

Annual Report

FY 2023-2024



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Director's Letter

Driven by our commitment to serve the community, we've had a record-breaking year and more people are using the library. Last fiscal year, cardholders grew by 19.2% and surged to 858,125. Now, more than half of Sacramento County residents have a library card—an all-time record! Circulation peaked at an all-time high of 8.7 million. Digital checkouts exceeded physical materials for the first time. Program attendance, e-resources use, and computer hours continue to climb. We are grateful for this resurgence of community support.

Anyone can come to the library to find what they are looking for with or without a library card. We're here to support youth, families, and adults throughout their lives. We're here to help learners build a strong foundation and achieve their goals. We're here to offer a space for the community to come together. We're here to provide access to all. We're proud to provide access to our broad collection that reflects our diverse community and represents different ideas, voices, and points of view.

We continue to evolve to meet the needs of the communities we serve. That means offering programs, materials, and spaces that reflect our neighborhoods. This philosophy extends beyond our buildings and drives our focus on community engagement, partnerships,

and services. We're bringing the library and unique experiences to you. You'll find us in your neighborhood at local events, community centers, and neighborhood parks. Our bookmobiles bring the library to senior sites, residential communities, mobile home parks, and assisted living facilities. We've partnered with community centers to offer programming outside of the library, and with nine local school districts to provide every student with free access to our digital collection and resources.

Our new strategic plan, released in May 2024, provides our team with the framework and roadmap for the future. We talked with library customers, community members, partners, community groups, and advocates to develop a strategy that builds upon our foundation and allows us to be nimble. The plan rearticulates our mission and vision to support and connect our thriving communities and ensure everyone is respected, welcomed, and represented. We look forward to the road ahead in service to our community.



Peter Coyl, MLIS
Library Director & CEO



Strategic Plan

In May 2024, the Library Authority Board adopted the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. It was developed through a process that placed community at the center. The resulting plan is rooted in community aspirations and supported by staff expertise and library strengths. The strategy charts a path to remain a relevant and essential Sacramento institution for years to come.

[View the full plan](#)



