

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION



Lana Adlawan
Director of County Library Services

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION Proposed Agenda Wednesday, June 11, 2025 5:00 p.m.

Library Commission
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 414
San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone: 415.473.3220
Fax: 415.473.3726
CRS Dial 711
www.marinlibrary.org

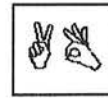
The Club Restaurant at McInnis Park 350 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

Directions: Take the Smith Ranch Rd. Exit; continue onto Smith Ranch Road, if coming from 101 North you will take a right onto Smith Ranch Rd. if you are coming 101 South you will take a Left onto Smith Ranch Rd. Take Smith Ranch Rd. to Main Drive. You will come to The Club house past the gates.

NOTICE: In order to assure a quorum, please let Library Administration know if you are unable to attend the meeting (**call: 415-473-3220**).

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life"
- Thomas Jefferson

ITEM	PRESENTER	STATUS	
5:00pm 1.	Call to Order	Ream	Action
2.	Welcome and Introductions	Ream	Information
3.	Approval of Agenda	Ream	Action
4.	Approval of April 9, 2025 meeting minutes	Ream	Action
5.	Open Time for Public Expression	Ream	Information
6.	Old Business		
	a. Commission Meeting Schedule 25'-26.	Adlawan	Action
7.	President's Report	Ream	Information
8.	Nominating Subcommittee	Ream	Action
	a. Election of Officers		
9.	Commission & Staff Acknowledgements	Adlawan	Information



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.

5:15pm 10. Adjournment

Ream

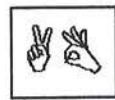
Action

Numbered List of attachments:

4. Minutes for April 9, 2025
5. Library Director's Report for April and May 2025

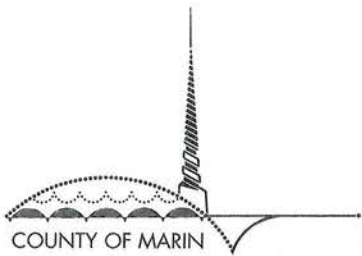
Unnumbered Attachments:

Marin County Free Library
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite #414, San Rafael CA 94903
www.marinlibrary.org



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MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION



MARIN COUNTY

FREE LIBRARY

Fairfax Library
2097 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Fairfax CA 94930

Lana Adlawan

Director of County Library Services

Directions: Take the Sir Francis Drake Blvd to Fairfax; continue past the town center, the Library is on left side of the road, past Azalea Street. St. Rita's church is across the road from Library. If you reach Olema Rd, you have gone too far.

Library Commission

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--PROPOSED MINUTES--

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

- (1) **CALL TO ORDER**
Meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm. Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting and Sue asked for introductions of all assembled.

- (2) **ROLL CALL**

In Attendance

Sue Ream	Glynda Christian	Doug Sides
Sally Hauser	Linda Ward	Ann Kaplan
Claudia Wilson	Ted Ridgeway	Nick Javaras
Anya Schandler	Crystal Lewis	

Absent with Notification

Amelia Lahn Ted Ridgeway

Absent Without Notification

Alison Blume

Also Present

Lana Adlawan, Director of County Library Services
Raemona Little Taylor, Assistant Director of Public Services
Juliet Schiller, Assistant Director of Support Services
Leslie Galiani, Administrative Services Manager
Leching Chan, Administrative Services Associate
Margaret Miles, Senior Librarian, Fairfax Branch Manager

- (3) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S/C** – Glynda Christian / Anya Schandler
Agenda approved as submitted.
- (4) **ADOPTION OF February 2025 MINUTES M/S/C** – Anya Schandler /
Glynda Christian Minutes approved as submitted
- (5) **OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION** – Margaret Miles – Fairfax
Branch Manager welcomed everyone and also let the commissioners

know that she is retiring on May 9th 2025. She thanked the commissioners for all they do and for working with them. Sue Ream and the other commission members thanked her for all of her work and wished her a happy retirement.

During this time one of the commission members wanted to thank Lana and the team for adding links into the commission reports for membership to get more information regarding advocacy and topics touched upon during the Director's Report.

- (6) READING AND CORRESPONDENCE - Materials were sent to the Library Commission prior to meeting.
- (7) PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Sue started her report about the distress many are feeling as libraries and museums are finding funding and support taken away by the current administration and the feelings of uncertainty. Sue had sent out information and links for petitions, information and advocacy for our libraries. She had also written a to the Marin IJ as well. She reminded commissioners of just why we do the work.
- (8) DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR February & March – In the packets there are a lot that was in the printed out reports. Lana spoke about how advocacy helps the community and the library. Lana let the commission know it was National Library Week and the celebration of staff. Commissioners were given an update about the bus stop wraps in Marin City and invitation to the opening party happening the next week.
- (9) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES –
 - a. Nominating Committee – Sally gave an update, and they have three possible nominees. They are still in the interview process but do not have a name just yet.
 - b. Annual Event Committee- Lana gave the update along with Doug – key note speaker options were being discussed and they are working on the menu. Speaker has not been chosen just yet but the annual meeting will be at McInnis on June 11, 2025.
- (10) NEW BUSINESS -
 - a. Measure A/B Fund Review – Leslie Galiani, Leching Chan, Lana Adlawan and Juliet Schiller gave an update in the current projects.

MEASURE A CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY FY 24/25										
Project No.	Project Title	Service	BUDGET 24/25	BUDGET 23/24 1 MIL	BUDGET 22/23 1 MIL	BUDGET 21/22 1 MIL	BUDGET 20/21 2 MIL	BUDGET 19/20 500K	BUDGET 18/19 500K	Total Expended FY 18/19 to 24/25
		CONSTRUCTION PROF. SRVC. MISC		\$ 900,000.00 \$ 75,000.00 \$ 25,000.00	\$ 900,000.00 \$ 75,000.00 \$ 25,000.00	\$ 900,000.00 \$ 75,000.00 \$ 25,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00 \$ 400,000.00 \$ 25,000.00	\$ 400,000.00 \$ 75,000.00 \$ 25,000.00	\$ 400,000.00 \$ 75,000.00 \$ 25,000.00	
54LP05ROOF	Novato Measure A Project	Professional Services 522510		\$ 7,472.00	\$ 7,472.00	\$ 7,472.00	\$ 26,440.00	\$ 26,651.46	\$ 26,651.46	\$ 63,083.46
		Construction 540210		\$ 640.00	\$ 640.00	\$ 128,717.10	\$ 441,615.60	\$ 27,684.63	\$ 27,684.63	\$ 593,657.33
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310								\$ 131,952.45
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110			\$ 8,112.00	\$ 166,533.95	\$ 544,183.40	\$ 85,333.91	\$ 85,333.91	\$ 794,193.28
54LP06ROOF	Corte Madera Measure A Project	Professional Services 522510		\$ 11,626.00	\$ 11,626.00	\$ 1,374.00	\$ 46,996.00	\$ 67,768.30	\$ 67,768.30	\$ 127,764.30
		Construction 540210	\$ 6,015.00	\$ 56,646.20	\$ 149,048.10	\$ 496,594.95	\$ 582,421.45	\$ 52,663.20	\$ 52,663.20	\$ 1,343,358.30
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310				\$ 7,335.64		\$ 279.36	\$ 279.36	\$ 7,615.02
		DPW Labor 561110			\$ 10,072.00	\$ 85,494.72	\$ 119,678.65	\$ 27,587.41	\$ 27,587.41	\$ 263,110.75
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110	\$ 6,015.00	\$ 56,646.20	\$ 170,746.10	\$ 690,799.31	\$ 749,084.10	\$ 149,576.29	\$ 149,576.29	\$ 1,721,858.00
54LP07ROOF	Fairfax Measure A Project	Professional Services 522510		\$ 7,830.00	\$ 7,830.00	\$ 8,635.00	\$ 39,305.00			\$ 30,170.00
		Construction 540210					\$ 41,436.77	\$ 56,980.00	\$ 56,980.00	\$ 100,416.77
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310								\$ 25,580.50
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110		\$ 2,376.12	\$ 27,878.77	\$ 39,507.54	\$ 6,600.16	\$ 6,600.16	\$ 6,600.16	\$ 232,547.36
		DPW Labor 561110		\$ 10,208.12	\$ 36,511.77	\$ 120,249.31	\$ 65,580.16	\$ 65,580.16	\$ 65,580.16	\$ 232,547.36
54LP10FAI	Fairfax Life Safety Project	Professional Services 522510		\$ 7,640.95	\$ 5,772.00					\$ 13,412.95
		Construction 540210		\$ 322,615.23	\$ 223,207.80					\$ 545,823.03
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310								\$ -
		DPW Labor 561110		\$ 25,042.65	\$ 68,678.61	\$ 41,266.92				\$ 134,986.18
		Transout 530110		\$ 6,545.00	\$ 6,545.00					\$ 6,545.00
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110		\$ 355,298.83	\$ 303,203.41	\$ 41,266.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 699,769.16
54LP13HVAC	Corte Madera HVAC Project	Professional Services 522510	\$ 13,080.47							\$ 13,080.47
		Construction 540210	\$ 681,548.48	\$ 3,346.50						\$ 684,894.98
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310	\$ 4,885.94							\$ 4,885.94
		DPW Labor 561110	\$ 18,844.24	\$ 51,652.01	\$ 38,449.60					\$ 109,945.85
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110	\$ 896,358.13	\$ 55,994.51	\$ 38,449.60					\$ 970,802.24
	\$ Novato Measure A Project	Professional Services 522510					\$ 36,000.00			\$ 36,000.00
		Construction 540210								
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310								
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110					\$ 36,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,000.00
54LPMISC	(Measure A MISC Proj)	Professional Services 522510						\$ 1,245.00		\$ 1,245.00
		Construction 540210						\$ 23,812.95		\$ 23,812.95
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310								\$ -
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110						\$ 25,060.95	\$ 25,060.95	\$ 25,060.95
4/9/2025			\$ 704,414.13	\$ 486,043.54	\$ 530,717.23	\$ 825,131.05	\$ 1,449,516.81	\$ 299,492.36	\$ 25,060.95	\$ 4,301,276.07

