

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)

On Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:30 PM

This is a hybrid in person and online provided meeting open to the public

Public Viewing:

The meeting will be broadcast through the Santa Cruz Libraries YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaCruzPL> which you can access through the Santa Cruz Libraries website by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on the YouTube icon.

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Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Public comment: There are three ways to comment during this meeting. All comments must be received prior to the close of public comment on that agenda item:

1. How to comment on agenda items via email before the meeting begins:

Members of the public may provide public comment by sending an email to the Library Board Clerk at clerk@santacruzpl.org

- Identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email
- Emailed comments should be a maximum of 500 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time.

- All correspondences received prior to 12:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding a LAC Meeting will be distributed to Commission members to review prior to the meeting. Information submitted after 12:00 p.m. on that Friday may not have time to reach Commission members, nor be read by them prior to consideration of an item.

2. How to comment on agenda items during the meeting and prior to the close of public comment on an item, using the Zoom Q&A feature:

- Type your comment using the “Q&A” feature found on the Zoom control bar
- Identify the agenda item first, then type your comment
- Your comment will be read aloud

3. How to comment aloud on agenda items, during the meeting and prior to the close of public comment on an item, via the Zoom “raise hand” feature:

If you are accessing the meeting using the Zoom app and using computer audio:

- During the comment period for that agenda item, use the “raise hand” icon found on the Zoom control bar
- The moderator will announce your name or the last 3 digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak
- Unmute yourself using the microphone icon
- Identify the agenda item
- Introduce yourself using your first and last name
- You will have three minutes of speaking time

If you are accessing the meeting using telephone audio:

- During the comment period for that agenda item, press *9 to raise your hand
- The moderator will announce the last 3 digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak
- Unmute yourself using *6 – to toggle the mute/unmute feature
- Identify the agenda item
- Introduce yourself using your first and last name
- You will have three minutes of speaking time



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 at 6:30 PM

APTOS BRANCH

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commissioners Rena Dubin, Nancy Gerdt, Charlotte Khandelwal, Vivian Rogers, Mike Termini, Pamela Woll, and Tricia Wynne

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Any member of the audience may address the Board on any matter either on or off the agenda that is within the Board's jurisdiction. Note, however, that the Board is not able to undertake extended discussion or act on non-agendized items. Such items can be referred to staff for appropriate action which may include placement on a future agenda. If you intend to address a subject that is on the Agenda, please hold your comments regarding that item until it is before the Board so that we may properly address all comments on that subject at the same time. In general 3 minutes will be permitted per speaker during Oral Communication; A MAXIMUM of 30 MINUTES is set aside for Oral Communications at this time.

4. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

A. Library Director's Report (P3-6)

5. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A. Friends of SCPL – Report (Oral)

6. MEMBER REPORTS

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed in the "Consent Calendar" will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the action unless members of the public or the Board request specific items to be discussed for

separate review. Items pulled for separate discussion will be considered following General Business.

- A. Minutes of July 7, 2024
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Minutes (P7-8)
- B. Recent Articles about Santa Cruz Public Libraries
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept and file (P9-30)

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business items are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion of each item listed. The following procedure is followed for each Business item: 1) Staff explanation; 2) Board questions; 3) Public comment; 4) Board deliberation; 5) Decision.

- A. Revised Collection Development Policy #302 – Sarah Harbison
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Endorse the revised Collection Development Policy #302 for the Library Joint Powers Authority Board adoption (P31-37)
- B. Library Safety Guidelines – Laura Whaley and Dana Stahl
- C. 2025 Library Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Review and approve the LAC 2025 calendar (P38)

9. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Location	Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items:
January 13, 2025	Aptos	•

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Library Advisory Commission to be held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Aptos Branch.

The Santa Cruz City-County Library System does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment, please call the Library Administration Office at 427-7706 at least five days in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance, or email library_admin@santacruzpl.org.

