

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION



Lana Adlawan
Director of County Library Services

Library Administration
3051 Civic Center Drive
Suite 414
San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone: 415.473.3220
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CRS 711

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION Proposed Agenda Wednesday, December 10, 2025 4:00 p.m.

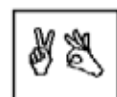
Marin County Civic Center

3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 324A, San Rafael, CA 94903

Directions: Take Highway 101, taking the San Pedro exit north of San Rafael, proceed east to the traffic light, turn left at the light. Turn left to main Civic Center Administration Building. There is ample parking available close to the building, with no evening hour limitations. Take the elevator to the 3rd Floor and head toward the Board of Supervisors. The door to 324 is to the left and the door to 324A is at the short hall.

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>
<u>4:00pm</u>		
(1 min) 1.	Call to Order	Christian Action
(5 min) 2.	Welcome, Introductions & Meeting Agreements	Christian Information
(1 min) 3.	Approval of Agenda	Christian Action
(1 min) 4.	Approval of November 12, 2025 meeting minutes	Christian Action
(varies) 5.	Open Time for Public Expression	Christian Information
(5 min) 6.	Announcements/Book Recommendation(s)	Christian Information
(3 min) 7.	Reading & Correspondence File Comments	Christian Information
(5 min) 8.	President's Report	Christian Information
(5 min) 9.	Director's Report for October	Adlawan Information
(5 min) 12.	Adjournment	Christian Action
<u>4:30pm</u>		



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 November 12, 2025
5. Library Director's Report for November 2025

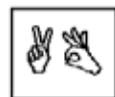
Unnumbered Attachments:

MARINet October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Marin County Free Library

3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite #414, San Rafael CA 94903

www.marinlibrary.org



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Fairfax Library
2097 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Fairfax CA 94930

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.

--PROPOSED MINUTES--

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

- (1) CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm. Glynda Christian welcomed everyone to the meeting and started with introductions.

- (2) ROLL CALL

In Attendance

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

Absent with Notification

Amelia Lahn
Claudia Wilson

Absent Without Notification

Sally Hauser

Also Present

Lana Adlawan, Director of County Library Services
Raemona Little Taylor, Assistant Director of Public Services
Juliet Schiller, Assistant Director of Support Services
Gracie Leon, Administrative Assistant II
Jesse Lumb, Community Library Specialist, Bookmobile
Brooklyn Swanson, Mobile Library Assistant, Bookmobile
Alejandra Cruz, Learning Bus Program Coordinator
Elisa Lacerda, Mobile Library Assistant, Learning Bus

- (3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S/C – Anya Schandler/Ann Kaplan approved as submitted.
- (4) ADOPTION OF September and October 2025 MINUTES M/S/C – Linda Ward/Ann Kaplan approved as submitted.

- (5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION – No member of the public.
- (6) ANNOUNCEMENT / BOOK RECOMMENDATION(S) – No announcements. This month's book recommendation was from Nick Javaras. Nick spoke about the book *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende.
- (7) READING & CORRESPONDENCE FILE – Materials were sent to the Library Commission prior to meeting.
- (8) PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Glynda thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed them to a new month. Reminding the commission to think about continuing to do good work and what is important, thinking about what we (the commission) can do to help those in our community who need to be uplifted and supported. She mentioned Marin Organizing Committee (MOC) that meets every month to support housing, immigration and other issues affecting Marin. If membership wanted to know more about it to speak with her after the meeting. She asked the commission to think about 'what keeps you up at night' to possibly write that down during the month as something to speak about during the meetings and to be the best civic selves and best commissioners of our libraries. She spoke about the open commission spaces and the 3 vacancies, asking for help for those in the districts with openings to speak with their communities and bring forth possible new memberships. She thanked everyone and to keep doing the good work.
- (9) DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR October – Lana wanted to keep her report brief but highlight the work around the food insecurity response the library had and the full team getting the word out. The other item she wanted to mention the West Marin Vehicle project and how that was a goal for 2025-26 fiscal year and that project is on track. This vehicle will be very flexible for the community and there had been a lot of community input into that new project. The commission was reminded about the free training with Freedom Lifted and we will be sharing more information this month.
- (10) OLD BUSINESS-
 - a. Library Commission Packet & Attendance – Commission voted to keep printed packets but decided that color was not needed except for necessary items such as excel spreadsheets. Discussed possible bylaw changes regarding attendance- no action taken. Regarding the attendance bylaws this will be brought forward to a future meeting.
 - b. Establishment of Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Committee – Glynda asked for Volunteers to form a Strategic Plan Committee to create a survey. Doug, Ted, and Glynda volunteered
- (11) NEW BUSINESS –
 - a. Mobile Outreach – Jesse Lumb, Brooklyn Swanson, Alejandra Cruz, and Elisa Lacerda presented.

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

BOOK MOBILE



Our Staff



Carolyn Botts



Terry Jones

Outreach Across the County

Who We Serve

All Five Districts of Marin Including:

- Child Development Centers
- Senior Living Communities
- Remote Schools and Neighborhoods
- Civic Center Farmer's Markets
- Local Food Pantries
- Community Pop-up Events



1948

1950s-1960s

1980s

1990s

2000s

2012-Present



Equity Analysis

We are collecting data and working with the Office of Equity to create criteria to determine which stops are equitable and which unreached populations we can add to our schedule!

Sunday Farmer's Market



Third largest weekly market in California

Folks come from all over the Bay

President Mary Sackett requested a library presence for this massive market.

Civic Center building was too complicated to open on Sundays
Bookmobile said yes!

We join on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month

Changes on the Bus



- New vinyl wrap!
- Outward facing bins
- Ukuleles available for check-out!
- Mental Health Shelf
- Staff Picks Shelf
- Expanded our Large Type Collection
- Interfiled Spanish throughout the bus
- Banned Books Shelf
- WhaZoodle pilot. A new screenless audio device for kids!



West Marin Wednesdays





Programs



Community Partners



Looking Ahead

- Continue to fine tune criteria for equitable stops
- 50% DEI books on shelves
- Bookmobile Book Club and Podcast
- Branch Refresh Project coverage

Future Collaborations:

- Juvenile Hall Book Club
- Marin Youth Poet Laureate Programs
- San Quentin BEBS partnership
- Community Action Marin outreach at the Hamilton unhoused community



Outreach in the Mud



Outreach Beyond the Bus



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT OF MCFL!





