COUNTY OF MARIN

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
MY CHOICE FOR LEISURE LEARNING LIVING

Lana Adlawan
Director of County Library Services

Library Administration
3051 Civic Center Drive
Suite 414
San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone: 415.473.3220
Fax: 415. 473.3786
CRS 711

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY COMMISSION
Proposed Agenda
Thursday, November 12, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Corte Madera Library
707 Meadowsweet Dr. Corte Madera, CA 94925

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.

ITEM		PRESENTER	STATUS	
4:00pm				
(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 September 9, 2026 And October 14, 2026, meeting minutes	Christian	Action
(10 min)	5.	Open Time for Public Expression	Christian	Information
(5 min)	6.	Announcements/Book Recommendation(s)	Sandoval	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 October	Adlawan	Information
	10.	New Business		
(10 Min)		a. Bylaws ad Hoc committee	Christian, Adlawan	Action
(30 Min)		b. Strategic Plan Update/ Racial Equity Alliance	Adlawan, Schiller, Little Taylor	Information
(1 min)	11.	Adjournment	Christian	Action
5:30pm				

Numbered List of attachments:
4. Minutes for September 2026 and October 2026



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.

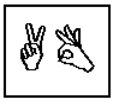
9. Library Director's Report for October 2026

Unnumbered Attachments:

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







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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. Go past the intersection, and the Library is on the right-hand side with a red tile roof.

--PROPOSED MINUTES—

Wednesday, September 9th, 2026

(1) CALL TO ORDER
Meeting was called to order at approximately 4:02pm by Commission President Glynda Christian. President Christian welcomed attendees and invited introductions for new Commissioner Doug Murray. The Commission read through Meeting Agreements.

(2) ROLL CALL

In Attendance
Glynda Christian
Ted Ridgeway
Sue Ream
Linda Ward
Ann Kaplan
Anya Schandler
Doug Sides
Claudia Wilson

Absent with Notification
Nick Javaras
Kathleen Cage
Crystal Lewis
Maria Sandoval

Absent Without Notification

Also Present
Lana Adlawan, Director of County Library Services
Raemona Little Taylor, Assistant Director of Public Services
Ahmad Merza, Library Services Manager – Public Services
Leching Chan, Administrative Services Associate
Gracie Leon, Administrative Assistant II
Doug Murray, Member of the Public – Commissioner awaiting appointment

(3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S/C – Doug Sides and Anya Schandler approved as submitted.

(4) ADOPTION OF August 2026 MINUTES M/S/C – Doug Sides and Anya Schandler approved minutes.

(5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION – No members of the public requested to speak.

(6) ANNOUCEMENT / BOOK RECOMMENDATION(S) – Commissioner Wilson Shared recommendations by Gloria Steinem - *My Life on the Road*, Dolly Parton - *My Life in Lyrics*, due to their recent passings, as well as *She Come By It Natural* by Sarah Smarsh, and *The Book of Gutsy Women* by Hillary and Chelsea Clinton. She discussed how *My Life on the Road*'s discussion of travels and talking to people affected how she lived her life and influenced her work. She highlighted how Steinem placed importance on not making assumptions.

(7) READING & CORRESPONDENCE FILE – Materials were sent to the Library Commission prior to meeting.

(8) PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Christian shared information about an article regarding the making of "DECLARE: A civic Gospel and asked members to reflect on the belief that "Democracy is the work of many hands". She also requested the commission let her know about their interest in reviewing our commission bylaws, to be agendized for a future meeting. President Christian reminded the committee that next month's meeting is at Point Reyes.

(9) DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR AUGUST- Director Adlawan spoke on the boost in registration for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, as well as donations to the program. She also mentioned the recording of the Brown Act training which is now available for all commission members to refresh their knowledge. Director Adlawan also highlighted the addition of the ASO fulfillment and the ongoing "Stewards of the Land" Exhibit and "The Mood of America" screening.

(10) NEW BUSINESS

a. MEASURE A/B FUND REVIEW

Leching and Director Adlawan Presented on Measure B funds used for refresh projects as well as funds projected for future capital improvement projects. Commissioners asked clarifying questions throughout.

MEASURE B CAPITAL PROJECTS SUMMARY FY 26/27

Project No.	Project Title	Service	BUDGET 26/27	BUDGET 25/26	BUDGET 24/25	Total Expended
		Furniture Flooding/Carpet Painting	Measure B 2.0 ML	Measure B 2.5 ML	Measure B 2.5 ML	FY 26/27 09/09/26
	Refresh Project 10 Libraries					
54LP16RFMB	**Measure B**	Furniture	$ 66,970.40	$ 937,175.00	$ 275,912.08	$ 1,280,057.48
54LP16RFMB	**Measure B - BOL, INV, PRE, STB, SNO, MCI, CCE, FAI, NOV & CMA**	Carpet		$ 323,639.00		$ 323,639.00
54LP16RFMB	**Measure B - BOL, INV, PRE, STB, SNO & MCI**	Painting		$ 79,355.20		$ 79,355.20
			$ 66,970.40	$ 1,340,169.20	$ 275,912.08	$ 1,683,051.68
9/9/2026			**$ 66,970.40**	**$ 1,340,169.20**	**$ 275,912.08**	**$ 1,683,051.68**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1																		
2	**REVENUE SOURCES & FACILITIES EXPENDITURES: MEASURE B**																	
3	FUNDING SOURCE:					Measure B Tax Revenue (3550)									3550 Measure B Totals	2480 MEASURE A EXPENDITURES TO DATE	2470 OPERATION EXPENDITURES TO DATE	TOTAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE
4																		
5																		
6	Fiscal Year					FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 30-31	FY 31-32	FY 32-33	as of			
7	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:					$2.6M	$2.6M	$2.0M	$2.0M	$2.0M	$2.0M	$2.0M	$2.0M	$2.0M	9/9/2026			
8	CMA HVAC Project (Measure A)															$ 900,396		$ 900,396
9	Los Gamos Renovation (Operations)																$ 385,177	$ 385,177
10	Refresh Project (All Branches) Design & Consulting N&T																$ 400,000	$ 400,000
11	Refresh Project (All Branches) Professional and Misc Services																$ 636,980	$ 636,980
12	Refresh Project (All Branches) Measure B					$ 275,912	$ 1,340,169	$ 66,971							$ 1,683,052			$ 1,683,052
13																		
14	**TOTALS as of 09-09-2026**					$ 275,912	$ 1,340,169	$ 66,971	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,683,052	$ 900,396	$ 1,422,157	$ 4,005,605

