In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2780. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 618-5950, or individual department head prior to submission

to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

Security procedures: Members of the public will be directed to enter the West Annex at the front of the building through the sliding door. All other entrances will remain locked for entry. Oversized bags or backpacks will not be allowed in the Council Chamber or Commission meeting room. All bags are subject to search.

Any correspondence received after 2:00 p.m. on MONDAY on any item on the agenda will be provided to the Commission electronically and available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office. A copy of the correspondence will be available for public inspection in a binder at the back of the Council Chamber or Commission Meeting room.

TORRANCE LIBRARY COMMISSION AGENDA MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024 REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M. IN THE NORTH TORRANCE BRANCH LIBRARY AT 3604 ARTESIA BLVD. TORRANCE, CA 90504

THE TORRANCE LIBRARY COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission members: Leferve, Muo, Reilly, Singh, Wang, and Chair Piotrowski,

- FLAG SALUTE: Chair Piotrowski
- 3. INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE: Commissioner Wang
- 4. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance BI. and on the City's Website on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

- 5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS
- 6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited up to a 15-minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on items on the Consent Calendar or <u>not on the agenda</u>. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission cannot act on items raised during public comment, but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker**. If presenting handout material to Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Councilmember from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

- 7A. Approve Commission Minutes: April 8, 2024.
- 8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
 - 8A. ORAL REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NORTH TORRANCE BRANCH LIBRARY

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the report on the North Torrance Library.

8B. REVIEW OF STUDY ROOM USE POLICY

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the Study Room Use Policy.

8C. UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ENDOWMENT FOR THE EL RETIRO BRANCH LIBRARY

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the status report on the endowment for El Retiro Branch Library.

8D. RECAP OF STAFF ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the report on staff attendance on the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference.

8E. REVIEW OF STAFF APPRECIATION OPTIONS

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission provide direction from the options as presented:

- Direct staff to select a caterer or restaurant to prepare meals for a staff appreciation meal with a dollar amount not to exceed; or
- Direct staff to select a gift with a dollar amount not to exceed; or
- Offer another option, either from a combination of those presented or another item not to exceed the Commission's current budget.

8F. CITY LIBRARIAN'S MONTHLY DIVISION REPORT

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the City Librarian's Monthly Division Report.

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETINGS

11. ADJOURNMENT

11A. Adjournment of Torrance Library Commission Meeting to Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Walteria Branch Library, at 3815 W. 242nd Street, Torrance, CA 90505.



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE LIBRARY COMMISSION

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Library Commission convened in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024, in the Isabel Henderson Library.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Commissioners Reilly, Singh, Wang, and Chair Piotrowski.

Absent:

Commissioners Leferve and Muo.

Also Present:

City Librarian Heather Cousin and

Senior Librarian Melina von Stietz.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Reilly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

Commissioner Singh shared an inspirational message.

4. REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

City Librarian Cousin reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's Website Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS None.

<u>MOTION</u>: Commissioner Singh moved to approve the excused absences of Commissioner Leferve and Commissioner Muo. Commissioner Wang seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Leferve and Muo absent).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 11, 2024

<u>MOTION</u>: Commissioner Singh moved to approve the March 11, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Leferve and Muo absent).

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

8A. ORAL REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ISABEL HENDERSON BRANCH LIBRARY

Senior Librarian von Stietz presented the item. She stated Youth and Senior Librarians are responsible for planning and hosting all youth, adult, and all-ages programming. Monthly, there are (2-3) programs for youth, (2-3) programs for adults, Family Story Time each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., and A Mayhem in the A.M. adult book group the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m., consisting of (16) members.

Programs at the Isabel Henderson Library include the Thrilling Thursday Program, a free after school program, the Craft Delight Program on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m., and the Pros in Poetry Program that feature local authors.

Saturday, May 11, 2024, Isabel Henderson Library will be hosting a "Mindfulness Program" featuring a local psychologist that will discuss mindfulness techniques.

Staff have been focusing on collection maintenance.

Members of the Commission spoke.

City Librarian Cousin clarified that the library has online resources that are tailored to college and career readiness.

<u>MOTION</u>: Commissioner Reilly moved to accept and file Item 8A. Commissioner Singh seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Leferve and Muo absent).

8B. REVISED UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF TORRANCE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FUNDING

City Librarian Cousin presented the item. The Friends of the Library spreadsheet outlining funding from 2017 to present was provided to the Commission for discussion.

Members of the Commission spoke.