Strategy 1: Inclusive Neighborhood Hubs

Goal 1.1: Create welcoming spaces

Goal 1.2: Reflect and celebrate our communities

Goal 1.3: Support community-led gatherings

Strategy 2: Collaboration for Equity

Goal 2.1: Enhance access to community resources

Goal 2.2: Co-create library programs and services with the community

Goal 2.3: Engage in community-led initiatives

Strategy 3: Youth Empowerment

Goal 3.1: Cultivate teen leadership

Goal 3.2: Support youth well-being

Goal 3.3: Support academic and career goals

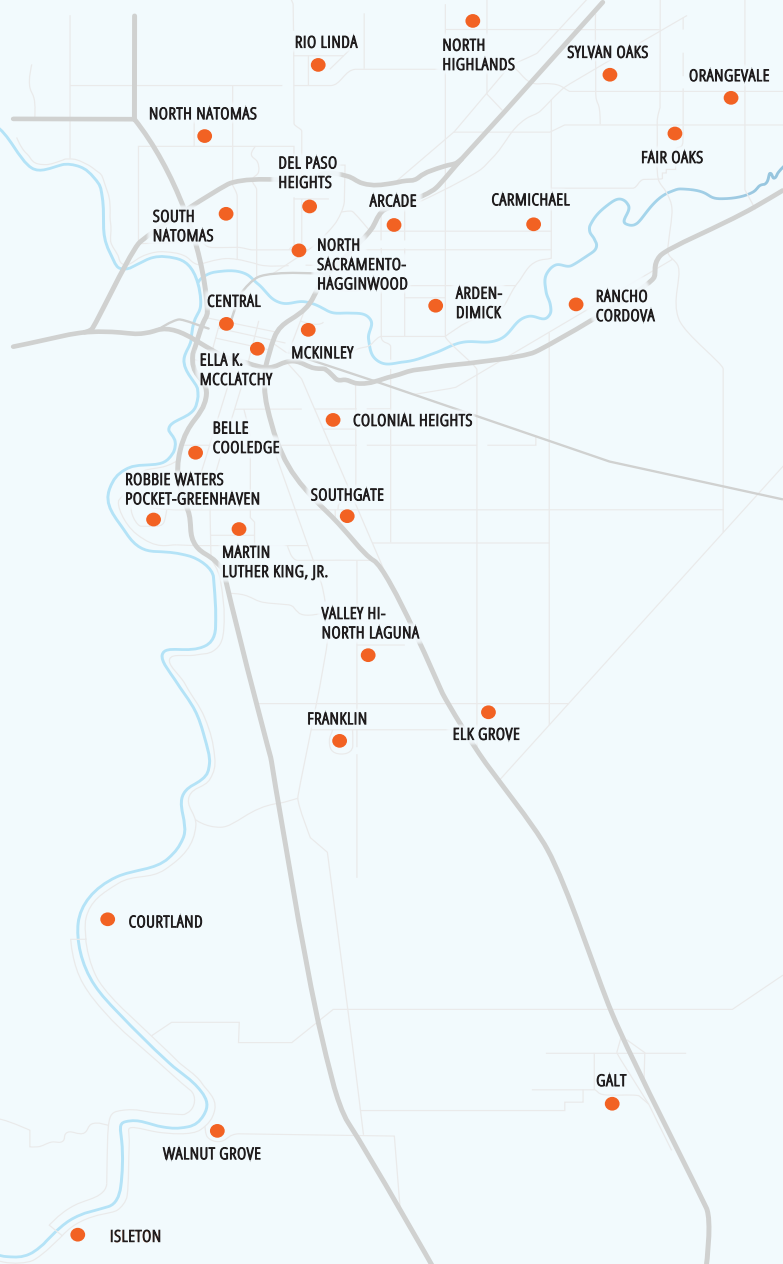
Goal 3.4: Meet youth where they are

Strategy 4: Lifelong Love of Learning and Reading

Goal 4.1: Support literacy for all ages

Goal 4.2: Encourage interest-based learning for all ages

Goal 4.3: Promote access



About Us

Sacramento Public Library is the fourth-largest library system in California with 28 locations and two bookmobiles, serving 1.4 million urban, suburban, and rural residents. The library provides the community with a robust collection of books and materials, events for all ages, services that support lifelong learning, and welcoming spaces. Sacramento Public Library is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) comprised of the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento, and the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County.

28
Locations

1.4M
Residents

2M
Visitors

Our Mission

Sacramento Public Library supports our diverse communities' aspirations to learn, connect, and grow.

Our Vision

Sacramento Public Library is the go-to resource connecting our thriving communities. Everyone is respected, welcomed, and represented.

858,125
Library
Cardholders

Our Values

Community

We believe that we can make a difference when we work together. We actively listen and intentionally respond to our diverse community. We convene and collaborate with partners for the benefit of all.

Access

We work proactively to provide access to resources that help everyone in our community achieve their goals. We support every person's freedom to choose for themselves what they read and learn.

Trustworthiness

We are good stewards of public resources. We act with integrity in our partnerships and services.

Equity & Inclusion

Everyone should feel that they belong at the library. We amplify the voices of people and communities who experience systemic barriers. We are always learning, unlearning, and relearning to make library services more inclusive for all.

Positive Impact

We believe that library services are life-changing. We strive to make sustainable decisions that support a thriving library, community, and planet.

Equity Statement

Sacramento Public Library affirms all members of the

community have the right to achieve their full potential and greatest aspirations, notwithstanding status or identifiers as a predictor of life outcomes.

We recognize Sacramento's history of racism and the history of systemic racism within libraries in the United States. We commit to representing our diverse community, providing equitable access to resources, and actively supporting anti-racism. We will listen and work with our communities to identify and address barriers to library resources due to institutional and structural racism.

Sacramento Public Library welcomes the inherent responsibility to shape policies, allocate resources, implement programs, issue directives, and otherwise advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We Will:

- Continue to listen, understand, learn, and unlearn.
- Revisit, revise, and eliminate policies and procedures that create barriers to equitable access.
- Bridge the digital divide by making technology available as equitably as possible in our community; acknowledge and pursue ways of reducing technology's carbon footprint, which contributes to changing ecosystems and climates.
- Together with our community, build responsive and equitable library collections, programs, and services.
- Root equity, diversity, and inclusion as a foundation of our goal-setting process.
- Conduct community conversations to bring more diverse voices to the table.
- Encourage, process, and respond to feedback from the community and staff to stimulate reflection, change, and growth.
- Examine our business practices to provide equitable opportunities to businesses that represent our communities.
- Invest resources in staffing, programs, and library services that effectively move the organization towards equity action.
- Continue to develop a workforce to support the communities we serve through inclusive recruiting and hiring practices.
- Shape an inclusive, well-informed organization through robust training, continuing education, and action.