October 7, 2024



Director's Report to the Library Advisory Commission

Introduction

It is my honor to provide my first Director's Report to the Library Advisory Commission. As of October 7th, I will have been in this role for precisely three months. During this period, I have been immersed in meeting staff, community members, program partners, consortium partners and officials while learning the Library's structure, processes, history, services and programs. Aside from having visited all the branch teams, I've shopped at the Capitola Mall Friends Bookstore, met with the Santa Cruz Genealogy Society, Santa Cruz Pride, book-talked at our Boundless Minds library in Juvenile Hall and assisted Jail Reach at Roundtree. With FSCPL's Sarah Beck I've presented at Sunrise Rotary, participated in numerous Friends and Capital Campaign meetings and co-hosted three invitational 'Meet the Directors' sessions in Aptos, Garfield Park and Felton. I am still meeting people with additional drop-in 'Meet the Director' sessions planned for the remaining locations throughout October and November and I am enrolled in the current cohort of Leadership Santa Cruz County. What I have learned so far is that Santa Cruz library patrons are as warm and welcoming as they are passionate about their libraries, the calendar of programs offered by the library and Friends groups are remarkably diverse, and the staff—both public facing and non-public facing, from the Courier or Facilities person up to the Branch Manager or Division Head, are dedicated to offering the best library service they can provide.

Library Team

Assistant Director Eric Howard has accepted a new role as Director of Sno-Isle Libraries in Washington State. His last day for SCPL will be October 29th. During his tenure at SCPL he has provided innovative leadership during some of the most challenging times in librarianship with the pandemic and multiple branch renovations. He has also provided me with tremendous support in our few months together, we wish him well in his new role.

New Hires:

- Rosey Angulo and Fassio Edler have been hired as Library Asst IIs at Branciforte, starting 10/1/24
- Rachelle Sprenger has been hired as Library Asst II at Garfield Park starting 10/1/24
- Brandi Neuroth has been hired as Library Asst II at Downtown starting 10/1/24
- Mildred Beristain and Abigail Sumano have been hired as Library Aides at Downtown, starting 9/30/24
- Fay Dennis has been hired as Library Aide at Capitola effective 8/5/24
- Amber Baumbach has been hired as Youth Services Librarian at Capitola effective 7/26/24
- Sarah Rigler, Professional & Technical Assistant, hired effective 7/8/24 as a R.E.A.D tutor for Boulder Creek.

Kevin Hildreth, Branch Manager for Branciforte is retired as of September 27th.

We are interviewing for the new Librarian III position which brings the Outreach unit to the leadership team level. Current vacancies under recruitment include:

Accounting Assistant II	102-018	SEIU	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-005	Supervisor	1.000
Library Assistant III	363-004	Supervisor	1.000
Library Information Specialist	285-002	SEIU	1.000
Bookmobile Library Assistant	284-006	SEIU	0.500
Library Assistant III	363-013	Supervisor	1.000
Librarian III	831-005	Mid Mgmt	1.000
Librarian I/II	750-032	Mid Mgmt	1.000

Sara De Leon, the Human Resources Director for the City of Santa Cruz and I are visiting each library location countywide in September and October to meet with library staff at all levels about the City's new Culture as a Competitive Advantage strategic project. The goal is to build better engagement between the City and its staff to improve communication, identify training needs, inform staff about the 2024 compensation study, improve how staff are recognized for achievements, and more.

On September 20th, numerous Library staff participated in the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries Summit meeting.

On October 17th we will hold our Fall staff in-service day which will include continued work on applying de-escalation techniques and safety procedures in practice, sessions and tabling on The Great Shake-Out, our revitalized Volunteer program, local history resources, Collection Management Services, Jail Reach and Marketing.

Services

In the previous LAC meeting we reported on the launch of Link+ collection sharing service among a network of California libraries. We are pleased to report that since July 1st the service is steadily ramping up and as of this writing we have lent 873 items to partner libraries and our patrons have borrowed 1109.

Our Volunteer Services Coordinator and Training Coordinator are relaunching those programs for the Library. One important service that has returned as a result is our Book Buddies program that pairs volunteers with homebound patrons to deliver books to their homes. Staff onboarding and the upcoming in-service staff day are being led by our Training Coordinator. We will invite both to present in upcoming meetings.