City Librarian Cousin stated that she has been reaching out to electives, private organizations, and corporations for corporate and grant funding; a grant application process has begun.

City Librarian Cousin stated that she will work on requesting that the Friends of the Library's Board President come to a future meeting to have a conversation on future plans.

MOTION: Commissioner Singh moved to accept and file Item 8B. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Leferve and Muo absent).

8C. UPDATE ON EXTENDED ACCESS PROGRAM AT EL RETIRO BRANCH LIBRARY

City Librarian Cousin presented the report to the Commission regarding the soft opening of the Extended Access Program at the El Retiro Branch Library.

- Extended access allows library cardholders that have approved access to scan their cards to unlock the door, check out books, return items, place a hold, and use the computers. (39) library cardholders have signed up for extended access.
- The El Retiro Library has cameras throughout the facility that films activity; the film is kept for a year. Restrooms are locked during extended access hours.

Members of the Commission spoke.

<u>MOTION</u>: Commissioner Singh moved to accept and file Item 8C. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Leferve and Muo absent).

8D. UPDATE ON ADVOCACY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF TORRANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

City Librarian Cousin stated Item 8D was brought back from the March 2024 Commission Meeting regarding advocacy efforts. Staff is waiting for Day in the District information coming from the Southern California Library Cooperative (SCLC).

Members of the Commission spoke.

<u>MOTION</u>: Commissioner Reilly moved to accept and file Item 8D. Commissioner Singh seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Leferve and Muo absent).

8E. UPDATE ACCEPT AND FILE: CITY LIBRARIAN'S MONTHLY DIVISION REPORT

City Librarian Cousin stated staff will be contributing to the City Librarian's Monthly Division Report.

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Wang moved to accept and file Item 8E. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Leferve and Muo absent).

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Reilly inquired if libraries were equipped for the potential influx of individuals needing internet access due to decisions made at the Federal level and requested that the potential issue be brought before City Council for their review and consideration.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

- Update on El Retiro Library Endowment.
- Study Room Policy Review.
- · Staff Appreciation Lunch Discussion.
- Public Library Association Conference Report.
- City Librarian's Monthly Division Report.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:19 p.m., Commissioner Singh moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Torrance Library. Commissioner Wang seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Leferve and Muo absent).

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TO:

LIBRARY COMMISSION

FROM:

HEATHER COUSIN, CITY LIBRARIAN

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF STUDY ROOM USE POLICY

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the Study Room Use Policy.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

During the April 2024 Library Commission meeting, staff were asked to bring for consideration the current Study Room Use Policy. The current rules were last reviewed by the Library Commission in 2019.

The Katy Geissert Civic Center Library has four study rooms – two on the main floor and two on the lower level. Staff are working to reactivate the fourth which has been closed since the pandemic. Additionally, there are other spaces at branch libraries under consideration to serve as study rooms.

Study rooms are great assets offering quieter locations, a dedicated area where individuals or groups can meet and study, use a white board, conduct an online meeting, or similar activity. As a result, they are in high demand. For example, in the last two months, bookings were:

March 2024: 353 April 2024: 375

Since the last policy review of 2019, staff continue to centrally manage reservations at the Reference Desk, taking reservations by phone or in person during Library open hours. Rooms remain locked in between reservations. The goal is to move to an online reservation platform to help customers manage their own bookings.

Staff are available for questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Cousin City Librarian

Attachment A: Study Room Rules 1/14/19

ATTACHMENT A

Commission Meeting of January 14, 2019

TO:

LIBRARY COMMISSION

FROM:

HILLARY THEYER, CITY LIBRARIAN

SUBJECT:

STUDY ROOM RULES

RECOMMENDATION

I respectfully recommend that the Library Commission review the changes to the Study Room Rules for Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, and ask any questions or share any feedback. If the Commission wishes, you may vote to add "Reviewed by the Torrance Library Commission" to the document.

BACKGROUND

The Katy Geissert Civic Center Library has four study rooms — two on the main level, and two on the lower level. They accommodate up to six people, and either groups or individuals may work behind a closed door. This affords people the ability to collaborate with less disturbance to other patrons and/or a greater measure of isolation and freedom from distraction. The rooms are free to use, and very popular. We have never hand an automated or centralized booking system for use of the rooms, and in the recent past conflicts and problems with booking and use of the rooms has escalated. This requires the Librarians to intervene.