FY 23-24 at a Glance

4.2M ↑ 1.3%
Physical Circulation

4.4M ↑ 24.4%
Digital Circulation

8.7M ↑ 11.9%
Annual Circulation

332
Full-Time Equivalent Employees

858,125 ↑ 19.2%
Cardholders

69,056 ↑ 16.7%
New Cardholders

5,109 ↑ 18.4%
Library Programs

136,192 ↑ 25.1%
Program Attendance

67,712
Volunteer Hours

2.8M
Website Sessions

1.83B
Earned Media Reach

\$241,403
Friends of the Library Support

\$60.3M
Annual Budget

Recognition

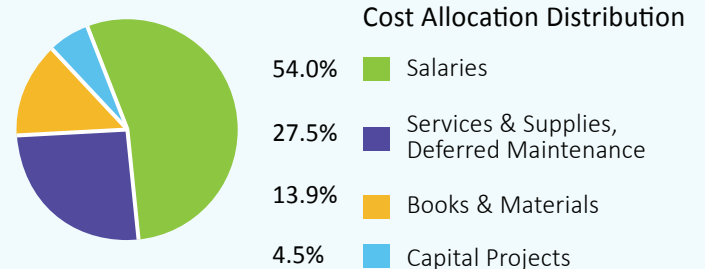
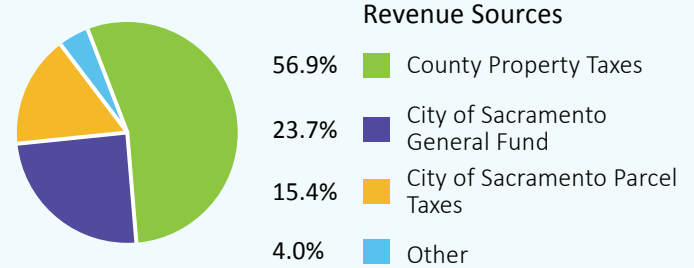
Peter Coyl, American Library Association (ALA) Executive Board

Jennyfer Martinez, ALA Class of Emerging Leaders

Kim Farnsworth, ALA William C. Morris Committee

Caitlin Tormey, ALA Newberry Award Committee

Mandy Werrin, ALA Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media





The Friends of Sacramento Public Library are tireless library advocates, volunteers, and our official fundraising partner. The Friends raised \$241,403 in fiscal year 2023-2024 for local and systemwide

initiatives. Funding enhances branch programs and our Lucky Day collection. Friends also support systemwide initiatives like Book First and Summer Reading. With the help of our Friends, we provided two books to every first-grade student at 194 eligible schools across Sacramento County. Friends members volunteered 37,909 hours systemwide through their efforts with Book First, voting, sales at the Book Den, and work in our libraries. Through the Friends' stalwart advocacy in the community, City of Sacramento voters passed Measure E, a tax measure to continue funding for 12 Sacramento libraries, in November 2024 by 73%.



12,712
Students Served



580
Classes Visited



25,939
Books distributed
to first graders



194
Schools Visited

Facilities Improvements

We strive to provide welcoming spaces to meet our community needs and continue to invest in facility improvements.

Arcade Library community room refresh

Belle Cooleage Library roof replacement and exterior façade improvements

Carmichael Library community room refresh

Ella K. McClatchy Library sunroom repairs

Central Library elevator modernization

Colonial Heights Library building repairs

Southgate Library landscape enhancements

South Natomas Library teen area refresh and new carpet



Strategic Partnerships

Deepening our connections in the community

Early Learning

The Library's [early learning services](#) support caregivers in getting their babies, toddlers, and preschoolers ready to read and ready for school. Play-based programs like Explore and Learn are now offered at most library locations. This year we expanded to neighborhood locations including the Sam & Bonnie Pannell Center and George Sim Community Center making literacy enrichment more accessible for families.



