

SUMMER 2026



The Link

INSIDE

20 Years of the Main Library
2025–26 Donor Honor Roll

Innovation, Exhibitions & Community Impact

**THE LIBRARY: WHERE
OUR COMMUNITY'S
NEXT CHAPTER BEGINS**

DEDICATION

This year, our community lost three extraordinary women whose lives helped shape the institution our Foundation exists to support. Each worked to ensure that learning, culture, and public resources belonged to everyone. We dedicate this season of our work to them.



NANCY STONE CRABBE

1945-2026

Nancy Crabbe began her distinguished library career in San Mateo County, serving as Assistant Librarian and later City Librarian before joining the Santa Clara Library System. She also co-founded Sustainable San Mateo County and volunteered with the Sjögren's Foundation for two decades. In a note shared shortly before her passing, Nancy expressed her enduring affection for San Mateo's libraries and gratitude for those carrying their work forward.



NANCY MAGEE

1959-2026

Nancy Magee was elected San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools in 2018, guiding 23 school districts through the COVID-19 pandemic and earning regional Superintendent of the Year recognition. Trained in library and information science, she championed youth mental health and made support easier for families to navigate. Nancy also joined us as a speaker at the inaugural San Mateo Chats. The Board of Supervisors proclaimed March 10 "Nancy Magee Day" in her honor.



GAIL SINQUEFIELD

1937-2026

A former San Mateo Public Library Foundation board member, Gail Sinquefield offered thoughtful leadership, introduced new donors, participated actively in Foundation events, and remained a devoted Leadership Circle supporter. A certified nurse midwife, she spent much of her career supporting women and families. Her curiosity embraced art, jazz, books, and travel; her collection of art books was donated to the Friends of the Library. As a founding Legacy Fund member, Gail's generosity continues through gifts in her estate plans to the Foundation and other organizations she cherished.

We hold their loved ones and colleagues in our thoughts, and we carry their work forward.

The Link

The Link, formerly known as the LibraryLink, is an annual publication of the San Mateo Public Library Foundation (SMPLF). For any comments, questions, or suggestions, please email us at info@smplf.org.

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San Mateo
Public Library
Foundation



**Dear Friends of the San Mateo Public Library
Foundation,**

This is a milestone year. Our Main Library turns 20, and we are marking the moment the way the library has always brought us together: with gratitude, with celebration, and with our eyes on what comes next.

The library is a special place for my family. My wife, my children, and I cherish our visits, whether we are picking up books, stopping in to relax, voting, or running into a friend. It is where we find excitement, connection, wonder, and inspiration, along with a real sense of safety and belonging. Behind all of it is a team that is knowledgeable, supportive, and deeply caring. That is what a great library gives a community, and it is why this work matters to me.

The Foundation stands alongside the San Mateo Public Library as true partners and collaborators. Our library is remarkably diverse in who it serves and where it shows up. It welcomes newcomers learning English, children discovering their first books, job seekers finding their footing, and neighbors who simply need a warm, open place to be. It celebrates our cultures, brings people together, and shows up for those who are most vulnerable. It is truly a community anchor.

This coming year also brings the reopening of the renovated Marina Branch. As we honor 20 years of the Main Library, we are not only looking back. We are building what comes next.

None of this happens without an extraordinary team. I am grateful to our next wave of Foundation leadership: Treasurer Renee Thierry-Jones, Secretary Laura Hyatt, and Executive Committee members Meghan Friedlander, Austin Volz, Sam Perry, and Sarah Phelps, along with our full Board of Directors. My deep thanks to our incredible Development Directors, Sarah Meier-Heredia and Karen Kvam, and to our wonderful volunteers. We could not do any of this without you.

It's been an honor to work in partnership with our City Librarian Rukshana Singh, the remarkable library staff, and our city leaders as we carry this mission forward. This group truly embodies dedication, generosity, spirit, and hope. The next chapter starts here, and I cannot wait to write it with each of you.

With gratitude,

Jeff Kang

2026-27 Board President, San Mateo Public Library
Foundation

FOUNDATION BOARD LEADERSHIP 2026-27

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WELCOMING JEN BUE



FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN

This past spring, we wrapped up the fourth annual San Mateo Celebrates festival and I am still energized by the joy and connection created throughout the week. Fittingly, this year's National Library Week theme was "Find Your Joy." During San Mateo Generations Day, our signature festival event, I found myself smiling and laughing throughout the day, surrounded by patrons of all ages. It was a powerful reminder that libraries are not simply places to access information; they are places where community comes alive.

