

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION



Lana Adlawan
Director of County Library Services

Library Administration
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Phone: 415.473.3220
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CRS 711

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION
Proposed Agenda
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Novato Library
1720 Novato Blvd, Novato, CA 94947

Directions: Highway 101 to DeLong Avenue/Downtown exit. Cross over the freeway continue to Novato Blvd (4th stop light), turn right. Continue north on Novato Blvd going through next traffic light. Pass intersection, the Library is on the right-hand side with a red tile roof.

NOTICE: Members of the public may address the Library Commission on any matter during Open Time for Public Expression. Statements should be no more than 2 minutes per person.

<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 February 11, 2026, meeting minutes	Christian Action
(20 min) 5.	Open Time for Public Expression	Christian Information
(5 min) 6.	Announcements/Book Recommendation(s)	Cage Information
(5 min) 7.	Reading & Correspondence File Comments	Christian Information
(10 min) 8.	President's Report	Christian Information
(10 min) 9.	Director's Report for February	Adlawan Information
(40 min) 10.	New Business	
	a. Ad Hoc Committee: Annual Event.	Christian. Action
	a. South Novato Library Partnership	Adlawan, Schiller Information
(1 min) 12.	Adjournment	Christian Action
<u>5:30pm</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 February 2026
5. Library Director's Report for February 2026

Unnumbered Attachments:

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 Blvd, 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, February 11, 2026

- (1) **CALL TO ORDER**
Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm. Glynda Christian welcomed everyone to the meeting . The Commission read through the Meeting Agreements. Commission went through introductions.

- (2) **ROLL CALL**

In Attendance

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

Absent with Notification

Anya Schandler

Absent Without Notification

Amelia Lahn

Also Present

Lana Adlawan, Director of County Library Services
Raemona Little Taylor, Assistant Director of Public Services
Juliet Schiller, Assistant Director of Support Services
Katrina Sadler, Library Service Manager – Technical Services
Gina Turrini, Administrative Assistant I
Gregory Salas, Administrative Assistant II
Anthony Puga, Library Desk Supervisor Fairfax Library
Amhad Merza, Library Services Manager-Public Services
Xitlalli Lechuga, Webstar presenter

- (3) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S/C** – Doug Sides/Crystal Lewis approved as submitted.
- (4) **ADOPTION OF January 2026 MINUTES M/S/C** – Ann Kaplan/Crystal Lewis approved as submitted.

- (5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION – No member of the public spoke up.
- (6) ANNOUNCEMENT / BOOK RECOMMENDATION(S) – Ted Ridgeway provided a book recommendation: *All the Lovers in the Night* by Mieko Kawakami in discussion. The Commission discussed the book’s themes and setting. Kathleen Cage volunteered to provide next month’s book recommendation.
- (7) READING & CORRESPONDENCE FILE – Materials were sent to the Library Commission prior to meeting.
- (8) PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Glynda shared reflections in February as a “month of possibility,” noting February birthdays (including Crystal Lewis) and acknowledging seasonal and cultural observances (Valentine’s Day and Black History Month). The President also referenced themes of perseverance and striving for excellence, tying reflections to current events and community values.
- (9) DIRECTOR’S REPORT FOR October – Director Adlawan highlighted Black History Month programming and resources, including special events across multiple branches. The Director noted a Black History Month performance featuring an African American ballet dancer with a Q&A component, scheduled at Fairfax, Civic Center, and Novato Library. Director Adlawan also referenced distribution of the Board/Commission Handbook and drew attention to the Code of Ethics, emphasizing public service, transparency, respectful conduct, avoidance of conflicts of interest, and appropriate use of appointed titles. The Director stressed the importance of recognizing and appreciating library staff, particularly given the broader climate impacting libraries and encouraged Commissioners to continue showing support and gratitude to staff at branches.
- (10) PRESENTATION: MARIN HOUSING AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP / DIGITAL MARIN CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
Amahd Merza and Xitlalli Lechuga provided an overview of the Digital Marin Connected Communities initiative in partnership with the Marin Housing Authority, County IST, and Comcast. The presentation highlighted efforts to address the digital divide by providing broadband infrastructure, free internet access for participating housing sites, internet-ready devices, on-site resident support, and ongoing technical assistance.
Staff described the outreach process, including resident engagement, one-on-one needs assessments, device deployment, and follow-up training. Commissioners asked questions regarding funding sources, long-term sustainability, data security protocols, and resident participation.
The presentation also introduced by Juliet Schiller and Katrina the “Story Stop” pilot, a library vending machine model designed to expand access to physical materials in housing communities. The pilot will begin at Kruger Pines and is intended to increase access to library materials for residents who face transportation or mobility barriers. Future expansion opportunities will be evaluated based on pilot outcomes.

**DIGITAL MARIN:
CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES PROJECT**



WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

The Digital Divide is Still Real in Marin County

Many residents lack:

- reliable home internet
- access to devices
- confidence using technology

Digital access impacts:

- school success
- job applications
- healthcare access
- public benefits
- connection and isolation

PARTNERSHIPS



- **Marin County Free Library (MCFL)**
 - Outreach, engagement, equity-driven service delivery
- **Marin housing authority (MHA)**
 - Site coordination, resident communication
- **IST (County IT)**
 - Implementation planning, system oversight
- **Comcast/Xfinity**
 - Bulk internet service + infrastructure support
- **Community volunteers**
 - Helping residents build confidence and skills



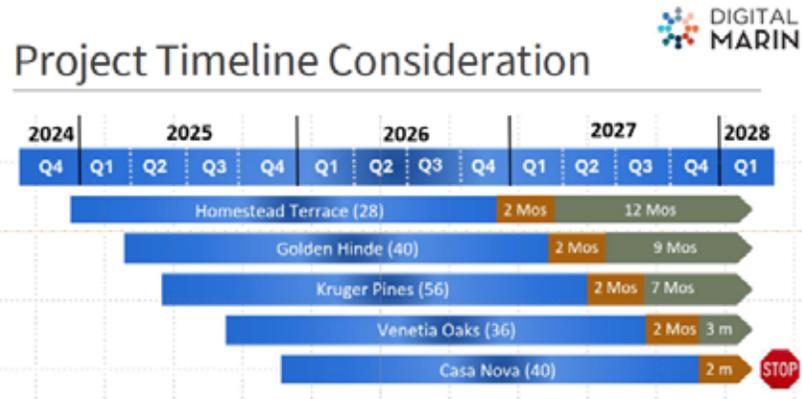
PROJECT GOAL: MAKE DIGITAL ACCESS UNIVERSAL AT MHA SITES

The project provides:

