

# MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION



Lana Adlawan  
Director of County Library Services

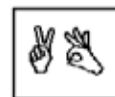
Library Administration  
3051 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 414  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Phone: 415.473.3220  
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CRS 711

## MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION Proposed Agenda Friday, May 15, 2026 10:00 a.m.

**Marin City Library**  
**164 Donahue Street, Marin City, CA 94965**  
Directions: From Highway 101 exit west on Tamalpais Dr. Turn left on Sanford & left on Meadowsweet. Library is on the right.

**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>10:00am</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 April 8, 2026, meeting minutes	Christian Action
(20 min)	5. Open Time for Public Expression	Christian Information
(5 min)	6. Announcements/Book Recommendation(s)	Wilson Information
(5 min)	7. Reading & Correspondence File Comments	Christian Information
(5 min)	8. President's Report	Christian Information
(5 min)	9. Director's Report for April	Adlawan Information
(40 min)	10. New Business	
	a. Draft 2026-27 Commission Meeting Schedule	Adlawan Information
	b. Strategic Plan Update/ Racial Equity Alliance	Adlawan, Little Taylor, Schiller & Bertucci Information
(1 min)	12. Adjournment	Christian Action



Late agenda material can be inspected in Library Administration, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday). Library Administration is located in Room 414 Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael.

All County public meetings are conducted in accessible locations. If you require American Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices or other accommodations to participate in this meeting, these may be requested by calling (415) 473-3222 (Voice) or (415) 473-6172 (TTY) **at least** 72 hours in advance. Copies of documents used in this meeting are available in accessible formats upon written request.

11:30am

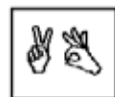
*Numbered List of attachments:*

4. Minutes for April 2026
5. Library Director's Report for April 2026

Unnumbered Attachments:

Draft 2026-2027 Library Commission Meeting Schedule

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



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**Point Reyes Station Library**  
**11431 State Route 1, Point Reyes, CA 94956**

Directions: Highway 101 to Lucas Valley Road, continue to follow until you reach  
1) Nicasio Valley Road, turn right and continue until you intersect with the Petaluma/Point Reyes Road, then turn left. Follow this road into Point Reyes Station. Turn right on Mesa Road, take a right into the first driveway on the right and drive uphill into the parking lot. The library is in the building below you; or, 2) turn left on Nicasio Valley Road, continue until you reach Sir Francis Drake Blvd., turn right and continue until you reach Olema. Turn right and continue on Highway 1 into Point Reyes Station. Turn left on Mesa Road, take a right into the first driveway on the right and drive uphill into the parking lot. The library is in the building below you

--PROPOSED MINUTES--

Wednesday, April 11th, 2026

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:06 pm. Glynda Christian welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked attendees for gathering at the Point Reyes Station Library. The Commission read through the Meeting Agreements and Principles of Trust and Care together before proceeding with introductions.

(2) ROLL CALL

In Attendance

Crystal Lewis	Glynda Christian
Ann Kaplan	Sally Hauser
Claudia Wilson	Nick Javaras
Linda Ward	

Absent with Notification

Anya Schandler  
Ted Ridgeway  
Sue Ream  
Doug Sides  
Kathleen Cage

Absent Without Notification

Also Present

Lana Adlawan, Director of County Library Services  
Juliet Schiller, Assistant Director of Support Services  
Ahmad Merza, Library Service Manager/Public Service  
Gina Turrini, Administrative Assistant I  
Leching Nancy Chan, Administrative Service Associate  
Lynn Axlerod, Member of the Public

(3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S/C – Ann Kaplan and Nick Javaras approved as submitted.

(4) ADOPTION OF February 2026 MINUTES M/S/C – Claudia Wilson and Ann Kaplan Commission approved minutes.

- (5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION – Lynn AxIrod a member of the public addressed the Commission regarding delays in the processing of self-published poetry books donated to the Point Reyes Station Library collection. The speaker shared concerns that donated materials had not yet been processed after more than a year and noted that similar delays had occurred with previous submissions. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of Point Reyes Station Library staff in attempting to assist with the matter. Library leadership acknowledged the concerns and stated the issue would be reviewed further.
- (6) ANNOUCEMENT / BOOK RECOMMENDATION(S) – Commission member Ann Kaplan shared a book recommendation and reflections on *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett, prompting discussion about storytelling, character development, and memorable reading experiences. Commissioners continued the ongoing tradition of highlighting books and encouraging literary discussion as part of the meeting. Claudia Wilson volunteered to provide the next book recommendation at an upcoming Commission meeting.
- (7) READING & CORRESPONDENCE FILE – Materials were sent to the Library Commission prior to meeting.
- (8) PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Glynda Christian recognized April as National Library Month and encouraged commissioners and staff to celebrate the important role libraries play in supporting communities. Glynda also highlighted “industriousness” as the theme for April, encouraged participation in upcoming community events, addressed current board vacancies, and thanked staff for their continued support and coordination.
- (9) DIRECTOR’S REPORT FOR April- Director Adlawan provided updates on current library initiatives and recent accomplishments across the Marin County Free Library system. Director Adlawan highlighted continued progress on the branch refresh initiative, noting positive community and staff feedback regarding updated spaces and furnishings. Updates were also shared regarding the County’s first library vending machine installation at Kruger Pines, which aims to expand access to library materials and services. Additional announcements included upcoming National Library Week celebrations and a Board of Supervisors resolution recognizing library workers and library services.
- (10) PRESENTATION: BUSINESS AND SOUTH NOVATO LIBRARY UPDATES AND FUTURE PLANS

Leching Chan presented an overview of Measure A and Measure B funding allocations, expenditures, and long-term financial projections. Discussion included updates related to branch refresh expenses, furniture replacement, carpeting, painting, and architectural and consulting services associated with current renovation efforts. Juliet Schiller also reviewed operational funding strategies, including the use of salary savings and supplemental operational funds to support facility projects.