This year also brought several meaningful full-circle moments as we began reflecting on the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Main Library building. We welcomed back beloved performer José-Luis Orozco, who performed during both the library's first and tenth anniversary celebrations, and we revived the ceremonial cake-cutting tradition. I also had the privilege of meeting K.G. Ouye, the former City Librarian whose leadership brought the new library building to fruition.

As part of our anniversary celebrations, we gathered former City staff, Foundation leaders, and Library Board members who played key roles in creating the library we know today. It was an opportunity to reconnect, share memories, and learn from those whose vision shaped our organization. These joyful moments remind us that every chapter of the library's story is built on the dedication of those who came before us. Looking back has also inspired us to look ahead.

Understanding our past helps us build a thoughtful strategy for the future. This year, we launched an exciting planning process to imagine how the library can best serve the community in its next chapter. Key stakeholders began working with the architecture firm EHDD, including original project architect Jennifer Devlin Herbert,

to re-envision several key public spaces. Early concepts explore improvements to the café, teen lounge, computer lab, Jobseekers area, and Business Resource Center. This effort is not simply about redesigning spaces, but about creating a roadmap for a library that remains responsive and adaptable.

As technology continues to reshape how communities learn and connect, successful libraries must evolve alongside it. Increasingly, the work of library staff extends beyond traditional roles to include harnessing technology, promoting information and digital literacy, and building meaningful connections with the community. Equally important is listening deeply to our residents so we can understand emerging needs and ensure our services remain relevant, equitable, and accessible to everyone.

At the San Mateo Public Library, we honor our history while continuing to innovate for the future. This past year, we expanded access to one of our most enduring services, Project Read. Thanks to two major grants supporting Project Read's growing ESL program, we can offer summer ESL classes at the library and launch new fall classes at the King Center and Sunnybrae Elementary School. The overwhelming response affirmed the community's deep need for accessible English language learning opportunities.

During the campaign to build the new Main Library, the library's four cultural committees played a pivotal role in fundraising efforts. Long after that campaign ended, they continued to enrich our community through programming and partnership. Their work reminds us that embracing culture goes beyond celebration alone. It requires ongoing relationships and a commitment to ensuring all members of our community feel seen and represented. From Las Posadas celebrations to Black History Month author talks, Nowruz festivities, and programs celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage, these events brought us together to celebrate identity, culture, and shared experience.

As we approach the Main Library's 20th anniversary, we do so with deep gratitude—for our patrons, volunteers, staff, and especially our Foundation partners. Because of your support, the library continues to grow, adapt, and serve. The next chapter starts here, and we are excited to write it together.

Rukshana Singh, City Librarian



San Mateo
Public Library
Foundation

OUR LIBRARY'S VISION

IS TO BE A GATEWAY TO EMPOWERMENT AND
UNDERSTANDING, MAKING KNOWLEDGE
ACCESSIBLE, OFFERING FREE ENRICHING
EXPERIENCES, AND WELCOMING CIVIC SPACES.

OUR FOUNDATION'S MISSION

IS TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF LIBRARY
ADVOCATES AND DONORS, AMPLIFY THE
LIBRARY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND PROVIDE
FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT EXPANDS ITS IMPACT
AND STRENGTHENS ITS FUTURE.

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SARAH MEIER-HEREDIA
KAREN KVAM
Development Directors

•With gratitude to the Directors whose
terms concluded after FY2025-26.

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MAKES POSSIBLE

The San Mateo Public Library belongs to everyone and runs every day on public funding. **The Foundation is how private giving reaches the programs the existing budget can't always cover.** Here is the difference your gifts made this year.

Free to every resident, the Library is one of the few places in San Mateo where anyone can learn, work, gather, and belong—at no cost and with no barrier to entry. Its reach is citywide:

88,000
CARDHOLDERS

331,000+
ANNUAL VISITS

1.1M+
ITEMS BORROWED

Far more than books: storytimes and summer learning, job and tech help, cultural events, senior programs, and a welcoming space for every generation.

Where Your Giving Goes

The Library's day-to-day operations run on public dollars. Private giving through the Foundation enhances and extends programs the existing budget can't always cover—and helps the Library respond where the need is greatest.

