

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION



Lana Adlawan
Director of County Library Services

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

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION Proposed Agenda Wednesday, October 8, 2025 4:00 p.m.

Library Technical Services

1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 180, San Rafael, CA 94903

Directions: Highway 101 Take Lucas Valley Road to 1600 Los Gamos Drive. Follow the signs reading "Main Lobby" or "Sheriff" until once past the second building on the left you turn left into the driveway leading into the parking lot (If you reach the YMCA you've gone too far). Continue down the driveway until past the edge of the building on the left, then turn left and find a parking spot in front of the building. Enter through Lobby B and immediately on the left is the entrance to Suite.

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
4:00pm 1.	Call to Order	Christian Action
2.	Welcome and Introductions	Christian Information
3.	Approval of Agenda	Christian Action
4.	Approval of September 10, 2025 meeting minutes	Christian Action
5.	Open Time for Public Expression	Christian Information
6.	Announcements/ Book Recommendation(s)	Christian / Silles Information
7.	Reading & Correspondence File	Christian Information
8.	President's Report	Christian Information
9.	Director's Report for September	Adlawan Information
10.	New Business	
a.	Year-Round Learning	Little Taylor Information
5:30pm 12.	Adjournment	Christian Action



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.

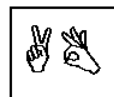
Numbered List of attachments:

4. Minutes for September 10, 2025
5. Library Director's Report for September 2025

Unnumbered Attachments:

MARINet September, 2025, No Meeting

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



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.

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

Directions: From Highway 101 exit west on Tamalpais Dr. Turn left on Sanford & left on Meadowsweet. Library is on the right. (It is just behind the Peet's Coffee)

--PROPOSED MINUTES--

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

- (1) CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm. Glynda Christian welcomed everyone to the meeting and started with introductions.

- (2) ROLL CALL

In Attendance

Sue Ream	Glynda Christian	Nick Javaras
Sally Hauser	Linda Ward	Ann Kaplan
Claudia Wilson	Amelia Lahn	Doug Sides

Absent with Notification

Absent Without Notification

Ted Ridgeway
Crystal Lewis

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
Ahmad Merza, Library Services Manager
Gina Turrini, Administrative Assistant I
Gracie Leon, Administrative Assistant II
Anyia Schandler, Member of the Public

- (3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S/C – Sally Hauser/Nick Javaras approved as submitted.
- (4) ADOPTION OF August 2025 MINUTES M/S/C – Sue Ream/Glynda Christian Minutes approved as submitted
- (5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION – No member of the public.

- (6) ANNOUNCEMENT / BOOK RECOMMENDATION(S) – No announcements. This month it was Amelia Lahn. Amelia spoke about the book *The Familiar* by Leigh Bardugo and a bonus book *Whitcraft for Wayward Girls* by Grady Hendrix.
- (7) READING & CORRESPONDENCE FILE – Materials were sent to the Library Commission prior to meeting.
- (8) PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Glynda spoke on seeing kindness in the community, reiterating that this is a time for the community to come together. Glynda announced a protest for Saturday, September 13th at Novato City Hall. She brought up Banned Books Week. October 8th, Glynda will be speaking at Rebound Books in San Rafael about banned books issues. She spoke on Proposition 50 and the importance of civic duty. Glynda stressed the importance of interconnectedness and the responsibility of the commission to appreciate each other and members of the community. Announces that October 14th is All Staff Day and the possibilities for members to attend, with more information to be shared soon. Announced birthday of Sally Houser, September 30th. Invited Sue Ream to share information on the national partnership with the League of Women Voters and the American Library Association. Sue announced she is a member of the League of Women Voters, and that they are working with the libraries to disseminate info, do civic courses and continue to distribute voter registration forms and nonpartisan info on propositions that will be distributed to the MCFL branches. Lana asked for additional announcements. None, but Doug had positive comments on the new remodel. Lana introduced Gracie as new assistant and liaison to the commission. Commission offered introductions.
- (9) DIRECTOR’S REPORT FOR JUNE & JULY – Lana highlighted Lunch at the Library program, and how it has reached about 800 children in Marin County. Dates to highlight, Friday, September 12 Celebrating library card design winners at the Civic Center Library. In October along with banned books week it will be National Friends of the Library week. Board of Supervisors will be recognizing Friends’ groups on October 21st, with a light refreshment after. Final business piece, County Executive has mentioned changes may be coming down the road for commission structure. Lana will keep the Commission informed on changes as they arise. Glynda announced training for the Brown Act to take place on September 23rd. Lana stressed the importance of attending to be updated on any changes.
- (10) NEW BUSINESS –
 - a. Measure A/B Fund Review– Leslie Galiani, Juliet Schiller

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 \$ 75,000.00	\$ 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		\$ 28,440.00	\$ 29,651.45		\$ 63,563.45
		Construction 540210			\$ 640.00	\$ 128,717.10	\$ 441,615.60	\$ 27,684.63		\$ 598,697.33
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310								\$ -
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110				\$ 27,836.85	\$ 76,127.80	\$ 27,997.83		\$ 131,962.48
					\$ 8,112.00	\$ 156,553.95	\$ 544,183.40	\$ 85,333.91		\$ 794,183.26
54LP06ROOF	Corte Madera Measure A Project	Professional Services 522510			\$ 11,626.00	\$ 1,374.00	\$ 46,986.00	\$ 67,768.30		\$ 127,754.30
		Construction 540210	\$ 6,015.00	\$ 56,646.20	\$ 149,048.10	\$ 496,594.95	\$ 582,421.45	\$ 52,663.20		\$ 1,343,388.90
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310				\$ 7,335.64		\$ 279.38		\$ 7,615.02
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110			\$ 10,072.00	\$ 85,494.72	\$ 119,676.65	\$ 27,867.41		\$ 243,110.78
			\$ 6,015.00	\$ 56,646.20	\$ 170,746.10	\$ 590,799.31	\$ 748,084.10	\$ 148,578.29		\$ 1,721,889.00
54LP07ROOF	Fairfax Measure A Project	Professional Services 522510			\$ 7,830.00	\$ 8,635.00	\$ 39,305.00			\$ 55,770.00
		Construction 540210				\$ 41,436.77	\$ 58,980.00			\$ 100,416.77
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310								\$ -
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110			\$ 2,376.12	\$ 27,876.77	\$ 39,507.54	\$ 6,600.16		\$ 76,390.59
					\$ 10,206.12	\$ 36,511.77	\$ 120,249.31	\$ 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				\$ 134,958.18
	Project Completed	Transit 560110			\$ 5,545.00					\$ 5,545.00
				\$ 355,298.83	\$ 303,203.41	\$ 41,266.92	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 699,799.16
54LP13HVAC	Corte Madera HVAC Project	Professional Services 522510	\$ 16,080.47							\$ 16,080.47
		Construction 540210	\$ 731,458.51	3,346.50						\$ 734,805.01
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310	\$ 17,377.56							\$ 17,377.56
		DPW Labor 561110	\$ 35,246.80	51,652.01	\$ 38,449.60					\$ 125,348.41
			\$ 800,163.34	\$ 54,998.51	\$ 38,449.60					\$ 893,611.45
	S 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							\$ 1,248.00	
		Construction 540210							\$ 23,812.95	
		Miscellaneous Costs 522310								\$ -
	Project Completed	DPW Labor 561110								\$ -
							\$ -	\$ 25,060.95		\$ 25,060.95
9/10/2025			\$ 806,178.34	\$ 466,943.54	\$ 530,717.23	\$ 825,131.95	\$ 1,448,516.81	\$ 289,492.36	\$ 25,060.95	\$ 4,403,041.18

MEASURE B CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY FY 24/25										
Project No.	Project Title	Service	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET 25/26	BUDGET 24/25	Total Expended FY 24/25 9/10/25
		FURNITURE 540510							Measure B 2.5 ML	
	Refresh Project 10 Libraries	PROF. SRVC. MISC & DPW LABOR								
54LP16RFMB	Measure B	Furniture /Carpet / Painting						\$ 13,353.00	\$ 275,912.08	\$ 289,265.08
	Non Measure B	Professional Services 522510						\$ 25,418.00		\$ 25,418.00
	Non Measure B	Miscellaneous Costs 522310								\$ -
	Non Measure B	DPW Labor 561520						\$ 13,353.00	\$ 301,330.08	\$ 314,683.08
9/10/2025			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,353.00	\$ 301,330.08	\$ 314,683.08

	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:					Measure B Tax Revenue (3550)									3550 Measure B Totals	2480 MEASURE A EXPENDITURES TO DATE	2470 OPERATION EXPENDITURES TO DATE	TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE	
4																			
5																			
6	Fiscal Year					FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 30-31	FY 31-32	FY 32-33	as of				
7	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:					\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	9/10/2025				
8	CMA HVAC Project (Measure A)															\$ 893,611		\$ 893,611	
9	Los Gatos Renovation (Operations)																\$ 70,725	\$ 70,725	
10	Refresh Project (All Branches) Design & Consulting N&T																\$ 347,165	\$ 347,165	
11	Refresh Project (All Branches) Non N&T Funds																\$ 91,084	\$ 91,084	
12	Refresh Project (All Branches) Measure B					\$ 275,912	\$ 13,353									\$ 289,265		\$ 289,265	
13																			
14	TOTALS as of 9-10-2025					\$ 275,912	\$ 13,353	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 289,265	\$ 893,611	\$ 438,249	\$ 1,691,850