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY									
2470 & 3550									
5 Year Projection	Actuals FY 2023-24	Adopted Budget FY 2024-2025	Projected FY 2024-25	Projected FY 2025-26	Projected FY 2026-27	Projected FY 2027-28	Projected FY 2028-29	Projected FY 2029-30	
Property Taxes	\$ (17,158,317)	\$ (16,631,200)	\$ (17,415,692)	\$ (17,676,927)	\$ (17,942,081)	\$ (18,211,212)	\$ (18,484,380)	\$ (18,761,646)	
Measure A	\$ (2,861,932)		\$ 45,695						
Measure B		\$ (4,700,000)	\$ (4,700,000)	\$ (4,803,400)	\$ (4,909,075)	\$ (5,017,074)	\$ (5,127,450)	\$ (5,240,254)	
Other Revenue	\$ (2,713,445)	\$ (561,395)	\$ (2,079,580)	\$ (2,152,000)	\$ (2,420,266)	\$ (2,697,874)	\$ (3,010,088)	\$ (3,358,114)	
Total Revenue	\$ (22,733,694)	\$ (21,892,595)	\$ (24,149,577)	\$ (24,632,327)	\$ (25,271,422)	\$ (25,926,160)	\$ (26,621,919)	\$ (27,360,014)	
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 13,555,251	\$ 15,840,096	\$ 13,598,487	\$ 15,840,096	\$ 15,950,977	\$ 16,062,634	\$ 16,175,072	\$ 16,288,297	
Services and Supplies	\$ 4,932,645	\$ 5,168,624	\$ 5,036,231	\$ 5,254,129	\$ 5,364,466	\$ 5,477,119	\$ 5,592,139	\$ 5,709,574	
Capital Assets	\$ 500,148	\$ 2,757,750	\$ 2,776,492	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000	
Other Expenses	\$ 4,606,949	\$ 2,217,962	\$ 2,332,843	\$ 3,005,729	\$ 3,603,869	\$ 4,321,039	\$ 5,180,926	\$ 6,211,930	
Total Expenses	\$ 23,594,993	\$ 25,984,432	\$ 23,744,053	\$ 26,699,954	\$ 27,519,311	\$ 28,460,792	\$ 29,548,137	\$ 30,809,801	
Net Library Costs	\$ 861,299	\$ 4,091,837	\$ (405,524)	\$ 2,067,627	\$ 2,247,890	\$ 2,534,632	\$ 2,926,218	\$ 3,449,787	
as of 1-8-2025									

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%


	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1	REVENUE SOURCES & FACILITIES EXPENDITURES: MEASURE B																	
2																		
3	FUNDING SOURCE:																	
4																		
5																		
6	Fiscal Year																	
7	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:																	
8	CMA HVAC Project (Measure A)																	
9	Los Gatos Renovation																	
10	Refresh Project (All Branches) Design & Consulting N&T																	
11	Refresh Project (All Branches) Non N&T Funds (Signage)																	
12	Refresh Project (All Branches) Meas B																	
13																		
14	TOTALS as of 4-9-2025																	

- c. Facilities Overview – Juliet Schiller and Lana Adlawan gave an update on the Facilities project.

Library Commission


Facilities Overview

April 9, 2025



**MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY**

ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN




BASE / SOURCE: FACILITIES LIBRARY / DESIGN: CONCEPT

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT GOALS

MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKPLAN FY 2024-2026


Revamp the interior space for library patrons and staff at all 10 branches in FY 2024-26, with improvements ranging from new furniture, paint, and accessible technology.



**MEASURE B
APPROVED!**

MEASURE B – Approved by voters at 76.59%

Upgrade library facilities



**MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY**

BIENNIAL LIBRARY COMMISSION GOALS FY 2024/26

Complete a facility assessment of four County-owned branches to identify a Multi-Year Capital Plan for Measure B funds. The priority of improvements will be determined by community need through a racial equity lens. The Library Commission, as the fiscal oversight committee for Measure A and B, will approve an allocation of Measure B funds to complete necessary capital improvements for the library system.

Complete interior refresh project for all 10 branches of the Marin County Free Library system. Upgrades to our spaces include additional support for technology access and use; new furniture, carpet and paint; and flexible shelving to allow for additional program and event space.



Overview of Corte Madera Library Improvements

- Project Start: June 2024

- Estimated Cost: \$2.6 million

- Funding Sources: Corte Madera
Library Accessibility Fund, Measure
A, Climate Action Plan Fund



Scope of Work Progress Report

Completed Work

- ✓ New accessible concrete paths and sidewalks
- ✓ New signage, lighting, and metal railings
- ✓ Resurfacing and new parking lines
- ✓ Reutilizing engraved pavers purchased by Friends and community members
- ✓ Installation of new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system
- ✓ ADA improvements to restrooms
- ✓ Installation of two Level 2 EV chargers
- ✓ Main Switch Board replacement (not in original scope of project)
- ✓ New outdoor book drop installed in the parking lot

In Progress

- Accessible wooden deck/boardwalk
- Drought-resistant planting near decks and walkways
- Sustainable Water Feature in Garden
- Lower lot work
- Noise proofing the vent fans
- Construction of four new single-room restrooms
 - Awaiting new doors and wood vinyl wall



Progress Update: Pathways & Entrance

- Exterior site work and weather delays - As of April 1, project has experienced 22 rain days. After each rain it takes about 2 days for the soil to dry for work to begin.
- Irrigation is complete and plants are onsite, ready for approval and installation
- The new Electric Vehicle Charger has been installed and is ready for activation, as soon as the parking spaces are striped



**MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY**

Progress Update: Restrooms

- Restrooms are nearly complete
- Wood Veneer Wall covering will be complete on April 4
- Permanent doors will be complete by April 8



**MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY**

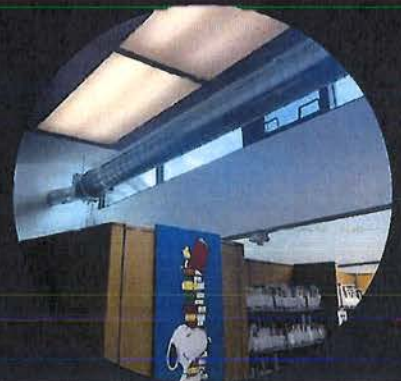
Progress Update: Lighting & HVAC Systems

Main Switch Board (MSB) Replacement (\$85,000)

- Original MSB (installed in the 1970s) was discovered to be outdated
- New MSB took 20 weeks to arrive — considered expedited
- Although unplanned, the upgrade greatly enhances safety and extends lifespan by 50+ years

HVAC System Improvements

- Initial indoor equipment was noisier than expected. System was redesigned with components relocated to the roof
- Wiring is discreetly routed on roof to preserve aesthetics and avoid visual distractions
- Installation is now complete, improving both comfort and appearance



**MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY**



View of Parking Lot Improvements

(And Book Drop!)

MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

Rock Wall along Meadowsweet Drive

Maintain Existing Wall: Patch and grout locally; does not improve stability. Annual upkeep needed.

Remove and Regrade: Eliminate failing wall and regrade the berm to a gentle slope. Revegetation is possible. A small retaining wall may be needed at the west end.

Construct New Wall: If a wall is still desired, design of a new structure can be supported in future phases.

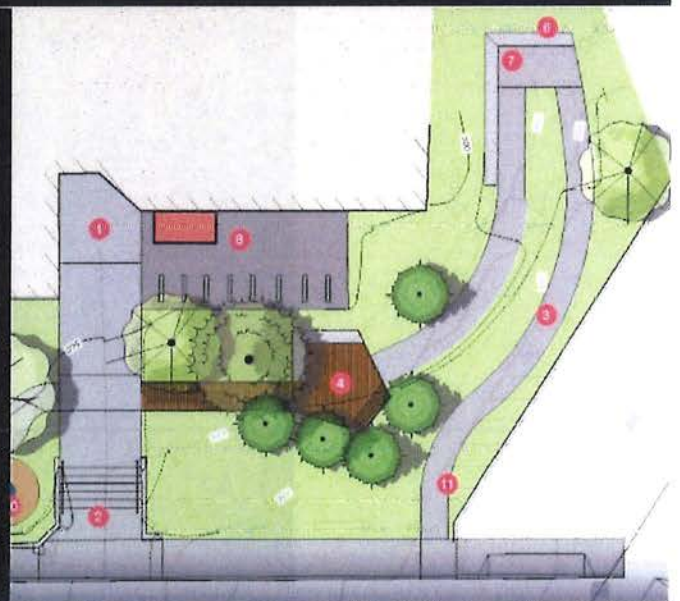


MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

Communication Efforts

- Created a real-time webpage with current updates and impacts to the community; sent branch newsletters to patrons regarding closures
- Regular community service updates
- Branch Newsletters
- All Library Savannah from Lana
- Messages to MARINet Libraries
- Framed renderings and added these to a front-entrance "gallery" for patrons to view
- Listened to comments and feedback from community members
- Press releases in partnership with Department of Public Works

MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY



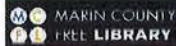
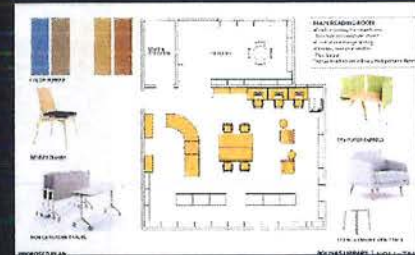
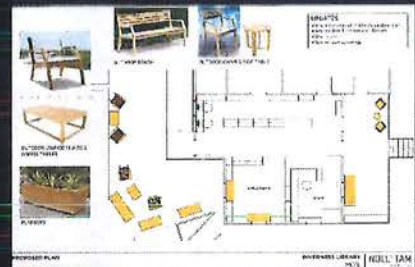
Nell & Tam Interior Refresh Project Estimated \$2.5 million in improvements Implementation in 2025-2026

Outdoor & Interior Improvements

Sunson Beach
South Novato
Point Reyes
Inverness
Fairfax

Interior Improvements

Bolinas
Civic Center
Corte Madera
Marin City
Novato



We launched an outreach strategy for the 10-branch Interior Refresh Project:

- Overall purpose of refresh project on [webpage](#)
- Plans per branch (each branch has designs, photos, and updates)
- Invitation for community comments through [online](#) and physical forms
- Received dozens of comments from community members! Some of these informed changes or additions to project
- Finalized furniture packages
- Working on timeline and schedule!