\$245,000

GRANTED TO THE LIBRARY IN FY25-26

FOUNDATION FUNDING ENHANCED PROGRAMS SUCH AS:

7,000
CHILDREN & TEENS

Summer Learning Challenge
4,316 free books + four \$1,000 scholarships

225
ADULT LEARNERS

Building reading and language skills through Project Read

7,573
JOBSEEKER VISITS

Free résumé, interview, and career support

523
NEIGHBORS

At free Music at Kohl Mansion concerts

Every number is a neighbor who found something they needed.
Your gift helps keep it free. *Thank you.*

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LIBRARY AREAS SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL GRANT



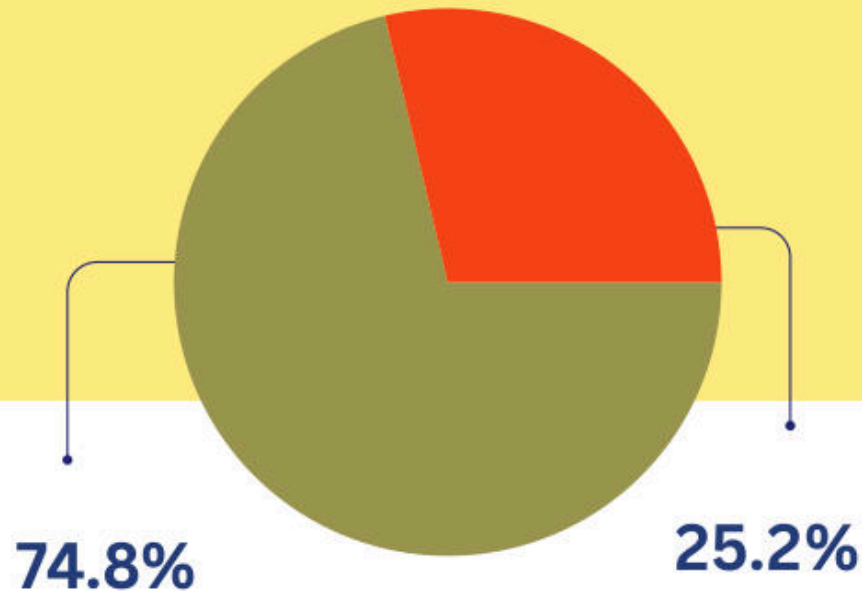
children and teen programs | senior programs |
literacy programs | job seekers programs | collections | tech
lending library | cultural programming |
capital projects | neighborhood branches |
business resource center | outreach and inclusion



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COMMUNITY SUPPORT AT WORK

Our community's generosity enabled the Foundation to grant **\$245,000** to the Library this year, supporting both designated priorities and evolving needs.



Designated Donations

Donations and grants directed toward specific priorities, including collections, literacy, summer learning, business resources, neighborhood branches and culturally responsive programs.

Flexible Support

Funding that the Library can direct where it is needed most, helping sustain essential services, respond to emerging needs and pursue opportunities that designated funding may not cover.

GIVING BY THE NUMBERS

Hundreds of households, Leadership Circle donors, local businesses, employees and grant partners came together to strengthen the Library. This range of support reflects a healthy and growing ecosystem of community investment.

528

DONOR HOUSEHOLDS

83%

HOUSEHOLDS WITH GIFTS
BELOW \$1000
Strong broad base support

154

NEW DONOR
HOUSEHOLDS

47%

GROWTH IN LEADERSHIP GIVING
91 households gave \$1K or more

Our Community at Work

Employees at these companies multiplied their generosity through workplace matching programs, almost doubling the number of participating employers from last year.

Adobe	Gilead	LinkedIn
Agilent Technologies	Goldman Sachs	NVIDIA
Apple	Google	Oracle
Blue Shield of California	Hopelab	ROBLOX
CBRE	Intel	Take Two Software
Genentech	JK Group	VISA
	Kaiser Permanente	

A Tradition of Service and Generosity

Friends of the San Mateo Public Library

For more than six decades, Friends volunteers have turned donated books and countless hours of service into enduring support for the Library's collections. Today, the Friends book sale operates through the Library's volunteer program, while proceeds are administered by the San Mateo Public Library Foundation and directed to Library collections. This longstanding partnership ensures that each donation, volunteer shift, and purchase helps connect local readers with more to discover.

In 2025-26:

- Nearly \$56K generated through donated book sales
- \$35K from in-person sales and \$20K+ from Amazon
- Proceeds support the Library's collections

*Thank you,
Friends!*

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS PARTNERS

Businesses, foundations and civic partners helped turn ambitious ideas into programs, exhibitions, resources and shared experiences.