- **Free high-speed internet (bulk service)**
- **Internet-ready devices (laptops + iPads)**
- **On-site resident interviews & deployment support**
- **Ongoing tech support system (Help Desk)**
- **Community Room “Lift Zone” Wi-Fi access**



SITES AND TIMELINE



HOW THE WORK HAPPENS

- Build the infrastructure
- Pre-planning + resident outreach
- 1:1 resident interviews (needs assessment)
- Device deployment (iPads/laptops)
- Free internet installation + modem support
- Ongoing technical support & training



WEBSTAR INTERNS – KEY PROJECT SUPPORT

Webstars are college interns supporting Digital Marin implementation by helping with:

- Resident outreach and scheduling
- 1:1 resident interviews and technology needs assessments
- Device deployment support (iPads, laptops, accessories)
- Ordering, assembling, and preparing technology kits
- Submitting and managing Help Desk support tickets
- Supporting digital literacy workshops and community learning sessions



 MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

WEBSTARS INTERNS – KEY PROJECT SUPPORT

Impact

- Increased project capacity and responsiveness at MHA sites
- Strengthened resident support and follow-through
- Expanded MCFL's ability to provide hands-on tech assistance

Professional Development

- High-impact learning opportunity in community-based public service
- Webstars gained real-world experience in outreach, technology support, and equity-driven work
- Opportunity to send our two webstars to the American Library Association (ALA) Conference in Philadelphia (2025)



 MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

STORYSTOP: LIBROSTOP MCFL'S COMMUNITY LIBCABINET



LIBRARY VENDING MACHINE PROCESS FOR ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, we visited multiple Housing Authority sites across Marin to understand community needs and the placement of the StoryStop - LibroStop cabinet. We were interested in learning how far residents lived from a branch, how the community spaces were used, and what residents wanted.

We chose Kruger Pines due to the location and distance to a branch, plus the large community room. There are 56 residents who live in the apartments.

We worked with the Marin Housing Authority to survey residents, asking about favorite genres and the types of materials they'd want.



KRUGER PINES

Kruger Pines, in conjunction with Marin Housing and the Marin County Free Library, are engaging with residents at risk of housing or health instability through a library "vending machine."

The vending machine includes physical books and movies and the potential for many other physical materials to be housed directly inside the Community Room. This eliminates the need for transportation or mobility to a local branch.

The LibCabinet (the vendor's name for the book cabinet) has been rebranded for MCFL as the StoryStop and LibroStop (Spanish version).



STORYSTOP / LIBROSTOP

MCFL is expanding our 10-branch traditional brick and mortar environment by bringing resources directly to residences at Kruger Pines with the StoryStop Library Cabinet.

We will continue to host direct feedback from Kruger Pines residents on types of genres and materials they would like to see the StoryStop house.

The StoryStop LibCabinet holds up to 200 physical books or assorted materials and will rotate regularly to keep the selection fresh and relevant to residents' needs.

Residents will use their MCFL Card to open the bookcase style cabinet to check in and out library materials, the unit can also provide room for holds requested, eliminating the need to travel to a branch to pick up materials.



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3/5/2026



Q & A

(11) ADJOURNMENT – Glynda adjourned the meeting at 5:17pm



February 2026

Library Commission Report

Lana Adlawan,
Director of County Library Services



Our *Story*

February 2026 | Marin County Free Library

February is an opportunity to show us what we're made of in less time. It highlights the many ways we continue to connect with the community through partnerships, programming, and outreach that extend far beyond library walls.

Library staff worked alongside schools, nonprofits, and local organizations to support literacy, creativity, and access to information. In South Novato, partnerships deepen and continue to strengthen youth literacy programs such as Reading Buddies. In West Marin, staff helped plan upcoming cultural celebrations and connected with regional Spanish-language library networks to support culturally responsive programming. Meanwhile, Fairfax Library welcomed community partners for free tax preparation services and student art exhibitions.

Programs across the system invited patrons of all ages to learn, create, and gather. Highlights included youth poetry readings, a film series celebrating Black voices in cinema, bilingual storytimes, and hands-on arts-and-crafts programs. In Bolinas and Stinson Beach, community-centered events brought neighbors together in welcoming spaces that celebrate curiosity and creativity.

Outreach efforts continued to bring library services directly into the community. The Bookmobile visited local farmers' markets while Library Beyond Walls delivered reading programs, technology help, and library resources to seniors, recovery programs, and supportive housing communities throughout Marin. These efforts reflect MCFL's ongoing commitment to meeting people where they are and ensuring that library services remain accessible to all.

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

Partnership Engagement

The shortest month of the year, your library is making each moment even more memorable! Marin County Free Library continued strengthening partnerships with schools, nonprofit organizations, and community groups to expand learning opportunities and increase access to library resources across the county.

Several branches deepened relationships with educational partners. In South Novato, staff collaborated with the Asian American Alliance of Marin to plan the upcoming Primavera 2026 celebration and worked with Dominican University of California to continue the highly successful Reading Buddies literacy tutoring program. This initiative brings together university service-learning students, high school volunteers, and library staff to support young readers and build literacy skills in the community.

In West Marin, Point Reyes staff participated in regional planning efforts and partnership development. Library staff joined the multi-stakeholder planning committee for the upcoming West Marin Día de los Niños celebration and resource fair, while also exploring new family literacy collaborations with community organizations. Spanish-speaking Library staff connected with the Bibliotecas Para La Gente network at Redwood City Public Library, building relationships with Spanish-language library advocates and educators to support culturally responsive programming.

Fairfax Library partnered with the Ross Valley School District to showcase student artwork throughout the month, culminating in a well-attended artist reception celebrating young artists and their families. The branch also hosted AARP's free tax preparation services, providing essential financial assistance to low-income residents during tax season.

The Library Beyond Walls outreach team expanded its partnerships with housing providers, health and social service organizations, and community groups throughout Marin. Collaborations included events with the Marin Housing Authority, Homeward Bound Marin, Center Point Recovery Services, and the Marin County Public Defender's Office Clean Slate event, helping connect residents with information, digital resources, and library services. Staff also began developing new partnerships with organizations such as Enterprise Resource Center, Marin Adult Education, and Marin Public Authority, creating opportunities for future presentations and educational programming for adult learners and caregivers.