In an effort to better manage the rooms, and prevent conflicts, the Reference Department is recommending a change to the reservation rules and process. We will move from the rooms being unlocked, with people reserving spots themselves on a schedule posted on the doors, to the rooms being locked and the schedule being centrally managed at the nearest service desk.

This will require staff to check the schedule and unlock the rooms, as well as locking them between groups. Though this adds to the work on each desk, the goal is that this will be mitigated by managing fewer conflicts.

The Reference Department is also looking toward centrally booking the rooms on a shared technology platform, which can include features such as unlocking it with a code or library card scan. This would be a future project, with applicable costs.

Respectfully submitted,

City Librarian

Attachment: A) Study Room Rules

Study Room Rules

- Please make Main Level study room reservations at the Reference Desk and Lower Level study room reservations at the Lower Level Information Desk.
- Reservations are limited to 2 hours per day, up to twice a week, and may be split between all study rooms on all floors. Groups are subject to the same limits. A group member cannot sign up again using a different name.
- 3. The maximum room occupancy is 6 people per room. Single occupancy is permissible.
- Reservations for the current week (Sunday through Saturday) will open for scheduling at the beginning of the calendar week on a first-come basis at the Reference Desk and Lower Level Information Desk. The Library is unable to confirm room availability via email.
- 5. Staff will unlock the doors when you claim your reservation. Reservations are held for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, the reservation is cancelled and the reserving patron or group forfeits all half-hour time slots in the reserved block. The room becomes available for other patrons to reserve.
- Study rooms are not soundproof. Please keep voices lowered and use headphones for any electronic devices.
- 7. No food or uncovered drinks are allowed.
- 8. Do not leave personal belongings unattended. Unattended belongings left for more than 10 minutes will be taken to the lost & found.
- Notify staff when vacating the room. Room occupants must begin vacating no later than 5 minutes prior to library closing.
- Study rooms are intended for quiet usage only. The Library Standards of Behavior must be followed.
- 11. Violation of study room rules will result in loss of room use for the day.
- 12. The Library reserves the right to change, modify or add to these rules as needed.

TO: LIBRARY COMMISSION

FROM: HEATHER COUSIN, CITY LIBRARIAN

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ENDOWMENT FOR EL RETIRO

BRANCH LIBRARY

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the status report on the endowment for El Retiro Branch Library.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In 2022, staff were notified that a portion of the Trust of Mary H. Gotham (Gotham Trust) would be donated to the Torrance Public Library Foundation (Foundation) for the benefit of the El Retiro Branch Library. Upon settlement of the Gotham Trust, the Foundation received a restricted donation of \$250,420.47.

Since October 2023, when the donation was received and deposited in the Foundation's accounts, staff have continued to work to recruit new Board members. Staff have met with community members, posted the opportunity on volunteer recruitment boards and list servs, and met with prospective board candidates. Having a full Board would increase the Foundation's ability to more effectively manage the funds and provide better transparency should there be a reason to request any expenditures.

Staff are available for questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Cousin City Librarian

les Cousen

TO: LIBRARY COMMISSION

FROM: HEATHER COUSIN, CITY LIBRARIAN

SUBJECT: RECAP OF STAFF ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the report on staff attendance on the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In April 2024, staff joined over 7,500 of their peers in Columbus, Ohio. Of all the conferences, the PLA conference is the most focused on public libraries and those they serve.

During the three-day event, over 100 education sessions addressed topics on every aspect of service including:

- Alternative Funding Sources
- · Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Leading with Compassion
- · Teen Artists in Residence
- Volunteers with Special Needs
- Reimagining Public Service

Upon their return, staff uploaded presentation documents and vendor materials to the Library's shared computer drive so that all staff could take advantage of the information

The next PLA Conference will be in 2026, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The goal will be to have more Library staff attending to take advantage of all there is to offer.

Staff are available for questions.

Respectfully submitted,

City Librarian

TO: LIBRARY COMMISSION

FROM: HEATHER COUSIN, CITY LIBRARIAN

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF STAFF APPRECIATION OPTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Librarian that the Library Commission provide direction from the options as presented:

- Direct staff to select a caterer or restaurant to prepare meals for a staff appreciation meal with a dollar amount not to exceed; or
- 2. Direct staff to select a gift with a dollar amount not to exceed; or
- Offer another option, either from a combination of those presented or another item not to exceed the Commission's current budget

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

During April 2024 Library Commission meeting, staff were asked to bring forward options for staff appreciation staff. In the past, this has included boxed meals, cookie trays, and small gift items like mugs. These items are paid for from the Library Commission budget. Currently, there are 62 Torrance Public Library staff.