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & FAMILY OUTREACH



M C MARIN COUNTY
F L FREE LIBRARY
BIBLIOTECA



THE LEARNING BUS OFFERS FREE ENGLISH AND SPANISH ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AGES 0 TO 5, INCLUDING BABIES, TODDLERS, AND PRESCHOOLERS. WE FOCUS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PLAY, STORYTELLING, ART, AND EXPLORATION. OUR GOAL IS TO SUPPORT PARENTS AS THEIR CHILDREN'S PRIMARY TEACHERS, STRENGTHENING FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND NURTURING CHILDREN'S CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, AND A LOVE OF BOOKS AND LEARNING. THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH, WE BRING EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCES DIRECTLY TO FAMILIES, MAKING LEARNING FUN AND ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE.

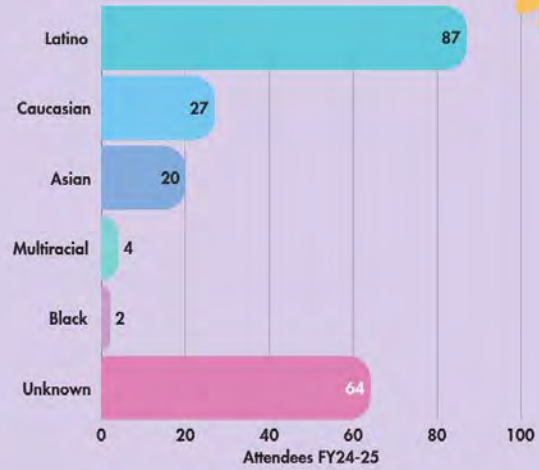


PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

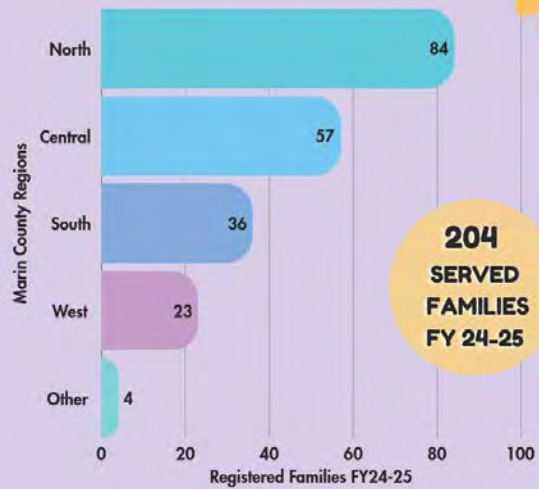
- CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR OVERVIEW
 - Program highlights
 - Attendance & Demographics
- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & EARLY LITERACY
 - Play-based learning & early literacy
 - Home learning expansions
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS
 - Key events - Backpack giveaways, County Fair, Día del Niño
 - Key partnerships with local organizations
- PROGRAM IMPACT
 - Joyful Learning
 - Survey results & parent feedback



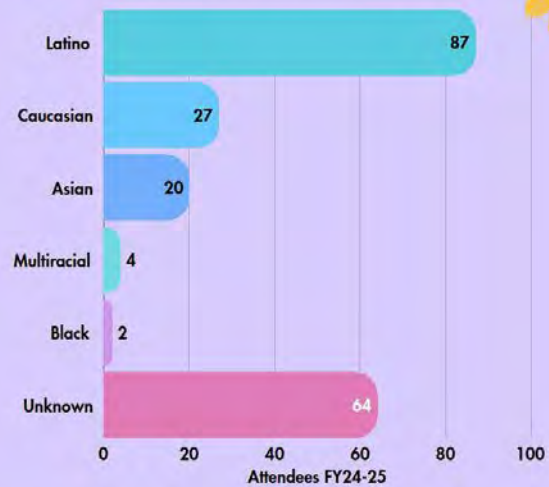
FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS - RACE/ETHNICITY



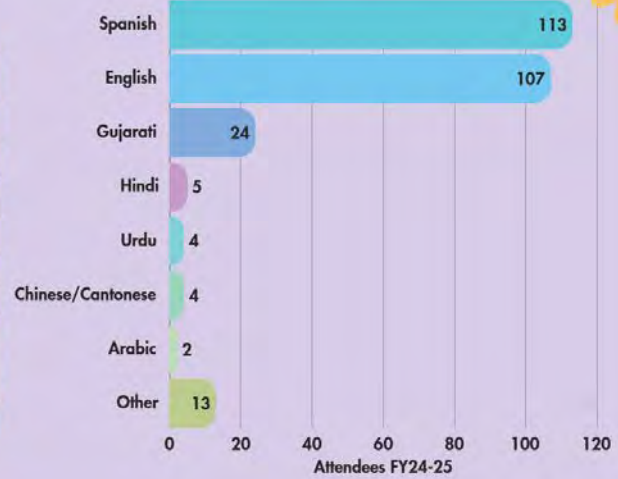
FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS - LOCATION



FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS - RACE/ETHNICITY



DEMOGRAPHICS - HOME LANGUAGE



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PLAY-BASED LEARNING

PLAY-BASED LEARNING IS AN APPROACH WHERE TEACHERS USE CHILDREN'S NATURAL CURIOSITY AND PLAY TO PROMOTE EXPLORATION, DISCOVERY, AND GROWTH ACROSS ALL AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

CHILDREN BUILD UNDERSTANDING BY EXPERIMENTING, IMAGINING, AND ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

TEACHER AS GUIDE

TEACHERS DESIGN ENVIRONMENTS AND EXPERIENCES THAT SPARK CURIOSITY, SUPPORT LEARNING GOALS, AND RESPOND TO EACH CHILD'S NEEDS.

WHOLE-CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PLAY SUPPORTS COGNITIVE, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL GROWTH - LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND SCHOOL READINESS.



MAKING APPLE SAUCE!



SUPPORTING PARENTS AS PRIMARY TEACHERS

EARLY LEARNING STARTS AT HOME. BY PARTNERING WITH PARENTS, TEACHERS CAN STRENGTHEN CHILDREN'S GROWTH, CONFIDENCE, AND READINESS FOR SCHOOL.

EMPOWERING FAMILIES

WE RECOGNIZE PARENTS AS THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS, BUILDING ON THEIR STRENGTHS AND KNOWLEDGE.

HOME LEARNING CONNECTIONS

WE SHARE SIMPLE, PLAYFUL IDEAS FAMILIES CAN USE AT HOME TO SUPPORT LEARNING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS.