Atkinson Foundation | ProLiteracy | San Mateo County District 2

Aladdin Gourmet | Anatolian Market | Cobani Gyro & Kebab |
Copenhagen Bakery & Cafe | Downtown San Mateo Association | Fiero Caffe |
Happy Healthy Teeth: Pediatric Dentistry | International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers Local 617 | Lotus Falafel & Shawerma | Monterra Credit Union |
Mykonos Meze | Piazza's Fine Foods | Provident Credit Union | Recology | Romolo's
Cannoli and Spumoni | San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce | Simple Delights |
Simplycake | Trader Joe's | Whole Foods Market | Xelay Foundation

DONOR LIST FY 2025-26

+ Utilized employer's matching gift program
^ Legacy Fund donation

Library Luminaries

\$5000+

Jeanne and Greg Back
Shelly DeCorte and Frank Elliott
Fard Foundation
Gayle Flanagan
Alexandra Gillen and Hartmut Koeppen
Suzanne Simms
Gail Sinquefield
Anna Tran and Brian Huang
Wendy McCall

Community Champions

\$2000+

Anne Larsen Carella and Paul Carella
Sonya Chang and Erik Neuenschwander
Ruthmary and John Cradler
Eleanore Chen Dogan and Andrew Ryan
Joan and Jim Dox
Hoefer Family Foundation
Suelin and Alexander Lee
Rose and William Mark
Evelyn McGown and Dean Hafeman
Mimi and Sascha Mornell
Jacquelyn and Vincent Siminitus
Phuong Thai and Gregory Spurrier
Sharon and Charles Wienbar

Leadership Circle

\$1000+

Mandana Asgharnejad+
Robert Benner
Mary Bona
Michele Bronstein and Jeffrey Jacobs
Gloria R. Brown
Tish and Jim Busselle
Sheila Canzian
Pamela and Bill Casey
Susan Cohn
Ann D. Costigan
Nancy and David Crabbe
Grace Credo
Diane Cronin
Mika Derynck
Sharlene Fulgencio+
Rachelle and Alberto Fung
Ruth and Adi Gamon (*in honor of Karen Kvam*)
Ann and Daniel Girard
Susan and Bill Graham
Karen and Randy Griggi
Lorna Groundwater
Kaarin and Alexander Hardy
Carol and Doug Henton
Elizabeth Swindells Hulsey and Zach Hulsey
Sandy and Chris Jensen
Susan S. Ketcham and Anne Casscells
Christian Kungler+
Nancy and Andrew Lanthier

Sue Lempert
Aurimas Liutikas+
Chemien Lo
Susan Loftus
Pamela McCarthy-Hudson and William Hudson (*in honor of Vicky Stein*)
Meg and Stuart McLaughlin
Wallace D Mersereau
Frederick Middleton
Arlette and John Monfredini Foundation
Michael and Stephanie Moy
Lynn Nakamura and Jared Lee+
Lisa D. Nash and Michael C. Nash
Berenice Navarrete and Evangelos Hytoplouos
The Nora Family
Carol and Christopher Owen
Linda A. Rarden
Ann and William Regan
Roberts Family Charitable Fund
Don and Nina Robertson
Nancy Schneider and Richard Wysong
Reva and John Segall
Kristen Sherman and Vidur Apparao
Nicola Silver
Patricia and Robert Sparacino

Leadership Circle, cont.

Patricia Steinhardt and Howard Krieger (*in memory of Althea and Richard Hurley*)
 Thomas B Stucker
 Marie and Phil Suh
 Ryuko Suruki
 Carol Thompson
 Eudora and James Ting
 Yoonsung and Jason Ting
 Maggie Trinh
 Victoria Tung and Jeff Kang
 Celene and Glenn Voyles
 David P. Willard+
 Eleanor and Ira Wong^
 Rochelle Yonezawa and
 Stephen Scheifele
 Catrina Zhang

Donor Family up to \$1000

Anonymous (18)
 Anonymous+ (3)
 Esperanza Abacan
 Jan Abrams (*in memory of Joan Bodenlos*)
 Veronica Abreu
 Marian Adams
 Joy Addison
 Jasmeet Ahjua
 Jeannie Ainsworth
 Lisa Allgeier
 Tom Ames
 Claudia and Dennis Argyres
 Hatsuko Arima-Stenzel
 Valerie J Armento
 Glenda Arroyo