1,381

Explore and Learn Programs



2,500

Storytime Programs



Student Success

[Student Success Cards](#) give free access to the library's digital resources with their school ID. The

library forged new partnerships with local school districts to offer Student Success Cards. Now, all students at Center Unified Joint School District, Elk Grove School District, Folsom Cordova School District, Galt Joint Union High School, Natomas Unified School District, Robla School District, Sacramento City Unified School District, San Juan Unified School District and Twin Rivers School District can borrow ebooks and audiobooks, get free, live online tutoring, and instantly access learning tools and resources.



9
Partner School
Districts



108,194
Student Success
Cards Issued
55% YOY Increase



Driving Library Card Signups

The Library teamed up with the Sacramento Kings to produce a limited-edition card with #LightTheBeam artwork in

July 2024. The partnership supported the Kings' and Library's commitment to community literacy and helped drive new card signups and visits. The special edition card remains popular with 41% of new cardholders opting for the design. Continuing the partnership momentum, the Library hosted a book group with Sacramento Kings forward and avid reader Trey Lyles. Over 400 people attended the book group on Zoom and in person. The community checked out over 500 copies of the book club selection, "The Creative Act: A Way of Being," by Rick Rubin.



4,235

New library card signups
in the first 30 days of launch



19,622

#LightTheBeam library cards
distributed since July 2024



The Sacramento County Courthouse approached the Library to provide reading materials for jurors. The Library designed a mural for the waiting room to introduce jurors to free experiences available to cardholders. The whimsical artwork filled with books and QR codes let jurors start their library experience right there on the spot.



Community Connections

Creating connections beyond the library walls

Mobile Services

Our [bookmobiles](#) traveled 12,800 miles and made 802 stops in our region.

Our team visits senior sites, residential communities, mobile home parks, and assisted living facilities. Bookmobiles operate as mini-libraries with a collection customized to each community's preference including language, genre, and format.



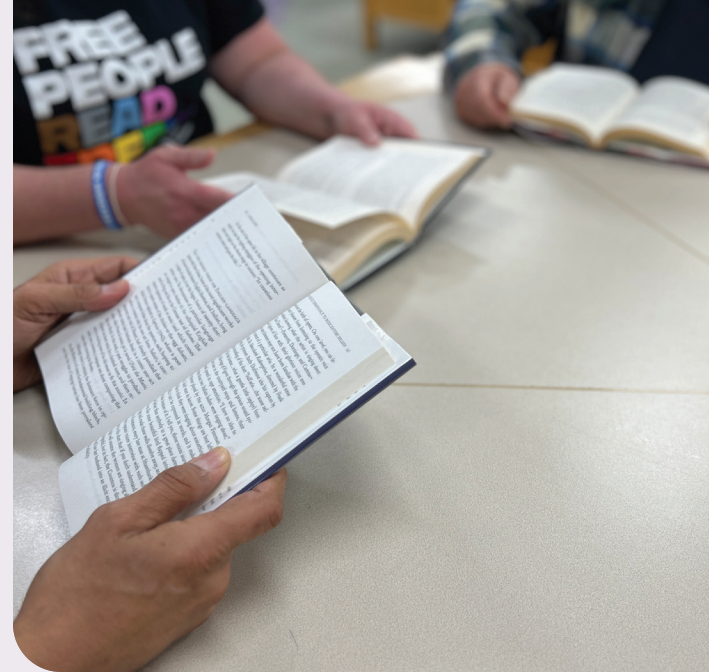
12,800
Miles Traveled



802
Community Visits

Reentry Support

The Library supports adults looking to create a new future following incarceration through literacy tutoring, book discussions, reference-by-mail services, and reentry resource fairs. Adult literacy volunteer tutors meet with learners weekly providing these critical services directly to people in jail. In January 2024, the Library hosted its first Reentry Resource Fair with 70 community organizations sharing resources for employment, housing, legal concerns, and access to food and health services.



7,000

Reference by mail responses since 2021



150

Reentry Resource Fair attendees



Community Events

Last year, the Library connected with over 25,000 people through community events and outreach visits. Our staff engaged at neighborhood events such as the Oak Park Farmers' Market, Sacramento LGBT You Beta Work Job Fair, Consulate General of Mexico Steps to College, Sacramento County Women and Girls' Festival, Sacramento Earth Day, El Día del Niño, Sac Pride, and Courtland Pear Fair. A wide range of library programs were offered offsite at community locations to connect with new communities and foster connections.