We are pleased to share the Library's Jail Reach program is cited in the American Library Association's revised *Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated or the Detained*. The previous set of guidelines were published in the early 1990s so this is a much-needed update that will be reviewed by public libraries nationwide.

Libraries

In September we were able to proceed with assembling the final pieces of the Live Oak Annex including the installation of shelving, digital signage, a self-check station and the acquisition of approximately 500 primarily youth books for an onsite browsing collection. The study rooms are already popular and Live Oak has begun offering regular programs in the program room including an English conversation group and READ tutoring. We will host an open house event on Saturday November 23rd.

Planning for the new Downtown Library continues, Library staff and I met regularly with Jayson Architecture and the City's project staff during August and September on building details. We are also grateful for the coordination of the Friends' campaign launched this Summer to fundraise for this project. We are also pleased to share that Jayson Architecture has received a 2024 Design Awards Citation from the AIA California for our Boulder Creek Library renovation.

Upcoming

The November LJPA Board Meeting has been rescheduled to a special meeting on October 31st. It will include a presentation by Matrix Consulting Group of a cost benefit analysis of the support services provided to the LJPA by the City of Santa Cruz.

In the next two upcoming LAC meetings, Library team members will report on Summer Reading, Volunteer Services, Staff Training, and the next round of policy updates which will include our Technology Use and Security Camera policies.

We will also be exploring options for the Library's next round of strategic planning as our current plan wraps up in 2025.

Fall Programming

Youth Librarians have added several new programs to engage new audiences, especially parents of very young children and tweens & teens. These included:

- Branciforte - a new Game Time program for Teens and Tweens.
- Capitola - a new Baby Time program with a Stay & Play element after Baby Time and Story Time sessions. Capitola has also started a Teen Crafternoon program as well as Tai Chi for Teens.
- Downtown - a monthly Sewing for Kids program as well as biweekly Minecraft programs.
- Scotts Valley - a new monthly 3D Printing Design Club for Teens.

Adult Librarians have a strong programming roster for Fall as well, including:

- October is the Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate 2025-2026 application period to select the next poet who will represent poetry in our community. The Poet Laureate project is a partnership with Santa Cruz County Parks and the Arts Council

- Tenants' Rights 1-on-1 Counseling begins biweekly in Felton in October
- A Spanish language conversation group begins at Garfield Park in October bringing intermediate-level Spanish speakers together to practice skills and foster fluency in order to support a more inclusive community
- A Series of Digital Skills Workshops will take place on Mondays in October at Aptos On October 19 at the Resource Center for Nonviolence, Leila Mottley, bestselling author of *Nightcrawling*, will be joined in conversation with Ayo Banjo, local leader and social entrepreneur whose projects intersect political technology with social justice work. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Capitola Library, Resource Center for Nonviolence, NAACP Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz Black
- A Six-week series on the Spirituality of Aging begins in late October at Downtown for conversations, exploration, and reflection on who we could be in later life
- A Photo management workshop in November at Scotts Valley



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, July 1, 2024 at 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Charlotte Khandelwal, Mike Termini, Pamela Woll, Tricia Wynne,
Nancy Gerdt, Vivian Rogers
ABSENT: Rena Dubin
STAFF: Interim Library Director Eric Howard

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED THE AGENDA
MOVER:	Tricia Wynne
SECONDER:	Nancy Gerdt
ABSENT:	Rena Dubin
AYES:	Khandelwal, Termini, Woll, Wynne, Gerdt, Rogers

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the public complained about a number of unrelated issues, some of which had been already addressed by Library Management.

4. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Interim Library Director Eric Howard provided a written report.

5. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Cindy Jackson introduced Sarah Beck, Executive Director of the Friends.

6. MEMBER REPORTS

None

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR Items A - D

- A. Approved Minutes of May 6, 2024
- B. Recent Articles about SCPL
- C. Endorsed the updated Gift Policy #309 for the LJPA adoption
- D. Endorsed the updated Library Naming Policy #403 for the LJPA adoption

MOVER: Charlotte Khandelwal
SECONDER: Vivian Rogers
ABSENT: Rena Dubin
AYES: Khandelwal, Termini, Woll, Gerdt, Rogers, Wynne

The Commissioners discussed the need for clarification of two items in the Gift Policy and the potential need for a MOU.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Marketing Presentation by Ana Maria Treadwell
The Commissioners complimented the presentation and expressed their appreciation for the work done by the Marketing Team.
- B. Meeting Room Policy
Interim Director Howard introduced the topic and answered questions.