Anil Assudani
 Jeanne Atkinson
 Ricardo Avila
 Alexis Baird
 Madeline Ann Baker
 Carolyn and Phillip Banda
 Susan and Gordon Bardet
 Ramona and Luis Barrantes
 Eileen and Ralph Battat
 Linda Bauld
 Margaret Becker
 Mary Ellen and Tom Benninger
 Barbara and August Benz
 Daniel Berezin+
 Kathy and Mark Berger
 Medea and Bruce Bern
 Sandra Bernhard and Frank Peale
 Harlette Berman
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 Marilee Brooks
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 Nga Do
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 Marlene and Peter Douglas
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 Alison and John Draper
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 Lisa Elliott
 Doug Ellwanger
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 Diane Ervin and Bjorn Ervell
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 Susan and Frank Fan
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 Leslee Ann and Wayne Feinstein
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 Dena Fisher
 The Flaherty Foundation
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 Catherine and Byron Levy
 Huaixi Li

Terris Linenbach
 Hao Liu
 Laurie Livingston
 Cynthia and Edmund Lo
 Eliana London
 Susan Lake Long and Warren
 Long
 Kelly Loud
 Camilla Lu and Jerry McBride
 Linh Ly
 Sharon MacAuley
 Ginny and Danny Machak
 Allison MacQueen
 Nancy and Alex Malaspina
 Corinne and Larry Marcus
 Carissa Massongill+
 Jean and Gene Matsuura
 Courtney Maury
 Rick Mayerson
 Meredith Mazza
 Diane McClain
 Daniel McCloskey
 Karen McCormick
 Diana McDonough
 FC McGlashan
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 Jackie McMillan
 Theresa Meier
 Noga Meldiner
 Peggy S Mendelson
 Marcia Mendonca
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 Boyang Niu
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 Bud O'Shaughnessy
 Sean Oey
 Maureen Olson
 Lindsay and Art Okamoto
 Kim Osborn
 K G and Neal Ouye^
 Kim Overton and Carl Johnson
 Mignon OYoung
 Elvin Padilla
 Walkyria Paes de Almeida
 Lynda and Peter Paffrath
 Andrew Park
 Ashley Park
 Adam Parker
 Margaret L. Parker
 Binita Patel
 Sam Perry
 Beth Phoenix
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 Saar Picker
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 Stephen Pinkoski
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 Takahashi
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 Mark Ragsdale

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Erin and Chris Stallings
Judy Starling
Peter Stein
Vicky Stein and David Brownman
Nancy Stern
Kristen Stewart
Susan Stoddard-Phillips and
Julien Phillips
Cynthia and Philip Strause
Lisa and Ronald Sturzenegger
Mahesh Subramaniam
Richard Suen
Qixuan Sun
Jeffrey Taggart (*in honor of
Suzanne Simms*)
Wendy Tam
Tammy Tan and Lawrence Chan
Vikas Tandon
Daisy Tang
Lucille Tang
Sameer Tembe+
Nicole Tempest Keller and
Robert Keller
Maxine Terner
Renee Thierry-Jones
David F Thomas
Rebecca Thomson
George J Tichy II
June and Jim Tilton
Michael Titsworth
Linda and James Tolosano
Ivy Tong
G W Toy
Colleen Traynor
Lillyan Tremaroli
Roger Trinkner
Cynthia Tsai
Mary Tsao
Tina Tsue
Meiling Tsui
Varun Vaswani
Jessica Vazquez-Salazar

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Laurel Yu
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Wolter
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*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these
listings. If an error has been made, please contact us at
(650) 558-9100 or info@smplf.org*

THANK YOU.

A generous life continues through the people and places it strengthens.

Legacy Fund

Thank you to our Legacy Fund Founding members:

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~
***Gail Sinquefield strengthened San Mateo through a lifetime of generosity and service. As a Foundation Board member, volunteer, and donor, she believed in institutions that welcome people in and help communities flourish. SMPLF was honored to be among the organizations remembered in her final act of giving. Her bequest will help keep opportunity open to generations she will never meet.**



**HELP WRITE THE
CHAPTERS STILL
TO COME**

Legacy Fund

A future gift to the San Mateo Public Library Foundation is a promise that curiosity, belonging, and opportunity will remain open to everyone.

Including the Foundation in your will, trust, or beneficiary plans can create an enduring source of support—without changing what you can give today.

**BEGIN A
CONVERSATION**

We are here to help you explore a gift that reflects your values and philanthropic goals.

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YOUR STORY CAN KEEP OPENING DOORS.

The Next Chapter Starts Here

“THE YEAR AHEAD BRINGS SEVERAL IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN THE LIBRARY’S STORY — OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE WHAT SAN MATEO HAS BUILT TOGETHER WHILE ALSO PREPARING OUR LIBRARIES FOR THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING COMMUNITY?”