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1											
2		MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY									
3		2470 & 3550									
4		5 Year Projection	Actuals FY 2024-25	Actuals FY 2025-26	Adopted Budget FY2026-27	Projected FY 2026-27	Projected FY 2027-28	Projected FY 2028-29	Projected FY 2029-30	Projected FY 2030-31	Projected FY 2031-32
5											
6											
7		Property Taxes	$ (17,865,972)	$(18,477,764)	$ (18,255,135)	$ (18,985,340)	$ (19,744,754)	$ (20,534,544)	$(21,355,926)	$ (22,210,163)	$(23,098,570)
8		Measure A					$ -				
9		Measure B	$ (4,564,804)	$ (4,764,924)	$ (4,845,338)	$ (4,990,698)	$ (5,140,419)	$ (5,268,930)	$ (5,400,653)	$ (5,535,669)	$ (5,674,061)
10		Other Revenue	$ (2,262,753)	$ (3,543,891)	$ (563,490)	$ (540,950)	$ (562,588)	$ (585,092)	$ (608,496)	$ (632,835)	$ (658,149)
11		**Total Revenue**	**$ (24,693,529)**	**$(26,786,579)**	**$ (23,663,963)**	**$ (24,516,989)**	**$ (25,447,762)**	**$ (26,388,566)**	**$(27,365,074)**	**$ (28,378,668)**	**$(29,430,779)**
12						$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
13		Salaries and Benefits	$ 14,298,571	$ 15,268,499	$ 16,834,984	$ 17,340,034	$ 17,860,235	$ 18,396,042	$ 18,947,923	$ 19,516,360	$ 20,101,851
14		Services and Supplies	$ 5,539,346	$ 6,297,892	$ 5,333,036	$ 5,434,364	$ 5,537,617	$ 5,642,831	$ 5,750,045	$ 5,859,296	$ 5,970,623
15		Capital Assets	$ 1,070,646	$ 1,660,438	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 2,000,000
16		Other Expenses	$ 3,425,097	$ 3,030,493	$ 3,135,274	$ 3,759,194	$ 4,507,273	$ 5,404,220	$ 6,479,660	$ 7,769,113	$ 9,315,166
17		**Total Expenses**	**$ 24,333,660**	**$ 26,257,322**	**$ 27,303,294**	**$ 28,533,591**	**$ 29,905,124**	**$ 31,443,093**	**$ 33,177,628**	**$ 35,144,769**	**$ 37,387,640**
18											
19		**Net Library Costs**	**$ (359,869)**	**$ (529,257)**	**$ 3,639,331**	**$ 4,016,602**	**$ 4,457,363**	**$ 5,054,528**	**$ 5,812,554**	**$ 6,766,102**	**$ 7,956,861**
20											
21		**as of 09.09.26**									
22											
23						5 YR Growth Rate	9/09/26 updates				
24					Property Taxes	4.5%	4.0%				
25					Measure B	3.0%	2.5%				
26					Other Revenue	4.0%					
27						Total Revenue	4.0.%				
28											
29					Salaries & Benefits	4.6%	3.0%				
30					Services & Supplies	2.1%	1.9%				
31					Capital Assets	141.3%					
32					Other Expenses	19.9%					
33					Total Expenses	4.5%					

b. FACILITIES OVERVIEW

Director Adlawan and Ahmad Merza presented the final overview of the 10-branch refresh. They showed updates done to each branch including health and safety upgrades.

Marin County Free Library Commission

Facilities Overview
September 9, 2026



MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT GOALS

MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY WORKPLAN
FY 2026-2028

Continue to complete Measure B library parcel tax capital improvement projects for four County-owned Library branches in Novato, Civic Center, Fairfax and Corte Madera.

MEASURE B – Approved by voters at 76.59%
Funding through 2032-33

Upgrade library facilities

MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

Library Improvement Projects Now - 2030



MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY



Noll & Tam Architects Interior Refresh Project

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Communication Strategy for Library Refresh Project

marinlibrary.org/refresh

Civic Center Library



View Civic Center Design Plan

Watch Video of Reopening

Reopened: Civic Center Library closed for refresh April 20 - June 10. Reopened June 11, 2026.

Watch video of the reopening of Civic Center Library on YouTube.

Upgrades:

- **Children's Area Shelving:** New shelving and a more flexible layout to create a better space for reading, learning and play.
- **Updated Furniture:** Comfortable, modern chairs, tables, and lounge spaces to provide inviting spots for reading and relaxing.
- **Children's Area Carpet:** Vibrant, kid-friendly carpet to make the space even more inviting to families.
- **Interior Paint:** A new coat of paint in key areas to give the interior a fresh, updated look.
- **Teen Area Furniture:** Expanded teen area with new comfortable furniture to create a welcoming space for teens to gather.

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Library Refresh Project Timeline



MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Completed Refresh
Bolinas Library





Completed Refresh
Civic Center Library







MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

Completed Refresh
Anne T. Kent California Room



MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Completed Refresh
Fairfax Library

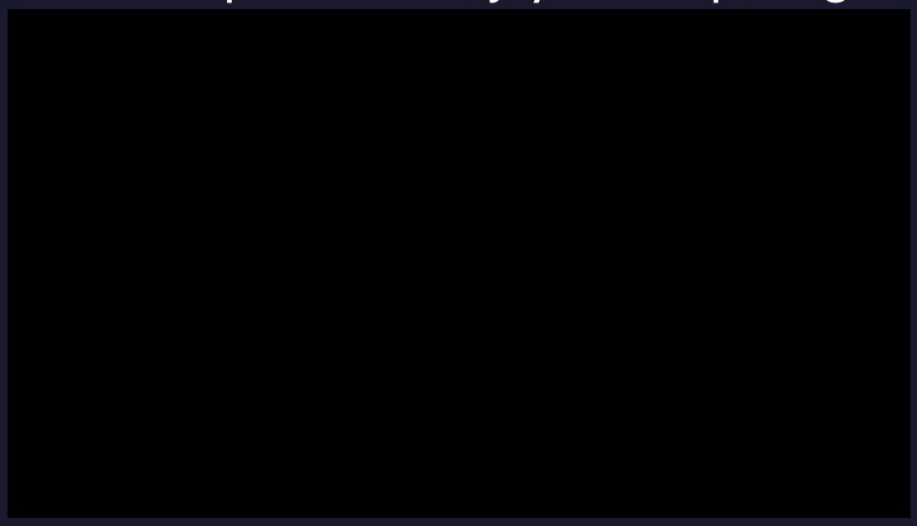


MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Completed Refresh
Novato Library



A Glimpse Into the Joy of Reopening!