LIBRARY REFRESH 2025-2026

Version 00.000000.000000.000000



This project project for all 10 branches of the Marin County Free Library will involve new interior spaces for library general circulation, with improvements ranging from new furniture, lighting, and accessible technology. This project is a direct response of the voter-approved 2022 Measure B funding for library services, operations, and facility improvements.

This project makes recommended improvements to better serve the local communities of each library branch consistent with the MCF's Action Plan & Goals (2020-2025).

Upgrade and vary from branch to branch - you can find more details for each branch below. Click on the designs to get a closer look at the plans.

As the project starts to take shape, you'll be sharing your information here, including updates and any service impacts.

Bolinas Library



[View Bolinas Design Plan](#)

Bolinas Library Upgrades:

- **New Service Desk:** A new service desk to replace the existing desk and vestibule, opening up the space to create a more efficient and welcoming service area.
- **Improved Shelving Layout:** Relocated shelving to make the space more organized and accessible to enhance the browsing experience.
- **Updated Furniture:** New tables, chairs, and lounge areas to provide more comfortable spaces for reading, studying, and relaxing.
- **Interior Paint:** A fresh coat of paint to brighten up the library and create a more inviting atmosphere for all.
- **New Carpets:** Fresh new carpet throughout the library to brighten the space.



2030 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

INTERIOR
10-BRANCH
REFRESH
PROJECT

HEALTH &
SAFETY
BUILDING
IMPROVEMENTS

COUNTY-
OWNED
BUILDING
RENOVATIONS



From October 2024 Multi-Year Capital Plan Review

Total Cost Estimate – Four County Facilities

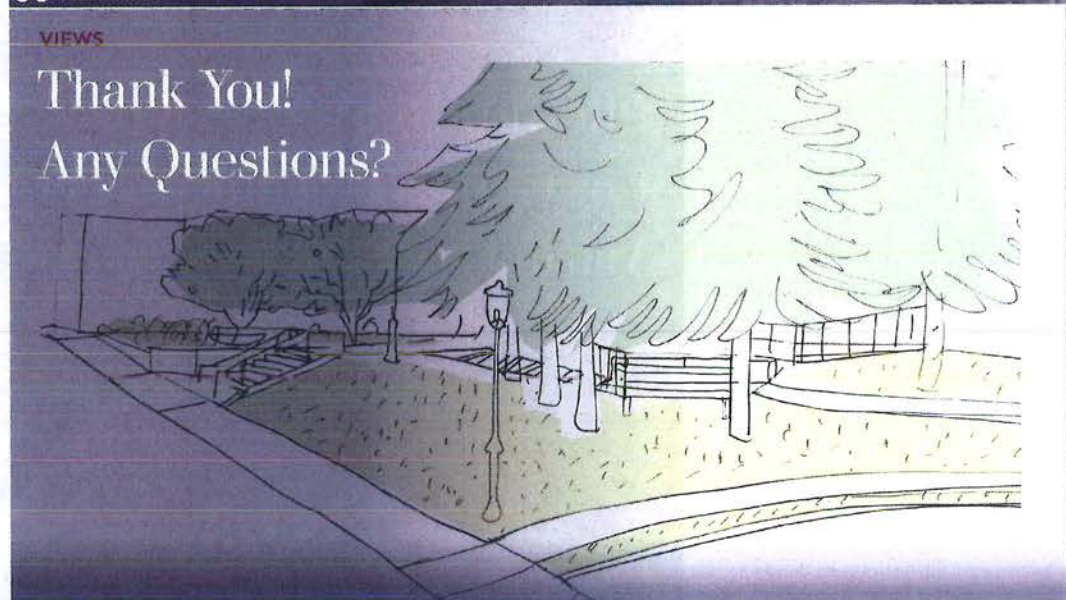
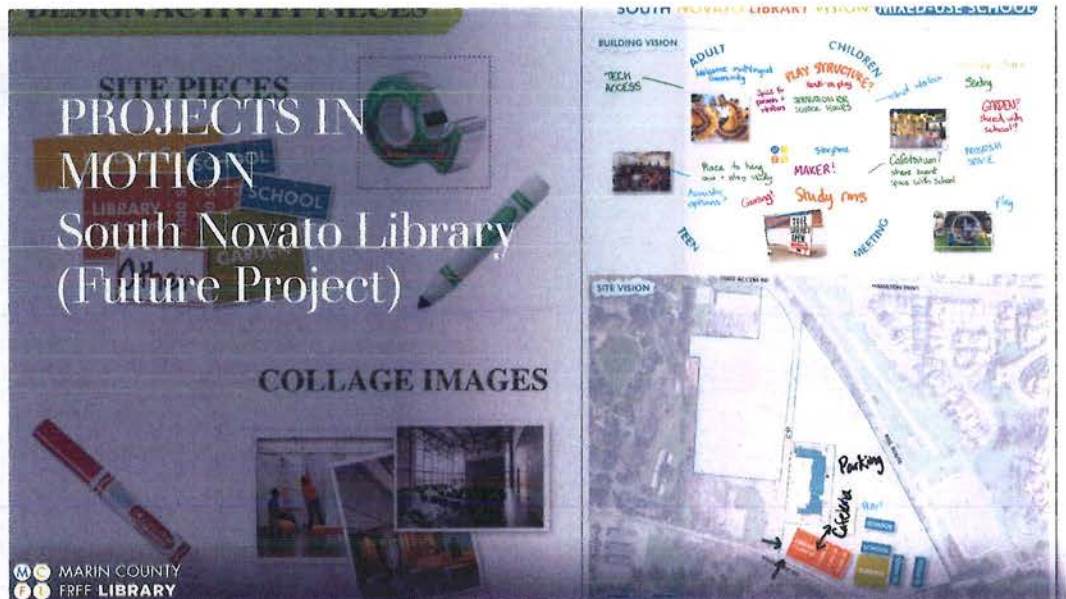
BRANCH	ESTIMATED IMPROVEMENT COSTS
CIVIC CENTER	\$3,525,088.00
CORTE MADERA	\$5,619,437.00
FAIRFAX	\$4,427,583.00
NOVATO	\$7,000,358.00
TOTAL	\$20,572,466.00

 MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY



PROJECTS IN MOTION
Los Gatos (Technical Services Office)
Marin City Staff Office

 MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY



- d. Commission Meeting Schedule for 25' – 26 – Lana Adlawan presented the draft Commission Meeting Schedule to membership.

**MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE
JULY 2025- JUNE 2026**

MONTH	DATE	LOCATION	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTER(S)
JULY	9		NO MEETING	
AUGUST	13	LOS GAMOS 4 PM	MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES	CRUZ & LUMB
SEPTEMBER	10	CORTE MADERA 4 PM	MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW	GAJANI, CHAN, MERZA & SCHILLER
OCTOBER	8	CIVIC CENTER 4 PM	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE / RACIAL EQUITY ALLIANCE	ADLAWAN, LITTLE TAYLOR, SCHILLER & BERTUCCI
NOVEMBER	12	NOVATO 4 PM	NOVATO LIBRARY - FACILITIES PRESENTATION	SCHILLER & MERZA
DECEMBER	10	LOS GAMOS 4 PM	WINTER CELEBRATION	
JANUARY (FRIDAY)	16	THE SHOP 4 PM	MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW	GAJANI, CHAN, MERZA & SCHILLER
FEBRUARY	11	FAIRFAX 4 PM	MARIN HOUSING AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP	SCHILLER, SADLER & MERZA
MARCH	11	POINT REYES 2 PM	YEAR-ROUND LEARNING	LITTLE TAYLOR
APRIL	8	CORTE MADERA 4 PM	MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW	GAJANI, CHAN, MERZA & SCHILLER
MAY (FRIDAY)	15	MARIN CITY 10 AM	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE / RACIAL EQUITY ALLIANCE	ADLAWAN, LITTLE TAYLOR, SCHILLER & BERTUCCI
JUNE	10	LOCATION TBD 5 PM	ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS / SOCIAL EVENT	

- (11) STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – This was tabled to the May 2025 meeting.
- (12) ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS – No Books to report at this meeting.
- (13) ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at @ 5:40 pm

**MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE
JULY 2025- JUNE 2026**

MONTH	DATE	LOCATION	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTER(S)
JULY	9		NO MEETING	
AUGUST	13	CIVIC CENTER 4 PM	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE / RACIAL EQUITY ALLIANCE	ADLAWAN, LITTLE TAYLOR, SCHILLER & BERTUCCI
SEPTEMBER	10	CORTE MADERA 4 PM	MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW	GALIANI, CHAN, MERZA & SCHILLER
OCTOBER	8	LOS GAMOS 4 PM	YEAR-ROUND LEARNING	LITTLE TAYLOR
NOVEMBER	12	FAIRFAX 4PM	MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES	CRUZ & LUMB
DECEMBER	10	CIVIC CENTER 4 PM	WINTER CELEBRATION	
JANUARY (FRIDAY)	16	THE SHOP 4 PM	MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW	GALIANI, CHAN, MERZA & SCHILLER
FEBRUARY	11	FAIRFAX 4 PM	MARIN HOUSING AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP	SCHILLER, SADLER & MERZA
MARCH	11	NOVATO 4PM	NOVATO CAPITAL PROJECT PRESENTATION	SCHILLER & MERZA
APRIL	8	POINT REYES 2PM	MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW	GALIANI, CHAN, MERZA & SCHILLER
MAY (FRIDAY)	15	MARIN CITY 10 AM	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE / RACIAL EQUITY ALLIANCE	ADLAWAN, LITTLE TAYLOR, SCHILLER & BERTUCCI
JUNE	10	LOCATION TBD 5 PM	ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS / SOCIAL EVENT	



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

APRIL 2025 ACTIVITIES

A stylized landscape illustration with yellow mountains, a blue body of water, and a tall, thin tower. The foreground is orange.

OUR MISSION:

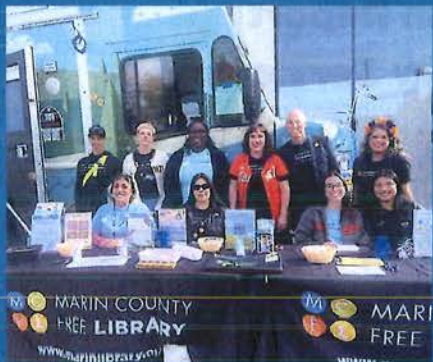
We provide welcoming, equitable, and inclusive opportunities for everyone.

OUR VISION

We believe in empowered and thriving communities built on diverse voices and perspectives. We believe in a just Marin that advances equity for communities of color.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES AND OUR EQUITY FOCUS

Children's Services



The Learning Bus team was honored to celebrate Library Night alongside 22 other library systems at a special pre-game event at Oracle Park. It was a fantastic evening spent celebrating with the greater Bay Area library community. Everyone left feeling uplifted, recharged, and inspired by the work we do together.

Libraries started a new partnership with University of California's Agriculture and Natural Resources 4-H Youth Development Program which hires teen volunteers to do STEM programs with younger children. South Novato and Fairfax both had successful events this month and will continue to host them through June. It's so inspiring to see different age groups working together and learning new skills!

Час сказок / Russian Storytime!

Marin City is hosting a Russian storytime for local families with books, puppets, and songs in Russian. Families are invited to bring a favorite book or song to share with the group.

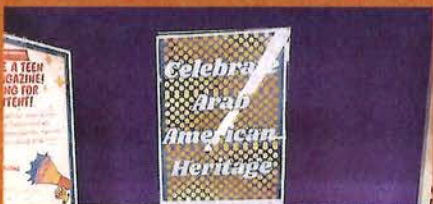
Stinson Beach library hosted Little Red Reading Hood (from Parent Services) as part of West Marin's Dia/Primaveras celebrations. The storytime served the Bolinas/Stinson kids aged 0-5 years. It was a lively morning and such a special program for all!

South Novato library celebrates Earth Day with the Blue Point Conversation Science team at Novato Baylands. The story walk includes a reading of *Agua, Aguita* by Jorge Tetl Argueta, learning about plants, birds and other animals in the area during a 1.5 mile walk along the Bay Trail. A shared snack at the end of the event gives participants another way to connect with each other and the local environment.

Corte Madera librarians shared craft time with residents at the San Clemente House during a recent outreach visit. Kids and families made cat puppets and learned about the life cycle of strawberries.

The Bookmobile, Learning Bus, and staff from the Civic Center Library all took part in the Early Learning & Care Fair hosted by the Marin Child Care Council. This was a great community event connecting with folks on "the wonderful services provided for young children and their families in Marin." Lots of children and families boarded both buses.

Teen Services



Civic Center

Rebecca offered outreach at Terra Linda High School on March 28th. The program was a painting art craft on tote bags. The event engaged a good crowd (with guys as well, which is not always as common)!

In honor of National Volunteer Week (April 20-26), CCE is going to be giving small gifts to all its teen volunteers for the work they have done to support the library.

Fairfax

Fairfax had a display to celebrate and highlight books on Arab American Heritage. Emily, the teen librarian also made a pamphlet of books for teens that have been banned.

Bookmobile

4/7/25 Brooklyn joined MCFL admin and outreach team for the SF Giants Library Night. It was super fun and successful! Brook signed up over 30 people for MCFL library cards and shared our Bookmobile and MCFL materials with all.

4/5/25 The Bookmobile took part in the Early Learning & Care Fair hosted by the Marin Child Care Council. Rebecca from CCE also joined, as well as Ale and Elisa from Learning Bus. Lots of children and families boarded both buses!

Adult Services



Civic Center kicked off Spring with a presentation by Marin Master Gardener and landscape architect, Judy Orsini, where patrons learned about blueberries and strawberries, including recommended varieties, requirements for optimal growth, and combating diseases and pests. Additionally, Civic Center hosted a month-long interactive display where patrons were encouraged to pen a short poem and hang it on the tree. The community-driven "Poet-Tree" celebrated poetry and connection, allowing individuals of all ages to express themselves and contribute to a growing tapestry of words.

Stinson Beach hosted a presentation titled, "Citizen Coyotes," where Janet "The Coyote Lady" Kessler drew upon her extensive daily field research documenting the behavior and family life of urban coyotes. She shared her first-hand information, including what dog-owners should expect should they encounter a coyote.

Stay tuned: Corte Madera will have our first report-out next month, as construction finally draws to an end!

Collection Development & Management

The Collection Development Librarian for Children & Teens ordered a variety of books for the Marin County Juvenile Hall in coordination with the Bookmobile. Not knowing how to read well can make it more likely for students to drop out of high school and to end up incarcerated. By one count, 85 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have difficulty reading, but since many juvenile detention centers have small-to-nonexistent libraries, it often falls to nonprofits to fill the gaps in the system with book donations and literacy programming. MCFL is happy to help boost literacy and a love for books among teenagers who are incarcerated in juvenile hall. Another book order was done for the Learning Bus for book bags that they are creating.

The Collection Development Librarians for Adult and Children & Teens attended the Primavera 2025 event at South Novato on April 26. They tabled, answered questions from the community, supported literacy activities, and solicited input on reading interests.

Acquisitions & Cataloging

Cataloging added a fresh batch of Portuguese language books for children to be distributed around several branches. This is another way by which MCFL actively celebrates diverse perspectives and empowers all of the voices in our communities.

The team facilitated the rotation of art for the "On the Wall" program, thereby refreshing the artwork that each participating library features. With this program, different communities are exposed to and can enjoy a diversity of art pieces. We hope that this new rotation brings just as much joy and learning as the first iteration of this program.

Digital Library

The team created a useful webpage to list the immigration and justice resources compiled by library staff members (<https://marinlibrary.org/immigration/>). It is our hope that patrons in need of justice or immigration resources can use this webpage as a launch point to connect with the right organization that can provide them with much needed assistance.

(Continued on next page)

Collection Development & Management

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS AND JUSTICE RESOURCES

Following please find a list of organizations and resources that are available to the community to connect with immigration or legal assistance. We are also happy to help you search for more information.

LEGAL RESOURCES

Organizations

- [Immigrant Legal Resource Center \(ILRC\)](#) - 87 Community Resources

Other Resources

- [National Immigrant Legal Services Directory](#) - Directory of free or low-cost immigration legal services providers, searchable by state, county, or detention facility
- [ProBono Legal Services California](#) - List of free legal service providers in California from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)

CIVIL RIGHTS RESOURCES

Organizations

- [County of Marin Public Defenders Office](#) - [communityresources.org](#)
- [State of California Department of Justice](#) - [Resources for Civil Liberties and Human Rights](#)
- [Marin Immigrant Rights & Justice Workshop](#) - [Marin Immigrant Rights & Justice Workshop](#)
- [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#) - [Raise Your Voice: Rights & Resources for Immigrants](#)

Other Resources

- [Los Angeles County Immigrant Rights](#) - Los Angeles County Immigrant Rights
- [San Diego County Immigrant Rights](#) - Educational materials to prepare communities and individuals for possible encounters with immigration authorities
- [California State Immigrant Resource](#) - 24-hour hotline connecting people with immigration enforcement issues to legal assistance and support services



The team also created a Community Resources page to serve as a companion to the beautiful welcoming brochure that the Library Marketing team put together (<https://marinlibrary.org/community>). It lists useful resources such as housing, employment and training, and connections to local organizations. With this we hope to offer another format for patrons to connect with others in their communities.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

There are many free resources and services available in our community. Use the links to local organizations and web resources below as a starting point to finding the services you need. We are also happy to help you search for more information.