THE MAIN LIBRARY BUILDING TURNS 20

When the Main Library opened two decades ago, it was more than a building. It was a declaration that knowledge, opportunity, and connection belong at the center of civic life.

Today, it remains San Mateo’s community living room—a place where generations learn, gather, and cross paths. Its anniversary celebrates what the city built together while asking an essential question: What will San Mateo need from its libraries over the next 20 years?

MARINA BRANCH: A NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE RENEWED

The Marina Branch reopens in spring 2027 as more than a completed construction project. With improved accessibility and flexible spaces, it restores a vital neighborhood resource—a public place where everyone is welcome without an appointment or purchase.

INVESTING IN A LIBRARY THAT CAN EVOLVE

As the ways people learn, work, and connect change, library spaces must change with them. The Library is identifying its next priority space project, while the Foundation brings private support and community insight to the work. The goal is not simply renovation. It is a library prepared to respond to needs that are still emerging.

A LEGACY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Supporting the Library is a long-term investment in San Mateo as a whole. Through the Legacy Fund, donors can help keep its libraries resilient, responsive, and free for generations to come. The next chapter will not be written by one institution alone. Like the Library itself, it will be built by a community.



Main Library lobby • National Library Week 2026

EXHIBITS & INSTALLATIONS

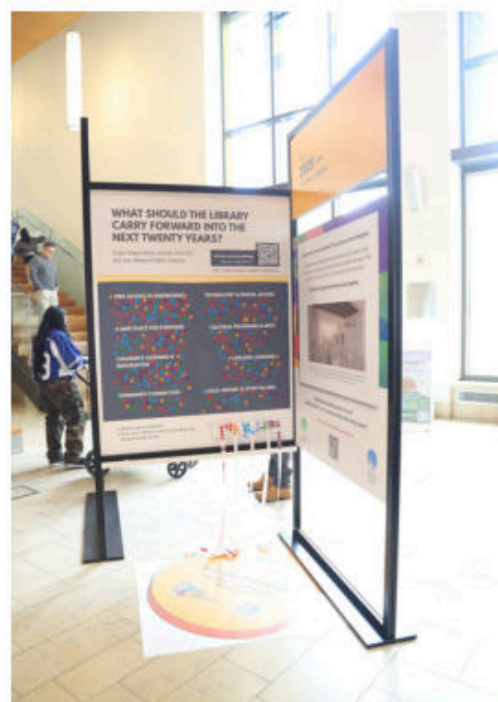
A Library Built Across Generations

San Mateo's public library began in 1883 as a modest reading room. Since then, it has grown alongside the city—responding to changing neighborhoods, new technologies, and an expanding vision of who and what a library can serve.

A Civic Timeline brought that history into the Main Library through archival photographs, defining milestones, and reflections contributed by community members.



With support from the **Bohannon Foundation**, the San Mateo Public Library Foundation brought San Mateo's history to life through an interactive timeline that invited the community to explore, reflect, and add its voice to the city's evolving story.



SCAN HERE



TO ADD YOUR REFLECTION

History as a Spark for Civic Imagination

Over a thousand votes and reflections became part of the exhibit, connecting the Library's past with the future residents want it to carry forward.

Turn the page to enjoy some of the responses.

Hillsdale Reimagined

Is Proud to Support the San Mateo Public Library Foundation

The Hillsdale Reimagined plan is organized around an extensive retail district that ensures Hillsdale remains a vibrant destination for those in San Mateo and its surrounding communities. Simultaneously, it helps address our critical housing needs and contributes to our city's fiscal health.

- Leverages the Hillsdale Shopping Center's "North Block"
- Includes approximately 40 retail, restaurants, and entertainment options
- Adds critical housing and office space in a walkable, transit-oriented location



Learn more at:
HillsdaleReimagined.com



Recently redeveloped North Block remains.



A rendering of future West Sailer Drive within Hillsdale Reimagined

"My grandfather, Hillsdale's founder, once observed that while we can build neighborhoods and malls, building community is our greatest role. Now, almost 80 years after he first broke ground here, that's still our north star – and the principle that will guide us as we, working with you, begin to rebuild our community."

– David Bohannon II

PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
DAVID D. BOHANNON ORGANIZATION

EXHIBITS & INSTALLATIONS

The Businesses That Help Make San Mateo Home

Behind familiar storefronts are families whose work spans generations. First presented in the Main Library art gallery, *The Work of Generations: A Portrait of Family Business in San Mateo* documented six local businesses through Clara Rice's portraits and first-person stories—revealing entrepreneurship as stewardship, adaptation, and care for the wider community.