BUILDING SCHOOL READINESS TOGETHER

THROUGH STRONG PARTNERSHIPS, CHILDREN GAIN THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE NEEDED FOR A SMOOTHER TRANSITION INTO SCHOOL.



PLAY & LEARN KITS

DESIGNED TO MAKE LEARNING JOYFUL AND ENGAGING, THE PLAY & LEARN KITS OFFER HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AT HOME.

PLAY-BASED & HANDS-ON LEARNING

EACH KIT INCLUDES SIMPLE MATERIALS FOR STEM, ART, EARLY LITERACY, AND IMAGINATIVE PLAY, ENCOURAGING EXPLORATION AND CREATIVITY.

SUPPORTING PARENTS AS TEACHERS

PARENT GUIDES OFFER EASY TIPS AND CONVERSATION STARTERS TO HELP FAMILIES ENGAGE IN THEIR CHILD'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

BUILDING SCHOOL READINESS AT HOME

KITS BUILD ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS WHILE PROMOTING JOYFUL, ONGOING LEARNING FAMILIES CAN CONTINUE AT HOME.



BOOK BAGS

DESIGNED TO MAKE READING ACCESSIBLE, THE BOOK BAGS BRING HIGH-QUALITY CHILDREN'S BOOKS INTO FAMILIES' HANDS.

THEMED STORY COLLECTIONS

EACH BAG INCLUDES BOOKS IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH BASED ON CHILDREN'S INTERESTS, WITH THEMES LIKE ANIMALS, FAMILY, SCIENCE, NEIGHBORHOODS, AND MORE.

SUPPORTING EARLY LITERACY AT HOME

PARENT GUIDES OFFER SIMPLE TIPS AND CONVERSATION STARTERS TO BUILD LANGUAGE AND PRE-READING SKILLS.

ENCOURAGING A LOVE OF BOOKS

FAMILIES TAKE HOME A NEW BAG EACH WEEK, FOSTERING READING ROUTINES, FAMILY CONNECTION, AND SCHOOL READINESS.



BUILDING HOME LIBRARIES

SINCE 2021, WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH MARIN COMMUNITY CLINICS TO PROVIDE BOOK GIVEAWAYS AT CLINICS IN NOVATO AND SAN RAFAEL, SUPPORTING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO MAY NOT HAVE EASY ACCESS TO LIBRARY SERVICES.

BOOKS ARE ALSO DISTRIBUTED DURING COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OUTREACH POP-UPS, HELPING TO EXPAND OUR REACH AND CONNECT WITH MORE FAMILIES.

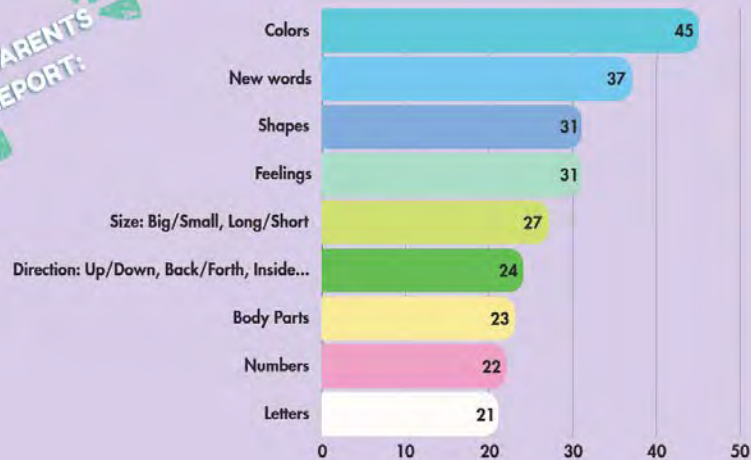
THESE EFFORTS INTRODUCE CHILDREN AND PARENTS TO THE JOY OF READING AND LIBRARY RESOURCES.

1700+ BOOKS DISTRIBUTED FY24-25



END OF SCHOOL YEAR SURVEY 2024-2025

64 PARENTS
REPORT:



81%
"My child's
confidence has
increased."

77%
"My child's
independence
has increased."

75%
"My child's
ability to
socialize has
improved."

PARENTS SAY...

"I WANT TO SINCERELY THANK THE LEARNING BUS FOR THIS INCREDIBLE PROGRAM! WE ARE NEW TO THE USA, AND THIS HAS BEEN A TRUE GIFT FOR OUR FAMILY. IT'S NOT ONLY HELPING OUR CHILDREN ADAPT TO A NEW ENVIRONMENT, BUT ALSO GIVING THEM JOY, CONFIDENCE, AND VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE. A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING SUPPORTIVE, KIND AND FULL OF HELPFUL ADVICE, I'M TRULY AMAZED BY THE LOVE AND CARE YOU PUT INTO CREATING A SPACE WHERE CHILDREN CAN GROW, FEEL SAFE, AND THRIVE. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!"

END OF SCHOOL YEAR SURVEY
FY24-25

89%

"I am more deeply engaged with my child and we play together at home."

88%

"The Learning Bus support my child's overall development and school readiness."

75 %

"I feel supported as my child's primary teacher."



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH

THE LEARNING BUS EXTENDS LIBRARY SERVICES BEYOND THE BUS, MEETING FAMILIES WHERE THEY ARE AND PARTNERING WITH LOCAL AGENCIES TO EXPAND ACCESS, STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, AND SUPPORT FAMILY WELL-BEING.

COLLABORATING WITH LOCAL AGENCIES

WE WORK WITH PARTNERS LIKE MARIN COMMUNITY CLINICS, THE POSTPARTUM SUPPORT CENTER, PARENTS SERVICES PROJECT, FIRST 5 MARIN, MARIN CHILDCARE COUNCIL, HEALTHY FAMILIES MARIN HOME VISITING PROGRAM AND OTHERS.

ENGAGING WITH FAMILIES

WE CONNECT WITH FAMILIES AT HEALTH HUBS, DIAPER DRIVES, CAR SEAT GIVEAWAYS, LOTERIA NIGHTS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS MARIN.

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS

WE BUILD LASTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND PARTNERS BY STAYING CONNECTED, LISTENING TO NEEDS, AND CREATING A NETWORK OF SHARED LEARNING AND SUPPORT.