In our smaller and more rural communities, partnerships continued to strengthen local engagement. Bolinas Library worked closely with local schools and after-school programs to support literacy experiences for children and families, while Stinson Beach staff collaborated with local organizations and historical groups to support community research and programming.

Programming

Libraries across Marin County offered a wide range of programs that brought residents together for learning, creativity, and cultural exploration.

Fairfax Library hosted an active schedule of events, including concerts, craft programs, bilingual storytimes, meditation sessions, book clubs, and youth programming such as Dungeons & Dragons and a Youth Poetry Reading, organized with support from the Marin Youth Poet Laureate Ambassador. The Ross Valley School District art exhibition and reception drew families into the library to celebrate student creativity.

PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMMING, AND OUTREACH

In Point Reyes, programming featured both literacy and cultural celebration. The branch presented a Black Voices in Cinema film series in honor of Black History Month and continued its weekly literacy programs, including Reading Buddies and Book Scouts, which support elementary students through guided reading activities and after-school learning. Spanish-language programming remained strong with the weekly Canta Conmigo Spanish Storytime for young children and families.

Bolinas Library hosted its final programs before temporarily closing for a facility refresh. Community members gathered for events including an Herbal Talk with a local herbalist, Valentine's crafts for families, weekly preschool storytimes, and an after-school club that welcomed students arriving by bus for storytelling and creative activities. A community mending circle also brought residents together to repair clothing and share conversation, demonstrating the library's role as a place for connection and creativity.

Stinson Beach Library also offered creative programming throughout the month, including drawing workshops, art exhibits, book discussions, and talks by museum docents. Weekly coffee gatherings and tech support sessions provided informal opportunities for patrons to connect with one another while exploring library resources.

Outreach / Community Education Support

Outreach services continued to extend the library's reach beyond branch walls, bringing resources, literacy programs, and digital learning directly to communities across Marin County.

The Bookmobile participated in several community events, including multiple Sunday Farmer's Market, visits at the Civic Center, allowing residents to browse collections and check out materials in a familiar community setting. Staff also attended the Multilingual Learners Health Fair at Manor Elementary School, where bilingual support helped families connect with library resources alongside community health partners.

Library Beyond Walls delivered an extensive schedule of outreach visits and educational presentations throughout the county. Staff provided Access to Library Tools (ATL) presentations, book clubs, and read-aloud programs at senior centers, recovery programs, supportive housing sites, and community organizations. Outreach activities included visits to The Arc San Francisco (Marin Chapter), Cedars Marin, Marin Ventures, Smith Ranch Homes, Maria B. Freitas Senior Center, and Homeward Bound Marin, where staff introduced participants to digital library platforms, issued library cards, and facilitated reading programs.

Library staff also supported literacy education in schools. In West Marin, staff brought library programming to Nicasio School, engaging students through storytelling and cultural learning activities. These school partnerships help ensure that children across Marin County have access to books, literacy support, and welcoming educational experiences connected to the library.

We work together to provide these outreach and educational efforts, which demonstrate the library's commitment to reaching residents where they are, ensuring that library services remain accessible, inclusive, and responsive to community needs throughout Marin County.

THE GEARS THAT DRIVE US

Joyful Learning, Collective Impact, and Community Power

Programs and partnerships continue to generate momentum for learning, creativity, and community engagement. These efforts are the gears that keep the library system moving forward, transforming ideas into meaningful experiences for residents throughout the county.

Joyful Learning

At Laguna School, a Lunar New Year storytime brought students together for a lively celebration of culture and storytelling. In West Marin, the Reading Buddies and Book Scouts programs introduced young readers to award-winning titles through book tastings and guided reading activities, building both literacy skills and confidence.

Creative exploration also flourished through arts and cultural programming. In Stinson Beach, drawing workshops, fabric art classes, and exhibitions encouraged patrons to experiment with new forms of artistic expression. At Fairfax Library, volunteers gathered to learn about serving on the Civil Grand Jury, leaving inspired by the opportunity to contribute to civic life and community leadership.

Collective Impact

Many of the library's most powerful outcomes emerge through collaboration. In West Marin, the Drawbridge arts organization partnered with the Reading Buddies program to teach students how to create zines and handmade books, blending literacy and visual storytelling in a hands-on learning experience.

Community organizations also joined forces to strengthen educational resources for local youth. The West Marin–Inverness PTSA raised funds to support ongoing collection development for the West Marin School library, demonstrating the community's shared commitment to literacy and educational opportunity.

Community Power

Libraries also continue to serve as platforms for community voices and cultural expression. In Fairfax, a Youth Poetry Reading gave students the opportunity to share their original work with a supportive audience, celebrating creativity and youth leadership.

In Point Reyes, the Latino Photography Project's exhibit *Mi Vida / My Life* transformed the library gallery into a vibrant space for storytelling through images, highlighting lived experiences within the community.

Community support was also visible in moments that tested the library's commitment to inclusion. During a conversation at a Bookmobile stop about the Pride flag displayed on board, nearby patrons expressed strong support for the library's message of belonging. The exchange became a powerful reminder that libraries reflect the values of the communities they serve, and that many residents stand proudly behind those values.

These are the experiences that highlight the powerful engine behind library work: joyful learning that sparks curiosity, collective impact that grows through collaboration, and community power that amplifies voices and strengthens belonging.

THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Every month, small moments inside and around our libraries remind us why this work matters. These are the stories that reveal how libraries shape lives and communities.

In Tomales, a patron named Nicole shared a story that captured the simple magic of reading together. She recently started a book club with her adult son and daughter, who live in different cities, using books to stay connected across distance. The idea was so inspiring that one of our staff members decided to start their own family book club. Moments like these remind us how stories travel and connect far beyond the library doors.

In Bolinas, as the library prepared to temporarily close for its refresh project, patrons stopped by not just to check out books but to express how deeply the library is woven into their daily lives. Many shared how much they would miss the space and even asked staff what would happen to them during the closure.

At Corte Madera, a small interaction sparked delight when a patron noticed a newly installed display about local birds and simply said, "That's awesome!"

In South Novato, staff witnessed the challenges some community members face during winter storms. One patron experiencing homelessness shared that he had a "great day" because he was able to sleep warmly in a friend's car with a new sleeping bag.