Additional updates were provided regarding the automated materials handling system project at the Los Gamos facility and broader five-year budget projections. Ahmad Merza discussed increasing operational and construction costs, inflationary pressures, rising shipping expenses, and impacts from County interdepartmental charges. Commissioners asked questions regarding long-term capital sustainability, vacancy rates, operational flexibility, and future project funding needs.

Director Adlawan then presented a proposed adjustment to the Measure B allocation formula intended to provide greater operational flexibility while continuing to support long-term capital improvements. The proposal would reduce the annual capital

reserve allocation from \$2.6 million to \$2 million and redirect approximately \$600,000 into operational support categories. Staff explained that the additional operational funding would help support expanded library programming, English as a Second Language (ESL) services, literacy programs, and other community-centered initiatives while supplemental County funding partnerships continue to be pursued for future capital projects.

M/S/C – Motion approved to adopt the revised Measure B allocation formula as presented.

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY									
2470 & 3550	Actuals		Adopted Budget	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
\$ Year Projection	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	FY 2029-30	FY 2030-31
Property Taxes	\$ (17,158,317)	\$ (17,865,972)	\$ (17,520,540)	\$ (18,669,941)	\$ (18,255,135)	\$ (19,022,787)	\$ (19,878,812)	\$ (20,773,359)	\$ (21,708,160)
Measure A	\$ (2,861,932)								
Measure B		\$ (4,564,804)	\$ (4,784,755)	\$ (4,784,755)	\$ (4,841,994)	\$ (4,902,285)	\$ (5,024,842)	\$ (5,150,463)	\$ (5,279,225)
Other Revenue	\$ (2,713,445)	\$ (2,262,753)	\$ (1,842,645)	\$ (2,138,705)	\$ (2,376,406)	\$ (2,652,299)	\$ (2,958,856)	\$ (3,301,002)	\$ (3,682,695)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ (22,733,694)</b>	<b>\$ (24,693,529)</b>	<b>\$ (24,147,940)</b>	<b>\$ (25,593,401)</b>	<b>\$ (25,473,535)</b>	<b>\$ (26,577,371)</b>	<b>\$ (27,862,510)</b>	<b>\$ (29,224,824)</b>	<b>\$ (30,670,079)</b>
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 13,555,251	\$ 14,298,571	\$ 16,099,737	\$ 15,840,096	\$ 16,834,984	\$ 16,690,808	\$ 17,308,368	\$ 17,948,778	\$ 18,612,882
Services and Supplies	\$ 4,932,645	\$ 5,539,346	\$ 5,254,129	\$ 4,350,624	\$ 4,417,136	\$ 4,434,209	\$ 4,518,459	\$ 4,604,310	\$ 4,691,792
Capital Assets	\$ 500,148	\$ 1,070,646	\$ 2,757,750	\$ 2,176,492	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Other Expenses	\$ 4,606,949	\$ 3,425,097	\$ 4,286,979	\$ 4,286,979	\$ 4,106,691	\$ 4,923,923	\$ 5,903,784	\$ 7,078,636	\$ 8,487,285
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 23,594,993</b>	<b>\$ 24,333,660</b>	<b>\$ 28,398,595</b>	<b>\$ 26,654,191</b>	<b>\$ 27,358,811</b>	<b>\$ 28,048,940</b>	<b>\$ 29,730,610</b>	<b>\$ 31,631,724</b>	<b>\$ 33,791,959</b>
<b>Net Library Costs</b>	<b>\$ 861,299</b>	<b>\$ (359,869)</b>	<b>\$ 4,250,655</b>	<b>\$ 1,060,790</b>	<b>\$ 1,885,276</b>	<b>\$ 1,471,569</b>	<b>\$ 1,868,100</b>	<b>\$ 2,406,899</b>	<b>\$ 3,121,880</b>

as of 4.08.26

	5 YR Growth Rate	4/08/26 updates
Property Taxes	4.5%	4.5%
Measure B	3.0%	2.5%
Other Revenue	12.9%	
Total Revenue	4.5%	
Salaries & Benefits	4.6%	3.7%
Services & Supplies	2.1%	1.9%
Capital Assets	141.3%	
Other Expenses	19.9%	
Total Expenses	4.5%	

MEASURE B CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY FY 25/26					
Project No.	Project Title	Service	BUDGET 25/26	BUDGET 24/25 Measure B 2.5 ML	Total Expended FY 24/26 03/31/26
	Refresh Project 10 Libraries	Furniture Flooding/Carpet Painting			
54LP16RFMB	Measure B	Furniture	\$ 429,822.46	\$ 275,912.08	\$ 705,534.54
54LP16RFMB	Measure B - BOL, INV, PRE & STB, SNO & MCI	Carpet	\$ 158,850.00		\$ 158,850.00
54LP16RFMB	Measure B - BOL, INV, PRE & STB, SNO & MCI	Painting	\$ 58,307.80		\$ 58,307.80
			\$ 646,780.26	\$ 275,912.08	\$ 922,692.34
<b>4/8/2026</b>			<b>\$ 646,780.26</b>	<b>\$ 275,912.08</b>	<b>\$ 922,692.34</b>