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- PRESCHOOL BACKPACK GIVEAWAYS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FIRST 5 MARIN, WITH COLLABORATIONS FROM FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AND BAY AREA DISCOVERY MUSEUM
- PRIDE CELEBRATION
- PRIMAVERAS EVENT WITH NOVATO LIBRARY BRANCHES
- RAMADAN STORYTIME WITH MARIN CITY LIBRARY
- DÍA DEL NIÑO IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PICKLEWEED LIBRARY/SRPL AND WEST MARIN LIBRARIES, WITH COLLABORATIONS FROM AGENCIES LIKE PARENT SERVICES PROJECT AND ONE TAM
- GOLDEN GATE VILLAGE PLAYGROUND OPENING AND OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS
- 2024 SUMMER FIELDTRIP TO ALCATRAZ IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARKS AND THE BOOKMOBILE
- 2024 SUMMER FIELDTRIP TO THE BAY AREA DISCOVERY MUSEUM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BAY AREA DISCOVERY MUSEUM
- MARIN COUNTY FAIR
- WEST MARIN CAR SEAT SAFETY AND GIVEAWAY EVENTS
- POSTPARTUM SUPPORT CETER DIAPER DRIVES AND WALK FOR MOMS
- WEST MARIN LOTERIA NIGHT



THE LEARNING BUS AND FIRST 5 MARIN SUMMER EARLY LEARNING BACKPACK GIVEAWAYS

PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH ESSENTIAL RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL READINESS. THESE BACKPACKS HELP PROMOTE LEARNING AT HOME AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.

- SUPPORTS SCHOOL READINESS WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
- EMPOWERS PARENTS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN THEIR CHILD'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT



We distributed 1,000 Backpacks, 1250 Books & 1,000 Bay Area Discovery Museum family passes



RAMADAN STORYTIME AT MARIN CITY LIBRARY





(12) ADJOURMENT – Glynda adjourned the meeting at 5:28pm



November 2025

Library Commission Report

Lana Adlawan,
Director of County Library Services



Our *Story*

November 2025 | Marin County Free Library

AutumnFest is now over and the new winds of November have swept in to seal in the tone of change — the air got cooler, and the trees a little more bare than before. Still, across the county, our libraries and outreach teams continue to deepened partnerships with schools, senior communities, county departments, and local organizations. Quickly organizing into action, from county-wide food distribution support to bilingual literacy training, teen-led STEM programs, multicultural celebrations, and author talks, the Library continued to expand opportunities for curiosity, creativity, and connection grounded in the values of the Anti-Racism & Equity Strategic Plan.

Storytimes and crafting to nature education, writing workshops, and community ofrendas honoring tradition and memory, gave people a place to feel joy and a sense of belonging. Staff collaboration across branches demonstrated the power of collective action, while outreach efforts extended critical resources to seniors, people in recovery, unhoused youth, and families seeking support.

This is our story, and this is how we got here.

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.

PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMMING, AND OUTREACH

Deep Partnerships that Reinforce Bonds

Bolinas continued close collaboration with the Bolinas Community Center and Bolinas Stinson School, reinforcing the Library as a youth gathering hub. Civic Center joined Health and Human Services, Fire, and Parks to distribute 121 food boxes at Kerner Campus and met with the County Assessor-Recorder to explore shared services. Corte Madera expanded partnerships with the Stanford Blood Center, BluePath Health/Marin 9to25, local schools, and Drawbridge to support teen and family engagement. Novato worked with local business to post flyers for AutumnFest. They also met with Novato Dental Care to explore partnering on National Children's Dental Health Month programs during the library's refresh closure.

Fairfax celebrated 15 years of collaboration with Gan HaLev and the Jewish Community Library of San Francisco. Inverness worked with county departments to provide food support to SNAP-impacted households. Library Beyond Walls strengthened ties with Eden Housing, the Institute on Aging, Centers for Domestic Peace, and Transitional Aged Youth serving organizations. Point Reyes partnered with Parent Services Project to deliver bilingual storytime training to staff and promotoras. South Novato worked with the Public Authority of Marin to reach more than 100 attendees and collaborated with parents to distribute "Know Your Rights" kits.

Cultural Celebration is Intergenerational Learning

November programming showcased cultural celebration, as a method of intergenerational learning. Bolinas offered Book Scouts, storytimes, Mending Mondays, crafts, and after-school clubs that made the branch a favorite space for local youth. Civic Center delivered a robust lineup including an Indigenous Peoples' Film Series, mushroom foraging, an author talk, Fall Fest, writing groups, book clubs, and a Marin Girls Chorus performance. Corte Madera provided STEMfinity, Drawbridge crafts, Dungeons & Dragons, Puzzle Swap, storytimes, and its first Sunday movie.

Fairfax featured mushroom education, ADHD-friendly organizing, Drawbridge crafts, and the Stewards of the Land art reception. Inverness hosted pumpkin contests, bilingual storytimes, book discussions, and programs like Save the Newts and Introduction to Mushrooms. Novato brought back Knowledge-A-Bowl and Homework Helpers had 33 students attend and 8 teen volunteer tutors! Library Beyond Walls offered book clubs, technology help, and read-aloud visits, issuing 29 new Library cards. Point Reyes hosted Book Scouts and welcomed Peruvian illustrator Cocoretto. South Novato expanded youth programming through Dungeons & Dragons and a bilingual poetry celebration. Stinson Beach maintained community connection through its book club.

Working Outward

Civic Center provided art programs at Terra Linda High School, hosted Venetia Valley first graders, and refreshed the Marin Community Clinic's children's area. Corte Madera engaged families at the Health & Wellness Fair and supported food drives and early-grade classroom visits. Fairfax reached every class at Lagunitas Elementary and continued kindergarten outreach. Novato attended the Elementary and Middle School Assemblies at Good Shepherd Lutheran School to present library cards and materials. Library Beyond Walls engaged seniors, people in recovery, and supported-living communities through presentations and tabling efforts. Point Reyes strengthened bilingual early literacy by leading Colors of Spanish training. South Novato reached families through the North Bay Children's Center Fall Festival. With its building temporarily closed, Stinson Beach continued serving patrons through weekly Bookmobile visits.