Meanwhile, in Stinson Beach, the community welcomed new visitors from Bolinas while their branch was closed, offering support and a sense of belonging to neighbors finding their way to a different library for the first time.

These moments tell the story of a library system rooted in connection, compassion, and community. They are the stories that shape us.

SNAPSHOTS OF MCFL



Library Beyond Walls issuing library cards to local residents



Hummingbird chasing nectar in South Novato's courtyard



South Novato Library Youth Services Librarian Brian with parents, partners, and youth patrons



Local Irish band Shenanigans inspires young patrons to dance along through a performance of traditional tunes at Fairfax Library



Fun with the Bookmobile at Hamilton Child Development Center



Immersed in "Pizza and Taco" during a Book Scouts reading session at Point Reyes Library

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

The Marketing & Communications (MarCom) team continued supporting systemwide programs, publications, and internal communications throughout February.

MarCom worked with the MCFL Cultural Celebrations Committee to design graphics and provide promotional support for the Black Heritage Celebration, including promotion of the Black Ballet performances across participating branches through the main newsletter and on social media. The team also co-produced the Black Heritage Celebration blog, which was published on the Library website and promoted through the newsletter.

The team completed production of the January Commission Report and distributed an audience-targeted newsletter to inform patrons about temporary closures associated with the Library Refresh Program. In Marin City, MarCom documented the reopening of the refreshed library, capturing photos and videos and producing a short social media “sizzle reel” to highlight the reopening and share the moment with both the public and staff.

Design work continued for upcoming seasonal campaigns, including Women’s History Month graphics and National Reading Month website assets. Initial design development also began for the West Marin outreach vehicle wrap.

Operational support included coordinating with the library card production vendor to improve communication processes for the school outreach library card program, and ordering additional MCFL-branded swag for use at outreach events and programs. Internally, MarCom supported the Library’s first Virtual Town Hall by providing communications and design support for staff-led presentations.



**WELCOME BACK
TO *your* LIBRARY**

We welcome you back to this refreshed space designed to better serve you.

This refresh is made possible by voter supported Measure B.



**M C MARIN COUNTY
F L FREE LIBRARY**
marinlibrary.org

Partnership Engagements

The Online Library team focused on enhancing how patrons discover library content and information through the MCFL website. A redesigned version of the blog “Neshama’s Choices” was launched to create a more visually engaging experience for web visitors, highlighting staff recommendations and curated reading selections in a format that is easier to browse and explore.

Technical Services also played an important role in ensuring digital accessibility across library platforms. The team distributed questionnaires to all MCFL digital vendors to evaluate their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Web and Mobile Application Accessibility Rule, which takes effect in April 2026. This work helps ensure that digital library services remain accessible to all users. In addition, staff collaborated with the County’s Disability Access Manager to update accessibility language on the County website so that MCFL can link patrons directly to relevant accessibility resources.

Technical Services also contributed to systemwide community engagement by highlighting major cultural celebrations through the library’s online presence. The Online Library created website features, event cards, and carousel displays that elevated programming for Black Heritage Month and Lunar New Year, helping patrons easily discover related events, collections, and educational resources.

These efforts demonstrate how Technical Services supports the library’s public-facing work behind the scenes. Continuing to improve digital access and ensuring that the library’s online presence connects residents with learning, culture, and community resources.

New Talent, New Energy: Welcoming Our Colleagues

Exciting developments are underway! Recruitment efforts are bringing in new professionals who will help us grow and enhance our services.

- **Librarian I in the California Room** – Exciting progress is underway for the Librarian I position in the California Room! HR and the hiring manager have been actively coordinating schedules and preparing for first-round interviews. We're looking forward to connecting with strong candidates who share a passion for preserving and showcasing California's rich local history and collections. Stay tuned as this recruitment continues to move forward.
- **Media Specialist in Electronic Services** – We're excited to share that a candidate has officially been selected for this new role! After a thoughtful recruitment process, we've found someone who will be a wonderful addition to our team. March will soon bring the big reveal as we welcome our newest colleague and begin this next chapter together. Stay tuned, we can't wait to introduce them!

Building Data Foundations: A Closer Look at Onboarding

As we approach the closure of the first quarter, this gives us a natural moment to revisit our annual HR data. The quarter has already begun to reveal its patterns, small signals in the data that help tell the story of our department's work and the needs that lie ahead.

In a data-driven department like ours, numbers are more than figures on a report; they are indicators, guiding lights that help us understand where we've been and where we're headed. Each month we take time to examine our historical data closely, looking for trends that help us anticipate operational needs, staffing demands, and future recruitment efforts. This has helped us with plans for March, April and June.

Much like a navigator charting a course, we use this annual data to establish benchmarks that keep us grounded throughout the year. These benchmarks provide perspective, helping us measure our current position against where we expect to be at any given point in the calendar year.

By continually revisiting and learning from this data, we strengthen our ability to plan thoughtfully, respond proactively, and ensure that our department remains prepared to meet both current demands and the opportunities ahead.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MCFL staff host a representative from the California State Library at our satellite school library at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy

During the month of February, many organizations honor Black history, oftentimes the one time out of a full calendar year for this recognition. I am proud to say that MCFL honors not only the legacy of Black Americans throughout history but also makes it a priority to ensure the voices of Black Americans in our community and staff are centered year-round as part of our ongoing work to ensure all are welcome, included and represented. We want all to experience the library as a place to which one can truly belong with heart, mind, and soul. I was particularly proud of this year's focus, "Strength Through Grace: Celebrating Black Heritage" in which we shined a spotlight on the challenges Black Americans faced entering the world of classical dance. From our staff blog, "For many years, Black Americans faced serious barriers when trying to enter the classical arts. These barriers included high costs, segregation, closed schools, whites-only unions, and harmful stereotypes. Ballet was one of the art forms where Black dancers were often told they did not belong. Even so, they continued to push forward." We brought joy into our spaces this month by showcasing these stories of literal and figurative grace and strength through dance.