RESULT: Endorsed the updated Meeting Room Policy #315 for the LJPA adoption

MOVER: Khandelwal
SECONDER: Tricia Wynne
ABSENT: Rena Dubin
AYES: Khandelwal, Termini, Woll, Wynne, Gerdt, Rogers

9. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 7, 2024 at the Aptos Branch Library.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:30 pm to the next regular meeting of the Library Advisory Commission to be held on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Aptos Branch Library.

Library Advisory Commission

Media Packet

(July 1st – Sept 30th, 2024)

In the News and Media



July 5, 2024: VISIONS OF AMERICA AT CAPITOLA LIBRARY

By Staff

As the Semi-quincentennial anniversary of America's independence fast approaches, the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) and [PBS Books](#) have produced "Visions of America: All Stories, All People, All Places," a digital-first series of videos and virtual conversations that explore our nation with a renewed interest in the places, people and stories that have contributed to the America we live in today.

Hosted by PBS Books and the sixth director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services Crosby Kemper leads a video tour through three lesser-known historical sites that symbolize an aspect of the spirit of our independence, probing what makes each of these so important to our national identity. The screening and discussion with local historians and researchers will be Thursday evenings 6-8 p.m. in July at the Capitola Library, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola. Light refreshments will be provided.

Registration is recommended, not required, to help plan refreshments.

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July 11: A Journey to the Freedom Tower Stories of Cuban Migration with UCSC Latin American and Latino Studies PhD candidate Jennifer Gottlieb

The Freedom Tower (or Torre de la Libertad) in Miami has graced the city's skyline for nearly a century, but it became an important national landmark when it played a crucial role in hosting Cuban refugees in the wake of the Cuban Revolution in 1959.

Register at: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12401275>

July 18: Exploring the Wing Luke Museum

The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience was established in Seattle in 1967 as the only Pan-Asian Pacific American community-based museum in the country. The episode features a discussion of the resilience of Asian American immigrants, through their early oppression in the U.S. to a now flourishing community in Seattle's Chinatown-International District.

Register at: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12401276>

July 25: Discovering 18th & Vine

The Negro League's Baseball Museum was founded in 1990 to keep the stories of its players especially Jackie Robinson alive and how they eventually broke the barriers of segregation in Major League Baseball. While the conversation will lead with baseball, it will wend towards jazz since the museum also shares its building with the American Jazz Museum.

Register at: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12401277>

Link to story: <https://tpgonlinedaily.com/visions-of-america-at-capitola-library/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel

July 9, 2024: Santa Cruz, Watsonville libraries hosting virtual author talk with Max Brallier

By Nick Sestanovich

SANTA CRUZ — Not everyone would be prepared in the event of a zombie apocalypse, but then again, not everyone is Jack Sullivan, the young protagonist of Max Brallier's hit book series "The Last Kids on Earth."

With every installment, Jack and his close-knit group of friends use their wits and arsenal of tools to take on a different monster, and the series has proven successful with its pre-teen audience, making regular appearances on the New York Times and USA Today's best-seller lists and even spawning a hit Netflix series. Brallier will be discussing the series and his writing process, as well as taking questions from viewers, in a virtual author talk for patrons of Watsonville Public Library and Santa Cruz Public Libraries July 16.

The event comes courtesy of a partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium, an organization that hosts virtual author talks and streams them to patrons of its more than 250 member libraries. Watsonville has had a partnership with the organization for a few years, and Santa Cruz Public Libraries began its partnership in May through the support of the Friends of the Capitola Branch Library.

"The Last Kids on Earth" tells the story of Jack, a 13-year-old foster child living in a treehouse as his town is invaded by zombies. Using skills learned from video games, he assembles a team of classmates to fight against the horde of zombies and different monsters that have emerged amid the chaos.

