</td>
<td>$ (25,395,199)</td>
<td>$ (26,218,829)</td>
<td>$ (27,102,659)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Measure A</strong></td>
<td>$ (2,466,059)</td>
<td>$ (2,519,181)</td>
<td>$ (2,575,190)</td>
<td>$ (2,628,357)</td>
<td>$ (2,689,034)</td>
<td>$ (2,718,156)</td>
<td>$ (2,791,066)</td>
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<td>$ (2,906,403)</td>
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### Net Library Costs

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<td><strong>Other Revenue</strong></td>
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### 5 YR Growth Rate

- Property Taxes: 1.5%
- Measures A & B: 2.2%
- Other Revenue: 12.9%
- Total Revenue: 4.5%
- Salaries & Benefits: 0.7%
- Services & Supplies: 2.1%
- Capital Assets: 141.3%
- Other Expenses: 19.9%
- Total Expenses: 4.5%

**as of 1-31-2024**
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<td>Measure A</td>
<td>$(2,466,059)</td>
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5 YR Growth Rate
- Property Taxes: 1.5%
- Measure A: 2.2%
- Other Revenue: 12.9%
- Total Revenue: 4.5%
- Salaries & Benefits: 0.7%
- Services & Supplies: 2.1%
- Capital Assets: 141.3%
- Other Expenses: 19.9%
- Total Expenses: 4.5%
### REVENUE SOURCES & FACILITIES EXPENDITURES: MEASURE A

#### FUNDING SOURCE

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| **Total**                  | $660,947 | $660,947 | $660,947 | $660,947 | $660,947 | $660,947 | $660,947 | $660,947 | $660,947 |

#### Notes:

- FY 15-16: Initial fiscal year for Measure A funding.
- FY 16-17: First full fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
- FY 17-18: Second full fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
- FY 18-19: Third full fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
- FY 19-20: Fourth full fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
- FY 20-21: Fifth full fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
- FY 21-22: Sixth full fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
- FY 22-23: Seventh full fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
- FY 23-24: Eighth full fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
- FY 24-25: Final fiscal year for funding under Measure A.
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**Total Expended**

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Marin County Free Library Commission Report
Lana Adlawan, Director of County Library Services

FEBRUARY 2024 ACTIVITIES

OUR MISSION:
Provide welcoming, equitable and inclusive opportunities for all to connect, learn and explore.
Libraries throughout the county celebrated Black History Month with gorgeous displays, storytimes and engaging programs. The Bookmobile participated in the Marinship exhibit at the Office of Education, giving away books and having a fun time being parked next to a vintage Greyhound bus that showed how people would have traveled to Marin in the 40s and 50s.

Musician Keenan Webster performed at the Point Reyes Library on Tuesday, February 13, for an all-ages audience of 35 people. Everyone from babies to grandparents, including the Reading Buddies kid crew, got to learn about West African instruments such as the Kora (West African Mandinka harp), the Kamele Ngoni (West African Mande harp), and the Balaphone (Mandinka xylophone). Playing the Balaphone was an end-of-program bonus for interested kiddos and adults!

Bolinas Library has been having fun on their Wednesday afternoon programming this month with colors, shapes and fabric while exploring the art of many Black artists, past and present. This program continues to serve kids ranging from 3 on up, which has been a fun challenge coming up with engaging activities that will draw kids in despite the varied range of age and interest in this small community.

Bolinas also had the pleasure of having a special guest, local artist Eli Likover come and host Art for the littles on Monday afternoons 3:30pm.

The Marin Chinese Cultural Association’s Lion Dancers visited several library branches in celebration of the Lunar New Year, including Fairfax and Corte Madera. Dancers paraded through the library in costumes and with musical accompaniment, ending in the community room for a photo opportunity with New Year’s banners.

South Novato Library continued their Spanish language musical programming for children with introductory workshops on music and sound with Torogoz con Voz. Participants discover how music and color improve academic performance while exploring children’s interest in music.