GUIDES

Comprehensive guides to resources:

- [Community Action Map](#) - online search tool for information, services & resources
- [Marin West Community Resource Guide](#) - online search tool for information, services & resources

HOUSING

- [Marin West Housing Dept](#) - Marin County's division of homelessness and youth care
- [Homeless Services of Marin](#) - provides shelter, housing and support for homeless adults
- [Community Action Map](#) - provides outreach, housing case management, rental assistance, eviction resources
- [Marin Housing Authority](#) - assists low and moderate-income residents of Marin County with affordable housing
- [Housing Solutions](#) - provides affordable housing
- [Housing Solutions](#) - provides affordable housing
- [Housing Solutions](#) - provides affordable housing
- [Housing Solutions](#) - provides affordable housing

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

- [Marin West Employment & Training](#) - offers education, employment and training programs for Marin County residents, including job seekers and trainees
- [Homeless Services of Marin](#) - offers Home Starts Culinary Academy job training program
- [Career Services of Marin](#) - offers job training programs
- [Career Services of Marin](#) - offers career guidance, resume assistance, and job search assistance
- [Career Services of Marin](#) - offers opportunities to young adults age 18-26
- [Bay Area Community Services](#) - offers workforce and reentry programs in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties
- [Kodiak Systems Community Programs](#) - offers upskilling and training, job coaching and placement services, entrepreneurship services and clothing
- [Community Action Map](#) - offers career coaching and training programs



Educational Equity



South Novato

- Shout out to Heidy Ordonez who started her service at SNO only 3 months ago and is now a key leader in coordinating the most successful literacy program at MCFL Reading Buddies.
- Thanks to Library Ambassador, Joselyn Ordonez (no family relationship with Heidy), for contributing to outreach for the library and distributing Primavera's promotional materials during the first spring festival held at Lu Sutton elementary.
- Story Walk 2025 was developed in collaboration with Point Blue Conservation Science, celebrating Earth Day 2025. We organized the event including a story walk and environmental education in the Novato Baylands, with the main goal of sharing with our community members the importance of the wetlands, and the benefits of having this ecosystem healthy. It was an amazing learning experience for everyone.
- The Shop has been fully scheduled recently with class visits and field trips with youth ranging from kindergarten to seniors in high school. We have been busy providing unique opportunities for many teachers and their students. This time of year brings many different special projects with the high schools, including San Marin High's furniture building competition and Novato High's "Customer Builds." The Shop has been able to support with tools, resources, and most importantly, information.
- The Shop has also seen a large increase in adult visitation and many of them becoming advanced tool users. Our Babylock serger has gotten more use these last few weeks than ever before. Woodworkers across Marin have been very eager to get some time in the shop that we've been having to be very mindful of time taken on certain tools in order to keep the line moving. Despite the wait, all of our woodworking patrons are always very grateful and come with a range of questions keeping us on our toes!

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Educational Equity (Continued)



West Marin

- Book Scouts, a weekly after-school reading support program in Point Reyes, is going strong. Much library joy happened as children received handmade (by Mattie Ivy Leeds) mini books featuring their favorite titles from this year.
- Point Reyes Reading Buddies experienced a lively and scenic springtime Giacomini Wetlands Walk and Storytime with Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) while children and caregivers engaged in a nature scavenger hunt, searching for shapes in the great outdoors.
- Keenan Webster presented an engaging musical tour of African instruments for an all-ages crowd of 50 at the Bolinas Library/Community Center.
- Father and daughter duo Dave and Safia Wright gave an overview of Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr (the feast to celebrate the end of Ramadan) and generously answered questions at Reading Buddies Storytime. Safia, age 12, read My First Ramadan and guided the group in making Ramadan angels using colorful construction paper.

Marin City

In the Branch:

- At the end of March, we kicked off the Marin City Seed Library! Master gardeners, amateur gardeners, beekeepers, and friends and family came together to celebrate the "growing" possibilities connecting Marin City to the outdoors!
- On April 16, we co-hosted an awesome jazz concert with Clairdee and Ken French at the MC Arts Gallery! Patrons and staff were treated to world class jazz as they brought us jazz standards and got us improvising along with them!

(Continued on next page)

Educational Equity

(Continued)



- On April 18, we joined the Marin City Historical Society for a Bus Stop Block Party! This one even got a write-up in the Marin Independent Journal! We celebrated with the community as new art on the bus shelters was unveiled, celebrating the Black pioneers of Marin City during the Marinship era, and took seats on a 1940s Greyhound like they would have traveled on. They don't make seats that comfortable anymore!
- On April 19, we brought the library community to Junior Ranger Day at Muir Woods. Fifty-plus patrons had a wonderful time looking for banana slugs, learning about symbiotic plant relationships, and enjoying the (nippy) fresh air.

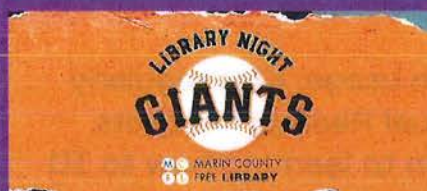
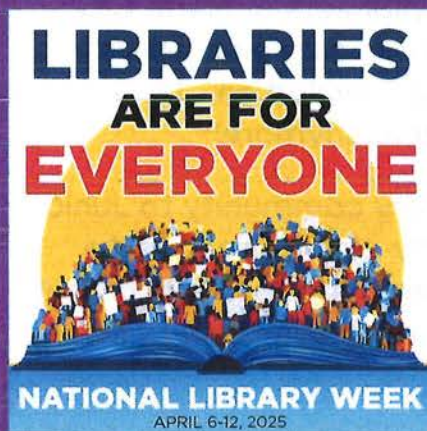
At The Lab:

- The Lab is continuing to grow in usage. Kids regularly come down to use the VR (Virtual Reality) headsets. Many youth have now moved on to learning how to 3D print by doing the training themselves.
- Branson Coding Club resumed this month. We have two students from Branson tutoring and two students from Marin City learning coding.

In the School:

- On April 19, we joined the Hannah Project for Parent University at the school!
- On April 22, we joined Literacy Night with the Sausalito-Marin City School District! Families and teachers alike are excited with their newest finds for their home and classroom libraries.
- Students at MLK learned about the contributions jazz musicians, such as Ella Fitzgerald, have made to Jazz. They also learned how to celebrate Earth Month.

Communications & Publicity



April marked a season of fresh starts and renewed energy as we welcomed spring and continued celebrating community connection and growth. From cultural festivities to public art unveilings, MCFL's Marketing & Communications team stood alongside library staff to help amplify each event and ensure messages reached their intended audiences. Through storytelling, design, and documentation, we continue to elevate the voices, values, and vibrancy of our community.

Community Spirit: Library Night at the Giants Game

MCFL showed up in force for Library Night at the Giants Game, where staff and patrons united to celebrate literacy, teamwork, and public libraries on a big-league stage.

- Designed website cards
- Announced events on social media, the website, and a press release
- Captured photos of library staff and community members
- Next Steps: Producing a short social media video and archive reel for future promotion and program support

Honoring History: Marin City Bus Shelter Art Project & Block Party

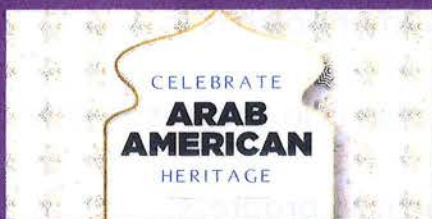
We supported the unveiling of the Legacy of Marin City Bus Shelter Art Project—a powerful celebration of Black community resilience—through project management, art and music production, communications outreach, and content capture of the installations and live events. We strengthened partnerships with Marin City organizations and spotlighted equity-centered work.

- Documented the installation and celebration
- Interviewed participants and staff
- Shared highlights across social media, amplifying community voices

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Communications & Publicity

(Continued)



Capturing Joy: Filming Primavera in South Novato

We documented the Primavera celebration at South Novato Library—a colorful, multi-generational event honoring shared spring traditions in collaboration with Latin and Asian cultural groups. From folkloric dance to family crafts and music, the celebration centered joy, identity, and cultural pride.

- Captured video and photography for internal and public use
- Interviewed attendees and staff to highlight cultural significance

Next Steps: Producing a short social media video and archive reel for future promotion and program support

Celebrating April's through Identities and Other Focuses

Throughout April, Marketing & Communications promoted resources and programs aligned with heritage recognitions, uplifting young people with opportunity, and sharing the joy of the library beyond our walls.

Looking Ahead

In May and June, we'll continue our storytelling work by supporting Pride, Juneteenth, Immigrant Heritage Month, and the Summer Reading launch. We're launching a system-wide library card design contest. Stay tuned!

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Welcoming New Staff and Promotions

We are pleased to introduce several new and temporarily promoted staff members to the Marin County Free Library Department:

- **Thomas St. Jovite** has been promoted from **Technology Systems Specialist II to Technology Systems Specialist III** at *Technology Support Services*, effective April 27, 2025
- **Catalina De Los Santos** has been fully onboarded as **Librarian I**, she will begin at the *Marin City branch*, effective April 28, 2025
- **Ann De Souza** has a temporary promotion to **Library Assistant II** at the *Fairfax branch*, effective April 27, 2025.

Current and Ongoing Recruitments

The library continues to actively fill key positions to enhance our services:

- Librarian II at the California Room – A recruitment plan is in progress.
- Community Library Specialist – Contingent Hire – A recruitment plan is in progress.
- Library Assistant II at the Fairfax branch – A recruitment plan is in progress – first interviews are on May 14 and 15, 2025.
- Library Aide at the Marin City branch – A recruitment plan is in progress.