REVENUE SOURCES & FACILITIES EXPENDITURES: MEASURE B														
FUNDING SOURCE:	Measure B Tax Revenue (3550)										3550 Measure B Totals	2480 MEASURE A EXPENDITURES TO DATE	2470 OPERATION EXPENDITURES TO DATE	TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE
Fiscal Year	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 30-31	FY 31-32	FY 32-33	as of				
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:</b>	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	\$2.6M	4/8/2026				
CMA HVAC Project (Measure A)											\$ 900,396		\$ 900,396	
Los Gatos Renovation (Operations)												\$ 385,177	\$ 385,177	
Refresh Project (All Branches) Design & Consulting N&T												\$ 384,752	\$ 384,752	
Refresh Project (All Branches) Non N&T Funds												\$ 189,713	\$ 189,713	
Refresh Project (All Branches) Measure B	\$275,912	\$646,780									\$922,692		\$ 922,692	
<b>TOTALS as of 04-08-2026</b>	<b>\$275,912</b>	<b>\$646,780</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$922,692</b>	<b>\$ 900,396</b>	<b>\$ 959,642</b>	<b>\$ 2,782,730</b>

# Marin County Free Library Commission

Facilities Overview

April 8, 2026



MARIN COUNTY  
FREE LIBRARY

## FACILITY IMPROVEMENT GOALS

MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKPLAN  
FY 2024-2026

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



MEASURE B – Approved by voters at 76.59%

*Upgrade library facilities*

MARIN COUNTY  
FREE LIBRARY

## BIENNIAL LIBRARY COMMISSION GOALS FY 2024-26

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

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



*Photo by Tony Pede*

## Library Improvement Projects Now - 2030

INTERIOR  
10-BRANCH  
REFRESH  
PROJECT

HEALTH &  
SAFETY  
BUILDING  
IMPROVEMENTS

COUNTY-  
OWNED  
BUILDING  
RENOVATIONS



# Noll & Tam Architects Interior Refresh Project *Implementation*



## Communication strategy for the 10-branch Interior Refresh Project:

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

### LIBRARY REFRESH 2025-2026

Thanks so much! (David Johnson)



The refresh project for all ten branches of the Marin County Free Library will involve our interior spaces for library patrons and staff, with improvements ranging from new furniture, paint, and accessible technology. The project is a three-year process from 2022 through 2024 funding for library services, operations, and facility improvements.

The project makes environmental improvements to help lower the total greenhouse gas emissions of each library branch consistent with the WFP, WFP, and Green & Smart Systems Plan. Updates will vary from branch to branch. You can find these details for each branch below. Click on the design to go to more info on the page.

As the project starts to take shape, we'll be sharing more information here – including updates and any other reports.

#### Fairfax Library



[View Fairfax Design Plan](#)

##### Fairfax Library Updates

**Marine-themed Children's Room:** A brand-new room with new shelving and engaging, interactive displays.

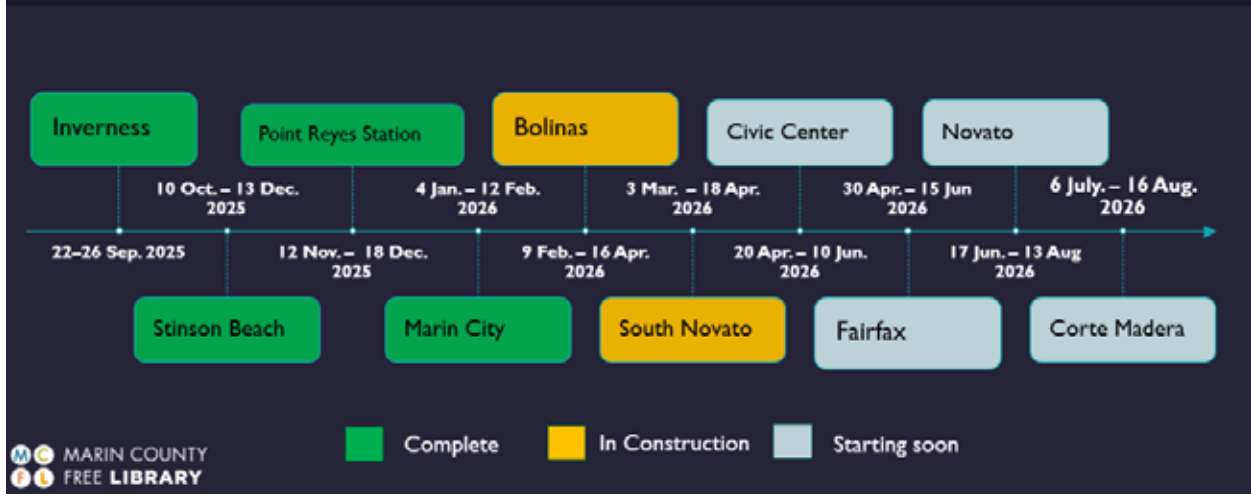
**New Seating & Workstations:** New tables, chairs, and lounge areas to provide quiet reading and study space for all ages of users.

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

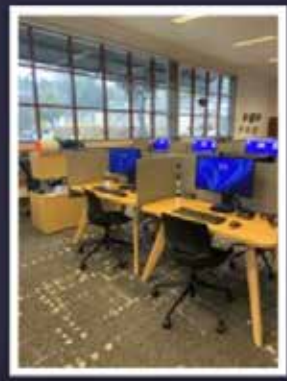
**New Carpet:** Fresh new carpet to rejuvenate the space and create a more welcoming atmosphere.