Kids visiting the Learning Bus explored things that move while painting with cars, such a fun way to explore cause and effect. During this month the children in Marin City were able to see the wheelchair lift on the bus as well. Valentine’s Day was celebrated with a focus on kindness and care for each other. The kids put their fine motor skills to work as they decorated cards to share with their special people.
**Fairfax Library**

Fairfax made space in the Teen Display Section for larger signs, so our Black History Month Display looked great this month! Novato Library

**Novato Library**

The Novato teens had a chance to learn about insects in our teen led Entomology Club on the first Saturday of the month. Family Game Night, which welcomes patrons of all ages, met on the 7th where patrons had their choice of classic games (e.g. Operation) or more recent games (e.g. Sushi Go). On the 17th we had Level Up Gaming Club where we played Nintendo Switch Sports. We rounded out the month with the teen and adult Knitfest, where fiber artists meet to create and chat.

The book display highlighted books for Black History Month and Valentine’s Day.
The Fairfax Library hosted the **Mid-East Tapestry Ensemble**, a four-piece group performing music from Arab traditions. In front of a packed house of more than 70 people, renowned musician Vince Delgado led the group in a beautiful concert full of classical, urban and folk music from Arabic-speaking countries and from Turkish, Greek, Armenian, and Persian traditions. It was a truly beautiful experience and we received effusive praise from a very happy audience. Thanks to the Friends of the Fairfax Library for funding this great event.

In celebration of Black History, Novato Library hosted Black Banjo and Fiddle music with musicians from the **Oakland Public Conservatory of Music Black Banjo & Fiddle Fellowship** on February 24. An enthusiastic crowd of 123 attendees enjoyed this unique opportunity to experience old-time music, learn about its rich history, and meet the musicians carrying the legacy forward, **Patrice Strahan** on banjo, **Joe Johnson** on banjo, **Darcy Ford-James** on fiddle, and joined by **Chanelle Ignant** on guitar.

Novato Library also presented Claire Cohn’s workshop, **Introduction to Qigong Movement Meditation** to 13 attendees. Qigong is a series of movements widely practiced for healing, reducing stress and anxiety, and preventing illness. Claire R. Cohn, B.F.A., M.A., is a Qigong Movement Meditation Instructor, Psychomotor Therapist, and Movement Educator.

With its wooded yards, lush riparian areas and the open waters of Tomales Bay, Inverness is a fabulous place to observe birds. Marin County Parks Interpretive Naturalist Shannon Burke presented Backyard Birds of Inverness at Inverness Library. Shannon gave a talk on some of the species participants could expect to see throughout the year and followed that with a short walk to explore the nearby creek and bayside habitats.

Civic Center Library had a lot going on this month, starting off with their two book clubs, both of which focused on titles by Black authors in honor of Black History Month. The Morning Mystery Club read **Down the River unto the Sea** by Walter Mosely and the Afternoon Book club read **Passing** by Nella Larsen.

Civic Center Library participated in the Marin City organized simulcast screening of the documentary **Against All Odds- The Fight for a Black Middle Class**. The writer, Bob Herbert, and producer, Sally Roy, were available via Zoom for a Q&A session after the film showing.

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The Speaker Series featured **Parris Lane**. She discussed her journey to create the historical fiction music audiobook Abella - A Voice for the Voiceless. The author combined research, layered narration, and traditional spirituals to create this unique work.

February was a busy month at Corte Madera Library. In addition to offering **One-on-One Tech Help** by appointment three times a week, these events filled the month:

**Keeping Varmints at Bay** with Marin Master Gardener Lois Stevens was an informative program about how to respond to deer, gophers, or rats in your garden. Our monthly Crochet Corner is always well attended and offers an opportunity for high school students to teach their peers and the many older adults who attend. We were able to purchase a number of new titles on crochet to respond to requests for new books on the topic.