THE GEARS THAT DRIVE US

Joyful Learning

Joy, curiosity, and cultural connection shaped learning experiences across MCFL. Bolinas welcomed a 2nd-grade field trip and continued to grow its lively after-school community. Civic Center expanded its writing workshops by offering guidance on the publishing process. Corte Madera encouraged discovery through Read to a Dog, seasonal displays, scavenger hunts, and interactive teen-led boards. Fairfax patrons enjoyed hands-on mushroom identification games. Inverness offered bilingual storytimes, nature learning, and programs celebrating wildlife and seasonal traditions. In Novato, Watercolorist and retired architect, Bo Bi, taught patrons basic watercolor painting. Library Beyond Walls supported joyful exploration through personalized tech help and read-aloud activities. Point Reyes advanced bilingual early-literacy learning through Colors of Spanish training. South Novato's makerspace inspired hands-on creativity, including parent-led restoration projects for local children.

Collective Impact

Highlighting MCFL's interdependence and commitment to shared goals, Bolinas' after-school engagement illustrated the importance of shared youth spaces, while Civic Center refreshed over 100 multilingual books at the Marin Community Clinic. Corte Madera deepened school partnerships through wellness events and outreach. Fairfax built community connection through a Día de Muertos ofrenda. Inverness staff served as Disaster Service Workers for West Marin food distribution. Novato staff served as Disaster Service Workers to distribute emergency food. Library Beyond Walls collaborated widely to ensure access for seniors, unhoused youth, and supportive-housing residents. Point Reyes staff supported other branches during their refresh, demonstrating system-wide cooperation. South Novato led efforts to establish MCFL as a food donation collection site, increasing countywide access to essential resources.

Community Power

Across the system, branches uplifted cultural identity, shared memory, and local leadership. Civic Center created an ofrenda that welcomed contributions from staff and patrons. Fairfax highlighted Latine and Indigenous land stewards through a youth-led climate action art exhibit. Inverness mobilized quickly with county partners to support SNAP-affected households. Novato Library re-launched their Teen Volunteer program. Library Beyond Walls empowered residents through technology support, resource presentations, and access to tools like astronomy kits. Point Reyes strengthened regional ties through a professional exchange with the Petaluma Library. South Novato partnered on toy drives, cultural displays, and youth-led creative projects that celebrated Latinx community voices.

These efforts reflect a Library system deeply rooted in equity, belonging, and community strength.

THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Across Marin, patrons shared moments of gratitude, delight, and discovery that highlight the personal impact of Library services.

At the Civic Center Library, patrons celebrated both programs and small, meaningful interactions. One visitor expressed joy at rediscovering childhood songs during storytime, while another praised the storyteller as the highlight of her grandchild's week. A father and son bonded over old Terra Linda High School yearbooks in the California Room, turning a simple browse into a shared family moment.

At Corte Madera, patrons voiced appreciation for friendly service and convenient features. One caller declared staff their "favorite people in the world," and another thanked the Library for auto-renewal while working through an 800-page novel. Children and teens enthusiastically filled interactive displays, scavenger hunts, and seasonal bingo cards, demonstrating how passive programming turns the branch into a lively creative space.

In Fairfax, a mother shared that her 10-year-old son loved the graphic novel *Lion Dancers* so much he joined a local Lion Dance group. Another visitor wrote, "Always informative, whatever program," after attending the Stewards of the Land art show.

In Novato, patrons expressed how much they enjoyed the watercolor class with Bo Bi, and 6th graders from San Jose MS visited the library to check out staff recommended in Book Talks outreach at the school. At Inverness, Pumpkin Guess contest winners expressed joy and gratitude, and many Point Reyes patrons — visiting during the PRE refresh — remarked on their surprise and appreciation after returning to the branch for the first time in years.

Library Beyond Walls patrons shared how critical outreach services are to their lives. Seniors praised the free mail delivery program, giving 5-star feedback, and an amateur astronomer was thrilled to borrow a telescope kit after downsizing from his home, now planning a stargazing event for fellow residents.

In Point Reyes, patrons celebrated becoming U.S. citizens through MCFL's pathways-to-citizenship support — a profound example of Library services fostering civic belonging.

At South Novato, a patron photographed the "Earth Teach Me to Remember" display and thanked staff for sharing words she said helped her "remember."

And in Stinson Beach, patrons eagerly awaited their refreshed Library, placing holds at Bolinas and sharing excitement about returning once the branch reopens.

SNAPSHOTS OF MCFL



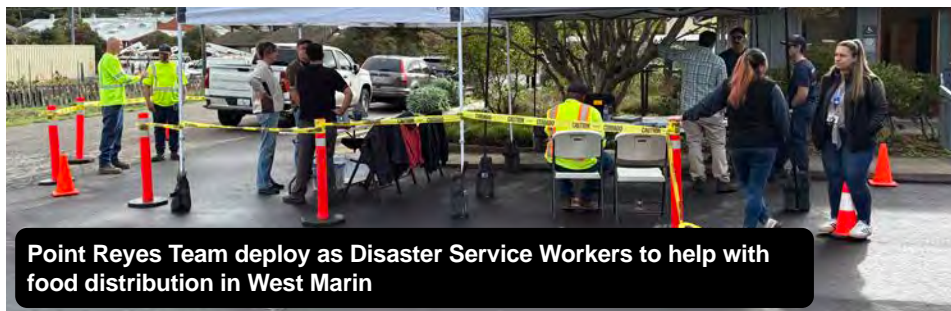
Storytime in Bolinas



Kids that "Check Out"



Crafts with Denim Pockets in Bolinas



Point Reyes Team deploy as Disaster Service Workers to help with food distribution in West Marin



Happy Pumpkin Guess Winners, Desiree and Skylar



A watercolor gift from Bo Bi to the Novato Library



Halloween at Inverness and Point Reyes



David Healy , Mycology enthusiast



Halloween and paper Marigolds Ribbons at South Novato



Supporting Families at Fairfax

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

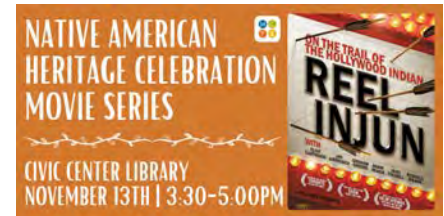
Shaping the Narrative

The Marketing and Communications small but mighty team continues to advance MCFL's commitment to clear, timely, and community-centered communication across the county. The Event Newsletter and Library News Newsletter were delivered to patrons system-wide, offering updates on programs, services, and seasonal opportunities for engagement. These publications continue to strengthen the Library's connection with residents by showcasing stories that uplift cultural learning, community partnerships, and equitable access to information.