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY																		
2470, 2480 & 3550																		
5 Year Projection	Actuals FY 2023-24	Actuals FY 2024-25	Adopted Budget FY2025-26	Projected FY 2025-26	Projected FY 2026-27	Projected FY 2027-28	Projected FY 2028-29	Projected FY 2029-30	Projected FY 2031-32									
Property Taxes	\$	(17,158,317)	\$	(17,865,972)	\$	(17,520,540)	\$	(18,133,962)	\$	(18,405,971)	\$	(18,682,061)	\$	(18,962,291)	\$	(19,246,726)	\$	(19,535,427)
Measure A	\$	(2,861,932)																
Measure B			\$	(4,564,804)	\$	(4,784,755)	\$	(4,700,000)	\$	(4,841,000)	\$	(4,986,230)	\$	(5,135,817)	\$	(5,289,891)	\$	(5,448,588)
Other Revenue	\$	(2,713,445)	\$	(2,262,753)	\$	(1,842,645)	\$	(2,138,705)	\$	(2,376,406)	\$	(2,652,299)	\$	(2,958,856)	\$	(3,301,002)	\$	(3,682,695)
Total Revenue	\$	(22,733,694)	\$	(24,693,529)	\$	(24,147,940)	\$	(24,972,667)	\$	(25,623,377)	\$	(26,320,590)	\$	(27,056,964)	\$	(27,837,619)	\$	(28,666,709)
				\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		
Salaries and Benefits	\$	13,555,251	\$	14,298,571	\$	16,099,737	\$	15,840,096	\$	15,950,977	\$	16,062,634	\$	16,175,072	\$	16,288,297	\$	16,402,316
Services and Supplies	\$	4,932,645	\$	5,539,346	\$	5,254,129	\$	5,655,672	\$	5,254,129	\$	5,364,466	\$	5,477,119	\$	5,592,139	\$	5,709,574
Capital Assets	\$	500,148	\$	1,070,646	\$	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	\$	3,425,097	\$	4,286,979	\$	4,286,979	\$	4,106,691	\$	4,923,923	\$	5,903,784	\$	7,078,636	\$	8,487,285
Total Expenses	\$	23,594,993	\$	24,333,660	\$	28,398,595	\$	28,559,239	\$	27,911,797	\$	28,951,022	\$	30,155,975	\$	31,559,073	\$	33,199,175
Net Library Costs	\$	861,299	\$	(359,869)	\$	4,250,655	\$	3,586,573	\$	2,288,420	\$	2,630,432	\$	3,099,011	\$	3,721,453	\$	4,532,465
as of 9-10-25																		

5 YR Growth Rate	
Property Taxes	1.5%
Measures B	3.0%
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%

At the end of the presentation there was time for the commission to ask questions and give comment.

b. Facilities Overview – Ahmad Merza, Juliet Schiller, and Lana Adlawan presented.

Marin County Free Library Commission

Facilities Overview

September 10, 2025



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 by voters at 76.59%

Upgrade library facilities



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.

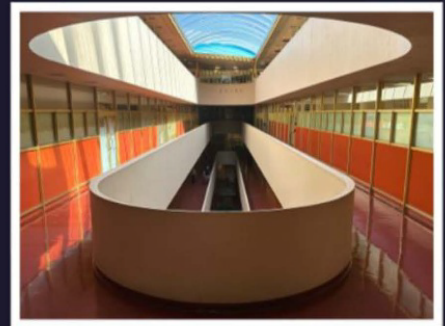


Photo by Terry Peck

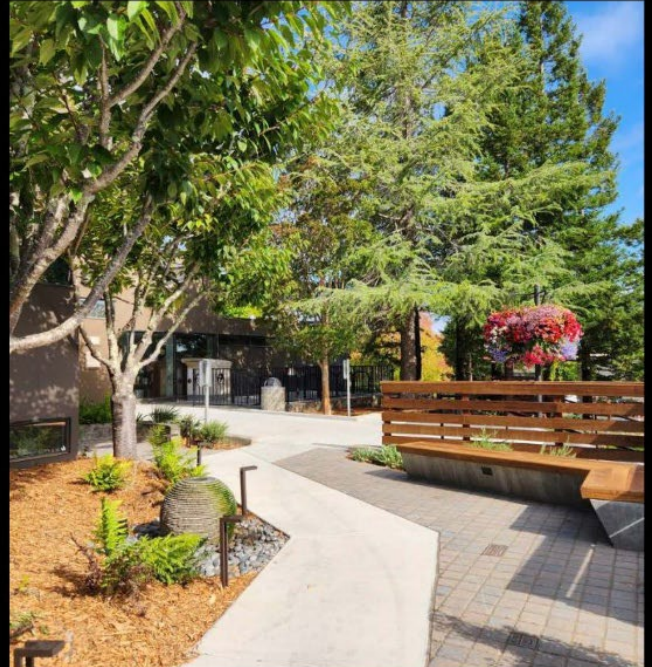


Overview of Corte Madera Library Improvements

- Project Completed: June 2025

- Estimated Final Cost: \$2.6 million

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



Scope of Work

Pathway Upgrades:

- New accessible concrete paths, sidewalks
- Accessible wooden deck/boardwalk
- New signage, lighting, and metal railings

Landscaping:

- Drought-resistant planting near decks and walkways
- Sustainable Water Feature in the Garden
- Reutilizing Engraved Pavers purchased by Friends and community members.

Restroom Upgrades:

- 4 new single-room restrooms, including two family restrooms and one staff restroom
- The Americans with Disabilities Act – (ADA) improvements

Electric Vehicle Chargers:

- Two Level 2 EV chargers

Parking Lot Improvements:

- Resurfacing and new parking lines

New Heating, Ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) System!



2030 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

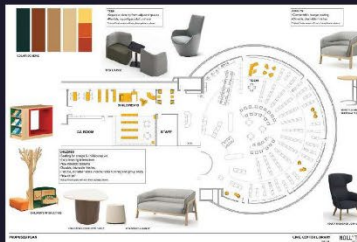
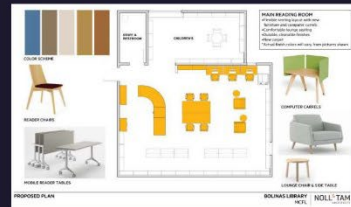
INTERIOR
10-BRANCH
REFRESH
PROJECT

HEALTH &
SAFETY
BUILDING
IMPROVEMENTS

COUNTY-
OWNED
BUILDING
RENOVATIONS

Noll & Tam Interior Refresh Project Implementation

10 Branch Refresh



Communication strategy for the 10-branch Interior Refresh Project:

- Overall purpose of refresh project on [webpage](https://marinlibrary.org/refresh/) – (<https://marinlibrary.org/refresh/>)
- Plans per branch (similar to Corte Madera, each branch will have designs, photos, and updates)

LIBRARY REFRESH 2025-2026

[Version en español / Spanish version](#)



The refresh project for all ten branches of the Marin County Free Library will revamp our interior spaces for library patrons and staff, with improvements ranging from new furniture, paint, and accessible technology. This project is a direct outcome 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 MCFL [Anti-Racism & Equity Strategic Plan](#).

Upgrades will 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, we'll be sharing more information here - including updates and any service impacts.

Fairfax Library



[View Fairfax Design Plan](#)

Fairfax Library Upgrades:

Nature-Themed Children's Area: A nature-inspired theme with new shelving and engaging, interactive elements.

New Seating & Workstations: New tables, chairs, and lounge areas to provide quiet reading and study spaces for all age groups.

Outdoor Seating: New outdoor seating options, including tables and lounges, to create a relaxing outdoor space.

New Carpet: Fresh new carpet to rejuvenate the space and create a more welcoming atmosphere.

10 Branch Draft Refresh Timeline



Outdoor Furniture -Fairfax, Point Reyes, Inverness, and Stinson Beach

Fairfax



Point Reyes



Inverness



Stinson Beach



From May 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

Novato Capital Improvement Project – Overview

- Architect: Siegel & Strain
- Kickoff with full architectural team + DPW + Library Staff
- Multi-phase, community-driven design process
- Budget: \$7M+ Construction anticipated to start: Fall 2026



Novato Capital Improvement Project – Scope Highlights

Interior Renovation & Expansion

- Updates to staff offices, storage, circulation, and lobby
- New modern, fully accessible restrooms with improved visibility & safety

Building Envelope & Waterproofing

- New roof, rodent proofing
- Drainage repairs; mitigation prevent water intrusion

Exterior & Landscaping

- Outdoor community space and children's story-time area
- Improvements to inner atrium and site drainage at building perimeter

Accessibility Upgrades

- ADA/CA Building Code compliance for path of travel and building entry

Mechanical & Electrical Systems

- Mechanical ducts; updated roof-top equipment
- Lighting upgrades, new exterior signage, and potential new electrical service

Sustainability & Infrastructure

- Electrical/Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) in parking lot

Novato Capital Improvement Project – Engagement Plan

PROGRAMMING & PLANNING PHASE (JULY–OCT 2025)

- Staff work sessions
- Informational interviews
- Open house community session
October 30th 4-6pm (Harvest Festival)

SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE (NOV 2025–JAN 2026)

- Staff engagement meetings
- Second open house
- Architects will connect with Library commissioners in the fall for design update.



VIEWS

Thank You!
Any Questions?



At the end of the presentation there was time for the commission to ask questions and give comment. At the end of the questions and presentations. Juliet asked about the reading from the last meeting and let the commission know she would bring books for those who had a continued interest.