The art display for February, in honor of Black History Month, is **Obsidian: New Artworks by Dr. Orin Carpenter**, Mixed Media Artist. In addition to this compelling exhibit, Dr. Carpenter gave an illustrated talk on his work as a Black artist, detailing his development, influences, and practice. Audience members were engaged, asking many questions about his work.

Another program as part of our offerings for Black History Month was a film screening of the documentary, **One Voice: The Story of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir**. The artistic director and members of the choir were present to take questions after the screening. Members of the Marin based choir, Lighthouse, attended. It was a joyful evening.

To celebrate Valentine’s and to offer concrete skills to our older patrons, librarians Emma and Daniela gave an overview of dating apps and websites, online safety, and tips on how to get better matches. This program was also offered at the Civic Center Library.
Between January 1 and February 24, 2024, the MCFL Collection Development Team has processed and purchased 179 patron requests and recommendations across all audiences. In addition, last week in the spirit of collaboration we provided CollectionHQ support for Central Rappahannock Regional Library in Virginia. The team gave an overview of CollectionHQ modules and fielded questions about the tools available, the staff at Central Rappahannock Regional Library in Virginia were so appreciative that they gave us a shout out for our support on their Facebook page.

The team has also started to visit each branch in order to keep staff apprised of the timeline of upcoming collection management tasks, ordering schedules, special collections, and developments in the publishing world. This year we are also taking to each branch visit a member of the Acquisitions team in Technical Services. This helps library staff create connections with the folks behind the scenes who help purchase, process, and copy catalog the items in our collection as well as manage systemwide programs like LinkPlus.
South Novato

Reading Buddies SPRING 2024:

This semester 33 Novato Unified School District (NUSD) students from different elementary schools in Novato applied to enroll. We were able to enroll 25 students giving priority to Hamilton and Loma Verde schools (SNO region) and also included students from Lynwood, Lu Sutton, and Pleasant Valley. Sixteen of the enrolled students are bilingual in Spanish/English. The Dominican University of California is supporting us with 4 students, 2 of whom are bilingual in English/Spanish. This semester we started another pilot program with the support of 3 more students from different high schools, one of whom is bilingual in English/Spanish.

New Programs:

This month we started bilingual music workshops with Torogoz Con Voz. This workshop focuses on the origins and science of music and color. We also started a Read to a Dog program where kids work on their literacy and build social-emotional skills.

Marin City

Marin City Library was very excited to host Keenan Webster for an afternoon of African Music! Children and families had the opportunity to learn about the rich music traditions of West Africa and to actually explore playing instruments like the Balafone. This program was a part of Marin City’s Black History Month Programming and our goal was to highlight the rich cultural traditions and contributions of African and African American people, including how much American culture is influenced and springs from the African continent. Children were excited to see how the African American Music traditions are directly connected to the music traditions of Africa.

Marin City also celebrates some positive staff developments! Shayla Davis is now formally confirmed as a regular hire Community Library Specialist (CLS) for Martin Luther King (MLK) Academy’s elementary campus. Thembi Gates-Williams has joined our team as Shayla’s counterpart at the middle school. We’re very excited to have them both and look forward to great things working together!

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West Marin

All incoming and new students at the Bolinas Stinson School have been issued library cards for this academic year, once again ensuring that all students have access to online resources and the ability to borrow materials.

Reading Buddies at Point Reyes hit a milestone of 9,000 minutes read since January 9. Attendance continues to be high, with as many as 20 children participating in literacy activities after school each Tuesday.