The team produced new visual materials supporting key initiatives and public-facing priorities, including graphics for Native American Heritage Month, CalFresh/SNAP awareness, Library Commission vacancy recruitment, and upcoming Library Refresh project notifications. These materials ensured that patrons received accessible, consistent information both online and in-branch, reinforcing our focus on transparency and community engagement during periods of service change.

In collaboration with Library leadership, communications also shared news with local media regarding the upcoming West Marin Bookmobile, supporting the public's early awareness of this major service enhancement. Internally, the team continued improving the design and clarity of the Commission Report, refining narrative flow and accessibility to better reflect our values and brand voice.

Collectively, these efforts strengthened the Library's communication infrastructure and ensured that patrons, partners, and stakeholders remain well-informed, welcomed, and connected to MCFL's evolving story.



MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY ¡ÚNASE A NUESTRO EQUIPO!

Plaza vacante en la comisión de la biblioteca

Una oportunidad para prestar servicio a su comunidad y a su candidato, y apoyar a la biblioteca

<https://marinlibrary.org/commission>



Objetivo y tareas:

La comisión funciona como un organismo asesor y de recursos, y como enlace a la Junta de Supervisores, al director de los servicios de la biblioteca del condado y a la comunidad, y encuentra maneras y medios de ganar el interés público por apoyar y mejorar los servicios de la biblioteca para los ciudadanos del condado de Marin de acuerdo con la misión de la Biblioteca Gratuita del Condado de Marin. La comisión funcionará como comité de supervisión de cualquier medida fiscal generadora de ingresos de duración limitada, si es necesario.

Quién: calificaciones

Hay un puesto vacante en cada uno de los Distritos 3 y 5 del Condado de Marin. Para ser elegibles, los solicitantes deben tener 18 años o más, y ser residentes del Distrito 3 o 5 del Condado de Marin.

Información sobre el estipendio: a partir del 1 de octubre de 2022, los estipendios estarán disponibles para los miembros de las juntas y las comisiones que certifiquen recibir un ingreso por grupo familiar inferior al estándar de autosuficiencia del condado. Para obtener más información o para solicitar el programa de estipendios, consulte la página web del Board Stipends Program (Programa de Estipendios de la Junta): bit.ly/board-stipends-program

Cuándo y dónde: Fecha/hora y lugar de las reuniones

La comisión de la biblioteca se reúne en persona. Las reuniones regulares son el segundo miércoles del mes, excepto que sea un día festivo, a las 4:00 p. m. en diversas sucursales de la biblioteca.

Cómo realizar la solicitud:

Las solicitudes pueden obtenerse del secretario de la Junta de Supervisores, sala 329 del Administration Building, Marin Civic Center (415-473-7331), o puede acceder a la **solicitud** en línea en: bit.ly/library-commission-application

Las adaptaciones para discapacitados se pueden pedir llamando al 415-473-7331 (voz) o al servicio de retroalimentación, 711, para hablar con un CA, o por correo electrónico a Library@MarinCounty.org. Hay copia de los documentos disponibles en formatos alternativos, si se solicitan.



TECHNICAL SERVICES

Support Community Outreach

Technical Services supported frontline branches and community-focused initiatives through specialized outreach. Collection Development librarians conducted branch tabling sessions at the Inverness and Point Reyes libraries, creating direct opportunities for patrons to provide input on materials and services. The Digital Library expanded MCFL's role as a connector to essential resources by developing a new Food Insecurity Support webpage, helping residents access local food programs and assistance.

Sharing the Collective Impact Effect

Technical Services contributed to countywide equity and organizational alignment through the participation of the Children & Teen Collection Development Librarian in the REA IT meeting, supporting MCFL's continued focus on anti-racism, equitable services, and collaborative learning.

Stabilizing Staffing

HR Gains Breathing Room and Finalizes Year-End Hiring

After nearly ten months of nonstop recruitment, our internal Human Resources team is finally experiencing a much-needed moment to focus and prepare to end the year keeping our vacancy rate consistently at eight percent. The past year has been defined by back-to-back postings, screenings, interviews, and onboarding cycles as we worked to stabilize staffing and respond to organizational needs. This pace required constant coordination, long hours, and unwavering dedication from the entire team. Now, with the heaviest surge behind us, we're able to pause, regroup, and refocus on strengthening our internal processes and supporting our existing staff with greater intention.

Even with this slight slowdown, our momentum continues. We are excited to share that two new employees are confirmed to join us this December, rounding out the year on a positive and productive note. Preparing for their arrival allows us to shift from rapid-cycle recruitment to more intentional onboarding—ensuring each new team member enters the organization with clarity, confidence, and a warm welcome. As we look ahead to the new year, this moment of balance gives our HR team the space to reflect, plan strategically, and continue building a supportive, people-centered workplace.

In the Works

Building Our Team Together

Exciting things are happening! We're in the process of filling important positions with passionate new staff who will help us continue to deliver excellent service.

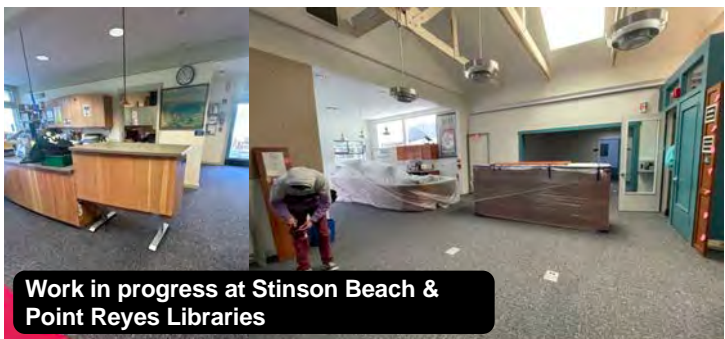
- Technology Systems Specialist II at Technology Support Services – We've officially wrapped up onboarding for a new team member joining us in December—and we can't wait for you to meet them. Stay tuned for the big reveal!
- Library Aide at the Fairfax branch – The second December hire is fully onboarded and ready to launch. We're keeping the name under wraps for now... but trust us, you'll want to stay tuned!
- Librarian II at the Marin City – Final interviews are wrapped, and once references are confirmed, we'll kick off onboarding for our next new team member!
- Library Assistant II at the Fairfax branch – Final interviews are scheduled for December 12, 2025.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Measure B at Work! 🚧