MARIN COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

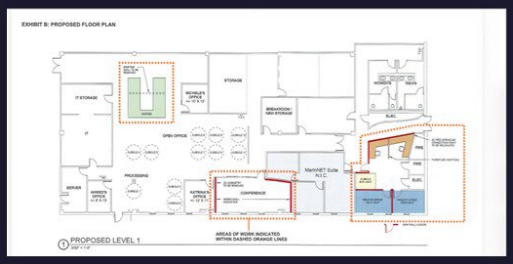
Completed Refresh
Corte Madera Library





MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

2026 Technical Services Refresh (Los Gamos)

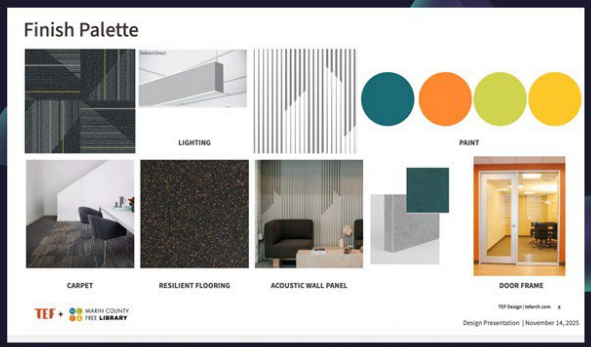


New Automated Materials Handling (AMH) machine expected November 3rd.

We will pull permits for full renovation in January 2027.

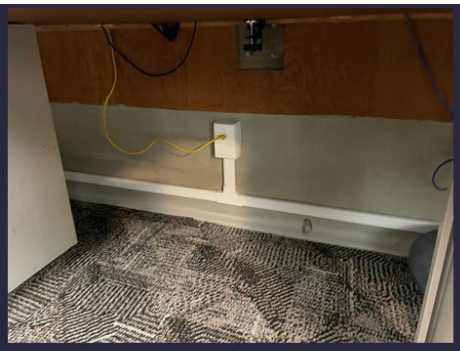


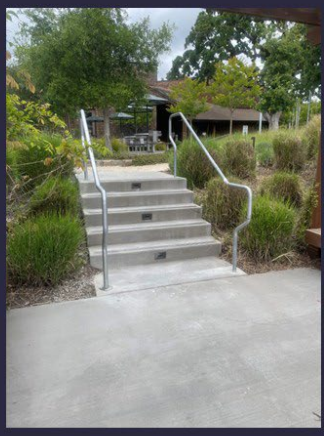




HEALTH & SAFETY BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

Health & Safety







COUNTY-OWNED BUILDING RENOVATIONS

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
TOTAL	**$20,572,466.00**

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

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Key Takeaways

- The Library Refresh Project is complete!
- All refreshes and capital improvement projects are supported by Measure B funding
- Library Refresh Project ended in 2026, and Capital Improvement Project for Civic Center Library and Novato Library has begun
- Additional capital projects / library expansions are not currently funded

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Thank You! Any Questions?



(11) ADJOURMENT – Glynda adjourned the meeting at 5:38pm

Point Reyes Station Library

11431 State Route 1, Point Reyes, CA 94956

--PROPOSED MINUTES—

Wednesday, October 14th, 2026

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:00 by Commission President Glynda Christian. President Christian welcomed attendees and the Commission read through Meeting Agreements.

(2) ROLL CALL

In Attendance
Glynda Christian
Linda Ward
Kathleen Cage
Crystal Lewis

Absent with Notification
Sue Ream
Ann Kaplan
Doug Sides
Claudia Wilson
Nick Javaras
Maria Sandoval
Doug Murray

Absent Without Notification
Ted Ridgeway
Anya Schandler

Also Present
Raemona Little Taylor, Assistant Director of Public Services
Juliet Schiller, Assistant Director of Support Services
Gregory Salas, Administrative Assistant I
Paul Skeem, Technology Systems Specialist II
Alex Porrata, Librarian I
Madeline Bryant, Senior Librarian Branch Manager

(3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S/C – No Action. Quorum not met.

(4) ADOPTION OF August 2025 MINUTES M/S/C – No Action. Quorum not met.

(5) OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION – No members of the public requested to speak.

(6) ANNOUCEMENT / BOOK RECOMMENDATION(S) –This month's book recommendation was shared by President Christian. She spoke about "*That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America*" written by school librarian Amanda Jones and highlighted the issues of book banning and the authors personal trials and tribulations.

(7) READING & CORRESPONDENCE FILE – Materials were sent to the Library Commission prior to meeting.

(8) PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Christian reiterated last month's phrase "Democracy is the work of many hands" and spoke about the 14 propositions on the election as well as the right to vote and voter responsibilities. She highlighted the civic benefits to voting as well as the benefits of education around voting that helps informed voting practices. She also mentioned the Bylaws review in light of the county standardized bylaws plan.

(9) DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER – Assistant Director Raemona Little Taylor spoke on the completion of the refresh project for all 10 branches. Highlighted Friends of the Library Week October 18th -24th and shared appreciation for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the library. Mentioned staff celebration taking place on November 13th and shared morning closures for branches. Showed the library's efforts to complete the Board of Supervisor's goal for the Get Out the Vote campaign and shared materials created for educating children. She also celebrated the campaign partnership with League of Women Voters, Elections Department and other local partners, and highlighted non-partisan voter education programing happening at branches. Assistant Director Dr. Schiller shared about a program she will facilitate for altar building with traditional elements from around the world.

(10) NEW BUSINESS

a. NEW WEST MARIN VEHICLE OVERVIEW

Assistant Director Raemona Little Taylor presented on the newly received BiblioCoaster and its capabilities. The presentation took place ON the BiblioCoaster so commissioners received a live demonstration of its capabilities.

Welcome/Bienvenido BiblioCoaster

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY



October 14, 2026
Library Commission Presentation

Our Commitment to Anti-Racism & Equity

Community Power

We prioritize the voices of Marin's diverse communities to guide civic engagement.

Joyful Learning

We provide joyful and inclusive learning experiences for everyone.

Collective Impact

We cultivate trust and center relationship building with partners to create positive change in our communities.

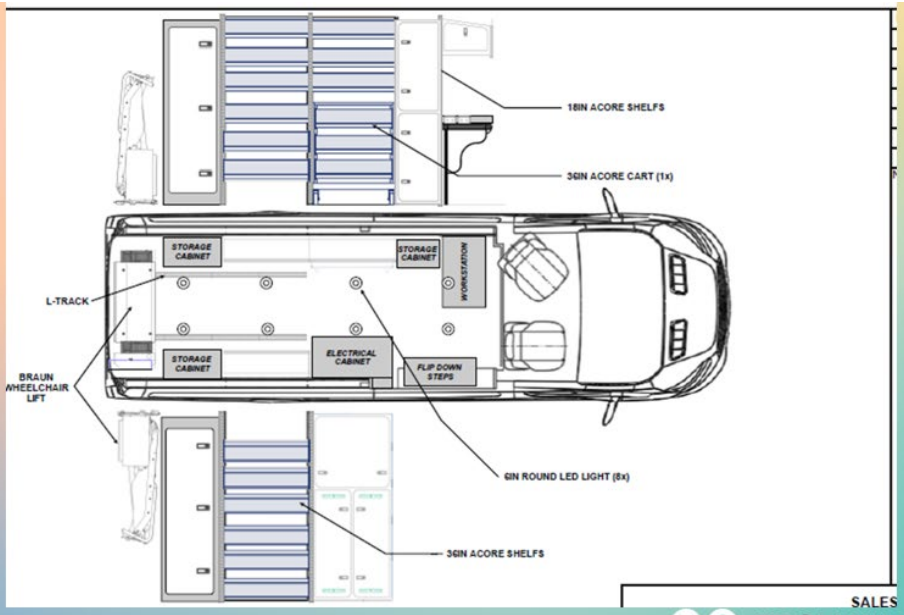
FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD



Interior Features

- ADA wheelchair lift (800 lb capacity)
- Swivel front seats and workstation
- Full insulation + rooftop A/C, fan, heater
- Custom cabinetry and shelving for books and tech

FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD



FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD

Technology & Power

- 3000W inverter + 920Ah lithium batteries
- 175W solar panel + shore power plug-in
- USB + AC outlets, HDMI ports
- Wi-Fi router and SIM-enabled cellular antenna

FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD

Vehicle Programming Capabilities

- 24" SWIVEL WORKSTATION
- BUILT-IN PA SYSTEM + WIRELESS MIC
- SECURE TECH CART WITH 12-DEVICE CHARGING
- ELECTRIC AWNING + LED EXTERIOR LIGHTS

FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD

Accessibility & Safety

- **ADA lift, flip-down step**
- **Grab handles + anti-slip flooring**
- **Fire extinguisher, first aid kit, CO/smoke detector**
- **Safety triangle kit**



FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD

Coming Soon: BiblioCoaster Roadshow

Save the Date: BiblioCoaster Ribbon Cutting

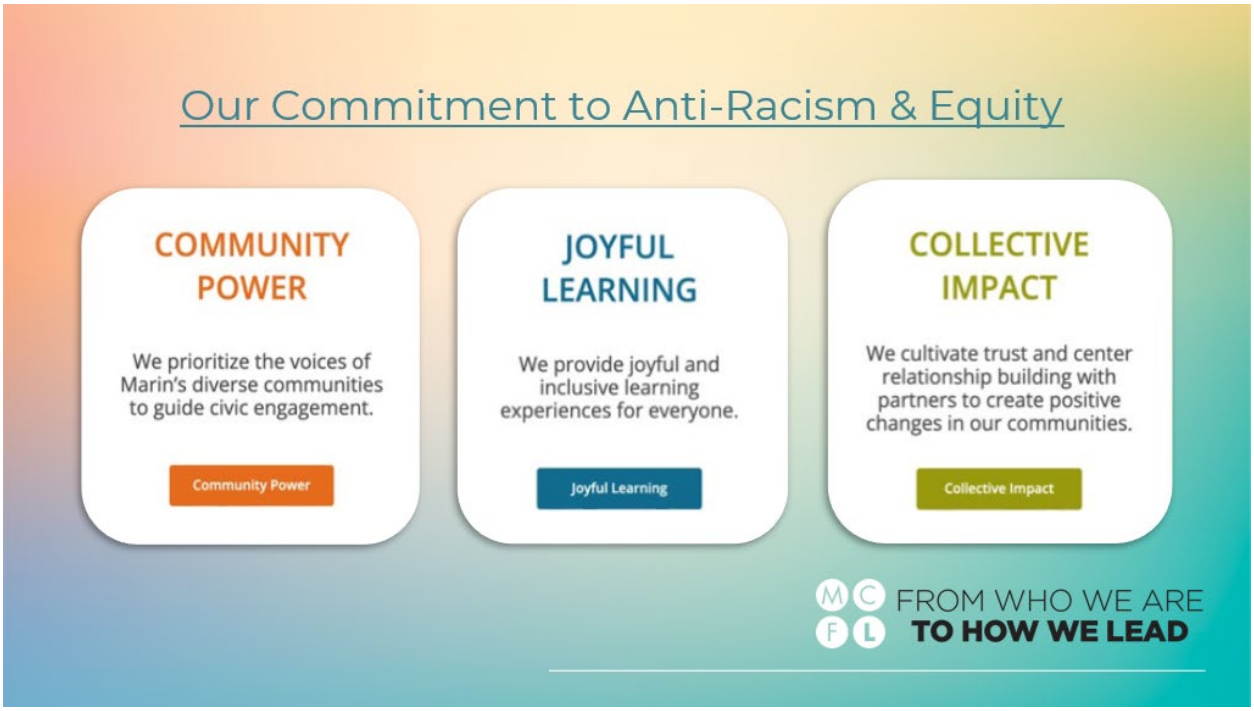
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2026
Time: 4-6pm
Location: Dance Palace (503 B Street, Point Reyes Station)

FROM WHO WE ARE TO HOW WE LEAD

Q&A

THANK YOU!

FROM WHO WE ARE TO HOW WE LEAD



(11) ADJOURMENT – Glynda adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm



MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

October 2026

Library Commission Report

Lana Adlawan,
Director of County Library Services



Supervisor Dennis Rodoni Celebrating the Ribbon Cutting of West Marin's two new outreach vehicles from Health and Human Services and the Library.

This October, our libraries brought to life the right to participate, the freedom to read, and the joy of gathering. All across Marin County, library patrons found reliable election information, space to consider different points of view, and programs that made the season feel creative and welcoming. Our goal was to make room for people to ask questions, make informed choices, and connect. We know democracy thrives on everyday access to information. Our commitment is to create pathways for access and space for community to participate with curiosity and belonging. Our work is the strategic plan in action.

The*Mission*

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

The*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.

OUR WORK

Voting



Libraries created nonpartisan spaces where residents could understand the ballot, ask questions, and connect with trusted resources. Fairfax Library partnered with the League of Women Voters and the County Elections Department for a voter information program attended by 48 people. Student Elections Ambassadors helped register new voters, bringing a youth voice directly into the event. Novato Library welcomed 34 patrons for an unbiased review of ballot propositions and extended civic learning into the Teen Corner through activities about ranked-choice voting.



Marin City Library paired information with conversation. Staff hosted a pros-and-cons presentation with the League of Women Voters, a voting circle with Rize Marin, and a screening of Selma that connected present-day participation to the long struggle for voting rights. Corte Madera also hosted a League of Women Voters presentation. At the Sunday Farmers Market, the Bookmobile became the Votemobile, offering multilingual voter materials and a collection of books about civic participation. Ballot boxes outside the Bolinas, Fairfax, and Stinson Beach libraries gave residents another direct way to take part. Our ability to shift and pivot to be the space people need during large-scale initiatives is truly remarkable.

Banned Books



Leading off the first full week of October was Banned Books Week, which placed the freedom to read at the heart of the Library's work. Fairfax Library hosted a full-house screening of The Librarians, inviting the community to consider what is at stake when books and professional librarians are challenged. The Friends of the Fairfax Library also tabled during Banned Books Week and Friends of the Library Week.