Photographer Clara Rice with Anita, Bryn, and Cameron Nguyen of Core Taekwondo



Romolo's Cannoli
37th Avenue



Porterhouse
B Street



Cruel Donuts
25th Avenue



Full Circle Barbershop
Baldwin Avenue



Core Taekwondo
3rd Avenue



La Piñata
North B Street

With support from **Franklin Templeton**, the San Mateo Public Library Foundation created *The Work of Generations* to celebrate local entrepreneurship and broaden awareness of the Library's free Business Resource Center. Special thanks to the **Downtown San Mateo Association**, **San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce**, and **City of San Mateo**, where the exhibition continued at City Hall.



MEET THE FAMILIES
Scan to read their stories.



Investing in our communities

We're proud to support educational opportunities
for children, creating positive change in their lives.



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EXHIBITS & INSTALLATIONS

Mapping the Building Blocks of Human Life

37 Trillion+

cells work together to form the tissues, organs, and systems of the human body—yet scientists are still discovering how different cell types develop, interact, and change across health and disease.

The international Human Cell Atlas brings together thousands of researchers working to map every type of human cell and create an open reference that could transform how we understand and treat disease.

Image: The human small intestine

Credit: Grace Burgin, Noga Rogel & Moshe Biton Klarman Cell Observatory, Broad Institute

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Genentech Foundation BIOTECHNOLOGY LEARNING CENTER

THE WORLD, INSIDE THE LIBRARY

Installed in the Genentech Foundation Biotechnology Learning Center, *The Stories Our Cells Tell* pairs large-scale imagery with accessible storytelling. Created with the cooperation of the Human Cell Atlas and Broad Institute, it offers visitors a vivid window into one of the most ambitious scientific collaborations of our time.



SANTIAGO, CHILE



MILAN, ITALY



ACCRA, GHANA

A global community of scientists is working together to map every cell in the human body.
Photos courtesy of the Human Cell Atlas.

With support from the **Genentech Civic Fund**, the San Mateo Public Library Foundation connected local learners with world-class research. Special thanks to **Dr. Aviv Regev**, **Dr. Samantha Wynne**, and **Ayah Al-Rawni** for helping bring the Human Cell Atlas experience to our community.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK FESTIVAL

San Mateo Celebrates! returned for a fourth year as a weeklong invitation to gather through public programs, exhibitions, performances, and conversations at the San Mateo Public Library. Held during **National Library Week** and the beginning of the Main Library's **20th anniversary** year, the festival brought together residents, artists, educators, scientists, families, and civic partners in shared public space.



San Mateo Chats explored the future of disease diagnosis through a public conversation on next-generation pathology and emerging technologies. Special thanks to **Dr. Lisa McGinnis** for sharing the groundbreaking work underway in her lab at Genentech.

San Mateo Remembers featured a screening of ***A Little Fellow: The Legacy of A.P. Giannini*** and a conversation with filmmaker **Daide Fiore**, photographed here with historian **Dr. Deanna Paoli Gumina**. Audience demand exceeded room capacity, requiring overflow seating in the Laurel Room.



Presented in partnership with **Music at Kohl Mansion**, **San Mateo Delights** transformed the Oak Room into an intimate live music venue featuring **Grupo Falso Baiano**. The evening invited audiences to experience the library through music, hospitality, and gathering.



Festival Week By the Numbers

GATHER

7,000+
Library Visitors

During National Library Week, visitors explored exhibits, attended programs, used library services, and discovered all the Library has to offer.

ACTIVATE

14 Public Experiences

High-touch programs, performances, and exhibitions

19 Community Partners

Businesses, cultural organizations, and local institutions united to bring the festival to life.

EXTEND

\$60K+
in Sponsorships

Cash and in-kind support from local businesses support the Library beyond the festival

16,000
Social Media Impressions

Digital content reached thousands across multiple platforms



For more photos from this year's festival visit sanmateocelebrates.com/recap

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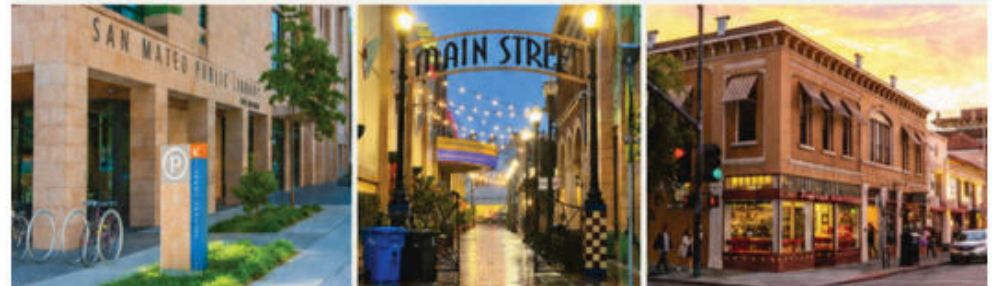
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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