We also renovated the Marin City Library! The library's doors opened on February 25 after an almost two-month closure. The library received new carpet, paint, comfortable seating for teens, adults and children, as well as custom-built service desks for staff. The community is thrilled we are open with a community celebration announced soon. See our reopening video here: bit.ly/40fstGI. To access more information on our 10-Branch Library Refresh Project supported by the Library Measure B parcel tax visit marinlibrary.org/refresh

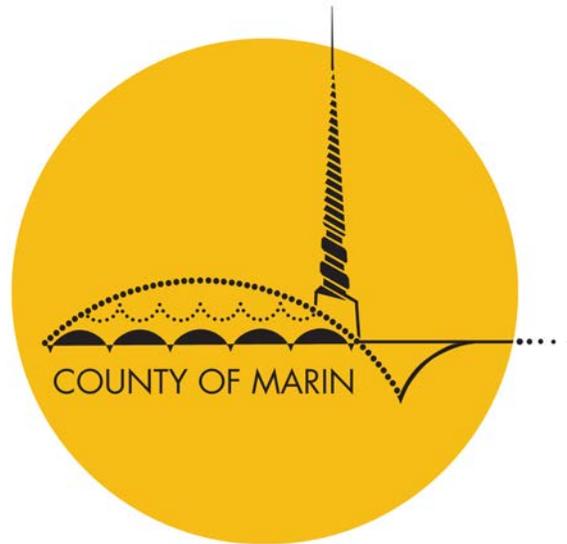
February was also the start of the County of Marin's public budget hearing process. I am excited to report that the Library is very much on track to meet the goals outlined in our FY 25-26 Workplan, with such exciting and necessary projects such as a new outreach vehicle for West Marin, our 10-branch refresh project nearing completion, the important expansion of our immigration and citizenship services and our first-ever library vending machine. As part of the workshop materials, a countywide voter survey was issued assessing county services, and the results are that the community loves the library! 80% of survey respondents were satisfied with library services. See more of the detailed survey results here: bit.ly/4d7rmQR. The Library is actively working on finalizing its workplan goals for FY 2026-28 and those draft goals can be found here: bit.ly/4ssfOw3 with final budget hearings in June 2026.

The Library system also held its first-ever virtual town hall from our internal Racial Equity Alliance on February 19, to great success in sharing with our entire team the work that the Racial Equity Alliance has been planning for in implementing our Anti-Racism & Equity Strategic Plan. Special thanks again to Brandon, Madeline, Andre, Aura, Jesse, Anthony, Carrie, Chris, Greg, Gina, Paul, Mattie, Iris, Brian, Raemona, Ann, and all members of the Alliance for their efforts and excellent work.

Last, but certainly not least this short but busy month, we hosted a representative from the California State Library at our satellite school library site at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Academy in partnership with the Sausalito Marin City School District. The partnerships between local schools and public libraries are strengthening every year as resources are cut on multiple levels and the public library and local school systems feel the crisis of this loss of funding on low literacy levels across the state and in Marin County. This is the impetus behind our Student MyCard / MiTarjeta program marinlibrary.org/mycard We have provided library services directly for this district for many years and I celebrate the hard work of the Marin City Library staff and current school staff – Shayla, Thembi and Alicia – for all they contribute to students daily at school. Our California State Library rep also had a great visit at Technical Services office discussing our innovative Zip Books offering with the collections team: marinlibrary.org/zip-books. A full but very joyful month!



Lana Adlawan,
Director of County Library Services



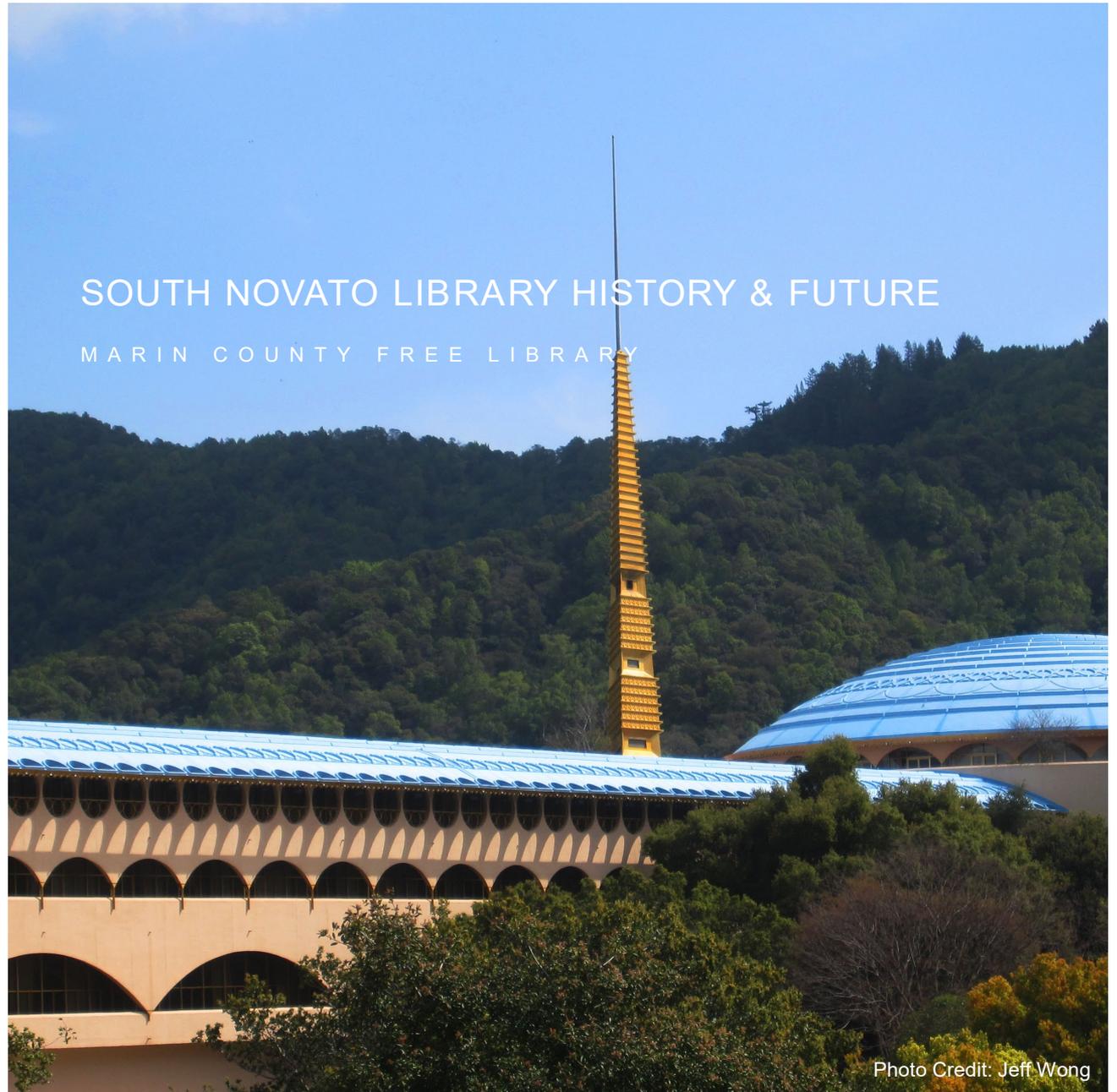
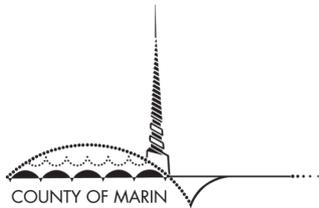
THANK YOU

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.