As of May 1, the Library Commission's budget is \$1,364.40. This budget is used to pay all Commission expenses, including any travel and training. Before the end of the fiscal year, there is one remaining major conference, the annual American Library Association (ALA) Conference in San Diego, Thursday, June 27-July 1.

If the Commission wishes to send a member, this will impact the funds available for a staff appreciation celebration.

For guidance, staff reviewed the ALA site and found the following registration rates:

\$300 full Conference registration (with membership, an additional) \$195 single day registration \$159 single day exhibits only pass

If the Commission wanted to send a member to the Conference, transportation and a per diem would also need to be included. Additionally, full conference attendance would require hotel fees. Typically, a full Conference attendance including lodging, travel, and registration has cost around \$1,100. This would leave approximately \$200 for a staff appreciation meal.

Staff explored options for catered meals, seeking estimates from the following caterers and restaurants:

1. Panera Bread – Boxed lunches ranging from \$14.00-\$17.00 per person including sandwiches or salads, chips, and a cookie.

- 2. Meals by Meg Boxed breakfast or lunches ranging from \$15-\$19.00 per person including delivery to either a central location or individual branch locations
- 3. Lisa's Bon Appetit Catering --
- 4. Torrance Bakery Boxed lunches \$13.75

A catered, boxed meal would cost approximately \$1,000-\$1,370.

Snack or cookie trays would be significantly less costing between Should the Commission wish to consider an alternate to a catered meal, logo items are also available including travel mugs and other similarly priced items. Those would also cost about \$500-700. A

Staff are available for questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Chathy Cousen

Heather Cousin City Librarian TO:

LIBRARY COMMISSION

FROM:

HEATHER COUSIN, CITY LIBRARIAN

SUBJECT:

CITY LIBRARIAN'S MONTHLY DIVISION REPORT

Staffing and Administration

Employee Appreciation Event

Several staff were honored as part of the City's Employee Appreciation Event. The Annual celebration spotlights those full- and part-time permanent employees who have reached a milestone anniversary in five- year increments. This year the Library was proud to have several honorees: Phil Ross (40 years), Tish Lehmann (10 years), Kia Williams (10 years), Brooke Heri (5 years), and Ramón Estrada (5 years).



40-year honoree, Phil Ross



10-year honoree, Tish Lehmann



5-year honoree, Brooke Heri

Employee Assignments

With the return of a staff member from leave, it was possible to assign the four Senior Librarians to single library coverage with the exception of El Retiro and Walteria. This assignment of staff is similar to what was in place prior to the pandemic.

El Retiro and Walteria continue to have shared supervision as El Retiro, while open equivalent hours, is staffed part-time and the door count of both libraries is currently the smallest of Torrance Public Library's six locations. The Katy Geissert Civic Center Library is managed by the Assistant City Librarian on an interim basis.

As part of the continued effort to discuss what staffing structure would be most effective, the Administrative team scheduled small group meetings with staff. Conversations were open ended. All staff were encouraged to participate either in person or anonymously by leaving feedback in their supervisor's inbox. Conversations are continuing in May, with the aggregated feedback to be discussed at the June All Staff.

Outreach

Staff met with Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi early in April to provide an introduction to the Library and discuss pending legislation. The Assemblymember has a bill under consideration, AB 1815, relates to book bans.

Staff attended the multicultural fair at Arnold Elementary School. The evening event celebrated cultures from around the world and gave staff the opportunity to promote the Summer Reading Program.

Staff also were highly visible at the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. The very popular event had staff from across the library offering information about programs and services as well as information about Community Services. The event also served as the kickoff for a tile making event that will serve as mural on the wall of the Southeast Branch Library. This project will be ongoing throughout the Summer and through the Fall.

As part of the ongoing partnership with Harbor UCLA Hospital, staff met with representatives from the internship program to discuss ways to make the program more meaningful for the medical students. This partnership has been in place since the beginning of 2024 and supports the Stronger Together Early Education initiatives like the library's Storytimes and early education outreach.