(12) ADJOURNMENT – Glynda adjourned the meeting at 5:24pm



September 2025

Library Commission Report

Lana Adlawan,
Director of County Library Services



Our Story

Across Marin County Free Library, September unfolded as a season of fresh starts and meaningful connections. New library cards became works of art, storytimes doubled in size, and patrons—from preschoolers to seniors—rediscovered what it means to belong at their library.

At Civic Center, families filled storytimes while adult readers connected literature and art through a MarinMOCA partnership. Fairfax launched fall Homework Helpers, expanded bilingual storytimes, and celebrated Latinx Heritage with music and dance. Point Reyes introduced Reading Buddies and Book Scouts, blending literacy with joyful math and art at its Polyhedra Party. Inverness reopened after its refresh with new carpet and a Library Card Contest celebration where children designed “Library Joy” t-shirts. Bolinas honored longtime Friends president Anna Gade with a heartfelt gathering.

Beyond the branches, the Bookmobile visited farmers’ markets, Juvenile Hall, and closed-library communities, while Library Beyond Walls deepened ties with Cedars of Marin, housing communities, and senior centers—issuing 27 new cards. South Novato launched a chess club at a young patron’s request, expanded English Language Learner classes, and prepared Primavera 2026 with regional partners. Technical Services advanced the LibCabinet project, e-resource enhancements, and systemwide technology upgrades. The Learning Bus welcomed dozens of new families with bilingual book bags and playful pre-literacy activities.

Together, these stories brought the Strategic Plan to life: Joyful Learning guided the work, Collective Impact emerged through partnerships, and Community Power shone in celebrations that centered community voices.

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.

Bolinas/Stinson Beach

September at Bolinas Library was marked by celebration and community gratitude. Together with Stinson Library, staff, Friends, and community members gathered to honor Anna Gade, who has served on the Friends board for 17 years and is stepping down from her role as longtime president. The celebration, filled with songs and laughter, reflected both Anna's enduring contributions and the deep connections between the library and the community she helped nurture. Though quieter in programming this month, the library's focus on honoring service underscored the importance of community leadership and partnership. The event highlighted the ways Friends of the Library provide vital support to ensure Bolinas and Stinson libraries remain central gathering spaces for learning, creativity, and connection.

Strategic Plan in Action

The spirit of the Strategic Plan was visible in this celebration. Joyful Learning was the intention, as the event created a space where neighbors came together to share songs, laughter, and stories that honored the past while inspiring the future. Collective Impact came into focus in the recognition of Friends leadership, a reminder of how partnerships between volunteers, staff, and community members sustain the vitality of small libraries. Community Power emerged in the act of centering community voices, celebrating Anna's legacy as a reflection of the collective strength and creativity that continue to define Bolinas and Stinson Libraries.



Civic Center

September was a vibrant month at the Civic Center Library and California Room, with staff engaged in wide-ranging programs, outreach, and partnerships that reflected both the daily rhythms of library service and our role in countywide initiatives. Staff contributed to planning for Marin County's 175th Anniversary celebration and supported the Board of Supervisors' upcoming resolution. The team also joined service meetings across Children's Services and Adult Services, coordinated with Play for All/BEBS partners, and prepared for the fall semester of Homework Helpers.

Partnership engagement was a highlight. A special "pop-up" book club gathered on a Sunday during closed hours to read Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Talents* in conjunction with the *Sky Below* exhibition at MarinMOCA, drawing participants into conversation about art, literature, and community. Staff supported Homelessness and Coordinated Care initiatives, including planning meetings, a Transitional Aged Youth library presentation, and a tour of the St. Vincent property in San Rafael. On September 20, staff also attended the San Rafael Public Library's grand re-opening, celebrating the expansion of library services alongside community partners.

Programming reached across ages and interests. For children, storytime continued to welcome families weekly, with more than 500 participants over the course of the month. The Wednesday Kids' Club offered gaming, LEGO play, and arts and crafts, including papel picado in honor of Latin American Heritage. Adults joined a mix of technology help sessions, weekly writing workshops, and lively book clubs—including the Thursday Afternoon group's discussion of Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*, tying into the MarinMOCA partnership. Special events included a Marin Master Gardeners workshop on growing edibles and a Puzzle Swap that invited intergenerational connection. The library also hosted the celebration of Library Card Design Contest winners, with more than fifty people gathering to honor community artists.

Outreach expanded the library's presence in Marin. Staff joined the Marin City Historical & Preservation Society for a Legacy Banners event honoring Marinship workers, partnered in Seeds of Hope with Health and Human Services, and gave away over 300 books at the Bay Area Discovery Museum's Free Day. School partnerships included class visits at Marin Waldorf School and Terra Linda High School, where teens created chapbooks in a workshop that sparked creativity and connection across peer groups. At the Marin Senior Fair, hundreds of older adults



Civic Center (Continued)

stopped by the library booth to explore services, receive donated books, and learn how the library supports lifelong engagement. Staff also hosted a California Room collections visit for the Woodlands Sponsors women's organization.

Staff continued their professional growth through a variety of trainings, from Microsoft Teams and leadership development workshops to Freedom Lifted's Justice at Work in Public Libraries series. Staff members also attended the Reforma National Conference, and one presented at the Children's Literature Review on nonfiction resources. Promotions highlighted the talent within the team, including a temporary promotion to Library Desk Supervisor and a new appointment to Librarian II in the California Room. Facility improvements ensured the branch remained accessible and welcoming, with repairs to hydraulic systems and ADA buttons, and deep cleaning of carpets across the library.

Patron stories reminded staff why this work matters. One caregiver shared that her child's confidence and vocabulary had grown remarkably through regular storytime attendance, underscoring the library's role in early literacy. Teen volunteers and California Room volunteers also contributed dozens of hours this month, supporting youth programs, archival projects, and community connections.

Staff efforts were celebrated across the branch, with special recognition for colleagues who supported the California Room desk, covered youth programming, and contributed to team operations while others attended conferences. Their flexibility and dedication ensured the library remained welcoming and responsive throughout a busy month.

Strategic Plan in Action

The work at Civic Center and the California Room this month reflected the pillars of MCFL's Strategic Plan in meaningful ways. Joyful Learning was the intention behind programs like the Wildlife Ambassadors encounter, which allowed children to experience a tortoise, opossum, and snake up close—an unforgettable introduction to the natural world. Collective Impact came into focus through Veterans Connect @ the Library, a monthly program in partnership with the San Francisco VA that provided resources and guidance to veterans navigating complex systems of care. Community Power emerged as staff and selectors engaged directly with patrons during a branch tabling event, answering questions about collection development and ensuring that community voices are reflected in MCFL's collections.



Corte Madera

Corte Madera Library leaned into collaboration, creativity, and connection across the community. Staff played a strong role in countywide conversations, participating in leadership team meetings, supervisor meetings, and service-specific gatherings across Children's Services, Teen Services, Adult Services, and Circulation. Engagement in the Racial Equity Alliance, the Library Card Design Contest, and the Youth Services Working Group ensured that Corte Madera's voice was part of guiding initiatives that extend well beyond the branch.

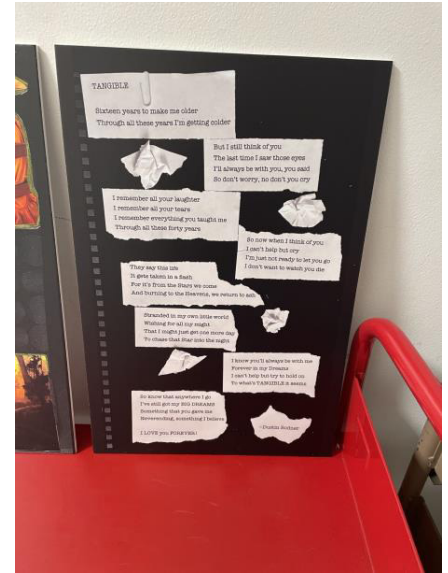
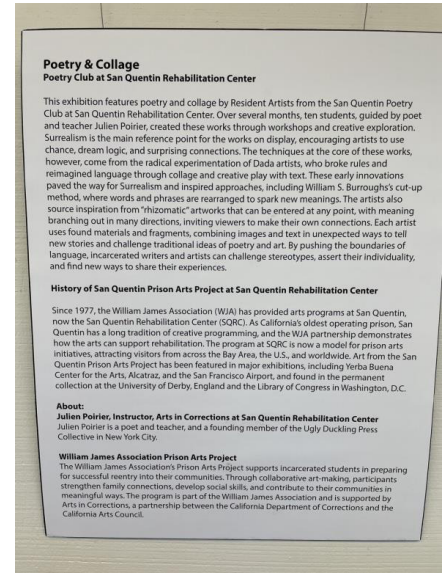
Partnerships were central this month. Corte Madera staff co-hosted the Homework Helpers orientation at the Civic Center, preparing volunteers for the school year ahead. Collaboration with the William James Association and the San Quentin Poetry Club brought poetry and collage workshops into the library, while discussions with Health and Human Services explored a new pilot for a drop-in social services program. These connections highlight the library's role as a convener of learning and community support.

Programs reflected both tradition and innovation. Storytimes, Crafternoon, LEGO play, Read to a Dog, and Drawbridge continued to welcome children and families. On September 14, poets and teachers from the San Quentin Poetry Club and the William James Association led a workshop combining art and words, inviting participants to reflect and create. The Corte Madera Friends approved funding to launch a monthly Spanish Storytime beginning September 18, expanding access for families who prefer bilingual programming. Homework Helpers resumed on September 20, while seniors joined an ESCOM Technology Workshop focused on social media tools.