# 10 Branch Draft Refresh Timeline



## Completed Refresh Marin City Library



# A Glimpse Into the Joy of Reopening!



 MARIN COUNTY  
FREE LIBRARY

## In Progress Refresh Bolinas Library



 MARIN COUNTY  
FREE LIBRARY

# In Progress Refresh South Novato Library

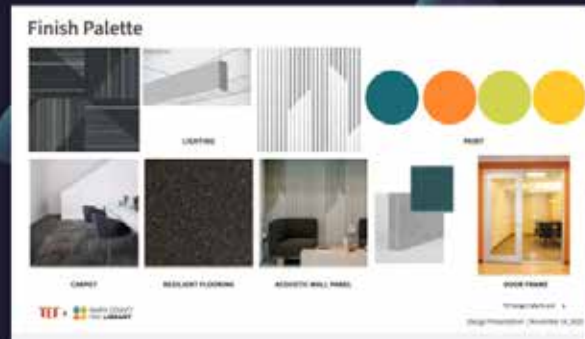


MARIN COUNTY  
FREE LIBRARY

# 2026 Technical Services Refresh (Los Gatos offices)



New automated materials handling machine, New TEC space and design!





# Health & Safety



*From May 2024 Multi-Year Capital Plan Review*

**\*Construction Cost Estimate – Four County Facilities**

BRANCH	ESTIMATED IMPROVEMENT COSTS
CIVIC CENTER (2026-27)	\$3,427,583.00
NOVATO (2025-27)	\$7,000,358.00
FAIRFAX (2027-29)	\$4,525,088.00
CORTE MADERA (2028-29)	\$5,619,437.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,572,466.00</b>

*\* Additional financing and soft costs will be incurred.*

## Key Takeaways

- All refreshes and capital improvement projects are supported by Measure B funding. Great recent press release to share: <https://www.marincounty.gov/news-releases/voter-backed-library-refresh-project-reaches-mid-way-milestone>
- Library Refresh Project ends in 2026 and Capital Improvement Project in 2030
- Community & staff gathered and incorporated for all projects
- Future capital projects / library expansions are not currently funded



Thank You!  
Any  
Questions?



(11) ADJOURNMENT – Glynda adjourned the meeting at 3:27pm



April 2026

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# Library Commission Report

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Lana Adlawan,  
Director of County Library Services



# Our Story

April 2026 | Marin County Free Library

Some months feel like chapters. April felt more like a turning of the page.

Across Marin, the library moved in rhythm with its communities. Not as a quiet backdrop, but as an active presence woven into daily life. In classrooms and community centers, at beaches and cultural celebrations, in moments of learning, the library showed up as something dynamic and shared.

Partnerships continued to grow in both scale and intention. From large, multi-organizational gatherings like Primavera in South Novato to local collaborations with schools, environmental groups, and community organizations, the library expanded its reach by building relationships rooted in trust and shared purpose. These partnerships did more than support programs. They helped co-create them, ensuring that services reflected the lived experiences and aspirations of the communities they serve.

Programming brought these connections to life. Across branches, libraries became spaces of creativity, dialogue, and discovery. Families gathered for storytimes and hands-on activities. Teens explored art, technology, and self-expression. Adults engaged in conversations about literature, climate, and culture. These were not just events on a calendar. They were opportunities for people to see themselves reflected, to learn something new, and to feel part of something larger.

Outreach extended that experience beyond library walls. Staff met people where they were. In schools, at wellness fairs, in senior living communities, and at local events, the library became accessible in new and meaningful ways. Books, resources, and services traveled outward, removing barriers and opening doors. For many, these touchpoints became the first step toward deeper engagement with the library.

This is the work. And this is the story we continue to build together.

## 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 Marin County Free Library is experiencing a pivotal moment, with strong momentum and significant potential for success. Our expanding partnerships have positioned us for collective impact, as demonstrated by the Primavera initiative.

In South Novato, our partnership was highlighted through the Primavera event themed “Climate Justice.” This event united organizations across climate, equity, education, and public health. Activities included workshops on sustainable gardening and waste reduction, a youth-led art installation focused on climate hope, and performances by local multicultural music groups. Partners such as the Marin County Climate Action Team, local schools, and the Department of Public Health hosted interactive booths, shared resources, and led bilingual discussions on environmental issues affecting our community.

The event also included a community mural project, inviting participants of all ages to illustrate their vision of climate justice. This shared space, grounded in cultural celebration and civic awareness, welcomed over 500 visitors. “We do have struggles in our community, and we are not ignoring them just to have a good time,” says Natalie McCall, South Novato Branch Manager. “We are acknowledging all of them together... the solidarity, the struggle, the celebration, the multiculturalism, all of it.” Novato continued to expand diverse partnerships that integrate culture, wellness, and the environment. Collaborations with the de Young Museum featured a Monet and Venice exhibit. A partnership with One Tam brought families to Stinson Beach Park for a day of outdoor fun. Health and Human Services provided residents with opportunities to engage with art, nature, and mental health in accessible and meaningful ways.

Marin City is strengthening community support through intentional partnerships with schools, community service districts, and organizations such as the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. These efforts are establishing a foundation for long-term, community-driven programming and shared decision-making. For example, meetings with the Sausalito Marin City School District leadership are coordinating library services for students in the newly refreshed library space.

Looking ahead, staff are invited to join new committees focused on developing future programming and strengthening community relationships. Upcoming initiatives include collaborative workshops with local partners and the launch of an annual Youth Engagement Council, where staff and community members will co-create programs that reflect neighborhood priorities. Staff is encouraged to share ideas, participate in planning sessions, and help guide the direction of Marin City's partnership initiatives.