Budget

As part of the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget, the Community Services Department is proposing a program modification to convert a vacant Senior Library Technician position to a Senior Librarian position. Conversion of this position will enable the Department to hire a fifth Senior Librarian position to be assigned at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Also proposed are several Library capital improvement projects within the next three years, thanks to the passage of Measure SST. The following projects are scheduled should the budget be adopted:

North Torrance Branch Library: Facade Improvement (2024-2025)
Southeast Branch Library: Refurbish Roadways and Renovate Facilities (2025-2026)
Walteria Branch Library: Construction of a New Library, Restrooms & Recreation Center (2026-2028)

El Retiro Branch Library

April 8th started with over fifty telephone calls from patrons eager to see if any Solar Eclipse glasses were available! Within 5 minutes of opening, the 35 remaining were distributed. Near the moment of totality, staff joined patrons outside who were using a cereal box to view the eclipse and shared a pair of glasses. It was an exciting moment, and the team was pleased customers chose to spend it at the El Retiro Library.

The book group discussed the book Fruit of the Drunken Tree by Ingrid Rojas Contreras during their monthly book group meeting. Customers who showed up for the DIY Seed Bomb craft were

delighted with the colorful paper, molds, and flower seeds that greeted them when they arrived. Each left with a bright, attractive shape full of native plant seeds to propagate their green spaces.

Mr. Matthew's popular Toddler Times continued to delight! Whether indoors or outdoors, an appreciative crowd always gathered to share stories, sing songs, and play with bubbles!



Chasing bubbles during Sensory Storytime



Enjoying a beautiful day outside for storytime

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library

Circulation

With Senior Library Technician, Brandy McLellen on move up to Librarian, Library Technician, Maureen Baez, is serving as the supervisor overseeing the Circulation work unit. The team is working on adopting and adapting new processes for interlibrary loans and helping with the shift of the hundreds of new books arriving daily.

Programming and Information Services

Reference and Youth Services staff were busy ramping up for Summer Reading, receiving new books, and visiting locations outside the library to promote programs, collections, and services. To help support families of different abilities, staff attended the promotion ceremony at Harbor Regional Center. The Center provides supportive services, occupational therapy, and adaptive support for families from around the South Bay.

Technical Processing

During the month of April, the Team started to see the end of the fiscal yearbook buying bonanza as we received over 110 large boxes of books from Ingram. We also received large orders of DVDs from Midwest Tape. Zip Books also continue to be very popular. We also received 7 backpacks and accessories from the California State Park Pass program. Once processed, these backpacks will check-out with several nice hiking accessories including walking sticks, binoculars, flashlight, compass, pocket microscope, etc.







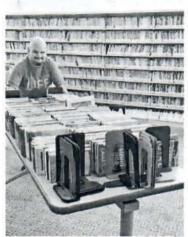


New books just unboxed

Newly arrived books – just a few of the 46 boxes that came that day.

North Torrance Branch Library

North Torrance entered stage three of the "Collection Correction" project, with the newly separated juvenile non-fiction swapping places with adult fiction. Staff moved hundreds of books from one side of the library to the other, with the ultimate goal of creating dedicated adult and youth areas.





Tables prove to be even more efficient than book carts!

North Torrance also continued to offer a wide variety of programs for adults, youth, and families. On April 17, 2024, the team invited families to "join the Kindness Rocks movement by creating a work of art to inspire a stranger!"



Customers of all ages gathered together in what became an opportunity to support each other through art. One parent called staff over and showed them a selection of rocks with motivational phrases on them and whispered, "My son created these all by himself, I didn't even know he felt like this. I try to teach him to be positive, but I would never have known about this side of him if we hadn't come here!"

Southeast Branch Library

Southeast Library has shifted collections in the youth area to improve flow and maximize space, while, on the adult side, a new spinner was added to accommodate trade and other large paperbacks. Youth Services Librarian Judy Neeb attended Career Day at J.H. Hull Middle School and Torrance Elementary's Literacy Night.

Walteria Branch Library

Walteria Library offered 2-3 youth programs and 2-3 adult programs each month, in addition to the weekly Family Storytime and monthly Armchair Travelers book group. In April, the team hosted a weekly film series featuring films AFI's list of 100 greatest films of all time and displayed relevant books and films from the collections.

Walteria also has a monthly boardgame game program featuring the Library's games for checkout. This quarter the team focused programming on fun and educational programs highlighting the Library's resources to our community.

There is one Homework Helper volunteer available on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. The teen volunteer is very reliable and works well with the after-school crowd. A South Bay Literacy Council tutor who regularly uses Walteria space to meet with English as a Second Language learners. The Southbay Literacy tutor chose this location because her students live close to Walteria Library -- it is wonderful to see the ways our community members use our space.

Staff is available for questions.

Respectfully submitted,

They Cousen

Heather Cousin City Librarian