Outreach extended the library's reach beyond its walls. Staff participated in Hall Middle School's Cougar Prep Day, welcoming students back to school and strengthening ties with educators. The technology workshop with ESCOM provided another bridge for seniors to grow their digital confidence.

Staff development was a highlight this month. Team members registered for Freedom Lifted, a leadership program that centers equity. During a staff meeting, training was offered in hands-only CPR, bleeding injury response, and AED use, ensuring staff are prepared to keep patrons safe.

Facilities work moved steadily forward. Improvements included updates to the garden, deck, restrooms, and HVAC systems, with warranties and manuals now in place. Minor repairs such as screen installation, additional storage shelving,



Corte Madera (Continued)

a refreshed fire sign, and a new community board helped the branch stay welcoming and functional.

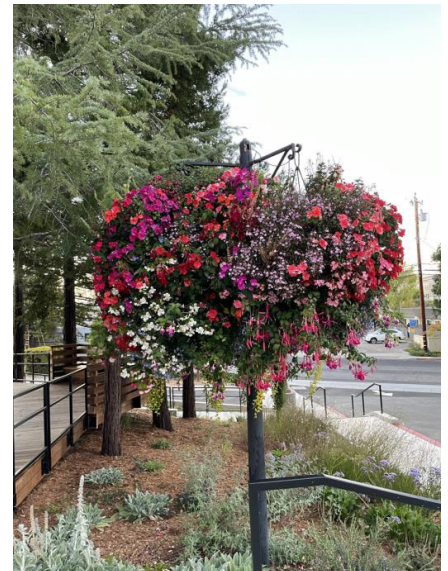
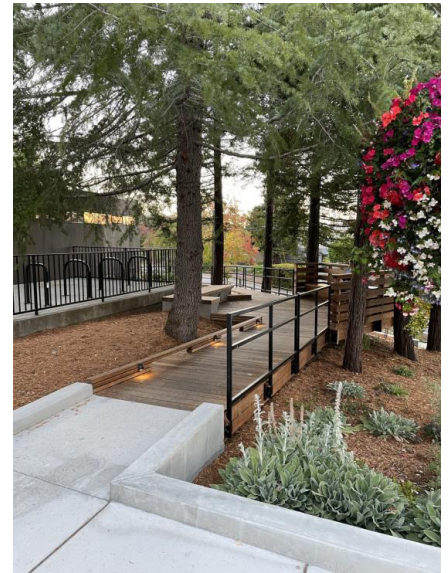
Patron stories underscored the impact of these daily efforts. One mother shared that her family had discovered audiobooks over the summer and now began their mornings by listening to Playaways together on the couch—a screen-free ritual that deepened their bond. Another patron, recognizing a librarian from an online performance, delightedly exclaimed, “That’s my librarian!” Small touches of creativity—like a seasonal bingo card—also sparked enthusiasm, with patrons excited for the “Fall Bingo Drop.” These moments illustrate how the library becomes part of people’s lives in unexpected and joyful ways.

The Friends of Corte Madera continued to provide essential support, adjusting book prices to align with The Book Place, funding the new Spanish Storytime, and exploring new requests for adult programming such as jazz music. The branch also celebrated the arts, with a San Quentin Poetry Club exhibit on display through September 17, followed by a new installation by artist Martha Cederstrom on September 21.

Staff accomplishments were many. Recognition went to those leading the San Quentin Poetry Project, organizing an outstanding Summer of Learning, guiding the literature review, and expanding adult services. Others were celebrated for popular passive programs like puzzle swaps, craft kits, and seasonal bingo, with even more creativity—like a community canning program—on the horizon. Congratulations also go to a team member exploring the pursuit of an MLIS degree, reflecting the library’s culture of professional growth.

Strategic Plan in Action

Throughout the month, the branch’s work echoed the pillars of the Strategic Plan in tangible ways. Joyful Learning was the intention behind the Homework Helpers program and literature reviews, and it came to life in a touching moment when a father and daughter spent an afternoon learning to read together in the children’s room. Collective Impact came into focus through partnerships with Grant Grover School, where student volunteers and their job coach contributed to daily library operations, and through the ongoing tech help sessions that support seniors in navigating the digital world. Community Power emerged in the launch of a youth-led Dungeons & Dragons program, in a Latinx Heritage display that resonated deeply with young readers seeking stories of migration, and in the preparations for the full Sound Advice art exhibit scheduled for July 2026.



Fairfax

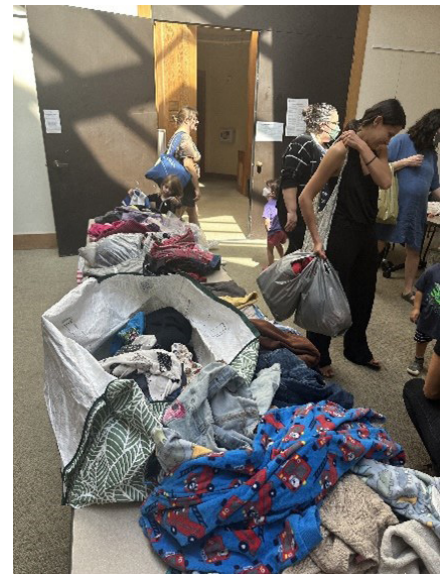
Fairfax Library entered the fall season with renewed energy, deepening partnerships and expanding programs that connect our community in meaningful ways. Staff began the month by preparing for future services, with meetings that extended MCFL's impact beyond the branch. Representatives from AARP worked with Fairfax staff to finalize plans for hosting their tax preparation service in 2026, while the Homework Helpers team attended volunteer orientations to ensure students will be supported throughout the year. Staff also remained engaged in countywide initiatives, from the Racial Equity Alliance to the Strategic Plan Implementation Team. As part of the Library Card Design Contest Committee, Fairfax staff helped bring the project to a successful close and celebrated the community artists whose designs will now be carried in wallets and backpacks across Marin.

Partnerships played an important role in September. Fairfax collaborated with Marin Free Swaps to host a children's clothing swap on September 6, bringing seventy-five community members together for an event that combined sustainability with neighborly connection. DrawBridge continued its well-loved monthly crafts, and interns from Oak Hill School returned from their summer break to support branch operations. Staff also nurtured connections beyond town, with rangers at Samuel P. Taylor State Park receiving regular support for their little library.

Programs reflected the creativity and diversity of Fairfax. In response to strong demand, the library introduced a second weekly Bilingual Storytime, with each session averaging thirty participants. The Homework Helpers program launched with four teen volunteers, two of them brand new to the role. On September 20, the branch pulsed with energy as Salsa Dance Marin brought together patrons of all ages to celebrate Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month through rhythm, movement, and community joy.

Outreach extended the library's reach into surrounding valleys. Staff delivered nearly one hundred donated children's and teen books to the free outreach libraries in Nicasio and San Geronimo Valley, ensuring young readers beyond Fairfax have access to fresh stories and learning opportunities.

Staff training and development continued as a priority. Team members attended ASL for Library Staff to expand accessibility, joined the county's START program for supervisors, and took part in the Literature Review at Corte Madera—where Fairfax staff also presented on nonfiction children's books. The team also began Freedom Lifted's Justice at Work in Public Libraries training, building shared skills for equity and inclusion in daily service.



Facility improvements made the library even more welcoming. New outdoor furniture arrived and has already become a gathering spot for patrons, while the HVAC unit serving the community room was repaired, ensuring comfortable programming spaces.

Patrons responded with enthusiasm throughout the month. Many were excited to trade in their old cards for the colorful new Library Card Contest designs. At the Salsa Dance program, one participant summed up the excitement with a simple statement: "I love music programs like this! Can't wait for the next one."

Staff accomplishments also stood out. Iris Meinof has continued to grow into her new role as a Temporary LII while maintaining her deep connections as children's librarian, ensuring continuity of service while stepping into expanded leadership.

Strategic Plan in Action

September brought moments that reflected the pillars of MCFL's Strategic Plan in lived and tangible ways. Joyful Learning was the intention as local schools returned, with elementary students from the charter school across the street receiving orientations and new library cards, while seventh graders from the local Waldorf school toured the branch and discovered the many opportunities their cards unlock. Collective Impact came into focus when Fairfax staff visited the Fairfax San Anselmo Children's Center twice during the month, bringing storytime to toddlers and preschoolers at this low-income childcare center. The joy of their welcome made clear how much a library presence matters. Community Power emerged on September 14, when forty-eight people gathered at Fairfax Library to honor four local winners of the Library Card Design Contest. Each artist's work was celebrated not only as art, but as a reflection of community creativity carried proudly into daily life.

Inverness

September was a month of transitions and celebration for Inverness Library, as the branch reopened after refresh work while continuing to welcome back schools and community partners. Staff attended several key meetings, including a Youth Literature event at Corte Madera, Branch Refresh planning sessions, and a staff evaluation that marked the successful completion of probation.

Partnerships with schools resumed as West Marin School returned after the summer closure. On September 16 and 17, TK/K and 1st grade classes visited the library, joining storytime and choosing books of their own to take home. These visits were also open to the public, with 31 people attending over the two days, reminding the community that storytime is both a school partnership and a shared neighborhood tradition.