Five miles north, Corte Madera strengthened its relationships with families and educators through engagement with DELAC (District English Learners Advisory Committee). Staff emphasized inclusive access to library services and reinforced the library's role as a trusted educational partner. Similarly, Fairfax and Point Reyes focused on local partnerships, collaborating with climate groups, schools, and camps to ensure learning remained place-based and responsive to community needs.

## Programming: Where Learning Comes to Life

System-wide programming showcased creativity, cultural expression, and lifelong learning. Patrons actively participated in hands-on workshops, group art projects, musical performances, and discussions. These activities allowed patrons to shape their experiences and inspired future staff-led programs. Fairfax provided a diverse range of artistic and educational experiences, including poetry readings, art exhibitions, bilingual storytimes, technology classes, and youth programs that fostered creativity and connection. Patrons participated in hands-on learning through activities such as Drawbridge crafts, meditation sessions, and practical workshops like 5 Essential Skills for Mac Computers.

Creative expression flowed throughout April with *Once Upon a Line*, an art exhibition and poetry reading that invited the community into a playful exploration of storytelling through visual art and spoken word. Featuring artist couple Prartho Sereno and Dennis Ludlow, the collection of doodles, drawings, paintings, photography, and poetry blended humor, imagination, and personal reflection. Regular programs such as bilingual and weekly storytimes created welcoming spaces for early learners and families. Ongoing activities like *Dungeons and Dragons*, Lego and art clubs, and homework helpers offered consistent opportunities for youth to develop skills, imagination, and peer connections.

Programs such as *Mt. Tam to Tap* connected learning to the local context by blending environmental education with community dialogue. These offerings fostered ongoing engagement, allowing patrons to explore, create, and learn in meaningful and accessible ways. Novato's calendar featured STEM, book clubs, teen workshops, and cultural programming for all ages. South Novato's Earth Day program encouraged families to create and reflect through upcycled art, linking environmental awareness with community expression and paving the way for broader engagement through *Primaveras*.

Marin City focused on youth-centered programming with spring break activities that encouraged creativity and participation. The branch also hosted culturally relevant events, such as *Ramadan Storytime*, which drew strong community engagement. Corte Madera's programming emphasized accessibility and connection. This included bilingual storytimes, family movie nights, and digital literacy workshops that help patrons navigate everyday life with confidence. At Civic Center, programming continued to create space for shared learning through film and community gathering, even as the branch prepared for its refresh closure.

## Outreach: Extending the Library Beyond Walls

If partnerships build the network and programming activates it, then outreach ensures it reaches everyone, making the system truly inclusive.

Novato's outreach efforts met students where they were, through wellness fairs and school visits. Staff provided books, library cards, and pathways to ongoing engagement for hundreds of young people. South Novato demonstrated the power of sustained outreach by increasing participation in *Primaveras* to more than 500 attendees through intentional engagement with schools, businesses, and community spaces. Marin City extended its reach through school-based initiatives and community events such as *SpringFest* and early learning fairs. These efforts integrated literacy and library services into the daily lives of youth and families.

# PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMMING, AND OUTREACH

Fairfax ensured access across geography by delivering materials to senior living facilities, community centers, and rural locations. This approach met patrons where they are rather than expecting them to travel. Point Reyes brought hands-on learning directly to students through school camps. Activities such as crafts, storytelling, and reading engagement created meaningful learning experiences in informal settings. Civic Center and Library Beyond Walls extended creative programming into the community through youth-centered activities such as the Terra Linda craft program. These experiences created space for expression and connection outside traditional library settings.

Corte Madera's outreach to families and educators reinforced a core message that the library is accessible to all. Staff highlighted the removal of barriers such as fines and identification requirements while inviting deeper community connection. To implement these changes, Corte Madera updated its library card registration procedures, allowing families to obtain cards with minimal paperwork and ensuring staff were available to guide new patrons through the process. Staff also shared these strategies with other branches through regular meetings and internal communications, encouraging wider adoption and stronger inclusivity across the system. By outlining their steps, Corte Madera offers a model for others to make their own spaces more welcoming.

# THE GEARS THAT DRIVE US

## Joyful Learning, Collective Impact, and Community Power

Every system runs on something. Ours runs on connections.

When we talk about Joyful Learning, Collective Impact, and Community Power, we are not naming programs or categories. We are framing how community is built. Through these mental focuses, we move our work from service to relationship, from access to belonging. We use the metaphor of gears because it shows inter-collaboration movement. No single part carries the system. Each one turns the next.

### Joyful Learning: The Invitation

It is the moment someone feels curious, welcomed, or inspired to engage.

This month, that invitation appeared in many forms. In Fairfax, art exhibitions and poetry readings created space for reflection and creative expression. In South Novato, families used upcycled materials to design an Earth Day tree, blending creativity with environmental awareness. In Marin City, students engaged with books through interactive lessons that made discovery feel like play.

Joy opens the door.

### Collective Impact: The Connection

Collective impact links those individual moments together.

We saw this clearly through collaborative efforts across the system. In Novato, partnerships with organizations like One Tam and Health and Human Services connected environmental learning, wellness, and community engagement into shared experiences. In South Novato, Primavera brought together a wide network of organizations, aligning resources and perspectives to create a larger, unified impact. In Marin City, ongoing collaboration with schools and community partners is building a foundation for sustained, community-centered programming.

This is where connections form. Where individual engagement becomes shared progress.

### Community Power: The Ownership

Community power is what happens when people recognize their role in shaping that progress.

This month, that ownership showed up in both large and small ways. In Fairfax, a student shared library updates through a school newspaper, turning information into action. In Novato, volunteers were recognized for their contributions, highlighting the role community members play in sustaining library services. At events like Primavera, hundreds of participants engaged with organizations, shared perspectives, and contributed to a collective community experience.