The Kindergarten and 1st grade classes from the Inverness School visit the library weekly for storytime, library instruction and to borrow books.
As we leapt into February, we launched an inspiring campaign to celebrate Black history and culture – strength in striving. The striking graphic was designed by our team. On our website, we featured the press release (bit.ly/48ZZdGF) highlighting the library's collaboration with the County of Marin Association of African American Employees Association (COMAEA) in providing events and cultural celebrations, along with learning resources, booklists, and the opportunity to engage with our communities to forge a deeper connection and understanding, advancing equity and justice. (bit.ly/42BfAqJ)

Another project that headed toward fruition in February is the partnership between the library, the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE), Dominican University, and Marin City's Felecia Gaston, founder of the Marin City Historical and Preservation Society and author of a book about Marin City's legacy. To highlight the history of Marin City and Marinship and the contributions of Black residents to Marin, Dominican University of California and the Marin County Free Library (MCFL) are developing resource guides, activities, and lesson plans based on Gaston's commemorative book "A Brand New Start...This is Home: The Story of World War II Marinship and the Legacy of Marin City" (bit.ly/3isik0p). This partnership was featured in a press release (bit.ly/4a19Ki8) that we highlighted on the website.

The book showcases a collection of primary sources, oral interviews, news archives, and photographs that portray the Black experience from 1942 to 2022, highlighting the vibrant history of the Marin City community. Our team worked on the activity guides and contributed to the overall design to present the learning opportunities created by our Civic Center Library staff with Dominican that will be made available, along with the book, to all students in Marin.

The Marin IJ released the Readers' Choice Awards for 2024 and published their insert in late February. Once the awards became public we were able to highlight (bit.ly/49yvBAt) and congratulate our Fairfax and Novato Library teams for winning the Honor Awards!

Many engaging events and sharing of resources happened in February, including our celebration of Black culture and history through numerous programs and curated lists of materials for learning about the strength and striving of the Black community and individuals. We also celebrated the Lunar New Year in February and welcomed the Year of the Dragon with Lion Dancers at some of our branches.

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We shared election and voter registration information from our County Elections Department to spread the word about being ready to vote in the primaries. Entries on our blog included Bolinas Reads and our weekly reviews by Neshama. The Join Together We Read Digital Book Club from OverDrive featuring 'One Summer in Savannah' and the Kanopy Big Movie Watch featuring 'What’s Love Got to Do With It?' were highlighted on the website.

Curated lists included many wonderful lists featuring Black authors and perspectives (bit.ly/3ZalOvF), the Libby Awards (bit.ly/3Trywp6), “Foodie Stories” (bit.ly/3IugbRK), and a host of lists with new and noteworthy titles. Explore them all by browsing our Staff Lists (bit.ly/3IQuwbf).

Highlights from our social media included celebrating Black History Month, top picks from LibraryReads on Hoopla, Poverty & Racial Justice Part 4: The Human Cost of Poverty, What Does Black History Month Mean, the Learning Bus Schedule, The Club - Hoopla's new book club recommendation program, World Read Aloud Day, DrawBridge programs to bring art to communities, Kanopy's Big Movie Watch, Grammy Award Winners on Hoopla, Lunar New Year - Books for kids, Time Magazine on Libby, Fairfax Library's Garden in the IJ, Legendary Literary Dragons on Libby to Celebrate Lunar New Year, Bolinas Reads, Library Lovers Month, Library Commission Meeting, Registration Deadline for March 5 election, Loud Budgeting - Tools for the Trend booklist, 50 Albums Turning 50 on Hoopla, Books for Book Lovers, Academy Award Nominees on Kanopy, Together We Read on Libby, Neshama's Picks, The Book Place, the Legacy of Marin City Exhibit at the Marin County Office of Education, Screening of Against All Odds Fight for a Black Middle Class, Fairfax & Novato Library Win Honor Awards in the Marin IJ Readers’ Choice Awards for 2024, North Marin Community Services Food Pantry Visited by Marin County staffer Héctor Garcia with free books for children, plus many events happening in the library. Follow us to see all the things on Facebook! (facebook.com/marincountyfreelibrary)
PERSONNEL UPDATE

MCFL staff attending the Marin County Children’s Summit.

Please congratulate the following staff members on promoting to new positions and joining Team MCFL!