Fairfax extended this commitment through One Person Can Make a Difference: Active Allyship for Trans Youth, a panel discussion and support program that reinforced the Library's role as a welcoming place for learning, belonging, and personal growth.

At Inverness Library, a display of banned and challenged titles led to checkouts and conversations at the service desk. Book clubs, school visits, cultural programs, and conversations about allyship reinforced the same principle: the Library remains a place where people can explore experiences beyond their own and decide what to read for themselves.

October Seasonals

Seasonal programs gave patrons playful ways to create and gather. Bolinas and Novato hosted costume swaps that made Halloween participation more accessible through free, reused costumes. Fairfax invited children to estimate a pumpkin's weight, while Corte Madera welcomed patrons of all ages to paint sugar skulls. Library Beyond Walls brought a Día de los Muertos-themed movie night and activities to Venetia Oaks, a public housing complex that serves seniors and disabled residents. In Marin City, the Fall into Reading Book Fair and Fall Fest combined book selection with pumpkin decorating, apple cider, and hosted a Share the Fair Fund so students facing financial barriers could participate.

OUR WORK



Patron creativity shaped many of the month's strongest programs. Novato's Teen Advisory Group designed a library-wide Skeleton Scavenger Hunt, and teens also painted ceramic pumpkins and skulls. Point Reyes hosted mask making, a spooky science program about local wildlife, and a two-part Weird Halloween Costume Workshop. The workshop's imaginative cardboard and papier-mache creations reached a wide audience online and were featured in the Point Reyes Light (LINK TK). Stinson Beach staff joined the community haunted house and brought Dolly Parton's Imagination Library into the celebration through books and family outreach.

Point Reyes expanded the month's learning opportunities by welcoming 57 students from Tomales Elementary and West Marin School for scavenger hunts, lotería, spooky book talks, research instruction, and book checkouts. The branch also drew 28 residents to a Drive Electric workshop and vehicle expo and welcomed community members for a seminar on monarch butterflies.

October's cultural and seasonal gatherings extended beyond Halloween. South Novato launched its first concert series with Las Rositas, local young musicians performing traditional huapango from Mexico's Huasteca region. South Novato also partnered with Cin Beauty Co to provide free hairstyling, tinsel, face painting, and skin consultations to 50 children and adults. Bolinas displayed tiny works created by community members of all ages. At the same time, Novato's Stewards of the Land reception brought 32 patrons together for songs, dance, and stories from people featured in the exhibition.

The season also called for community preparedness. Corte Madera screened Supervisor Dennis Rodoni's El Niño Town Hall, connecting patrons with information about the weather conditions expected in the coming months. Point Reyes welcomed families at the Harvest Festival. He later celebrated the joint launch of the BiblioCoaster and the Health and Human Services outreach vehicle at the Dance Palace Community Center. Together, these platforms showcased culture, imagination, preparedness, and broader access to public services.

THE PILLARS

Joyful Learning

Joyful Learning appeared wherever patrons were invited to experiment, question, and create. The Bookmobile offered a bilingual storytime at Laguna School that opened an age-appropriate conversation about gender and self-expression. School visits in Bolinas, Stinson Beach, Point Reyes, and Marin City connected young people with books through scavenger hunts, book tastings, storytimes, and a school book fair. South Novato welcomed the Youth Poet Laureate for Reading Buddies and Writing Buddies, while Marin City's growing chess club gave children a new way to build confidence and strategy. Seasonal art, science, music, and costume programs reminded patrons that learning can be serious in purpose while still being playful in practice.

Collective Impact

Collective Impact was visible in the partnerships that brought information and services closer to the people who needed them. The League of Women Voters, County Elections Department, Rize Marin, and youth ambassadors expanded nonpartisan voter education across several communities. The Bookmobile joined BluePath Health at a community health fair and began new visits to the College of Marin Children's Center and San Geronimo Valley Community Center. Corte Madera launched Homework Helpers with Bacich Elementary, and South Novato continued work with local schools and community partners to sustain education and career pathways.

Library Beyond Walls coordinated with housing communities, recovery programs, senior services, and health organizations so books, library cards, discussions, and delivery information could reach patrons outside traditional branches. At the Marin Humane Society Pet Clinic, staff spoke with more than 120 people and issued five library cards. At the Redwoods Alzheimer's Community Walk, staff connected with more than 40 people and identified residents who may benefit from delivery services. The BiblioCoaster launch with Health and Human Services extended that same shared commitment across rural West Marin.

Community Power

Community Power grew when residents helped shape what happened in their libraries. Teens created Novato's Skeleton Scavenger Hunt and made the Teen Corner a place for civic learning. A Fairfax resident-led meditation program reached its first anniversary, and town volunteers used the Library to prepare gifts for neighbors over age 90. Bolinas patrons filled the branch with tiny art, while Inverness staff began listening for local priorities before adding new programs. Stinson Beach patrons proposed future programs about weather, tides, and poetry, and staff began turning those ideas into plans. Ballot boxes, voting circles, challenged-book discussions, community art, and patron-designed programs all demonstrated the same principle: the Library is strongest when people can use it not only as visitors, but as participants in public life.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE "VOZ DE LA RAZA"



Patron experiences in October showed that access often begins with a small moment of recognition. On the Bookmobile, a Star Academy student returned a title and joked, "My TBR list is longer than this bus," then checked out another book. At Corte Madera, a young child asked what her checked-out book would cost. Her mother answered, "The book is free. It's the library." In Inverness, patrons whose cards had expired after years away renewed their accounts and began borrowing materials again. A Library Beyond Walls patron said mail delivery let her read again and discover authors she now loves.



Libraries also gave patrons space to feel supported. After learning that a beloved aunt had died, a Corte Madera patron considered skipping the Bookish Bricks program but later said the hour of making helped her step outside her grief. A Point Reyes parent returned after several months away and explained that the Library was one of her daughter's favorite places. At Stinson Beach, patrons spontaneously sang "Happy Birthday" after a longtime visitor mentioned turning 81, while a homebound patron called to thank staff for the DVD recommendations that keep her connected.



Community care appeared in other forms as well. When a child's bicycle disappeared outside the Bolinas Library, local children searched the area and word of its recovery traveled from the store to the Library and back to the family. At Novato, teen volunteers decorated the information desk with fall leaves and an encouraging message that an older patron said made the space feel cheerful. Fairfax patrons repeatedly described the staff as kind and the Library as a welcoming place for learning, belonging, and personal growth. At South Novato, staff helped a patron use library technology while preparing for job interviews, demonstrating the importance of pairing compassion with practical support.