This is where momentum lives.

# THE GEARS THAT DRIVE US

These gears move through everything we do. In partnerships, they show up as shared purpose. In programming, they appear as active participation. In outreach, they take shape as presence and accessibility. As system-guided people, we all rely on each other to remain aware and intentional, building a community where all can thrive. Each program, partnership, and interaction becomes part of a larger movement. Each moment of curiosity, connection, and contribution helps turn the gears.

That is how a system becomes a community.

# THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Sometimes the impact of the library is best understood not through numbers or programs, but through the quiet, human moments that unfold inside and around our spaces.

This month, those moments told a story of connection, resilience, and belonging.

In Fairfax, a patron paused at something simple—a bouquet of flowers grown in the community garden—and found unexpected comfort during a difficult time. Another shared their appreciation for library staff, noting the care and attention they receive with every visit. And in a moment that speaks to the library's role in economic mobility, one patron proudly shared that they had secured a job thanks to access to library computers.

In Novato, the library's impact stretched beyond its walls. A young volunteer joined the program after hearing how meaningful the experience had been for a friend, a reminder of how word of mouth carries the library's influence forward. At the same time, a family's connection to the library reached across the country, as a relative honored two young readers with donations, celebrating their love of books and weekly visits.

In Corte Madera, a parent stopped to share how much their child was enjoying a curated selection of books, a small but powerful reflection of how personalized service fosters a love of reading.

In South Novato, patrons returning after the branch reopening expressed appreciation for the refreshed space, signaling how the environment shapes experience and invites renewed engagement.

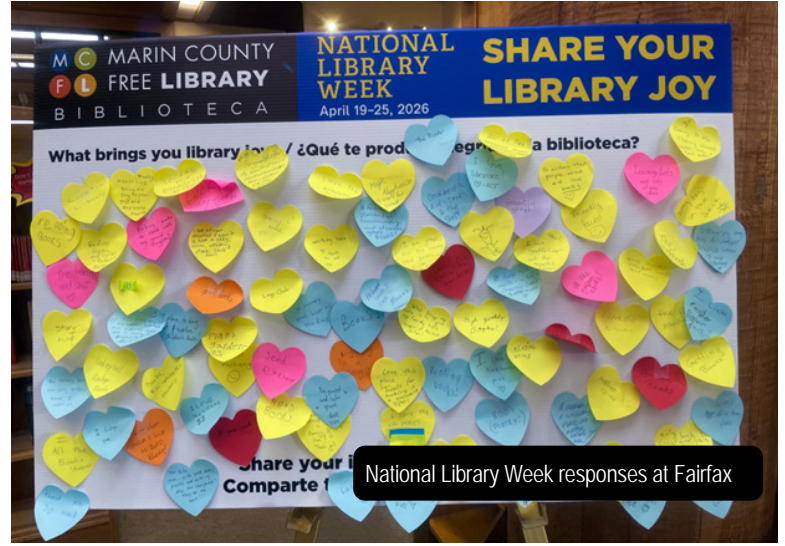
Across branches, a common thread emerges. The library is not just a place people visit. It is a space held together, where people feel supported, seen, and connected. Whether through access to resources, meaningful interactions with staff, or simply the atmosphere of the space itself, these stories reflect the everyday ways the library becomes part of people's lives.

Each story may seem small on its own. But together, they reveal something larger — community.

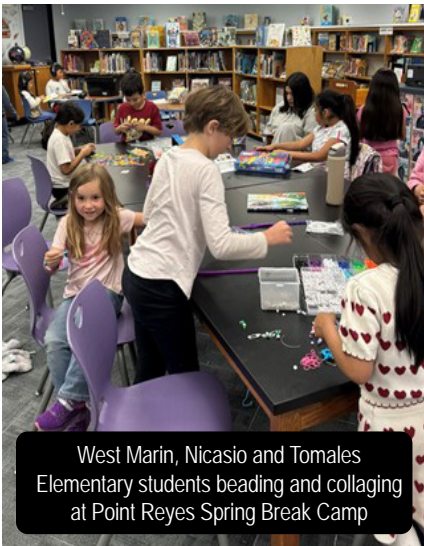
# SNAPSHOTS OF MCFL



Tons of fun at the refreshed Stinson Library!



National Library Week responses at Fairfax



West Marin, Nicasio and Tomales Elementary students beading and collaging at Point Reyes Spring Break Camp



Novato Family Stinson Beach Trip in collaboration with One Tam



Community love for National Library Week



A day of nature, stories, and learning in collaboration with Point Blue Conservation Science

# COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

In celebration of National Library Week, Marketing & Communications launched a systemwide campaign encouraging patrons to reflect on and share their library experiences. Through posters, stickers, and comment cards, both in-branch and online, community members were invited to tell their stories in their own words. These moments of reflection turned everyday visits into opportunities for connection, capturing the many ways the library shows up in people's lives.

At the same time, the team ensured clear, consistent communication about Library Refresh closures. Through physical signage, email marketing, and digital updates, patrons were kept informed and supported during transitions, helping maintain trust and continuity even as spaces temporarily shifted.

As branches reopened, Marketing & Communications showed up in person to document patrons' return to refreshed spaces. These moments—joyful, familiar, and often emotional—were captured through photography and storytelling, preserving the sense of renewal and community connection that comes with reopening a beloved space.

The team also extended its presence into the community by participating in Primavera at South Novato Library, engaging directly with attendees and documenting the energy and diversity of the event. These efforts ensured that the story of the library continues to reflect the communities it serves.