557

Community Outreach Visits



33,534

People Reached





Strong Foundations

Increasing access and fostering growth

Adult Literacy

The Library's [Adult Literacy program](#) celebrated its 40th anniversary. Since 1984, the Library has offered free literacy tutoring for adults helping more than 5,000 learners. Last year, 153 literacy volunteers tutored 214 adults. Free one-on-one personalized tutoring is available for Sacramento County residents at least 18 years old. The program is flexible with sessions scheduled on days and times best for each learner including evenings and weekends.

“I started with the literacy program five years ago. My goal was to read my mail, read a newspaper, and read books. I didn’t even know how to use a computer, but I know now. The literacy program helped and encouraged me to get my high school diploma. My goals have changed because I have more confidence in myself.”

- Patricia, Adult Learner



“I have worked with the Adult Literacy program for about 5 years. Both of my learners had jobs and we did night sessions after work hours or on weekends. I have really good relationships with my learners. It’s one of those relationships that develops into a friendship. They are so awesome. I’ve probably learned more from them than they have.”

- Miranda, Adult Literacy Tutor



“When I started, my goal was to complete my HiSET testing to get into community college so I could pursue nursing. It helped me better my educational foundation and my confidence. Now, I’m a student at Sacramento City College.”

- Paul, Adult Learner

[Learn about Adult Literacy](#)



Celebrating Milestones

Over the past decade, the Library has provided free access to the [Career Online High School](#) (COHS) program through a partnership with Smart Horizons and California State Library. COHS has helped 290 graduates prepare for the workforce. More than 80% of graduates continue to higher education. Scholars can earn an accredited high school diploma and an entry-level career certificate in career paths, such as Child Care and Education, Food and Hospitality, Office Management, Manufacturing and Security Professional.



[Hear from graduates](#)



Lunch at the Library

The Lunch at the Library program served over 10,000 free, lunches to youth aged 18 and younger, ensuring that children had access to nutritious meals while school was out. Over 1,300 books were given away at Lunch at the Library events and 70 teen program coordinators gained valuable work experience.



Summer Reading



21,000
Summer Readers



3 Million
Minutes Spent Reading



Unforgettable Experiences

Creating a welcoming space for creativity and community

Community Events

A series of free string quartet concerts at the Tsakapolous Library Galleria helped make live music experiences

accessible and created joyful experiences for all ages. The innovative Parks and Tranquility initiative utilized art as a catalyst for community engagement and wellness through activities like bilingual bird watching, nature walks, and multimedia exhibits at the California State Library Museum.

[Listen to a concert](#)



Notable authors, chefs, and performers continued to foster dialogue that share diverse perspectives and connections through the Enters the Chat series.

[Watch Enters the Chat](#)



Teen Spaces

Teen-led programs created opportunities for youth to connect. Teens took over the Tsakopolous Library Gallery for an evening of fun, music, and games during Library After Hours. The inaugural event attracted 182 teens. The annual Prom Drive gained momentum with giveaway events hosted at 15 branches. More than 900 teens shopped the free collection of formalwear sourced from community donations.

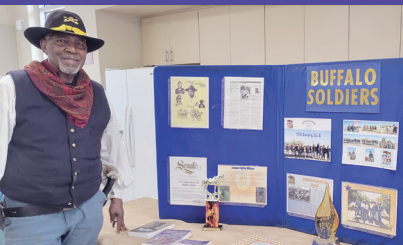


“At the end of a [Prom] Giveaway, a teen and their caregiver took home a suit, shoes, and accessories. The caregiver mentioned to staff that had they not been able to find something at the event their teen would be unable to attend their prom.”

Cook the Book

The Library's mobile kitchen visited six branches for a series of Cook the Book programs in partnership with the Health Education Council. Attendees donned their aprons and participated in free live cooking demonstrations with recipes from "Diasporican: A Puerto Rican Cookbook" by Illyanna Maisonet. The free cooking programs complemented Maisonet's Enters the Chat appearance and the Library's commitment to supporting community health and well-being.





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