SNAPSHOTS OF MCFL


Bookmobile ful of teens at the Star Academy school


Bookish Bricks program at Corte Madera


Guess the pumpkin's weight and win it at Fairfax



Banned books display at Inverness



Teen Volunteers decorated Novato's Information Desk for the Fall

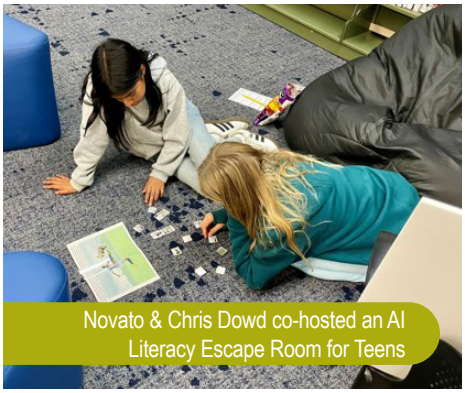

West Marin School 8th graders visit the Point Reyes Library.



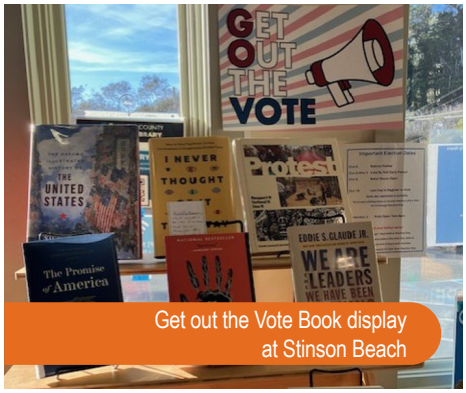
The MCFL staff who attended JCLC at the conference awards ceremony


Students enjoy reading at Stinson Beach during a field trip


Volunteers prepared gift baskets and flowers for Fairfax seniors age 90 and older


Novato & Chris Dowd co-hosted an AI Literacy Escape Room for Teens


Las Rosaitas sing to children at South Novato



Get out the Vote Book display at Stinson Beach

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS (MARCOM)

Marketing & Communications supported civic participation, public awareness, and systemwide engagement. The team designed and distributed promotional materials for the Get Out the Vote campaign, promoted the BiblioCoaster ribbon-cutting, and covered the event to introduce the new mobile library service and document its arrival in West Marin.

The team provided technical and design support for the internal staff newsletter and developed digital signage to help residents prepare for the anticipated El Niño season. Throughout the month, patrons stayed informed about library programs, services, and community resources through coordinated social media posts and the Library News newsletter.







TECHNICAL SERVICES

Technical Services supported access to library resources, strengthened digital accessibility, and prepared for changes to collections and facilities. Teams coordinated across the library and MARINet to keep services moving and help residents find useful information.

Online Library and Accessibility

The Online Library team worked with county partners and our website vendor to improve accessibility functionalities and practices in our digital communications.

To help patrons use digital services, the team prepared a blog post introducing Hoopla Flex, a new Hoopla feature that allows digital borrowing for greater accessibilty.

Collections and Staffing

The Collection Development and Acquisitions teams visited branches to discuss the upcoming transition to non-floating collections. The team also interviewed candidates for a full-time Library Aide position and selected a candidate expected to start soon.

Facilities

Work continued on the TEC refresh project, including flooring installation in the area planned for the automated materials handling (AMH) machine, preparing the space for the next phase of the project.

Coordination

Staff attended weekly selector meetings, Drop-in Collections Conversations, Library Leadership and County accessibility check-ins, and the all-TEC staff meeting to coordinate work and stay aligned on priorities. They also participated in MARINet's Bibliographic Standards Working Group, Digital Resources Working Group, and Library of Things Taskforce to support shared library efforts.

Joyful Learning

The Online Library prepared an introduction to Hoopla Flex to help patrons learn a new way to use the library's digital resources.

Collective Impact

The Online Library added a section to the voting resources page featuring League of Women Voters explainer videos for every California proposition, bringing trusted, nonpartisan election information together so residents can use it when they vote.

Community Power

The new voting resources help residents learn about ballot propositions so they can make informed choices.

HR INSIGHTS

New Faces, New Perspectives, One Shared Mission

We are excited to introduce the newest members of the Marin County Free Library team. Their diverse backgrounds, fresh ideas, and commitment to public service will enrich our workplace and enhance the experiences of those we serve. As they join us in advancing our mission, we invite everyone to extend a warm welcome and help make their transition into the MCFL community a memorable one.

- Gregory Salas joins the Administration office as our newest Administrative Assistant I.
- Darrell St. Blaine joins the Civic Center branch as our newest Library Aide.

What's Next for MCFL: New Opportunities Ahead

As MCFL continues to evolve and grow, we're preparing to welcome new talent across several areas of the organization. Upcoming positions will support our ongoing efforts to strengthen services, enhance operations, and meet the changing needs of our communities. We're excited about the possibilities these roles will bring and look forward to sharing more details as we continue building an innovative and responsive library system.

- Library Aides (Novato & South Novato) – First interviews to fill three positions, two in Novato and one in South Novato were scheduled for November 6, 2026. Tentative interviews have been placed in the calendar for November 17, 2026.
- Library Assistant II (Civic Center & Corte Madera) – Final interviews concluded and with that we prepare to onboard two additional positions for December and January.

Workforce Trends: Insights from Six Years of Vacancy Data

By tracking and analyzing vacancy trends over the past six years, we have gained valuable insight into our workforce needs and hiring patterns. Our data shows that MCFL experiences an average of 20 vacancies annually, with approximately five positions becoming available each quarter. Encouragingly, our department has consistently filled vacant positions in an average of four months.

As we approach the end of the year, we are just three positions away from achieving much lower vacancy percentages than our vacancy rate goal of 8%. Looking ahead, we anticipate continuing to meeting staffing goals while addressing the new vacancies that naturally arise throughout the year.

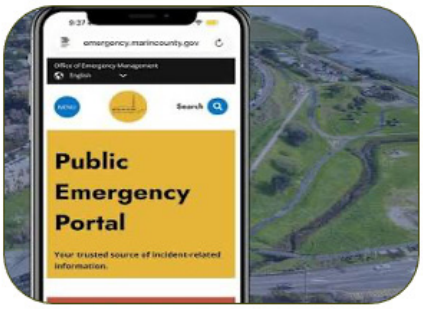
LIBRARY DIRECTOR REPORT

El Niño Planning for Libraries and County

The County is actively preparing for the weather conditions anticipated with El Niño. The Office of Emergency Management has been leading with increased communications to all community members and staff from both County and city / town teams. Recommended resources for any community member in preparing both before and in an emergency are:

Sign-up for alerts
AlertMarin.org

Get prepared
ReadyMarin.org/ElNino



Situational awareness
Emergency.MarinCounty.gov

The Library's Executive Team, Operations Team and Library Leadership Team have been analyzing any risks in library locations over the last few weeks, preparing and updating library procedures and policies, ensuring staff are also prepared with the resources above and preparing to keep both our staff and community members as safe and prepared as we can when an incident occurs. The anticipated time frames for large-scale impacts in our area (that we know of now) are during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks, as well as during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday week in January 2027. Expect that we will have service impacts if weather episodes are as predicted and that library services will be fluid in response. All library staff are mandated Disaster Service Workers, and we may be called to adjust library services during these periods to support a countywide response. Our strengths as a team in this moment are our staff ingenuity and creativity, our commitment to service to communities, our trusted spaces, and our library services on wheels – our Bookmobile, Learning Bus, and brand-new BiblioCoaster! We will communicate any service impacts on our central and community-specific social media channels, branch and system-wide newsletters, and library website.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR REPORT

FY 25-26 Budget Workplan Goals are complete!