On the design front, Marketing & Communications advanced several key initiatives. The completion of the BiblioCoaster van wrap marks an exciting addition to the library's mobile and outreach fleet, transforming a vehicle into a moving expression of access and visibility. Seasonal banners and graphics were also developed to support the Spring campaign, highlighting programs, resources, and opportunities for engagement across the system.

Finally, April marked a milestone for the department itself. With the onboarding of a new Media Technician focused on social storytelling, the Marketing & Communications team is now fully staffed with a Media Manager, Media Specialist, and Media Technician. This completes a cohesive media structure designed to strengthen storytelling, expand reach, and deepen community connections.



# TECHNICAL SERVICES

A system works quietly behind every program, partnership, and patron interaction to ensure access, visibility, and connection. In April, Technical Services strengthened that foundation through digital engagement, collections development, and systemwide coordination.

## Outreach / Community Support

Building on this foundation, Technical Services strengthened the library's digital presence by curating timely, culturally responsive content on the Online Library. This content recognizes Arab American Heritage, AANHPI communities, Earth Day, and National Library Week, helping community members connect to relevant resources and stories. Online Library also promoted new access points, including the StoryStop/LibroStop LibCabinet at Kruger Pines, raising awareness of library services beyond traditional locations.

## Collections & Online Library

This emphasis on outreach was mirrored in the work of the Collections and Online Library teams, who continued to enhance access to materials and improve the user experience. Collections explored new service models through discussions with Hoopla and prepared for upcoming technology implementation with Lyngsoe Systems. At the same time, Online Library developed dynamic digital content, including a seasonal "Spring at the Library" webpage that highlighted events, book lists, and curated materials, making it easier for patrons to discover and engage with library offerings.

## Collective Impact

Further strengthening this collaborative impact, Technical Services drove systemwide coordination efforts that supported both continuity and transition across branches. Acquisitions and Delivery collaborated with branch managers and partners to manage logistics for branch reopenings and closures, ensuring materials and services remained accessible during periods of change. Online Library also broadened community engagement by creating dedicated pages for initiatives such as Primavera and developing guidance for community members interested in donating materials, making participation and contribution easier.

Taken together, these efforts reflect the essential role of Technical Services in maintaining the infrastructure that supports access, discovery, and connection. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, its impact is visible in every seamless interaction, curated resource, and expanded point of access the community experiences.

# LIBRARY COMMISSION HR INSIGHTS

## Welcoming Talent That Moves Us Forward Moving Forward Together: Hiring Progress and Open Positions

We continue to navigate the recruitment process with intention, working to bring in talent for our most important roles.

- **Librarian I in the California Room** – We've identified a standout candidate through the interview process, and we're looking forward to sharing the news with everyone in May.
- **Library Assistant II in Fairfax and South Novato** – Interviews for candidates at both branches have been conducted, and we are awaiting more information on the next steps.

## Growing Talent, Strengthening Communities How Contingent Recruitments Are Helping Shape the Future of Our Libraries Through Opportunity, Learning, and Public Service

The library has always been more than a place for books. It is a space where learning grows, careers begin, and communities connect. We are always excited to share more about the work happening behind the scenes and the vision guiding these efforts. In April, we are preparing to launch contingent hire recruitments for the following classifications in May: WebStar, Librarian I, and ESL Instructor.

As a data-driven department, we continue to see growing needs in key areas that help support our communities year-round. One of the strongest examples is our student internship WebSTAR program, which has helped many students discover a passion for libraries and public service. Several former interns from branches such as Marin City and Novato have gone on to build careers within our department.

We are also seeing increased demand for ESL Instructors as more patrons turn to the library as a trusted and welcoming place to strengthen their English language skills and create new opportunities.

In addition, graduation season brings a new pool of aspiring librarians, including some of our own part-time staff who have recently earned their Master of Library and Information Science degrees. Contingent opportunities provide valuable experience and often become the first step toward long-term library careers.

Of course, we do offer one friendly disclaimer to prospective candidates: once you begin working with our department, there is a good chance you may fall in love with it. There is something special about serving a community through libraries, the relationships built, the lives impacted, and the mission that connects us all. Time and time again, we have seen contingent opportunities become the beginning of long-term careers dedicated to public service.

As recruitment season approaches, we look forward to sharing more updates soon.

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## We Celebrate National Library Week and National Library Workers' Day

Throughout this report this month, you've seen references to creating community and connection, and how that is needed more than ever during these divisive times. The glue that holds us together at MCFL is our staff. Each member of our team contributes to our mission – to provide welcoming, equitable and inclusive opportunities for every member of our community. We often complete this work in every action that we take as part of our service and often overlook the magnitude of daily steps for lifechanging moments for our community. One example this month is of a library patron who was successful in landing a new position as a result of the library computers. Another recent example I've seen is literacy programs offered for children at our South Novato Library, resulting in 362 individual literacy sessions (almost one session every day for a year!) and minutes read and banked for children in improving their overall literacy skills. This is daily action taken in investment of our community and in systems change work that supports our entire community to thrive and realize their individual dreams. This month I celebrate libraries for our mission, I celebrate our staff for their incredible dedication and work, and I thank our community members for trusting us in this work.

We're fortunate to have a Board of Supervisors that celebrates our libraries and our joyful work. President Lucan sponsored a resolution naming April 19-25, 2026 as "National Library Week and National Library Workers' Day."