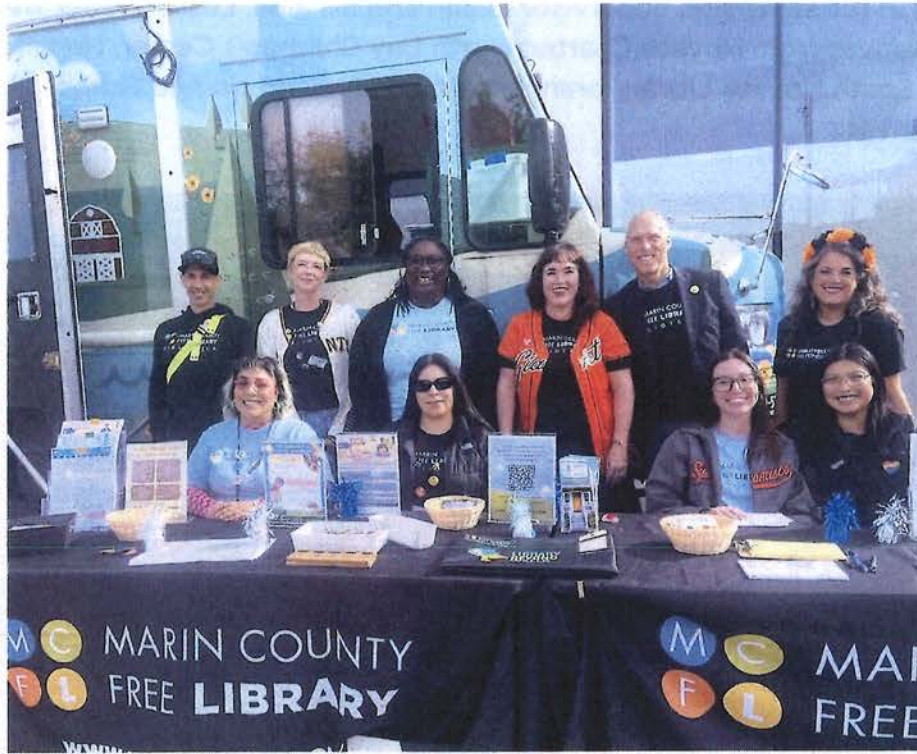
Workforce Trends & Vacancy Update: A New Normal

We're proud to highlight the many positions recently filled across our department and within individual units—milestones that reflect our ongoing focus on staff development and operational excellence.

Throughout 2024, MCFL successfully maintained a 10% vacancy rate. As of this month, we're now entering our fourth consecutive month at a reduced 8% rate, marking a positive shift toward long-term staffing stability. This progress has been made possible through the collective efforts of many and our shared commitment to equity, collaboration, and high-quality public service. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more resilient, and more responsive library system.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES, LANA ADLAWAN

We led April with a celebration of libraries in the Bay Area with Library Night with the San Francisco Giants! In celebration of National Library Week (April 6-12), 22 libraries from across the Bay Area gathered for a game and pre-celebration in China Basin Park on April 7.



(MCFL staff, the Learning Bus, and Marin County Executive Derek Johnson celebrate Library Night with the San Francisco Giants.)

The celebration was also a fundraiser for Marin County Free Library, with \$10 from every ticket purchased in support of the library donated directly to us. Thank you to the Friends of the Marin County Free Library for their support and participation in this fundraiser!

We also expanded on our partnership with the Marin City Historical and Preservation Society, Dominican University, Marin County Office of Education, Marin Transit, and Marin Community Foundation with the installation of five bus shelter wraps in Marin City. See here for a detailed self-guided tour and more about the history showcased in this partnership: preservemarincitylegacy.org/legacy. This latest installment builds on the long-standing exhibition and curriculum efforts we've been engaged with over the past year in helping to shine light on the rich and deep history of families and individuals in Marin City. What started as a seedling partnership of school tours and supplemental curriculum activities with the Marin County Office of Education and Marin City Historical and Preservation, led to a six-month long exhibition of Marin City in all ten MCFL branches. A first of its kind exhibit! We strive to continue expanding this partnership and keep Marin City's Black American history front and center, to be celebrated.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES, LANA ADLAWAN

We were also remiss not to mention that we did some planning for a permanent library in South Novato in March! We contracted with local architect David Schnee, Principal Architect for Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc. to host a convening of partners for a visioning exercise of a library of the future in the same site. Supervisor Lucan and his aide, Leslie Weber were in attendance, as well as representatives from Novato Charter, North Bay Children's Center, Hamilton School, MCFL administration and South Novato Library branch staff, and Novato Unified School District Workforce Housing representatives.



(Attendees of the South Novato Library visioning workshop, held at The Shop in South Novato on March 7, 2025.)

The result of the gathering was a final report (received in April) which outlined three different scenarios to explore in building a permanent library in South Novato, in partnership with the Novato Unified School District workforce housing initiatives. This effort to build permanent, affordable housing for Novato Unified School District staff provides the library and NUSD the opportunity to think creatively in how to provide resources not only to existing community members in the Hamilton area, with potentially more to come. See more about this workforce housing initiative here:

bit.ly/4kpKdaH

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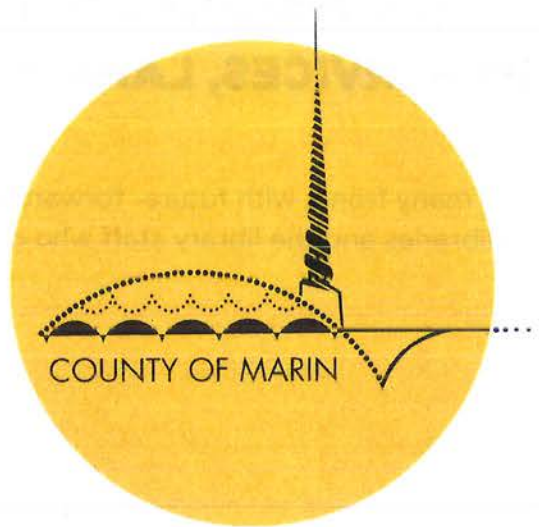
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES, LANA ADLAWAN

All in all, a busy but great month on many fronts with future- forward planning, centering our region's history and, of course, celebrating libraries and the library staff who create joy and change lives on daily basis.

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.



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

MAY 2025 ACTIVITIES

A stylized landscape illustration in the background of the lower half of the page. It features rolling hills in shades of yellow and orange, a blue body of water, and a prominent blue spire (resembling the Transamerica Pyramid) rising from the water. The sky is a pale blue with soft, wispy clouds.

OUR MISSION:

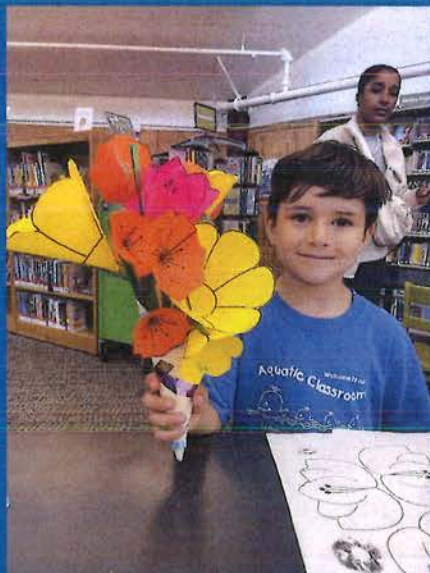
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LIBRARY ACTIVITIES AND OUR EQUITY FOCUS

Children's Services



Civic Center:

- May 7: Seed and Plant Exchange
- May 9: Hula performance with Hālau o Keikiali'i

Bolinas:

- We kicked off the month with our Fiesta de Primavera program, which took place at the Bolinas-Stinson school campus on May 9. Held directly after school and open to the public, it featured tamales, book give-aways, crafts, the bilingual botanical bus, and the most amazing Grupo Cadencia serenading us!
- We also continue to have weekly storytimes on Wednesday at the school and Saturday mornings in the branch, and Crafternoons on Wed afternoons where we've been practicing our spelling and handwriting by writing letters, shrinking them down in the photocopier then rolling them up for mini messages in a bottle.
- Mending Monday turned into a Needle Felting workshop led by Kerry Livingston and Kathleen O'Neil.
- We just received an exciting new batch of library bookmarks with 25 different student designs! Thanks to Keith for helping with this special print job and to Nuria at the school for getting the word out and encouraging kids to submit their designs!
- We created a mini museum wall in the kid's room. We hope to repeat this in the summer and display it in the main room for all ages!

Corte Madera:

- The Children's Committee hosted a May Day and Mother's Day flower-making event. Participants created beautiful bouquets and shared their flower power.
- Swan Ponds was a soothing and creative time at Corte Madera Library. Kids came up with all kinds of grasses and looked for their ponds. I was struck by how many dads enjoyed the precision work that sequins bring. Sequins are for everyone.
- Read to a dog continues to delight at Corte Madera Library. Emerging readers look forward to seeing Stinson the Labradoodle all summer, too!

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LIBRARY ACTIVITIES AND OUR EQUITY FOCUS

Children's Services (Continued)



Novato:

- At the end of April, the Novato Library celebrated Dia de los Ninos with a special take-and-make kit! Novato Library's CLS Silvia Molina created and prepared 100 kits for kids to make their pinatas out of toilet paper tubes.
- This past Saturday (May 24), the Novato Library hosted the group Cunamacué. This engaging, interactive show invited patrons of all ages to immerse themselves in the vibrant world of Afro-Peruvian culture, where they experienced unique rhythms, instruments, and dances such as Zamacueca, Zapateo, and Festejo. Patrons listened to the rich musical heritage, engaged firsthand with the rhythms, and learned about the fascinating history behind these cultural expressions.
- We are also excited to share that the Novato Library has hired its new Youth Services Librarian, Carrie Stotts!

Teen Services



Fairfax Library had a book display celebrating both Jewish Heritage and Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage. We also made a new Staff Recommendation area so teens can see what Fairfax staff has liked. We are wrapping up Homework Helpers for this school year, which has been successful, with a great group of kids who come every week for tutoring.