Cris Criollo, Community Library Specialist (South Novato)
Ahmad Merza, Library Services Manager (Library Administration)

VACANCIES UNDER REVIEW OR IN PROGRESS

Assistant Director of Library Services 1.0 FTE, Library Administration

Library Aide (4), 0.5 FTE Civic Center, (2) 0.5 FTE Novato, 0.62 FTE Fairfax

Library Assistant II, 1.0 FTE Novato

Library Assistant I, 1.0 FTE Marin City

Librarian II (5), 1.0 FTE Civic Center, 1.0 FTE Marin City, 1.0 FTE Novato, 1.0 FTE West Marin, 1.0 FTE Technical Services

MARINet Systems Administrator, 1.0 FTE, MARINet
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES, LANA ADLAWAN

Lana Adlawan, Jesse Lumb, and Randy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of the Marin County Office of Education. Image credit: Herman Privette

We centered Black History Month by rolling out (literally) an incredible new partnership with the Marin City Historical & Preservation Society, Marin County Office of Education and Dominican University. At the kickoff event for, “The Legacy of Marin City: A California Black History (1942-1960) Exhibit at the Marin County Office of Education, we had a historic Greyhound bus on site to replicate the journey many Black families took from the South to land in Marin City to start a new life in supporting the war effort. We also had the Bookmobile on site filled with books about Marin City and the Black experience. This partnership supports tours of an exhibit which showcases stories, photos, and artifacts from many of those Black families who made the journey and settled in Marin. School and community tours are led twice a week by Felecia Gaston of Performing Stars of Marin and founder of the Marin City Historical & Preservation Society. All partners also collaborated on curriculum-based activities to support the school tours and the content in Ms. Gaston's book which supports the exhibit, “A Brand New Start...This Is Home, The Story of the World War II Marinship and the Legacy of Marin County.” The hope is by bringing this history to all public-school students and offering tours to community members that the legacy of these families and their impact on all of Marin County can be understood and recognized. The eventual goal is to embed this history in a state-wide curriculum for all California public school students. More information on the partnership can be found here, along with the instructional materials:

- The Legacy of Marin City - A California Black History Exhibit: bit.ly/43brQOT
- The Legacy of Marin City - Instructional Materials: bit.ly/48OAI3L
- The County also issued a press release on the partnership here: bit.ly/49JdyaU

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As we say goodbye to February, we also say hello to a new path for the Marin County Free Library with a new strategic plan. Our Strategic Planning Committee (featured above) has given much of themselves to this work, with great results. Other MCFL Committees, such as the Racial Equity Alliance and Spanish Services Committee were foundational in our planning process. They always centered our diverse communities and those who haven't historically been represented in library services. The collaboration of all groups led to a holistic assessment of our strengths and challenges, as well as MCFL's path forward as an anti-racist library system. Final drafts of our strategic plan are under review and will be brought forward to the Board of Supervisors on April 2. I cannot thank this team enough for their enthusiasm, commitment, passion, and dedication to bringing equitable outcomes to Marin County. In alphabetical order, please recognize these individuals for their historic work:


In community,

Lana Adlawan
Director, County Library Services
COMMISSION MEMBERS:
MCFL and the County of Marin

THANK YOU for your commitment to welcoming, equitable, and inclusive library services.
Marinet Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 4, 2024

Meeting Held at: 1600 Los Gamos, Suite #180 San Rafael, CA 94903

Present:
Board Chair: Lana Adlawan (MCFL)
Board: Crystal Duran (Belvedere Tiburon), Gary Gorka (Dominican), Damon Hill (Larkspur), Anji Brenner (Mill Valley), Linda Kenton (San Anselmo), Catherine Quffa (San Rafael) and Abbot Chambers (Sausalito)
MARINet Staff: Jessica Trenary

Adlawan called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

I. Determination of a Quorum – Yes
II. Public Comment Period – None
III. Standing Agenda Items
   A. Equity Discussion (Discussion) – Brenner raised awareness about hearing impairment issues. She invited John Rudolph, President of PCD Audio &Video, to discuss devices available to assist patrons. Brenner will follow up at February Board Meeting with check-list for MARINet libraries and more information about working together on this issue.