March 11, 2026

SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY HISTORY & FUTURE

M A R I N C O U N T Y F R E E L I B R A R Y



PRESENTERS

Slide 2



Lana Adlawan
Director
County Library
Services

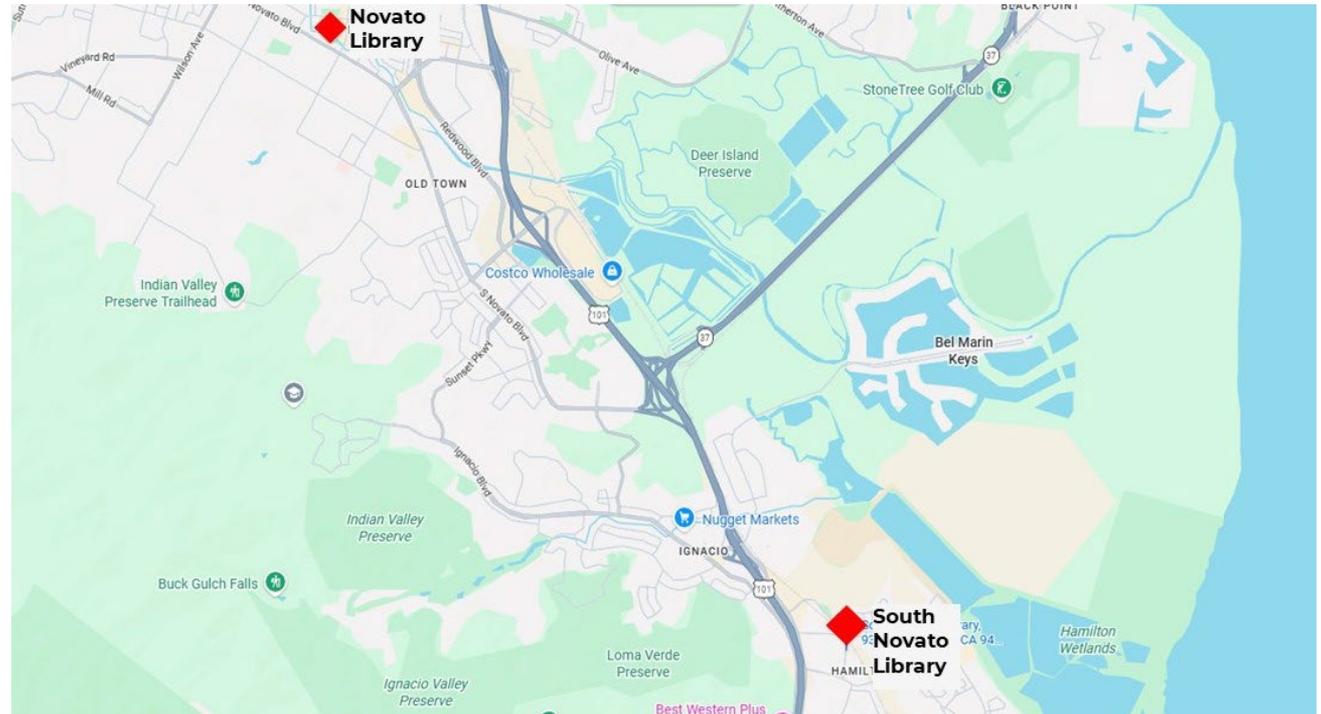


Dr. Juliet Schiller
Assistant Director-
Library Support Services

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY BRANCHES

CITY OF NOVATO

Slide 3



Novato Library

1720 Novato Blvd, Novato, CA 94947

South Novato Library

931 C St, Novato, CA 94949

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & SERVICES

NOVATO & SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARIES

Slide 4

- Number of visitors to both branches **126,547** (July 2025-March 4, 2026)
- 91 hours of service per week
 - **South Novato Library** Tuesday-Saturday
 - **Novato Library** Monday-Saturday
- Two libraries circulated over 246,00 items (non-digital)
Collectively offer 85,000 books to the Novato community
- **Year-Round All-Ages Programming**, including out-of-school time. 375 programs offered, reaching 13,283 participants
- 41 public computers and free technology / Wi-Fi to residents

2026 LIBRARY REFRESH

SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY & THE SHOP
 TEMPORARY CLOSURE MARCH 5 - APRIL 20

Slide 5



Share your thoughts!
 THANKS TO MEASURE BI!
Transforming Spaces for Welcoming Places
 Library Refresh Coming to All 10 Branches!
marinlibrary.org/refresh



UPDATES
 •New carpet
 •New lounge seating for caregivers and children
 •New service desk
 •Additional mobile shelving for library collections
 •New outdoor lounge seating and benches
 *Actual finish colors will vary from pictures shown

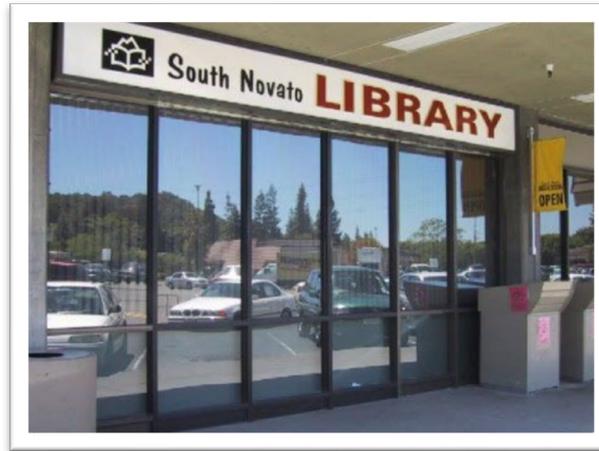
CHILDREN'S LOVESEAT
OUTDOOR BENCH
OUTDOOR LOUNGE CHAIR

PROPOSED PLAN

SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY
 MCFL | **NOLL & TAM**
 ARCHITECTS

SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY HISTORY

Slide 6



- **1998** – Pacheco Plaza (picture in top left)
- **2004** – relocated to a former Air Force hanger in Hamilton Landing, sharing space with the Library's Technical Services office (picture in top right)
- **2015** – Relocated to 931 "C" Street, in partnership with Novato Unified School District, New Media Learning expanding to 6,000 square feet
- **2023** - Reimagined existing makerspace with community and staff to create The Shop

FUTURE PLANNING

SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY

PARTNERSHIP WITH NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Slide 7



Novato Unified Workforce Housing
https://www.nusd.org/218722_2

FUTURE PLANNING

SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY

PARTNERSHIP WITH NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

South Novato Library Visioning Workshop March 7, 2025

Slide 8



- Facilitated by Group 4 Architecture Research & Planning
- 24 community stakeholders and staff attended



INTRODUCTION

PLEASE JOIN US TO ENVISION A NEW SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY!

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

A LIGHT BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED BETWEEN 8:30-9AM
WORKSHOP IS 9-11:30AM

Marin County Free Library has operated a temporary, modular public library in partnership with the Novato Unified School District (NUSD) for the last 10 years to great success, located at 931 C Street in Novato. An opportunity is before us to connect as partners in envisioning a permanent building with NUSD and continue a strong and impactful partnership.

Our visioning session will be led by Group 4 Architects, with a host of community partners in attendance. This will be a participatory workshop, with brainstorming, imaging and collaging activities. Our focus will be:

- ** The South Novato Community **
- ** South Novato Library Today **
- ** Library Trends and Opportunities **
- **New Models of Library Development**



South Novato Library & The Shop, 931 C St. Novato, CA 94947

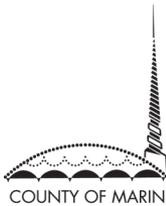
WORKSHOP BACKGROUND

To better attract and retain top teaching and support staff, Novato Unified School District seeks to encourage the construction of new workforce housing on underutilized District land. They have engaged the services of Brookwood Partners to provide real estate advisory services to the District to explore the construction of between 60-200 new multi-family housing units on various sites including those around and including the South Novato Library site.

The Marin County Free Library wishes to explore models of neighborhood design where a new, permanent, library is well situated to serve the new development as well as serving the broader community of educational and partners and library users from south Novato and beyond.



South Novato Library & The Shop, 931 C St. Novato, CA 94947



COUNTY OF MARIN

SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY VISION

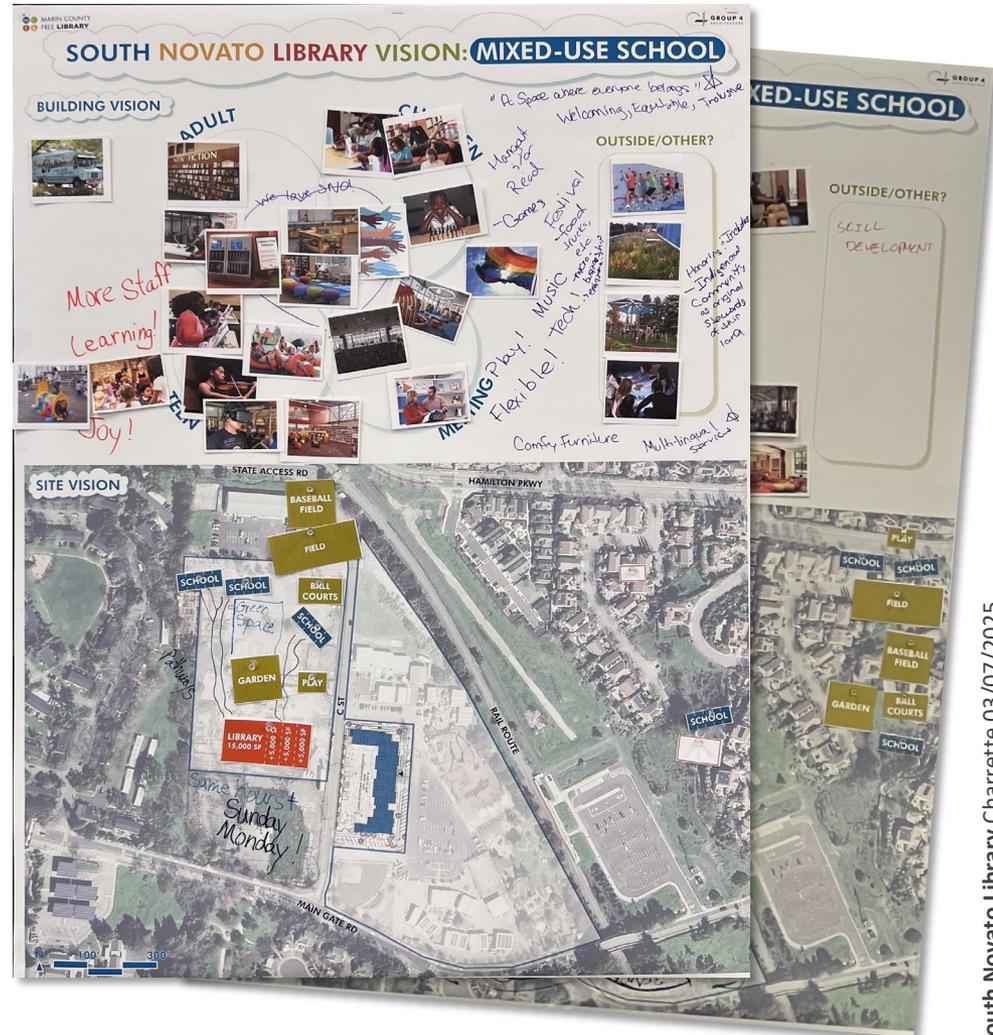
Top themes per workshop participants:

- **Welcoming + inclusive** space for the community (multilingual, intergenerational, celebrating diversity, comfortable)
- **Lifelong learning** (support reading + literacy, education, life skills, career exploration, entrepreneurship)
- **Play**
- **Technology**
- **Art + music**
- **Makerspace** + maybe tool library
- Flexible, **multipurpose** spaces
- Space for **tutoring, co-working, meeting, reading, hanging out**, etc.
- **Wellness** rooms + maybe healthcare access/clinic partner?
- Opportunity for **food trucks**
- **Sustainable** with a potential green roof + solar power
- **Greenery** + garden opportunities
- **Outdoor program** space + recreation opportunities such as a climbing wall + playground