Programming filled the month with opportunities for learning and joy. On September 15, the “Let’s Talk About Books” adult book club met for lively conversation, drawing participants who shared thoughtful recommendations and appreciation for the program. On September 17, the library hosted a party for its Library Card Design Contest winner. To celebrate a young artist’s achievement, staff created an arts and crafts event for children ages 3–8, with about 30 attendees decorating t-shirts inspired by the theme of Library Joy. Later in the month, on September 27, the branch hosted author Elisabeth Ptak and illustrator Michael Starkman at the Jack Mason Museum, where they presented their new book *The Art of Sydney Engelberg*. September also included the monthly Mending Circle, a volunteer-led program that brought five participants together to repair and repurpose clothing and textiles.

Staff welcomed a new Community Library Specialist, Anne Wilson-Siembieda, to the West Marin contingent hire pool. She completed training at Inverness on September 16, and staff also began the Freedom Lifted Justice at Work in Public Libraries training series, reinforcing the branch’s commitment to equity and inclusion.

The long-anticipated Branch Refresh took place September 22–25, with new carpet installed, furniture shifted, and the library reopened on September 26. Staff worked quickly to put the space back together before welcoming patrons again. A garden bench outside the library was identified for repair, and feedback continues to be gathered about driveway furniture in partnership with the Jack Mason Museum.

Patron stories illustrated the impact of these efforts. Many new sign-ups occurred thanks to excitement around the Library Card Contest, and participants in the book

club voiced their appreciation for the program, noting how much they enjoyed the space for discussion and discovery.

The Friends of the Library also stayed engaged. Volunteer Martha Frankel, who serves as treasurer of the Tomales Bay Library Association, agreed to be interviewed for the MarinfoNOW Newsletter, a recognition of her leadership and service to the branch community.

Strategic Plan in Action

The month's work at Inverness Library reflected MCFL's Strategic Plan in visible ways. Joyful Learning was the intention at the Library Card Contest winner's celebration, where children decorated t-shirts inspired by the theme of Library Joy, and in the return visits from West Marin School classes, where young learners dove back into storytime after a three-month break. Collective Impact came into focus in the partnership with West Marin School, which introduced TK/K and 1st grade students to the library's resources and reminded families of the power of shared educational experiences. Community Power emerged in the voices of patrons who celebrated new library cards, in the creativity of young contest winners, and in the gratitude of book club participants who found joy in conversation and connection. These moments together affirmed Inverness Library's role as a space where education, equity, and community pride meet.

Marin City

The past month at Marin City Library has been one of steady collaboration, joyful programming, and community presence. Staff remained active across county and community conversations, participating in the Southern Marin Community Response Team Zone meeting, the Racial Equity Alliance IT meeting, the Children's Services Literature Review, and a Parks meeting to strengthen partnerships that connect residents to library resources and broader civic life.

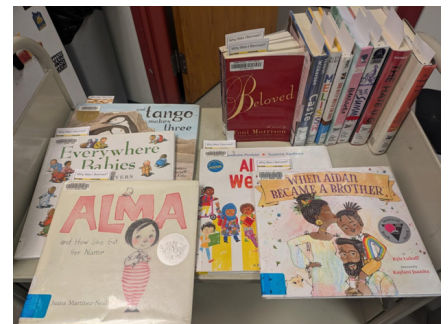
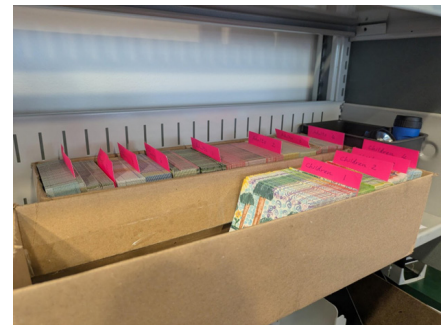
Partnership engagement was a highlight of the month. Planning began for a holiday gathering with Golden Gate Village Resident Services, a continuation of the library's long-standing relationship with residents. Ongoing collaboration with the Golden Gate National Park Service continued to grow, with meetings centered on field trips and shared educational opportunities.

Programs reflected the vibrancy of Marin City. Weekly storytimes in English, Spanish, and Russian continued to welcome families and celebrate the community's multilingual strengths. Film programming brought neighbors together, with Green Book and Zoot Suit screenings that sparked reflection and dialogue. The branch also hosted a Library Card Celebration, preparing for September's Library Card Sign-Up Month, and laid the groundwork for Banned Books Week with passive programming designed to invite conversation and awareness.

Staff extended their reach through outreach events including the Marin City Job & Resource Fair, the CSD BBQ Cook-Off, collaborations with the League of Women Voters, and Performing Stars programs. These appearances not only increased library visibility but also provided families with access to resources, civic engagement opportunities, and spaces for joy.

Internally, staff began the Freedom Lifted trainings, supporting professional growth in equity-centered practices. Facility preparations also advanced: staff discovered potential dry rot above the performance area window, likely due to exterior installation issues, and began the necessary reporting. Looking ahead to the scheduled remodel in January 2026, staff are weeding collections and sorting materials for removal. The Lab is also preparing for expansion into a larger adjacent space, in partnership with Pastor Floyd, which will provide more room for creativity and innovation.

The impact of these efforts is best captured in the stories of patrons. One resident, who had no computer experience and was unable to renew his ID in person at the



DMV, was guided step-by-step by staff in using library technology to complete the process online. In that moment, the library bridged a barrier of access and gave the patron both a renewed ID and a renewed sense of confidence.

Though the Friends of the Library did not meet quorum in September, the branch team carried forward with resilience. Staff gave their all during a busy summer, supporting each other and ensuring the branch continued to thrive.

Strategic Plan in Action

Joyful Learning was the intention at Marin City Library this month, with multilingual storytimes and film programs that offered families and neighbors moments of cultural pride and shared experience. These programs reminded us that learning is not only about information, but about belonging and celebrating the languages, traditions, and stories that shape our community. At the same time, the library's role as a connector was clear. Through ongoing collaborations with resident services, park partners, and local organizations, Collective Impact came into focus, showing how the library works alongside others to amplify resources and create stronger, more connected communities. Community Power emerged in everyday interactions and special celebrations—from the joy of receiving a new library card to participation in civic events—each one centering Marin City voices and stories, and affirming the library as a place where everyone's experience matters.

Novato Library's story was one of connection, growth, and preparation for the future. Staff members extended their reach both locally and nationally, with representatives attending the 8th Annual National Reforma Conference in Long Beach. There, they joined librarians from across the country in conversations about equity, representation, and how libraries can lead the way in creating inclusive spaces for diverse communities. At the same time, back in Novato, staff were laying the groundwork for the Homework Helpers program. Through pre-planning meetings and volunteer orientations, they ensured that teen mentors would be supported as they step into roles helping younger students grow academically and gain confidence.

Collaboration was at the heart of the month. Marin Master Gardeners returned to partner on another successful seed and plant swap, and the League of Women Voters contributed to civic engagement efforts that keep the library anchored in community life. Staff also deepened their participation with the Racial Equity Alliance Communications & Marketing team, ensuring that Novato's local perspective contributes to countywide equity-centered messaging.

Inside the branch, programming reflected the joyful energy of the community. Storytime continued to thrive, with Colors of Spanish averaging 60 attendees and Books & Bubbles reaching 70. By alternating the two offerings, families now know they can count on a Storytime every Wednesday, and attendance at the bilingual program has doubled. The All Abilities Club gathered for its second meeting, creating inclusive opportunities for participants, while teens reconnected through Crafternoon and the relaunch of the Level II Video Game Club. A survey distributed to teens invited them to shape the library's video game collection, ensuring their voices guide what the library offers. Beyond these programs, the library also promoted a free, virtual college admissions workshop that supported families navigating one of the most important transitions in a student's life.

Outreach carried the library's impact well beyond its walls. Staff delivered library card applications in advance to a Novato school to make sure every student could receive a card during their class visit. The Youth Services team launched two monthly newsletters for educators—one for primary and one for secondary teachers—and hand-delivered copies to every teacher and media specialist in the Novato Unified School District. At the San Marin High School Wellness Fair, staff members connected with students by offering free books and craft kits, reinforcing the library as a resource for wellness, creativity, and a sense of belonging.



Staff development was also a theme this month. Team members enrolled in the County's START program to build supervisory skills, presented at the Book Lit. event at Corte Madera, and participated in trainings on emergency preparedness, racial equity, and the upcoming MCFL Youth Poet Laureate program. These opportunities reflect a commitment not only to personal growth, but to the library's role as a convener and leader in equity and safety.

Facility improvements moved forward as DPW installed a keyless entry system, making access easier for all staff. Yet challenges remain, as the branch's third bookdrop remains out of service due to mechanical failure.

The community's gratitude was evident in small but meaningful ways. After one Books & Bubbles Storytime, two adults introduced themselves as new to the branch and expressed appreciation for both the program and the help they received finding Where's Waldo books. Their thanks underscored how welcoming programs can be the doorway into lasting community connection.

The Friends of the Library also carried forward their work, drafting a mission statement and debating whether to continue sales of their popular "Everyone is Welcome at the Library" t-shirts. Their efforts highlight the Friends' essential role in sustaining Novato's visibility and values.

Staff contributions deserve recognition as well. Two team members, Ruth Itzun and Alfredo Limeta, continue to grow in their temporary roles as Library Desk Supervisors, offering leadership and consistency while the position undergoes reclassification.