We continue with the refreshing of our incredible community hubs – our 10 library branches across Marin County. So far, we're at the 30% mark of the project, with 3 of our branches completed in mid-December and continued preparation for all. Some of the improvements we'll be unveiling in December in West Marin are:

- New carpet at both the Point Reyes Library and Stinson Beach Library branches
- A splash of new color on the inside and outside of Point Reyes Library!
- Updated art gallery spaces in Point Reyes to continue to honor the amazing local artists we have here in Marin. (If you haven't seen the collections at Stinson Beach Library, I encourage you to take a trip. Their art gallery space is often booked months in advance.)
- Expanded Teen Area for Point Reyes Library and an increase in book collections for teens
- Updated furniture for both library branches that is functional and comfortable for the variety of community members we serve, as well as supports how people work and study from our library spaces today



During these closures, staff have been hard at work at organizing and clearing the clutter from our well-loved branches, as well as exploring and supporting staffing needs across other library branches. As we are committed to service 52 weeks a year, this is an incredible opportunity for our staff teams to connect on team and location goals and prepare to work from an updated environment for 2026.

Disaster Service Work in Response to Food Insecurity

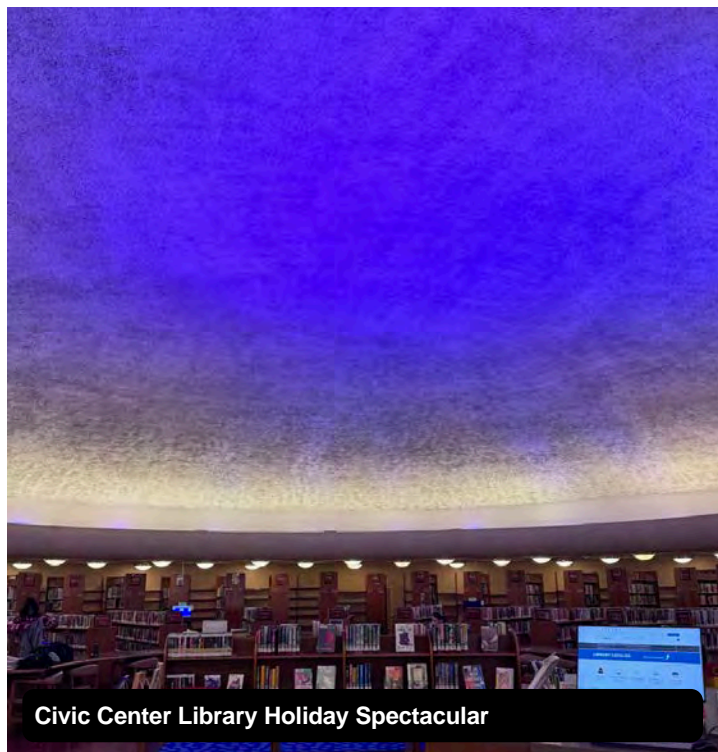
In November, Library staff rallied in support in so many ways to support our community members to receive food during a pivotal moment when CalFresh benefits were abruptly removed. MCFL responded quickly in joining a County-coordinated effort to supplement food support, including food drop-off efforts at all 10 of MCFL's branches. To date, we've collected 10 boxes of food for the community. Thank you to our library patrons for their support and donations! Library staff were also activated during this time as Disaster Service Workers and worked at food distribution sites in November. A tremendous round of applause and gratitude goes out to those staff members who signed up for distribution sites (sometimes more than once!), and all the staff who supported accepting food donations and coordination in our branches. That effort and heart in this work in service to our communities is to be celebrated and deeply appreciated.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



A big Shout-Out to our Anne T. Kent California Room archivist, Bianca, and Civic Center Library manager, Lynne, along with Assistant Director Raemona Little Taylor for their coordination work with County departments and community partners to celebrate the County of Marin's 175h Anniversary, celebrated in Board Chambers on November 18. The Anne T. Kent California Room supplied historic photographs for the presentation in Board Chambers which accompanied a resolution read by multiple voices honoring the County's rich and diverse community history in Marin over the last 175 years.

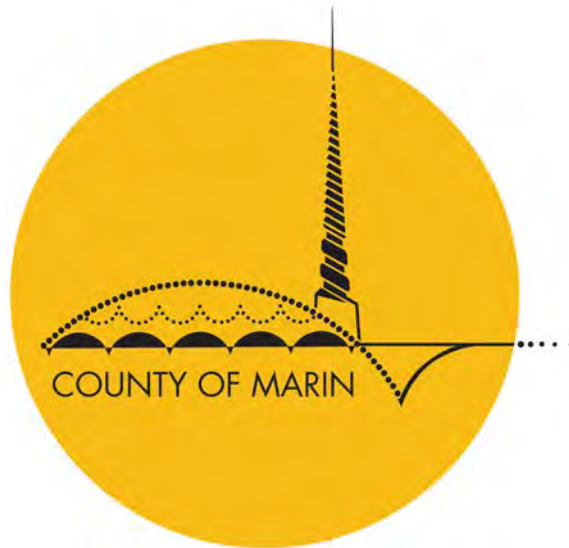


Civic Center Holiday Light Spectacular! (November 28 – January 4)

The Civic Center campus is aglow this holiday season! Free nightly activities for all ages runs through early January and library patrons can enjoy an ambient oasis of wintry starry night under our library dome.



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.

MARINet Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2025



Meeting Held at: 375 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Present:

Board Chair: Anji Brenner (Mill Valley)

Board: Crystal Duran (Belvedere Tiburon), Sarah Frye (College of Marin), Amy Gilbert (Dominican), Lana Adlawan (MCFL), Linda Kenton (San Anselmo), and Catherine Quffa (San Rafael)