Civic Center Library keeps going strong with ongoing teen engagement. Homework Helpers continues to work with students every week. Teen volunteer Emma is helping with the seed library and cutting out felt figures for storytime. Some teens even attended the recent plant swap program, designed for all ages.

The Bookmobile went to Juvenile Hall, and the students were very excited about the books we brought. They had many requests; we will get them in the next tip. Their teacher told us before our visit that they were a rowdy bunch and might not be interested in what we brought, but we found them to be very responsive and excited about the option to request more titles.

Adult Services



South Novato: South Novato hosted an urban gardening workshop, during which patrons learned how to transform the smallest spaces, such as balconies, kitchens, or hallways, into vibrant urban gardens.

Corte Madera: Corte Madera welcomed their patrons back into their space with the ever-lively Saul Goodman's Klezmer Band. Celebrating a music tradition incorporating post-immigrant sounds rooted in klezmer, Saul Goodman's music brought the community together and lifted their spirits.

Civic Center: Civic Center had yet another robust offering of programs in May. They started the month's activities with a Seed/Plant Exchange, where patrons learned about seeds, plants, and gardening with the Marin Master Gardeners. The Marin Master Gardeners followed up this program by discussing Monarch Butterflies. Led by Marin Master Gardener Peter Norton, patrons became aware of the dangers facing Monarch butterflies in California. They learned about their life cycle/needs so they could take the appropriate steps to ensure their survival. Civic Center rounded out their May programming with a discussion led by author Marcia Naomi Berger. Berger discussed her latest book, *The Bipolar Therapist: A Journey from Madness to Love and Meaning*, and drew upon her struggles with mental illness to help others better understand and mitigate the shame associated with mental illness.

Collection Development & Management



In April, the Collection Development Librarian for Children & Teens ordered a variety of books for the Marin County Juvenile Hall in coordination with the Bookmobile. Not knowing how to read well can make it more likely for students to drop out of high school, and to end up in jail. By one count, 85 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have difficulty reading, but since many juvenile detention centers have small-to-nonexistent libraries, it often falls to nonprofits to fill the gaps in the system with book donations and literacy programming. MCFL is happy to help boost literacy and a love for books among teenagers who are incarcerated in juvenile hall. Another book order was done for the Learning Bus for book bags that they are creating.

That same month, the Collection Development Librarians for Adult and Children & Teens attended Primavera 2025 at South Novato on April 26. They tabled, answered questions from the community, and solicited input on reading interests. The team is also planning to offer tabling at the branches as a monthly feature.

In May, the team finalized the agreement and purchase of Envisionware's LibCabinet. Advertised as a 24/7 mini-library solution it will allow MCFL to extend the reach of the library to specific areas of the community that are not nearby a branch with round-the-clock access to books and other library materials.

Acquisitions & Cataloging

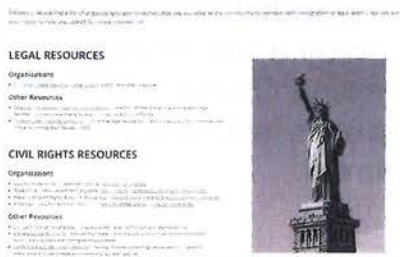
Cataloging added a fresh batch of Portuguese language books for children to be distributed around several branches. This is another way by which MCFL actively celebrates diverse perspectives and empowers all of the voices in our communities.

The team facilitated the rotation of art for the On the Wall program thereby refreshing the artwork that each participating library features. With this, different communities are exposed to and can enjoy a diversity of art pieces. We hope that this new rotation brings just as much joy and learning as the first iteration of this program.

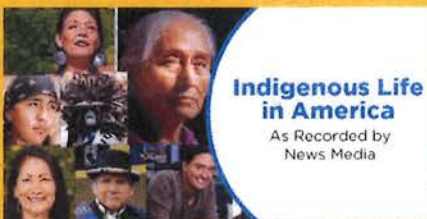
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Collection Development & Management

IMMIGRATION RIGHTS AND JUSTICE RESOURCES



**Liñgö
Pie.**



Digital Library

The team created a useful webpage to list the immigration and justice resources compiled by library staff members (marinlibrary.org/immigration). It is our hope that patrons in need of justice or immigration resources can use this webpage as a launch point to connect with the right organization that can provide them with much needed assistance.

We also created a Community Resources page to serve as a companion to the beautiful welcoming brochure that the Library Marketing team put together (marinlibrary.org/community). It lists useful local resources such as housing, employment and training, and connections to local organizations. With this we hope to offer another format for patrons to connect with others in their communities.

This month, eServices has had a flurry of activity as we set up a group of new digital resources that lift diverse voices and perspectives while sparking the joy of learning and helping empower our communities:

Liñgöpie (consortium resource) helps build fluency through real TV shows, cartoons, documentaries, movies, and music videos in various languages.

Asian Life in America (consortium resource) is a NewsBank database that explores the experience and impact of Asian Americans as recorded by the news media from the early 18th century to the modern era.

Indigenous Life in America (consortium resource) is another NewsBank database that explores the experience and impact of Indigenous Americans as recorded by the news media from the late 17th century to today.

LinkedIn Learning (MCFL resource) is a powerful and popular resource that offers online courses that cover business, software, photography, design, marketing, technology, and creative skills in videos taught by experts.

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Collection Development & Management

What is a Seed Library?

A seed library or seed exchange is a place to "check out" seeds for free to take home and plant in your garden or windows.

Everyone is welcome to check out seeds from our library. We are encouraged to turn over seeds from your harvest to donate back to the seed library and thus a rich resource.

The goal of our seed library is to foster a sense of community and a culture of sharing. Seed libraries aim to promote biodiversity, local food production, and sustainable gardening. Whether you're a gardener or just want to learn more about gardening, our seed library is for you.

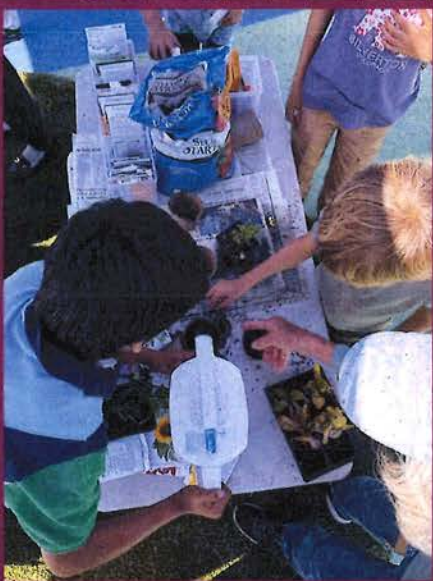
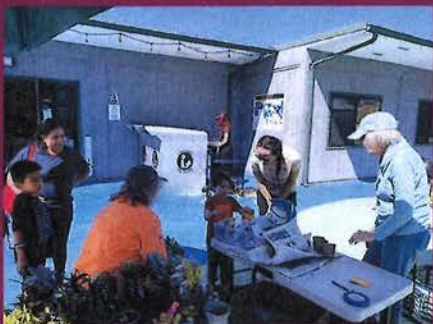
Happy growing!



The team also designed a new Seed Library web page (marinlibrary.org/seed-library) to promote the goals of fostering resilience, self-reliance, and a culture of sharing, as well as biodiversity, local food production, and sustainable gardening.

Lastly, we redesigned the Learning Bus webpage (marinlibrary.org/learning-bus) to feature the give-away of preschool backpacks. These are a popular and joyful series of events inviting families to enjoy a fun-filled time of play, art, music, and stories. Attending children receive a free preschool backpack while supplies last to support their early learning and school readiness.

Educational Equity



South Novato

- Urban Gardening Workshop with The Marin Master Gardeners – new gardeners of all ages learned how to plant
- Microlearning sessions—ELAC Hamilton School: Parents learned about library resources they can share with their children and families.
- One Friday a month, South Novato Hosts a STEM learning exploration with Marin County 4 H. In our last meeting, we created houses with popsicle sticks. Teens help younger scholars, along with a 4 H mentor and Youth Librarian Brian.

PRIMAVERAS 2025 ~Día de los Libros April 26, 2025:

- Asian American Alliance of Marin and Dominican University partnership!
- Over 400 attendants
- Kids story time and cultural activities
- 9 Authors
- Multicultural performances (heritage fashion show, lion dance, Punjabi party moves, Sun Taichi, Aikido, Capoeira, Korean Drumming, Salsa dancing class)
- Punk and rock music inside the library by Northern Waste
- Bookmobile 167 visits
- Friends of the Novato Libraries sold 25 t-shirts, and 15 new members signed up!
- Give away children's Spanish books
- 107 Multi-lingual board books, picture books
- Give away adult Spanish books
- 25 English & Spanish teen and adult books
- 200 free burritos

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Educational Equity

(Continued)

South Novato (Continued)

- 200 free Gimbaps (Korean Sushi Rolls)
- 21 free haircuts
- 10 hairstyle extensions
- 17 community organizations participated

Outreach/give-away and library presentations: 280 new and 100 discarded

- College of Marin Kentfield ESL Classes/ Karen Mendoza's Early Bilingual Literacy presentation
- 50 give-away books Children, and Teen, in English & Spanish
- NUSD Adult School: Hill Education Center ESL and citizenship classes
- 180 give away books Children, and Teen, in English & Spanish
- New Free Library! 100 discarded books and audiobooks: Children, Teen, and Adult in English & Spanish
- Lu Sutton Elementary ELAC
- 50 give-away books Children, and Teen, in English & Spanish
- Sonoma State Latinx Roundtable
- Novato High ELAC
- BOS Staff Supervisor of Interns of the Year (woot woot!)