Strategic Plan in Action

Through these efforts, Novato Library lived out MCFL's Strategic Plan. The Homework Helpers program reflected Joyful Learning, with teen mentors creating pathways of discovery for younger students. The realignment of Storytimes demonstrated Collective Impact, resulting in a doubling of attendance and an increase in family engagement. Through surveys, inclusive clubs, and partnerships, Novato amplified Community Power, ensuring that the voices of teens, families, and community partners guide its future.

Point Reyes

This September, staff participated in countywide planning and local partnerships, including contributing to the Racial Equity Alliance Steering Committee's preparations for All Staff Day, attending the Shoreline Community Meeting on September 8 to strengthen the SUSD community schools partnership, and hosting the Early Learning Collaborative Action Network (ELCAN) on September 10, which brought together early learning and literacy leaders focused on children ages 0–5.

Partnerships were a strong highlight this month. Staff delivered 25 Family Reading Bags to Inverness TK classrooms, bringing early literacy tools directly into the hands of young learners. DrawBridge partnered with the branch to host an arts program during the very first Reading Buddies session, weaving creativity into literacy support. Staff also supported the launch of the refreshed West Marin School library, which reopened on August 29, providing students and families with a vibrant, welcoming space for learning.

Programming reflected the energy of fall with the successful launch of Reading Buddies and Book Scouts, two programs designed to strengthen youth engagement with reading and exploration. The Polyhedra Party, paired with artist Stacy Speyer's reception for A New Language, connected art, math, and community in playful ways. The Spanish Services Librarian began monthly visits to the Nicasio School library, bringing bilingual access to students, while also leading the countywide Latinx Heritage Celebration and producing a flyer that lifted the celebration across all of MCFL.

Outreach kept Point Reyes staff visible in community spaces. In late August, the branch connected with neighbors at the Tomales Festival, presented at the annual Children's Literature Review in Corte Madera, and joined the West Marin Connect countywide resource fair on September 21. Staff also partnered in planning the upcoming Fiesta de las Américas and hosted an Electric Vehicle presentation at the library that drew 20 attendees interested in sustainable practices.

Staff invested in their own growth by beginning the Freedom Lifted training series and onboarding new CLS substitutes. Librarian Madeline Bryant traveled to New Mexico to attend the Rural Libraries Conference, bringing back fresh insights and connections to strengthen service at Point Reyes.

Facility preparations also moved ahead with early planning for the November refresh, which will ensure the branch remains a welcoming and functional space for the community.

Point Reyes (Continued)

Patron stories this month highlighted the library as a place of inspiration. Dowie, the branch's Sprint delivery driver, was so moved by Jennifer Thompson's library staff portraits on display that he reached out to the artist directly for a custom piece of his own. This unexpected connection between art and daily service showed how the library sparks creativity beyond its walls.

The Friends of the Library continued their behind-the-scenes support, while Teen WebStars Elena Rodoni and Lucy Cooper played instrumental roles in assisting with special projects and programs, their contributions ensuring events and new initiatives ran smoothly.

Strategic Plan in Action

The work at Point Reyes this month reflected the pillars of MCFL's Strategic Plan in meaningful and visible ways. Joyful Learning was the intention behind the launch of Reading Buddies and Book Scouts, programs that fostered excitement for reading and discovery among young learners. Collective Impact came into focus through ELCAN's work on the countywide Ages and Stages tracking system, where Point Reyes staff helped connect library services with broader child development efforts. Community Power emerged at the Shoreline Community Meeting, where MCFL stood as an active partner in the SUSD community schools model, affirming the library's role as both a resource and a convener in West Marin.

South Novato

September was a month of growth, innovation, and community connection at the South Novato Library. The branch manager continued her role in the countywide Marin Mentorship Program, meeting with her mentee from Health & Human Services, while staff worked closely with the Assistant Library Director to plan the budget for this year's English Language Learners program. These efforts are building a stronger foundation for services that directly respond to the community's needs.

Partnerships were especially impactful this month. South Novato expanded its collaboration with the Public Authority of Marin to extend English Language classes for caretakers, a move that will add 30 new students in January to the 45 already enrolled. Staff also visited Novato Unified School District's English Language Advisory Council to connect with 45 parents and caregivers, sharing resources, collections, and online tools. These conversations created meaningful bridges between families and the library.

Programming reflected the energy of the fall season. The Library Buddies program launched its fall session with Dominican University student service learners tutoring 18 young students, all Spanish speakers, with 60% bilingual. Alongside this, 13 students registered for Next Literacy Level, a recurring program where high school students learn research and writing from bilingual Dominican tutors. Bilingual Reading Buddies sessions filled the library every Tuesday and Wednesday evening, creating a welcoming space for practice and mentorship. New programming also responded directly to community voice: when a young patron requested a chess club, staff created one, and each week elementary school children now gather to learn the game and build skills together.

Outreach remained a core focus. Staff met families at the Farmer's Market, distributed books and resources, and led the Hamilton Moms group in exploring library services available in Spanish. These interactions helped ensure that South Novato families know the library is a partner in their daily lives.

Investing in staff continued to shape the month. South Novato's Youth Working for Change intern transitioned into a Webstar internship, extending his contribution to the library. Community Library Specialists continued CLINIC training and shadowing legal service providers at VIDAS and Canal Alliance, preparing to expand the library's ability to support patrons seeking immigration services.

The team also made strides in creating spaces for equity and service. Staff collaborated to add a new workstation and establish an Education Equity Workspace to better serve youth-focused initiatives. Yet the library continues to



South Novato (Continued)

face a critical long-term need: a permanent building large enough to match the community's growth, collection, programs, services, and dreams.

Novato Library intern, returned with a new idea for her school service-learning project: reviving her wildly popular youth nail art and design program. Another patron delighted in discovering *The Monkey on the Lucky Day shelf*, offering a five-star review, while a sixth grader lit up at the sight of an illustrated edition of *The Sorcerer's Stone* and eagerly checked it out. These moments reflected both the joy and discovery that continue to ripple through the library every day.

The Friends of the Novato Library continued their own exploration this month, experimenting with generative AI to workshop new vision and mission statement ideas. Meanwhile, staff managed more mundane challenges—like an ongoing battle with ants—but also found inspiration from beyond Marin, with a staff member sharing photos of unique offerings at other libraries, including a beehive installation.

Strategic Plan in Action

The work at South Novato this month reflected the pillars of MCFL's Strategic Plan in lived and tangible ways. Joyful Learning was the intention behind the launch of the new Chess Club, which grew directly from a young patron's request and quickly filled with eager elementary students learning and playing together. Collective Impact came into focus as the Community Library Specialist for Adult & Spanish Services joined the County of Marin's LatinX affinity group (MCOLE) to help plan cultural and educational celebrations for Latinx Heritage Month, ensuring South Novato's voice contributed to countywide collaboration. Community Power emerged in the early planning for Primavera 2026, as staff partnered with Dominican University, the Asian American Alliance of Marin, UC Berkeley, and the Multicultural Center of Marin to envision a celebration of multicultural heritage that will also highlight the urgent issue of climate justice. Together, these efforts affirmed South Novato's role as a library where equity, creativity, and community voice drive the future.

Bookmobile

September was a month of connection and new beginnings for the Bookmobile. Staff participated in several key meetings, including the Children's Services meeting where a thoughtful discussion was led on the alienating overuse of acronyms, as well as preparations for All Staff Day, where the Bookmobile team will assist with operations. They also joined the Youth Poets Program Orientation, brainstorming how Teen Marin Poet Laureate ambassadors might create safe and creative spaces to share their voices more widely through the library and beyond.

Partnerships continued to flourish. The team partnered for the first time with the YMCA at their Los Gatos Back to School event on September 6, where around 50 patrons of all ages climbed aboard. This partnership has already led to invitations for return visits. The Bookmobile also became a regular presence at the Sunday Farmers' Market, matching its established Thursday market schedule. While the expanded schedule has been a challenge, it has brought the library to one of the county's most vibrant markets, an effort applauded by Supervisor Sackett. At Pickleweed Library, now closed for renovations, the Bookmobile returned twice to serve the canal community. With the help of Carolyn Botts, bilingual services—including Spanish storytime—were reintroduced, reminding families that the library continues to show up for them during the closure.

Programming also looked ahead. The Bookmobile team is planning to follow the lead of youth poet laureate Anaya Ertz to create multiple events reaching teens and diverse communities, including a proposed visit to Juvenile Hall. In the meantime, outreach continued at the YMCA event and at Juvenile Hall, where collaboration with the lead teacher and students created meaningful connections. Watching the teens' excitement when receiving new books reinforced the impact of bringing the library into nontraditional spaces.

Professional development kept staff busy as well. The supervisor completed a training session and enrolled in the upcoming countywide series, while staff prepared to attend the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Conference. Facility updates were focused on regular maintenance and inspections, with mileage milestones and safety checks on the horizon. Staff also continue to advocate for ergonomic upgrades that will make their work more sustainable.

The month brought heartfelt patron stories. The team bid farewell to Betty, a 106-year-old long-time "heavy-holder" patron who has now relocated to Santa Rosa. Betty's resilience and love of books inspired staff for years, and efforts are underway to connect her with Sonoma County outreach services. At Nicasio



Bookmobile (Continued)

School, students enjoyed reviewing honorable mention library card designs and the winning entries, delighting in seeing art from their peers represented in the community. These moments highlighted the personal ways the Bookmobile touches lives and celebrates creativity.

The work would not have been possible without the dedication of staff and partners. Staff support one another during coverage changes to ensure seamless service throughout the year.