MARINet Staff: Jessica Trenary

Brenner called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

- I. Determination of a Quorum – Yes
- II. Public Comment Period – None
- III. Business Topics
 - A. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (*Action*) - **Adlawan moved to approve the August 7, 2025, meeting minutes, Kenton seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**
 - B. MARINet Meeting Schedule (*Action*) - **Duran moved to approve the MARINet Board FY 25-26 Meeting Schedule tentatively cancelling the January and April 2026 meetings, Gilbert seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**
 - C. Library Facilities Updates – COM, MCFL, SAN, SRPL (*Discussion*) – Several libraries will close for renovations in the coming months. Dates and services may shift, but current plans include:
 - San Rafael: Downtown reopened, opening celebration had over 1,000 people. Pickleweed will be closed late September through mid-October, with alternate services at Al Boro Community Center. Lockers are on order. Full reopening expected spring or summer 2026. MCFL Learning Bus will stop at Pickleweed.
 - San Anselmo: Temporary Mini Library opening mid-October in the Town Plaza, main library reopening late January 2026.
 - College of Marin Kentfield: Closing October 20 for relocation, reopening start of spring semester, January 2026. Indian Valley collection also unavailable during closure.
 - MCFL: 10 Branch Refresh Project underway, with staggered branch closures through June 2026. Updated timelines available on MCFL’s Branch Refresh Page. Inverness completed.
 - D. Board Resolution – CA State Library Grant (*Action*) - The Board reviewed the MOU for the California State Library Grant. The contract was included in the packet and reviewed by Marin County Counsel. Counsel advised that MARINet request the arbitration venue

MARINet Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2025



be changed to Marin County and that insurance coverage be secured. Trenary will sign the MOU pending these adjustments. **Duran moved to authorize Trenary to sign the MOU for the California State Library Grant, contingent upon revision of the arbitration venue to Marin County and confirmation of required insurance coverage, Kenton seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**

- E. Working Groups (*Discussion*) – Adlawan asked whether the working groups are meeting the Board’s needs, noting that in prior years the Chair presented annual goals to the Board. Trenary emphasized that if the Board expects Chairs to present goals, Board Members must support their Chairs in this role. Trenary reported that all recommendations from the December 2023 *Streamlining MARINet Meetings* report have been implemented, including chair and note-taker rotations, scheduled meetings with agenda reminders, the merger of Children’s and Teen Services into the Youth Services affinity group, and streamlined Board agenda processes. She further noted that the working groups are effectively meeting MARINet’s needs and that staff may want to make greater use of their professional connections in the groups. The Board requested this item be added as an Action for the November meeting.

MARINet Working Groups:

- Bibliographic Standards Working Group – Chair San Anselmo
 - Circulation Working Group – Chair Larkspur
 - Digital Resources Working Group – Chair Sausalito
 - Youth Services Working Group – Chair Mill Valley
- F. AMH at MCFL Tech Services (*Discussion*) - The Board reviewed the understandings outlined between MARINet and MCFL regarding the purchase, installation, and maintenance of an Automated Materials Handling (AMH) system at MCFL Technical Services. Of the \$500,000 originally allocated in 2021 for RFID conversion, \$231,529 remains and will be applied to this project. Under the agreement, MCFL will oversee procurement, daily operations, and maintenance, while MARINet will provide technical integration and purchase bins for the city and academic libraries. A Board Resolution will be brought forward once MCFL has purchased the AMH to authorize transfer of the funds.
- G. Board Task Force Updates
- eBook (*Action*) - The Board reviewed the eBook Task Force proposal to reduce OverDrive holds and checkout limits from 25 to 15 starting November 1, 2025, with the goal of lowering wait times and improving access. Communication to patrons will take place in October, settings will be updated in November, and results will be evaluated in March 2026. **Kenton moved to lower OverDrive holds and checkouts to 15, Duran seconded. Unanimously approved by a voice vote.**

MARINet Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2025



- Equity (*Discussion*) - The Equity Task Force completed its planned meetings with all MARINet working groups to introduce and gather feedback on the Commitment to Equity statement. Thanks to Lana for her participation and support. The Task Force will continue to gather input.
 - Library Support Groups (*Discussion*) - Paul Signorelli will facilitate a half-day interactive session on October 17, 2025 at the Belvedere Tiburon Library focused on collaboration, storytelling, and advocacy for Marin library support groups. The program will engage Library Friends and Foundation members in developing strategies for volunteer engagement, advocacy, and community support.
- H. CENIC Update from Stanley Han, Associate Vice President, Engagement, CENIC (*Discussion*) – Han provided an overview of CENIC and its work with libraries, including updates on projects relevant to public libraries. He highlighted CENIC AIR, CENIC’s artificial intelligence resource, and proposed a discussion with Tom DeFanti. Han will be meeting with California State Library. He also introduced C2TAG (CENIC Community Technology Affinity Group), which includes a mailing list, Slack channel, and regular meetings and webinars. Current discussions focus on security, the member portal, and future opportunities.
- IV. Standing Agenda Items
- A. Library Advocacy (*Discussion*) – Duran provided an update on California legislative priorities, including requests for one-time funding from the State Library for AI training and \$15 million from Proposition 4 to support public libraries as emergency centers for disaster response. She noted that eBook pricing disparities between consumer and library markets might be a legislative issue this year. Trenary reported that, although the State Library had announced the end of its New York Times subscription effective June 30, 2025, it has reversed course and will provide statewide access to the “Basic News” package from October 2025 through August 2026. MARINet will maintain its own “All Access” subscription, which includes cooking and other features, through June 30, 2026. The State Library will also continue the California Libraries Learn (CALL) grant program in FY 2025–26, with activities beginning September 29, 2025, and ongoing opportunities available through the CALL calendar and CALL Academy.
- B. Library Announcements (*Discussion*) –
- Quffa (San Rafael) – Hired three new librarians, with interviews underway for additional recruitment. A new marketing coordinator has joined Library and Recreation, and new promotional materials are in development.
 - Kenton (San Anselmo) – Preparing for the library’s relocation.
 - Gilbert (Dominican) – Hosting a banned books read-a-thon, weekly “Little Penguin” story time on Fridays, and undertaking a library refresh.
 - Frye (College of Marin) – Supporting current staffing changes and library move.

MARINet Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2025



- Duran (Belvedere-Tiburon) – Partnering with Reed Union School District on student library cards, collaborating with BAYREN on building sustainability initiatives, and planning physical collection shifts in December.
 - Adlawan (MCFL) – Continuing the 10 branch Refresh Project; Supervisor Colbert introduced a resolution in support of Banned Books Week.
 - Brenner (Mill Valley) – Conducting a public survey and hosting an after-hours event on artificial intelligence.
- C. Systems Administrator Report (*Discussion*) – Trenary reported on completed 2025 projects including Auto Situs, the ticketing system, and student cards, with contingency planning and new notices still in progress. CENIC optimization project will be postponed in favor of the CENIC Firewall project. Recent highlights include a Sierra upgrade, improved school card workflows, SSL certificate savings, support for multiple library closures, and continued work on school catalog records, the annual audit, and upcoming NorCal IUG and BiblioCommons conferences.

Brenner adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Trenary