JOINT-USE LIBRARY WITH SCHOOL

- Library as public anchor, maybe on corner of C St. + Main Gate Rd.
- Relocating to vacant part of site would eliminate need for temporary facilities during construction
- Alternatives to central parking possible if drop-off close to school entry
- Explore co-located + cooperative models with careful controlled access + flexible use to serve both community + school + fulfill school's "in loco parentis" duties



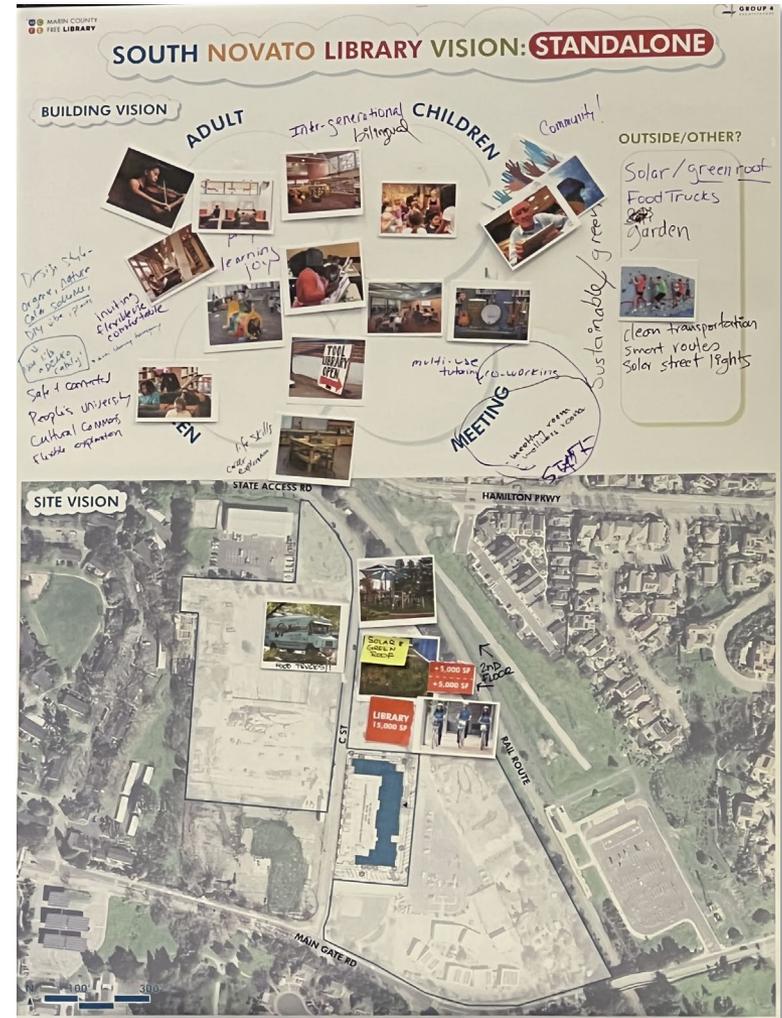
JOINT-USE LIBRARY WITH HOUSING

- If housing multi-family + multistory, library maybe on ground floor
- Library can be neighborhood anchor but also needs general public visibility + accessibility + parking
- If charter school relocated west, library could be anchor on Main Gate Rd, together with housing
- Consider planning with owners of site's SW corner parcel



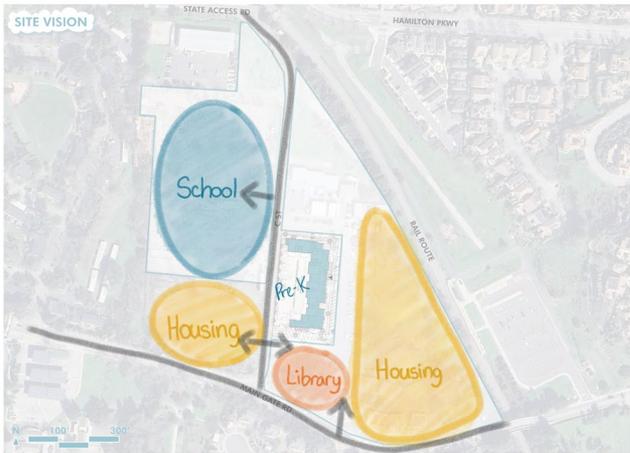
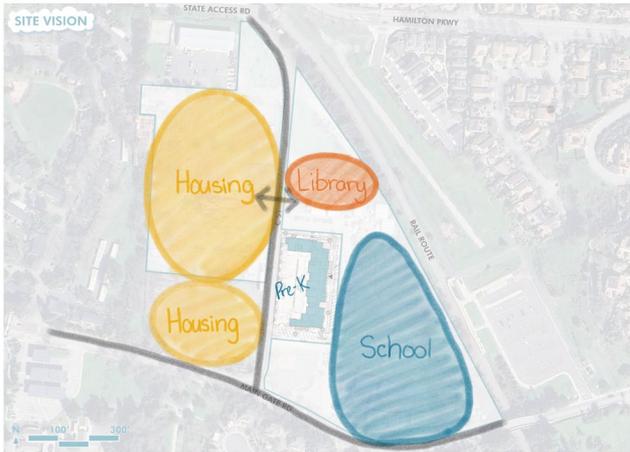
STANDALONE LIBRARY

- Similar to current model
- Many ideas from joint-use models also apply
- If fully standalone, library + parking will need more dedicated space



CONCEPTUAL ADJACENCIES

To be analyzed for feasibility and desirability



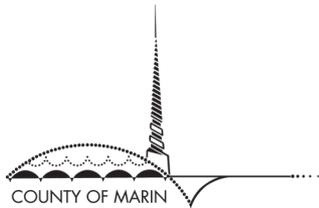
- Library
- School
- Housing

Overall, charrette activity posters proposed:

- 2 new library locations (center-west + south by Main Gate Rd) + existing location
- 2 school locations (existing + north by maintenance yard)
- 2 housing areas (west or east of C St)
- Relocating C St eastward

There are other possible combinations and considerations like parking. Some combinations may not be feasible.

March 11, 2026



THANK YOU & QUESTIONS



Photo Credit: Jeff Wong