Strategic Plan in Action

The Bookmobile's efforts in September reflected the pillars of MCFL's Strategic Plan in clear and inspiring ways. Joyful Learning was the intention behind visits to Laguna School for its first day of school celebration, where students received new library cards and checked out books, and in bilingual storytimes offered with the help of partners. Collective Impact came into focus through the ongoing work at Juvenile Hall, where visits twice a month have given teens the chance to see themselves in books and even share illustrated request lists of the materials they hope to read. The library card design contest also reinforced this impact, with community-created art proudly displayed on the bus and met with excitement by patrons, especially youth. Community Power emerged through staff participation in the Freedom Lifted training, which has inspired new ideas for strengthening ties with communities the Bookmobile has yet to fully reach, including the Coast Miwok community. Together, these stories demonstrate how the Bookmobile continues to extend the library's reach with creativity, equity, and care.

Learning Bus

The Learning Bus returned this fall with renewed energy, beginning the new school year with excitement, play, and discovery. Staff joined West Marin's Early Learning Collaborative Action Network to align data on children under age five and to discuss tools like the Ages and Stages Questionnaire that help track early development. These collaborations are essential to ensuring the Learning Bus continues to meet families where they are and support their youngest learners.

Partnerships grew stronger with new connections to the Healthy Families Marin Home Visiting Program and First 5 Marin's Help Me Grow initiative. Early meetings with both organizations opened pathways to bring more families onto the bus and link early childhood education directly with family support networks.

The start of the school year brought an outpouring of families. Within the first three weeks, 67 families registered for Learning Bus programs, including many familiar faces and several new infants under the age of one. Curriculum centered on pre-academic concepts like numbers, letters, colors, and shapes, explored through hands-on activities such as name art, mixing primary colors, and number collages. These joyful learning experiences made the bus a hub of curiosity and creativity as children reentered the rhythm of the school year.

Outreach extended the impact of this work. The Learning Bus joined a countywide car seat giveaway series in West Marin, connecting families with children under five to safety guidance, brand-new car seats, joyful learning activities, and free books. The event, held September 26 at Point Reyes Dance Palace, was supported by a participatory budget grant and multiple partners including the West Marin Fund, Marin Promise Partnership, Parent Services Project, and the Post Partum Support Center.

Staff invested in their own growth this fall. The team completed basic Sierra training to begin opening library cards for families who do not yet have them. This new skill will help integrate Learning Bus families more fully into the MCFL system. Staff also celebrated facility improvements, including the installation of a new awning and the discovery and repair of the onboard heater—great news heading into cooler months. Work continues with the county garage and a specialty vehicle shop in Petaluma to improve seat ergonomics for drivers.

Families have welcomed the bus's return with joy. Parents shared their gratitude at being able to reconnect after the summer and watch their children reengage with books, play, and storytelling. Staff, too, were recognized for their dedication, with



Elisa and Monica earning special appreciation for the hard work they poured into preparing for the school year and for the joy they bring to families each day.

Strategic Plan in Action

The Learning Bus embodied MCFL's Strategic Plan this month through its daily presence in the community. Joyful Learning was the intention behind the launch of new themed book bags, more than 100 collections carefully curated in English and Spanish around topics like pizza, unicorns, and dancing. Families can now take these bags home, swap them at their next visit, and build early reading skills through playful storytime tips included inside. Collective Impact came into focus through the Equity Summers and Play for All partnerships, where the Learning Bus worked alongside community organizations to create equitable opportunities for play and learning across Marin. Community Power emerged as the Learning Bus established a weekly presence at Golden Gate Village in Marin City, following its summer appearance at the playground's grand opening. By showing up directly where families live, the Learning Bus expanded access, strengthened relationships, and affirmed that library services belong to everyone.

Library Beyond Walls

September was a month of deepening connections for Library Beyond Walls (LBW), as staff worked across Marin to bring library resources to communities who otherwise face barriers to access. Meetings with partners set the stage for expanded services, including planning with the Marin Housing Authority to explore logistics for ATL services at six low-income housing sites, discussions with Contempo Marin volunteers about mailing service options, and collaboration with Kruger Pines on the installation of a new library cabinet. Staff also participated in county trainings, from substance abuse awareness to budget and strategic plan discussions, ensuring LBW remains grounded in both best practices and MCFL's broader equity goals.

Partnerships thrived throughout the month. Bi-weekly Read-Alouds at ARC Marin for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and at Marin Venture for adults with IDD continued to bring the joy of reading directly to participants. Cedars of Marin welcomed LBW staff for Read-Alouds and ATL visits, where participants engaged with books, audiobooks, and discussion in ways that sparked creativity and connection. A new partnership was formed with Karma Club Teen Services, with plans for quarterly presentations and ongoing collaboration. LBW also strengthened ties with senior communities, from launching a new book club and tech help hours at a senior center to opening conversations with the Redwoods about future service opportunities. In total, LBW issued 27 new MCFL library cards this month, thereby extending access to patrons who might otherwise be excluded.

Programming reflected this wide reach. Seniors gathered for book clubs and technology support, bridging digital divides and building community at the same time. New presentations were offered at West Marin Health and Human Services, and an ATL orientation with Side By Side's Transition Age Youth program gave staff tools to support young people in transition. At the county's Senior Fair, LBW joined colleagues to host an outreach table, share resources, answer questions, and give away books. LBW staff also supported the Learning Bus at the Performing Stars event, bringing visibility and resources to families and children across Marin.

Patron voices carried the strongest stories this month. At ARC Marin, program director Jay Frantz shared that those participants had "never been as enthusiastic as when you bring the library to our office," praising the introduction of Playaway audiobooks for sparking new curiosity. At Cedars of Marin, director Maggie O'Melveny described the impact of a Read-Aloud on one older adult who had lived through poverty, discrimination, and illiteracy: receiving a library card and fully

Library Beyond Walls

engaging with the program was “beyond special to watch.” At Contempo Marin, the Community Engagement Coordinator texted to say, “Our community really, really appreciates you!” while the JFCS Memory Café coordinator reflected on the “many options” LBW presented for film and music discussions. Staff at Side By Side’s TAY program expressed heartfelt thanks, noting that their team was “blown away by the information” and was excited to share it with the youth. These testimonials underscore the profound impact of bringing the library beyond its walls: it creates access, joy, and dignity for patrons who are often left out.

Strategic Plan in Action

LBW’s September work aligned strongly with MCFL’s Strategic Plan. Joyful Learning was evident in every Read-Aloud, book club, and discussion group where patrons engaged with stories in new ways. Collective Impact was achieved through partnerships with housing authorities, senior centers, disability programs, and youth organizations, where the library joined forces to extend resources further. Community Power was visible in moments when patrons claimed ownership of their library cards, their stories, and their right to belong in the library community.

Technical Services

In September, the Technical Services team continued to play a pivotal role in strengthening both the library's behind-the-scenes operations and its direct service to patrons. Staff participated in key meetings with OverDrive, Hoopla, and the eBook Taskforce, each centered on improving digital access for MCFL patrons—whether by prioritizing local holds, refining cost strategies, or lowering barriers such as checkout limits. Work also advanced with Kruger Pines on the new LibCabinet project, including purchasing materials for its first collection, and finalizing specifications for the Automatic Materials Handling system in partnership with Envisionware and Lygsoe.

Partnership engagement this month was vibrant. April Harper and Katrina Sadler participated in the California Writers Forum at Mill Valley Public Library, offering writers insight into library operations and opportunities for connection. Technical Services also deepened collaboration with Healthy Families Marin, led by Michelle Hirsch, to ensure bilingual families in Marin continue to receive high-quality distribution items. These relationships underscore how Technical Services supports both the cultural and practical needs of our communities.

Staff invested in their own professional growth through the Freedom Lifted training series, Justice at Work in Public Libraries, and two Library Journal webinars—Demonstrating the Impact of Libraries and Community Co-Design. Facility work also moved forward in tandem, with continued coordination at 1600 Los Gatos to prepare space for the new Automatic Materials Handling system.

The Digital Library team expanded the library's online offerings by creating new resource pages, one focused on Voting and Election Resources and another celebrating Fall activities. For the Latinx Heritage Celebration, they curated carousels highlighting events, collections, and resources, ensuring visibility and easy access for patrons.

Technology upgrades made significant progress. The Windows 11 Project moved ahead quickly, with 142 computers upgraded by mid-September, and plans to replace older machines that cannot support the new operating system. The Branch Refresh Project also began, preparing Inverness Library as the first site where new computing equipment and copiers will integrate with Envisionware to allow patrons to use printing allocations for copies and scans. Staff also conducted final interviews for the vacant Technology Support Specialist II position, with the goal of improving response times once the role is filled.



Technical Services (Continued)

Amid all this, the team continued the essential day-to-day work of ordering, receiving, cataloging, and delivery management. Staff stepped up to cover the workload during a vacancy, with notable contributions from Jessica Anisman and Nathan Kelly, who devoted over five weeks to resolving uncatalogued paperback tasks. The dedication of the entire team ensured seamless service during a particularly busy period.

Strategic Plan in Action

The work of Technical Services this month reflected the pillars of MCFL's Strategic Plan in meaningful ways. Joyful Learning was the intention behind ongoing support for branch book clubs, enhanced with Lucky Day funds that made popular titles available for community reading and discussion. Collective Impact came into focus with the Kruger Pines LibCabinet partnership, a county facility serving low-income and elderly residents. This project, supported by MARINet and Envisionware, will soon offer 24/7 access to library materials in a trusted community space. Community Power emerged as staff hosted tabling sessions at branches, engaging directly with patrons to explain collection development and invite feedback. These conversations reaffirmed the role of Technical Services as both a steward of resources and a listener, shaping collections that reflect the community's voice.