A strong Library is built not only through philanthropy, but through people willing to give their time, talents, and hearts to its future. This year, we honor three Board members whose leadership has taken distinct forms: creating a legacy of welcome, connecting others to meaningful service, and turning a personal challenge into an invitation to give.



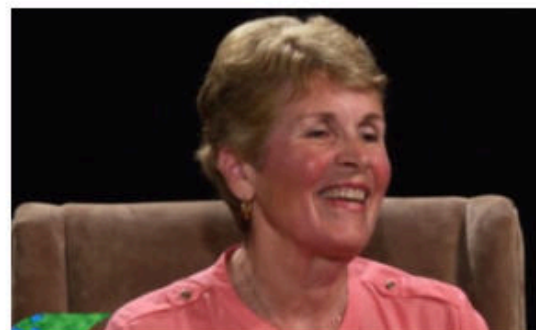
A Legacy of Welcome: **Diane M. Ervin**



Diane Ervin speaks at the dedication of the new Main Library, 2006.

To know Diane Ervin is to be welcomed, encouraged, and thoughtfully cared for. She has a remarkable gift for noticing what each person brings to the table—and making certain they know it mattered. More than three decades ago, Diane helped establish the Foundation and raise funds for the new Main Library. In the years since its 2006 opening, she has brought extraordinary warmth, generosity, grace, and attention to every gathering and endeavor. As Diane retires from the Board, we celebrate not only all she has accomplished, but the example she leaves behind: leadership rooted in hospitality, gratitude, and genuine care for others. We will miss her more than these words can say. Our north star is brighter because of you, Diane.

The Power of Participation **Donna Divodi**



Donna Divodi discusses San Mateo's spirit of volunteerism in a 2015 PenTV interview.



Donna Divodi's legacy is measured not only in programs created, but in thousands of people invited to participate in civic life. Her connection to the Library began in 2002, when she helped the Foundation raise funds for the new Main Library. She later established the Library's Cultural Advisory Committee, expanded its volunteer corps from 32 to 160, and helped the Friends of the Library begin selling donated books online.

"She represents the gold standard of customer service for the public."
—City of San Mateo commendation honoring Donna Divodi's service

In 2010, Donna became the City of San Mateo's Citywide Volunteer Coordinator, creating new ways for neighbors and young people to serve. She later brought that experience and commitment to the Foundation's Board of Directors. As Donna completes her term as a Director, we offer our deepest gratitude—and are delighted that she will remain with the Board in a non-voting role, continuing to contribute her energy, imagination, and deep devotion to San Mateo.

Donna with Shaylona Wheeler, Renee Thierry-Jones & Gloria Brown of the African American Library Advisory Committee





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Going the Distance: David Willard



David Willard at the finish of last year's Napa Valley Alpha Sprint Triathlon. This year, he races for our Library.



Foundation Board Member David Willard is turning this year's Napa Valley Alpha Sprint Triathlon into an ambitious \$50,000 campaign for the Library. We are grateful for David's bold example of leadership—and invite our community to join him in going the distance for the Library we all share.

"The San Mateo Public Library is more than four walls filled with books; it is a living, breathing symbol of what we can do together."

—David Willard, reflecting on what the Library means to his family

JOIN DAVID'S RACE FOR THE LIBRARY

Make a gift at: smlibraryfoundation.org/triathlon





Would you please join us for the *next* chapter?

There is no single way to support the San Mateo Public Library through its Foundation. Every gift, match, partnership, and act of service strengthens its place as a community cornerstone.

- 01 MAKE A GIFT**
Give today or become a monthly donor.
- 02 JOIN THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**
Provide sustained annual support of \$1,000+.
- 03 MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT**
Request a matching gift from your employer.
- 04 LEAVE A LEGACY**
Include the Library Foundation in your estate plans.
- 05 PARTNER WITH US**
Sponsor a program, exhibition or community event.



**MAKE A GIFT
TODAY**

For **matching gifts, legacy giving, or business partnerships**, contact info@smplf.org or visit smlibraryfoundation.org and select "Ways to Give."

The San Mateo Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 94-3191775).

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