The first book was released in 2015 and was praised for its blend of comedy and apocalyptic horror. It was followed by eight additional books and four standalone books and was adapted into a Netflix series in 2018.

Additionally, Brallier is the author of the “Eerie Elementary” and “Galactic Hot Dogs” series in addition to standalone books such as “Can You Survive the Zombie Apocalypse?” and books based on Cartoon Network series such as “Adventure Time,” “Steven Universe” and “Regular Show.” He also was a designer for “Poptropica,” an online role-playing game developed by “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” author Jeff Kinney. The event will be livestreamed at 11 a.m. July 16. To register, go to [Library.org/watsonvillelibrary](https://www.library.org/watsonvillelibrary) or [Library.org/santacruzpl](https://www.library.org/santacruzpl).

Link to story: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2024/07/09/santa-cruz-watsonville-libraries-hosting-virtual-author-talk-with-max-brallier/>



July 10, 2024: library Debut at County Juvenile Hall



On June 20, [Santa Cruz County Probation](#), the [Santa Cruz County Office of Education](#) and [Santa Cruz Public Libraries](#) opened a library at Juvenile Hall with the goal to provide opportunity and inspiration to youths in the justice system.

The project also involved renovation of two rooms into counseling spaces and murals for classroom spaces at the Robert A. Hartman School, which has about 30 students. Hartman was the special education teacher at the Juvenile Hall school until he retired in 1987.

The design was based in part on input from youth, and included financial support from the County, County Office of Education, Santa Cruz Public Libraries, and Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, while the counseling spaces were supported by state grants.

Chief Probation Officer Fernando Giraldo applauded the collaboration that led to the library.

“The space offers relevant and engaging reading materials curated with guidance from the youth it serves, as well as programming that allows youth to connect with one another in creative ways,” he said.

Jesse Silva, Jail Reach & bookmobile coordinator for Santa Cruz Public Libraries said, “The Santa Cruz Public Library’s Jail Reach team collaborated with the youth inside to build a collection that is relevant and diverse, and we look forward to offering library programs to support literacy and foster a love of reading. We’re especially grateful to the Friends of SCPL and their fundraising project Boundless Minds.”

Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Faris Sabbah said, “This project reflects our commitment to providing engaging and supportive learning environments for all students.”

He added, “At every step, the library was built with the active involvement of the students it serves – offering not only reading material but a space for creativity, connection, and wellness.”

Link to story: <https://tpgonlinedaily.com/library-debut-at-county-juvenile-hall/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel

July 11, 2024: Photos | Filmmakers of 'You Will Not Replace Us' attend screening, discussion in Capitola

By Shmuel Thaler



The Ow Family Community Room at the Capitola branch library is filled Wednesday for a screening and discussion with the filmmakers of "You Will Not Replace Us." The film is a recently released documentary drama addressing the shared tribulations and historical unity between Black and Jewish Americans. Directors and co-stars Josh Greene and Luke Harris, along with cinematographer Jack Lattin and producer Sydney Kaster attended the event in person and remotely on Zoom to join the discussion moderated by UC Santa Cruz professor Bruce Thompson. The film confronts the complex relationship between Black and Jewish Americans and the common struggle to fight hate. The film title "You Will Not Replace Us" is in reference to the popular white supremacist replacement theory rebuked in the film. By bringing together Black and Jewish interviewees, the film intends to send a clear message that marginalized communities will not be replaced by bigotry and ignorance. The event sponsored by the Santa Cruz Public Libraries was co-sponsored by Chadeish Yameinu, Temple Beth El, NAACP Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz Jewish Film Festival. (Shmuel Thaler – Santa Cruz Sentinel)

Link to story: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2024/07/11/photos-filmmakers-of-you-will-not-replace-us-attend-screening-discussion-in-capitola/>



July 24, 2024: Affordable housing project in Santa Cruz gets \$800,000 boost from tech sector

By Jessica M. Pasko

The planned [downtown library and affordable housing project](#) on Cedar Street in Santa Cruz is getting a \$817,000 predevelopment loan to help create 124 units of affordable housing at the site.