IV. Business Topics
   A. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (Action) – Kenton moves to approve the December 7, 2023 meeting minutes, Duran seconds. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.
   B. Innovative Sierra Multi-Year Renewal (Action) – Trenary described the pros and cons of signing a longer term agreement with Innovative. Chambers moves for Trenary to sign a four year agreement with Innovative for all Innovative subscriptions except for College of Marin and Dominican’s Link+ subscriptions which should be paid separately and kept on an annual renewal period, Brenner seconds. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.
   C. FY24-25 Budget Questions (Discussion) – Trenay asked the Board for input on subscription renewals, particularly Collection HQ and Decision Center. The Board would like to keep Decision Center. Although some libraries are not using Collection HQ, overall the group would like to continue the subscription and possibly get more training from B&T that is targeted to their needs. Trenary provided information about popular bestsellers holds in print versus Overdrive, to make the case that more funds should be devoted to Overdrive holds and the funding could come from print purchasing. The group discussed print budgets, collective purchasing, and Overdrive holds. The Board recommends keeping the FY24-25 Overdrive budget flat and using reserve funds to manage the growing demand for Overdrive. The Board Collection Management Task
Force will also continue to investigate this topic and make recommendations to the Board.

D. MARINet Board Task Forces (Discussion) –
   1. Board Support Task Force – Duran, Kenton, Brenner – Updated the group on their meetings and work. They will have draft versions of onboarding and role descriptions at the February Board Meeting.
   2. Staffing Task Force – Adlawan, Gorka – Updated the group about timeline and next steps. Adlawan continues to work with County HR on MARINet positions, including salary and job descriptions.
   3. Organization Restructuring – Adlawan, Quffa, Hill, Gorka – Meeting scheduled for January 17th

E. Board Task Forces Approve Formation (Action) - Kenton moves to formally form the four task forces, Brenner seconds. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.

V. Standing Agenda Items (Continued)
   A. Systems Administrator Report (Discussion) – Tenary shares the good news that the full CENIC grant amount has been received in the correct account. She notes that the CA State Library is no longer accepting CENIC grant applications. She also notes that CA State Library has not announced a new Administrator for the program and that may cause delays in e-rate reimbursements, which can be substantial amounts of money ($30,000 quarterly). Tenary will keep the Board informed, but reserve funds might need to be borrowed, if CENIC bills arrive without e-rate reimbursement applied. Tenary also noted several BiblioCommons and CENIC outages.

   B. Library Announcements (Discussion)
      • Brenner – Marin Poetry Center is working on their traveling poetry show and Brenner would like to connect them with libraries interested. Duran, Kenton, Hill, and Adlawan expressed interest. Mill Valley hosted a very successful concert with a local pianist accompanied by a quartet. He would be open to working with other libraries, so Brenner will put him in touch with Adlawan, Kenton and Hill.
      • Duran – Strategic planning is going well and Duran will have more information to share in February. Belvedere Tiburon is hiring an Adult Services Librarian currently and may have another full-time position open soon. They are also working on a compensation study with RGS and they would appreciate help/information from MARINet libraries. Duran will share comp reports with the group after they are complete.
• Hill – Larkspur is currently in the process of hiring a Librarian I for Adult Services and will have another position opening soon.

• Adlawan – Applications are now being accepted for their Assistant Director of Library - Support Services position.

• Chambers – They will be reposting their open Children’s Librarian position soon.

• Kenton – The San Anselmo Library was busy over the holidays and they piloted more open hours this year. They opened the day after Thanksgiving (Friday) as well as Veteran’s Day and patrons were pleased.

Adlawan adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Trenary