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Educational Equity

(Continued)



West Marin

Staffing update: In mid-May, we bid farewell to Derby, the part-time Community Library Specialist at Inverness. We will miss his organizational skills, calm demeanor, and reader (and writer) advisory skills.

Tomales Elementary School celebrated Día de los Niños with Point Reyes Library. Cascada de Flores performed for 2nd-8th grade assembly, incorporating fun interactivity for all ages. The TK-1st graders had a lively musical storytime with Colors of Spanish.

Point Reyes Library celebrated **Día de los Niños** at Toby's Feed Barn in collaboration with **Papermill Creek Children's Corner**. Aguacate, a talented musical duo, entertained and engaged families of preschoolers in English and Spanish. The library provided free, bilingual books and colorful bird crafts.

In collaboration with the Bolinas-Stinson School, Bolinas Library celebrated Primaveras with the entire community. Grupo Candecia, a lively and talented banda comprised of teens and young men, played festive music while all enjoyed locally made tamales and fresh fruit. The Botanical Bus, a Spanish-language mobile herbal clinic, also provided Indigenous wellness practices. Crafts and free books rounded out the event.

Point Reyes Reading Buddies bit into their Mistacos this May to celebrate the release of Eliza Kinkz's new book. What's a Mistaco, you might ask? It's a taco full of mistakes! For the Reading Buddies, literacy activities, social-emotional learning, and imaginative flights of silliness are all wrapped into a flour tortilla.

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Educational Equity

(Continued)



Marin City

In The Branch: This month, we welcomed our new Adult Services Librarian, Catarina Sophia De Los Santos! She is eagerly learning, meeting new people every day, and making big plans to expand our offerings to Marin City's adult population.

May 3, we hosted Free Comic Book Day with Age Scott! He taught a group of young artists some basic figure drawing and sent them off with clouds of new ideas. We hope to see their work in our collection!

May 3, we also tabled at the Uplift Mental Health and Wellness Fair for Marin City's young adults, sharing inspiring books and supporting self-care.

May 10, we attended the grand opening of Horizon Community School's new campus! We're so glad to see this community resource refreshed and expanded for generations!

May 16, Amanda and Catarina attended the opening of the Marin LGBTQ+ Center, in its new home at the Multicultural Center of Marin. We had so many great conversations and are looking forward to further collaboration!

Upcoming: we're hosting a movie screening on the 27th, Bedtime Storytime with Raising a Reader on the 28th, and a field trip to Stinson Beach on the 31st!

And as always, storytimes, class visits, community visits, and tech help continue weekly.

At The Lab: The Lab expanded its digital conversion capabilities. We can now convert DV tapes and Hi8 tapes.

Several patrons and community partners have been able to archive unique historical footage from their collections.

We were a resource to the Marin County Cooperation Team. MCCT laser-engraved 50 canvas bags for Mental Health Awareness Day with its logo.

As always, patrons continue to come up with new and interesting creations on 3D printers.

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Educational Equity

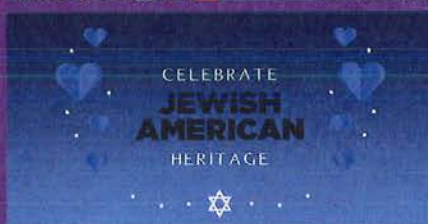
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At the School: We have some new additions to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy Library! These are our new Sun beetles (names pending), and students are learning a lot about the life cycle and caring for these fascinating arthropods!

This month, students have been learning about spring growth. They made terrariums (better to understand our new Sun beetle's new habitat) and planted seeds that they can watch grow through the summer.

Students have also been learning about Asian American Heritage and culture (learning about foods like bao and important Asian American figures like Artist Maya Lin, world-famous surfer Duke Kahanamoku, and Olympic gold medalist snowboarder Chloe Kim).

Communications & Publicity



May marked a season of full spring energy and enjoying the outdoors again. In preparation for the upcoming months of summer, Marketing and Communications have been active in event attendance, capturing footage of celebrations, transitions, and even quiet times.

Heritage Celebrations

- The library highlights key heritage celebrations each month to support community learning and share the cultural significance behind each observance through stories and programs.
- Created a beautiful banner for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander heritage
- Created a strong abstract visual for Mental Health Awareness
- Created a visually compelling banner for Jewish American heritage

Branch Refresh Soft Opening

- We supported a soft opening of the Corte Madera library as it reintroduced itself to the public with refreshed spaces for reading, lounging, and engaging.
- Took photos of patrons and staff enjoying the refreshed library
- We will use images for future storytelling about the library refresh project

Staff Interviews

A longtime library friend is retiring after 18 years of service, and she graciously accepted our invitation to share her story—reflecting on memorable moments and the many changes she's witnessed in library services over the years.

- Conducted the interview
- Captured the interview with video and audio equipment
- Producing a final cut of the video for use internally and library storytelling on select social channels

Looking Ahead

In June, we will invite the public to participate in a county-wide library card design contest. We will also continue our storytelling work by supporting Pride, Juneteenth, Immigrant Heritage Month, and Summer at MCFL!

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Welcoming New Staff and Promotions

We are pleased to introduce several new and temporarily promoted staff members to the Marin County Free Library Department:

- **Lauren Snell** has a temporary promotion to **Senior Librarian** at the *Fairfax branch*, effective May 12, 2025.
- **Carrie Stotts** has been fully onboarded as **Librarian I**, she will begin at the *Novato branch*, effective May 13, 2025
- **Gina Turrini** has a temporary assignment at *Admin*, effective May 25, 2025.
- **Ruth Itzun** has a temporary assignment at *Novato*, effective May 25, 2025.
- **Alfredo Limeta** has a temporary assignment at *Novato*, effective May 25, 2025.

Current and Ongoing Recruitments

The library continues to actively fill key positions to enhance our services:

- **Librarian II** at the California Room – A recruitment plan is in progress.
- **Community Library Specialist** – Contingent Hire – A recruitment plan is in progress.
- **Library Assistant II** at the Fairfax branch – A recruitment plan is in progress – second interviews are on May 29, 2025.
- **Library Aide** at the Marin City and Corte Madera branches – A recruitment plan is in progress – first interviews are on June 11, 2025.

Workforce Trends & Vacancy Update: A New Normal

We're excited to share recent staffing updates across our department and individual units, important achievements that underscore our continued commitment to employee growth and operational excellence.

Throughout 2024, MCFL sustained a vacancy rate of 10%. As of this month, we've reached our fifth straight month at a lower 8% rate, signaling meaningful progress toward long-term staffing stability. This advancement is the result of collaborative efforts and a shared dedication to equity, teamwork, and delivering outstanding public service. Together, we are strengthening our library system to be more resilient, responsive, and forward-looking.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES, LANA ADLAWAN

Budget season moved up this year by one month! On Wednesday, May 21, the Board of Supervisors adopted the County of Marin's budget. Marin County Free Library's budget for the year increased in services, supplies, and personnel costs, roughly over \$1 million in increases to the budget for these categories. The total budget this year was approved at \$27,117,435.00 with the increases from Measure B funding beginning in FY 2024-25 and collected for the next nine years with an up to 3% increase every year. For more information on the Library and County's budget, see: bit.ly/45doOwK

The Library also provided the Board of Supervisors and members of the public a detailed overview of Library capital improvement projects through 2030 on May 6, 2025. The Library's Branch Refresh Project and four capital projects on the Novato, Fairfax, Civic Center and Corte Madera libraries total just under \$30 million dollars in investment in our community libraries. See the full presentation shared and information here: bit.ly/43wBXzP



(Facilities presentation team from May 6, 2025: Interim Public Works Director Christopher Blunk; Erin Riley, Department of Public Works Project Manager; Fabiola Guillen, Department of Works Capital Projects Manager; Lana Adlawan, Director, Marin County Free Library; Andre Clemons, Media Manager, Marin County Free Library; and Ahmad Merza, Library Services Manager, Marin County Free Library.)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES, LANA ADLAWAN

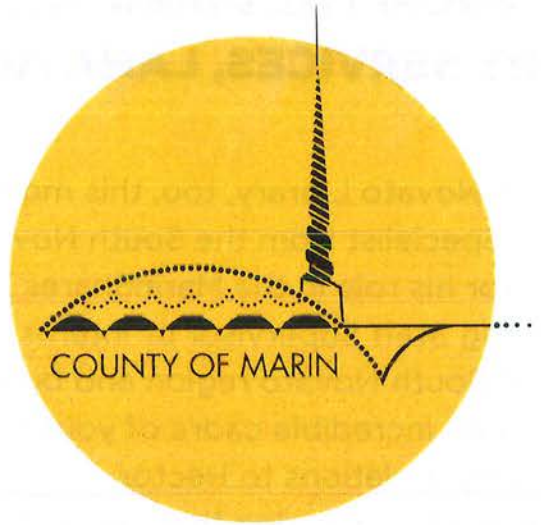
More celebrations from South Novato Library, too, this month! Héctor Garcia, Bilingual Community Library Specialist from the South Novato Library, was honored by the Board of Supervisors for his role in the MarinShares / Marinterns program. Héctor was named Outstanding Staff Supervisor of Interns for the Year for his work with youth and families in the South Novato region and building a culture of belonging and celebration for an incredible cadre of youth interns and volunteers at the South Novato Library. Congratulations to Héctor, his South Novato Library team, and MCFL for this important work in ensuring that our community members feel at home in their neighborhood libraries as they lead with us in creating responsive and reflective services.

Last but certainly not least, we bid farewell to the legendary Margaret Miles who retired from MCFL with almost 14 years of service to us at the Fairfax Library. She was a light in the library and in the beautiful garden she helped build from a dream to reality. Thank you, Margaret, and we wish you luck in your incredible journey ahead!

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.