The money comes from the Monterey Bay Housing Trust, a revolving loan fund sponsored by the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership and Housing Trust Silicon Valley in conjunction with the latter's TECH Fund. Established in 2017, the [HTSV TECH Fund](#) works with the high-tech sector, large employers and philanthropists to spur investment in affordable housing. It's raised over \$118 million to finance more than 5,600 homes throughout the greater Silicon Valley area.

This latest funding will go to For the Future Housing, a San Jose-based company focused on building affordable housing, for the downtown library and housing project, which is currently slated to [begin construction early next year](#). The project will include a 41,000-square-foot library and 235-space parking garage in addition to the 124 housing units.



August 14, 2024: Heavy Lifting Listening Tour: 4th Anniversary of CZU Lightning Complex Fire

Artist Felicia Rice and Poet Theresa Whitehill are hosting The Heavy Lifting Listening Tour, a program to honor the 4-year anniversary of the devastating CZU Lightning Complex Fire. The program will take place in the Felton Branch Library Community Room on Saturday, August 24 from 2 to 4pm. The event is free and open to the public.

Felicia is an artist, letterpress printer, publisher, and educator. With one foot firmly planted in the 19th century and the other in the 21st, she utilizes letterpress and digital technologies to produce limited edition artists books, prints, and broadsides in collaboration with visual and performing artists, writers, and philosophers. Work from the Press has been included in exhibitions from Mexico City to Japan and New York. Her books are held in collections worldwide and she has been the recipient of many awards and grants from the NEA to the French Ministry of Culture. In December 2018 Rice was featured in the award-winning PBS Craft in America series in their episode, "Visionaries." movingpartspress.com

Theresa is a California-born poet and letterpress artist, who has been involved throughout her career in the production of poetry events and a commitment to cultural projects that address the connection between poetics and the land. Born in Sacramento and raised in Marin County, Whitehill's interrelated focus on literary and book arts came out of her studies with poet William Everson at UC Santa Cruz in the late 1970s and at Mills College in the Book Art program in the early 1980s. Since 1984 she has lived in Mendocino County. She is a former Poet Laureate of Ukiah, and a co-founder of the Watershed Poetry Mendocino festival. theresawhitehill.com

This introduction to the Heavy Lifting project opens with a display of Felicia Rice's artists' book and the experimental film, *On Heavy Lifting*, followed by a conversation between poet Theresa Whitehill and the audience, in which she alternates reading her poems with an invitation for audience members to share their own work or stories in response. The activities aspire to offer opportunities for healing and dreaming through dialogue.

The tour kicked off in February 2023 in Ukiah and has occurred monthly in communities impacted by fire throughout northern California. The project explores a range of responses to loss as it considers what might lie beyond these difficult times, from creating space to name the darkness as the first stage of recovery from grief to building strength to tackle the unending work ahead.

In Felton, the event will mark the 4th anniversary of the CZU Lightning Complex Fire which devastated our Santa Cruz Mountain communities of friends, families, and neighbors, including Felicia's Bonny Doon neighborhood. The public is invited to join this commemoration of loss and celebration of community and resilience.

Santa Cruz Public Libraries is hosting the event. For more information, visit <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12542943>

If You Go

Heavy Lifting Listening Tour: 4th Anniversary of CZU Lightning Complex Fire

Felton Branch Library

Community Room

6121 Gushee Street, Felton

Saturday August 24 from 2 to 4 pm

Link to story: <https://slvpost.com/heavy-lifting-listening-tour-4th-anniversary-of-czu-lightning-complex-fire/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel

August 13, 2024: Felton Library event to highlight grief, resilience in conjunction with CZU 4th anniversary



By Nick Sestanovich

FELTON — Friday will mark the fourth anniversary of the CZU Lightning Complex fires, in which a series of lightning strikes during a dry summer sparked a set of wildfires in the Santa Cruz Mountains that burned more than 86,000 acres, destroyed 1,490 buildings and killed a 73-year-old Last Chance resident.