We've been diligently reporting on our goal progress throughout the year but as we focus on our new goals for FY 26-28, we would be remiss to not touch on the accomplishments of our past fiscal year. The following were tremendous accomplishments for the Library in terms of improved service to our community members:

1. Expand citizenship, multilingual and adult literacy services to Northern Marin in FY 2025-26 to assist residents with naturalization legal assistance.

   The Library has prepared two staff members to receive partial Department of Justice accreditation to offer additional naturalization services in our Northern Marin region, in addition to support provided in West Marin: https://marinlibrary.org/citizenship/. The preparation and investment by our staff to complete this work is tremendous. We acknowledge the staff committed to this process and recognize them for their incredible commitment to this service. We await official notification from the Department of Justice to expand this work as we work with other partners such as Canal Alliance and VIDAS to meet the need for citizenship classes and preparation.

2. Revamp the interior space for library patrons and staff at library branches in FY 2025-26, with improvements ranging from new furniture and paint to accessible technology.

   See Media Release: https://bit.ly/4zVkDSZ

3. Increase West Marin service outreach by procuring a van to provide mobile services in more communities in the region.

   See Media Release: https://bit.ly/4zAyxtc

4. Expand technology skills for older adults by providing free or low-cost Internet access, technology devices and technology training through the WebStars program at five older adult Marin Housing Authority sites.

   Through a partnership with Comcast, Marin Housing Authority and the County of Marin Department of Information Services and Technology, we have successfully connected close to 200 elders and/or low-income residents with technology training, free internet support and technology at five Marin Housing Authority sites, in all districts, across Marin. The program continues, with ongoing supports for free and low-cost internet, as well as technology training to encourage independence and self-sustainability.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR REPORT

5. Increase access to library materials for older adults at one Marin Housing Authority site with the installation of a book vending machine.

   See Media Release: https://bit.ly/4eJA5sP

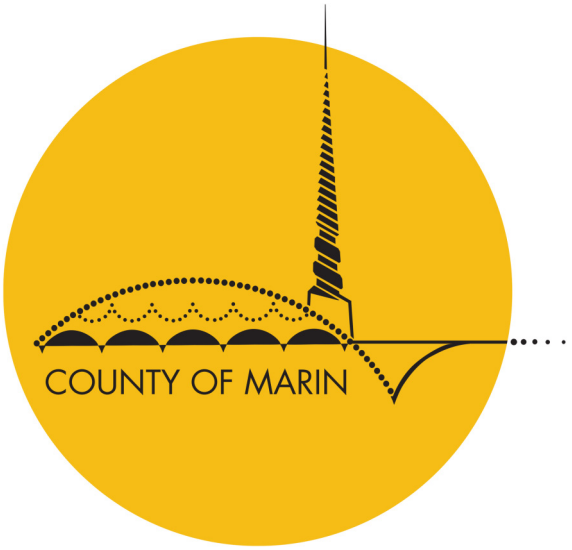
6. With Human Resources and the Office of the County Executive, review and develop action plans to respond to feedback provided through the recently completed employee engagement survey.

   Employee Engagement Survey Action Plan created for MCFL staff and released. Goals continue into FY 26-28 planning cycles.

   With both large- and small-scale emergency planning and our wide organizational goals, it takes every staff person in MCFL to make these improvements a reality. One small improvement can make a lifetime of difference for one community member, and this is what we do daily here at Marin County Free Library. Thank you, MCFL staff team, for all you do and create in service.



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.

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Strategic Plan Update

Library Commission Presentation

November 12, 2026

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

Agenda

- Ice Breaker (5 Min)
- Why do we need an Anti-Racism and Equity Strategic Plan? (5 min)
- Strategic Plan in Action – Public Services (15 min)
- Q&A (5 min)

Strategic Plan in Action
MCFL Public Services

MCFL FROM WHO WE ARE TO HOW WE LEAD

Our Commitment to Anti-Racism & Equity

Community Power

We prioritize the voices of Marin's diverse communities to guide civic engagement.

Joyful Learning

We provide joyful and inclusive learning experiences for everyone.

Collective Impact

We cultivate trust and center relationship building with partners to create positive change in our communities.

MCFL FROM WHO WE ARE TO HOW WE LEAD







Community Power :

Stewards of the Land Exhibit

July 1 – November 30, 2026

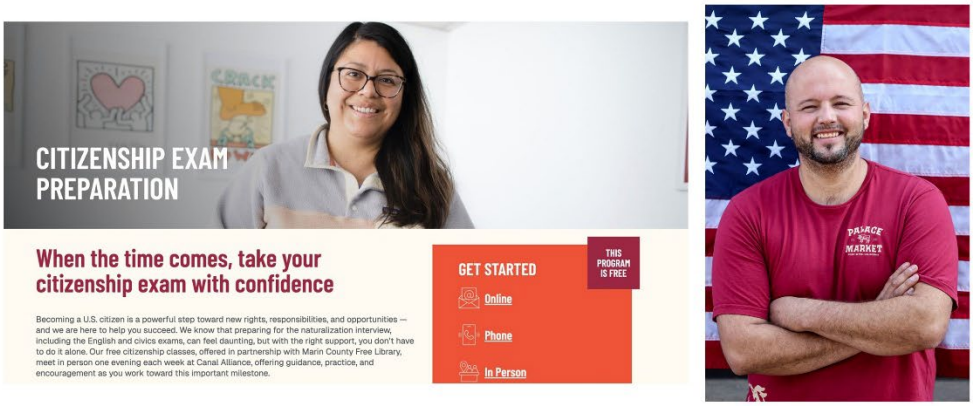
Community Power:
Stewards of the Land Systemwide Exhibit

FROM WHO WE ARE **TO HOW WE LEAD**

Strategic Plan Goal: We prioritize the voices of Marin's diverse communities to guide civic engagement.