Communications & Publicity

In a month of celebration, connection, and storytelling across the system, Marketing & Communications played a vital role in amplifying those moments. At the Civic Center Library, the team helped make the Library Card Design Contest party especially memorable by capturing photos and video of winners as they were honored, ensuring the joy of the celebration could be shared widely.

To mark Latinx Heritage Month, Marketing designed a modern acronym graphic celebrating Latin heritage and created the September newsletter, which highlighted programs, booklists, and resources that honored Latinx voices. At the same time, banners and stories celebrated other milestones across the system — from a vibrant campaign for Library Card Sign-Up Month to the launch of Estante Infinito, MCFL’s new Spanish-language digital resource.

Internally, the team also supported staff through communications for All Staff Day, encouraging everyone to bring a personal memento to connect with the day’s theme and purpose. To make the event feel cohesive and memorable, Marketing produced a full design kit that personalized the experience and reinforced staff connection to MCFL’s mission.

Strategic Plan in Action

Through these efforts, Marketing & Communications advanced Joyful Learning by connecting staff and patrons to new resources, celebrated Collective Impact by amplifying Latinx Heritage Month across branches and communications, and elevated Community Power by capturing and sharing community voices through the Library Card Design Contest celebration.



Library Commission HR Insights

Strengthening Our Team: Introducing New Members

Libraries are built on people as much as books. We're proud to welcome new colleagues who will help us inspire, serve, and connect with our community.

Correction: In the previous report, Jane Huber, Library Aide at Corte Madera, was incorrectly listed as Jane Hoover. Thanks for your understanding as we clarify this detail.

- **Griselda Leon-Gonzalez “Gracie”** is joining the Administration Office as our new Administrative Assistant II.
- **Bianca Alper** demonstrated her leadership and has been promoted in the California Room from Librarian I to Librarian II

Recruitment Roundup: Open Roles and Progress Updates

We're building a stronger team! Our recruitment efforts are underway to bring skilled and motivated individuals into roles that support our mission.

- **Librarian II** at the Marin City – First interviews are scheduled for October 7, 2025
- **Librarian I** in the California Room – First interviews are scheduled for October 13, 2025
- **Library Aide** at the Fairfax branch – Initial interviews were held in September, and Library HR is now moving forward with in-person interviews scheduled for October 2025.
- **Technology Systems Specialist II** at Technology Support Services – Recruitment efforts will restart to bring in the most qualified applicant.
- **Library Assistant II** at the Fairfax branch – A recruitment plan is in progress.

Chasing the Finish Line: A Year of Growth, A Future of Possibility

As 2025 draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on what has truly made this year remarkable: our people. Every new face we've welcomed, every colleague who has stepped into a new role, and every promotion that has strengthened our team has brought us closer to our vision of a fully staffed, thriving department.

What once felt like an impossible milestone is now within reach. Just a few years ago, aiming for an 8% vacancy rate seemed like a lofty goal, almost too ambitious to imagine. Yet here we are—steadily turning the extraordinary into the new normal.

Library Commission HR Insights (Continued)

But as our team knows so well, progress invites the next challenge. Could 2026 be the year we set our sights even higher—or rather, lower? Could 6% be the number that defines our next chapter?

The journey isn't just about numbers—it's about the dedication, passion, and resilience of every person who makes our department stronger. Each hire, each promotion, each moment of growth represents not just progress on a chart, but lives changed, opportunities opened, and a future we are building together.

So stay tuned, because we may soon have even more to celebrate. The finish line of 2025 is in sight, but the race toward excellence is only just beginning.

Director's Report

The branch refreshes have begun! We are redoing our spaces this fall and continuing this work through Summer 2026, thanks to the voter-supported parcel tax, Measure B! I recently visited the Inverness Branch in West Marin, which was the first of our refreshes to be completed in September. New carpet was installed, along with outdoor furniture in the front and back of the library. What an incredibly special place this library is, for all ages. I was captured by the children's area which was so inviting on a sunny day. I could easily imagine a child sitting at the table coloring and creating a memory of the library for years to come. The Inverness Library is only one of the many of our branches that are a valued and cherished community hub. Next up in our remodel schedule is Stinson Beach Library, then Point Reyes. Please see our updates and current schedule here marinlibrary.org/refresh, and we will continue to report out on our exciting progress to the community.

The Marin County Board of Supervisors recognized October 5-11, 2025 as Banned Books Week in Marin County on September 30. We celebrated this honor with a display of Banned Books in the central lobby off Board Chambers in the Civic Center building. Books such as the Diary of Anne Frank, The Giver, Where the Wild Things Are, and I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings were all featured as books that had been challenged in a public library or school setting. Banned Books Week honors our rights to information and ideas. It uplifts that censorship of any kind is a threat to our democracy. Several members of the Library Commission, Friends of the Library and League of Women Voters provided public comment on the privilege and right we have to access information in our public libraries and that we must always maintain access for all people. For more information on Banned Books, visit: bannedbooksweek.org. Below are the comments I provided to the Board on this item:

Thank you to the Board, Supervisor Colbert and the Marin Banned Books Committee for bringing this item forward. I am Lana Adlawan, Director of County Library Services and this is the day for libraries, for the prioritization of information and access in our society and truly welcoming all through our doors.

As I stand here as your County Librarian, I would not be in this position without the public library. They opened doors to resources for me as a young child, provided the opportunity to explore all and any subject that came to mind, were a respite from a complicated world, and had knowledgeable and dedicated staff who supported me in my journey through graduate school and this profession. What a marvel the public library and our resources were for just one individual. Today, we celebrate our freedom to read and to read fully. Today we prioritize this right for every citizen, of any age. Today, and ongoing, we emphasize that our libraries and the information they contain celebrate our collective diversity, promote belonging and representation in our society, and that access to information is a universal and just right.

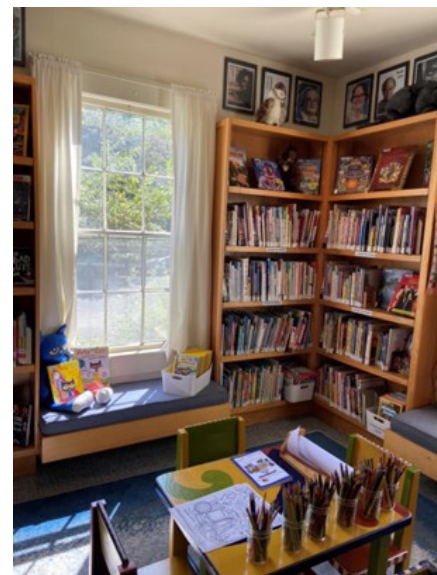


Image: Children's Room in Inverness Library



Image: Banned Books Display in Marin County Board of Supervisors Chambers

Director's Report (Continued)

Thank you for this recognition and acknowledgement of books, literature and information in Marin County.

I also attended the Municipal Management Association of Northern California Equity Summit in Sacramento, with representatives from different municipalities from across Northern California. The theme of the conference was Cultivating Hope and Action for a Brighter Future, with four main outcomes:

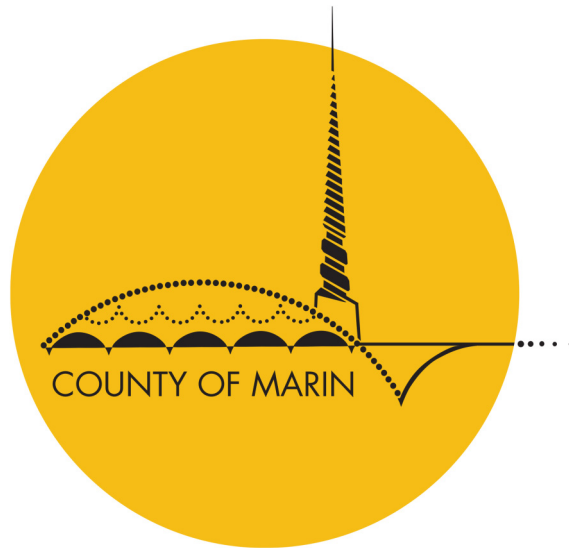
- Gain actionable strategies: Learn practical approaches to embed equity into policies, programs, and daily operations.
- Network with peers: Connect with municipal leaders and professionals who share a commitment to fostering inclusive communities.
- Hear from experts: Engage with thought leaders and practitioners at the forefront of equity and inclusion.
- Contribute to a vital conversation: Be part of the ongoing dialogue that shapes the future of municipal management in Northern California.

During a time of incredible change, both in our local and national spheres, this was an inspiring space to connect with peers in continuing to plan and strategize in how to provide the best service to all community members. We are fortunate to have leaders across Northern California doing amazing things in service to their community members, ensuring they listen and learn, especially to the most marginalized and impacted communities of need, as we do here at Marin County Free Library.

Lana



Lana Adlawan,
Director of County Library Services



THANK YOU

As we reflect on another season of growth, creativity, and connection, we are grateful for the continued guidance and support of the Library Commission. Your dedication helps us expand opportunities, nurture equity, and celebrate the voices of our diverse communities. Thank you for championing the work of MCFL and for walking alongside us as we bring joy, learning, and belonging to Marin. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant library for all.