I want to highlight two sections of the resolution that are particularly poignant:

WHEREAS, the Library serves as a vibrant community hub that fosters civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and meaningful connections, bringing people together and helping residents experience joyful learning and community power in shared experiences; and

WHEREAS, dedicated library staff create welcoming, inclusive spaces, provide expert guidance, and inspire discovery, making a lasting impact on the lives of individuals and families throughout Marin County; and

WHEREAS, the Library is a cornerstone of democracy and civic engagement, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas without censorship while protecting intellectual freedom for all



Access the full Board of Supervisors resolution here:  
[bit.ly/4ngO4cB](https://bit.ly/4ngO4cB)

We also released a press release on the theme of the 2026 National Library Week efforts, "Find Your Joy."  
[bit.ly/4ddphkZ](https://bit.ly/4ddphkZ)

## Measure B at Work! 🎉

We are in the home stretch, with our regional libraries closed for their refresh projects. The Civic Center Library and Anne T. Kent California Room Annex closed on April 20 for a refresh and reorganization of their spaces. They are scheduled to reopen to the public on June 11 and community members will see updated furniture throughout the library, especially under the dome area. I invite all of you to take a moment to visit, sit in a comfortable chair and absorb the magnitude of that quiet space. As you may remember, Frank Lloyd Wright, a visionary architect, was the mastermind behind our Marin County Civic Center complex and intentionally set the Civic Center Library above the Board of Supervisors Chambers in his "Design for Democracy" aesthetic which centered the democratic process and placed knowledge (= Library) above power (= Board of Supervisors) as part of a true publicly-responsive process. The improvements for the Civic Center Library include carving out intentional spaces for teens and children in our San Rafael location. If you've ever been in the building for a morning storytime with Ms. Rebecca, you know these improvements are overdue! See the full scope of the improvements here: <https://marinlibrary.org/refresh/> The Anne T. Kent California Room and Annex are also receiving timely updates as part of this project in making historic collections more accessible and inviting to library patrons. If you would like to dive into what collections we current house, I invite you to visit <https://marinlibrary.org/california-room/>.

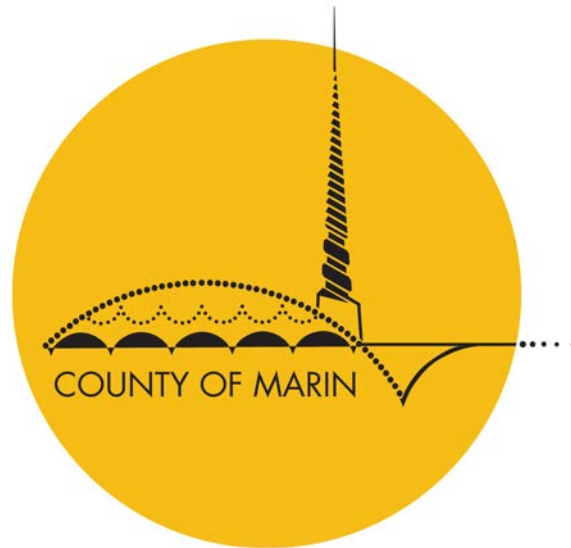
For our Fairfax Library, we're crafting a community treehouse upon reopening! Each library branch refresh was created with input from staff and community members to reflect the feel of the local area. With Fairfax Library located in a woody area on a hill, it was a prime opportunity to create our community oasis of a treehouse. Check out the color palette here: [bit.ly/4dc5LW5](https://bit.ly/4dc5LW5)



April also held our national 2026 Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis! MCFL was fortunate to send 7 staff members to the conference, many of whom work behind the scenes in supporting our library branches and that frontline community service.



Lana Adlawan,  
Director of County Library Services



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## **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.

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**MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY  
COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE  
JULY 2026- JUNE 2027**

MONTH	DATE	LOCATION	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTER(S)
JULY	N/A		NO MEETING	
AUGUST	12	FAIRFAX 4 PM	FY 26-28 LIBRARY WORKPLAN GOALS	ADLAWAN, LITTLE TAYLOR & SCHILLER
SEPTEMBER	8	NOVATO LIBRARY 4 PM	MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW	CHAN, MERZA & SCHILLER
OCTOBER	14	POINT REYES 2 PM	NEW WEST MARIN VEHICLE OVERVIEW	MERZA & LITTLE TAYLOR
NOVEMBER	11	CORTE MADERA 4 PM	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE / RACIAL EQUITY ALLIANCE	ADLAWAN, LITTLE TAYLOR, SCHILLER & BERTUCCI
DECEMBER	8	CIVIC CENTER 4 PM	WINTER CELEBRATION 100 YEARS OF MCFL	
JANUARY	8	LOS GAMOS 4 PM	MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW	CHAN, MERZA & SCHILLER
<b>FEBRUARY (FRIDAY)</b>	<b>12</b>	THE SHOP 4 PM	SERVICES TO CHILDREN: PLAY FOR ALL PROGRAM	LITTLE TAYLOR, CRUZ & LACERDA
MARCH	10	NOVATO LIBRARY 4 PM	FY 26-28 LIBRARY WORKPLAN MILESTONES	ADLAWAN, LITTLE TAYLOR & SCHILLER
<b>APRIL (FRIDAY)</b>	16	MARIN CITY 10 AM	STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE / RACIAL EQUITY ALLIANCE	ADLAWAN, LITTLE TAYLOR, SCHILLER & BERTUCCI

<b>MAY</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>FAIRFAX 4 PM</b>	<b>MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW FACILITIES OVERVIEW</b>	<b>CHAN, MERZA &amp; SCHILLER</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>LOCATION TBD 4 PM</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING &amp; ELECTIONS</b>	

**DRAFT**