Overview:

- Exhibit Dates: July 1 to November 30, 2026
- On display at all 10 MCFL Branches with receptions at each branch library.
- Highlights the **Indigenous diaspora** in Marin County and seeks to uplift them as **essential voices** in our communities. Their portraits and stories carry forth the ancestral knowledge of reciprocity and sustainable care for the earth.
- Participants from the exhibit shared cultural offerings at each reception.
- Indigenous Cultural Advisors provided direction and expertise for the exhibit: Elissa Simmons, Henry Frank, Marty Meade.
- This exhibit was created by the San Geronimo Valley Community Center's Greenstitch Youth Climate Action Program led by Cory van Gelder. Photos by Sasha Gulish, unless otherwise noted.
- Community Partner: **San Geronimo Valley Community Center**



Joyful Learning: MCFL Citizenship Assistance

Joyful Learning:
MCFL Citizenship Assistance

FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD

Strategic Plan Goal: We provide joyful and inclusive learning experiences for everyone.

Overview:

- ***FY 25-26 Library Workplan:*** *Expand citizenship, multilingual and adult literacy services to Northern Marin in FY 2025-26 to assist residents with naturalization legal assistance.*
- Discuss the benefits of US citizenship
- Receive a packet of resources related to citizenship
- Learn what you will need to submit a N-400 application
- Begin the N-400 application
- Prepare for the citizenship exam

Free Citizenship Classes:

- Community Partner: **Canal Alliance**
- 2 In-Person & 1 Online Class. (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Free English Second Language (ESL Classes)

- 3 Classes in South Novato
- Classes in Point Reyes

Collective Impact: Play for All





Collective Impact: Play for All

FROM WHO WE ARE **TO HOW WE LEAD**

Strategic Plan Goal: We cultivate trust and center relationship building with partners to create positive change in our communities.

Overview: Play for All is a community-driven MCFL initiative that brings together library staff, community organizations, and families to **co-design** meaningful, inclusive **play opportunities for all**.

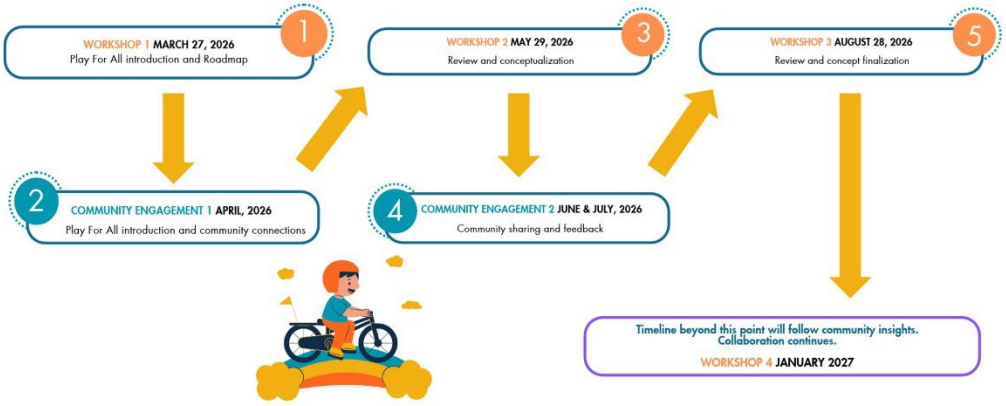
Goal: To create joyful play opportunities where play becomes the foundation for learning, connection, and belonging.

Community Partners:
Bay Area Discovery Museum, Post-Partum Support Center, North Marin Community Services, Marin County Health and Human Services, Parent Services Project, Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center, Marin Housing Authority, Papermill Creek Children's Corner, Novato Unified School District.

Collective Impact:
Play for All

FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD

TIMELINE



Collective Impact:
Play for All

FROM WHO WE ARE
TO HOW WE LEAD

THE STRENGTH OF THIS PROJECT IS OUR PARTNERSHIPS.

The library and community partners will work collaboratively throughout the entire Play for All initiative—during workshops and while engaging with the community. Each partner brings unique knowledge and connections, contributing to shared decision-making and the creation of meaningful play opportunities.

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY BIBLIOTECA

THE LEARNING BUS EL BUS DE APRENDIZAJE

bay area DISCOVERY museum

MARIN HOUSING

MARIN HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health, Well-being & Safety

NORTH MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICES
Where our community connects

PARENT SERVICES PROJECT

POSTPARTUM Support Center

NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Papermill Creek Children's Corner

FAMILY INSIGHT IS THE FOUNDATION OF PLAY FOR ALL

FAMILY INSIGHT provides the **DATA** that support Play for All goals, activities, and outcomes and helps ensure the project reflects family needs, interests, experiences, and aspirations.









And Much More!

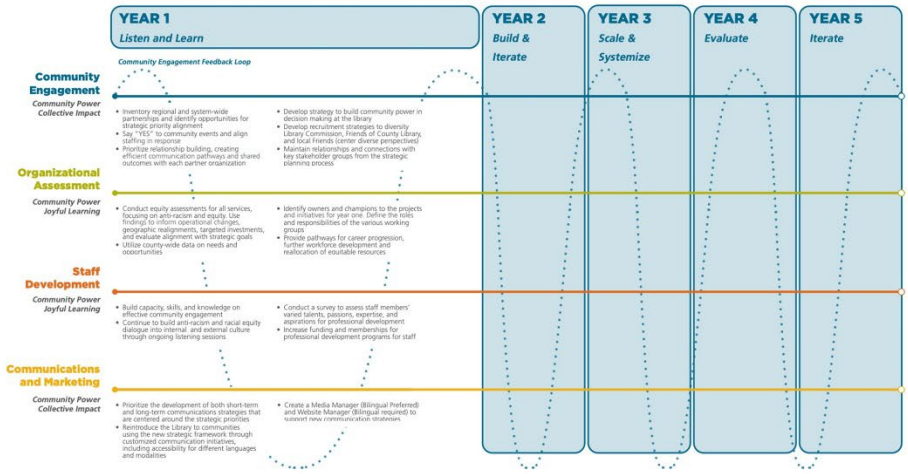






Planning for Systems Change

Implementation Approach



MCFL Anti-Racism & Equity Strategic Plan | Years 1-5

FROM WHO WE ARE **TO HOW WE LEAD**

MCFL Staff Shout-Outs

Community Power

Sophie Wood Brinker

Joyful Learning

Cris Criollo
Annemarie Russo
Héctor Garcia
Xitlalli Lechuga
Shree Ram
Simon Woodard
Alexandra Porrata

Collective Impact

Alejandra Cruz
Elisa Lacerda
Ahmad Merza
Rebecca Esquivel
Iris Meinolf
Annemarie Russo
Madeline Bryant
Brian Campbell-Miller
Sarah Butts
Adrienne Graham
Brooklyn Swanson
Silvia Molina
Jesse Lumb
Monica Ceron Mendoza
Lynne Maes
Carrie Stotts
Laura Kennett
Judi Evans

FROM WHO WE ARE **TO HOW WE LEAD**

MARIN COUNTY FREE LIBRARY



Thank You from all of MCFL for your support and advocacy in support of our plan!

Q&A

FROM WHO WE ARE TO HOW WE LEAD