It is a pain that residents continue to experience, but a program at the Felton Branch Library aims to acknowledge the grief and loss the Santa Cruz Mountains community residents have faced while also celebrating renewal. Artist Felicia Rice and poet Theresa Whitehill will be bringing their Heavy Lifting Listening Tour — featuring poetry, art and an experimental short film — to the library Aug. 24.

Rice is an artist and publisher who utilized letterpress and digital technologies through her company Moving Parts Press, which began producing limited edition artists books, prints, and broadsides in collaboration with other artists starting in 1977. Her books are held in library and museum collections throughout the world, and she was featured in the PBS documentary series “Craft in America.”

Rice was personally impacted by the CZU fires, as she resided in Bonny Doon at the time, where her letterpress shop was destroyed. She has since relocated to Mendocino County, opened a new studio and reestablished Moving Parts Press.

Prior to the fires, Rice was working with Whitehill — a Ukiah poet who studied at UC Santa Cruz — on a book titled “Heavy Lifting,” in which a poem sparked a drawing which sparked a poem which

sparked a book. In the early stages of the book's publishing, Rice not only lost her letterpress in the fires, but the world was experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 presidential election and killing of George Floyd — all within the same summer. This shaped a new direction for the book.

"Heavy Lifting took flight in spite of and because of our personal and collective crises of this terrible time and tackles these issues in book form, performance, and dialogue in search of a tenable future," Rice and Whitehill wrote on the Moving Parts Press website. "Heavy Lifting" features poems by Whitehill opposite prints by Rice, all presented in accordion-fold panels. In addition to the book, Whitehill and Rice also put together a short film titled "On Heavy Lifting" which features readings of Whitehill's poems, footage of the bookmaking process and digital projections of words, birds, shadows and more to create an immersive viewing experience. It was screened at the Mendocino Film Festival as part of its Reel Mendo series earlier this year.

Rice and Whitehill have taken the book and film on a Heavy Lifting Listening Tour which began in Ukiah — where the two not only reside but which was also near the 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire — in Feb. 2023 and has been held monthly, mostly in Northern California cities impacted by wildfires. The program will feature a display of Rice's works, screening of "On Heavy Lifting" and a conversation between Whitehill and the audience, where she will read her own poems and invite audience members to share their work or stories. The event is not only a reflection on loss but also a celebration of community and resilience.

"The project explores a range of responses to loss as it considers what might lie beyond these difficult times, from creating space to name the darkness as the first stage of recovery from grief to building strength to tackle the unending work ahead," Santa Cruz Public Libraries officials wrote in a news release.

The event is 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 24 in the Community Room of the Felton Branch Library, 6121 Gushee St. For more information, go to [Santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12542943](https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12542943).

Link to story: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2024/08/12/felton-library-event-to-highlight-grief-resilience-in-conjunction-with-czu-4th-anniversary/>



August 15, 2024: New Library Chief Starts Work



By Jondi Gumz

On July 8, a new director started work at the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, 10 branches including Aptos, Capitola and Scotts Valley. He is Christopher Platt, who spent six years as Mono County library director.

His salary is \$200,000; he was granted up to \$10,000 in a moving allowance and he can accrue 120 hours of vacation a year.

He started his career at Baker & Taylor, then shifted to the Queens Library, New York Public Library as collection director, then BookOps, the technical services of the New York Public Library, then oversaw library branches across the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island, and oversaw 88 neighborhood libraries for the system, including customer experience, adult education and youth education and programming.

In an announcement, City Manager Matt Huffaker welcomed Platt, saying, "His demonstrated leadership and dedication to community engagement make him an ideal candidate for the role of Library Director. I am confident that under his guidance, our staff and libraries will continue to thrive and serve as vibrant hubs of learning and discovery for our residents."

He has a master's degree in librarianship from the University of Washington Seattle.

On June 6, he was selected to succeed Yolande Wilburn by the city managers who serve as the Joint Powers Authority board.

The Santa Cruz library director is a city of Santa Cruz employee, receiving the same benefits as other city executives and is considered a department head, hiring and supervising library employees, preparing the library budget and overseeing services to meet community needs.

In his prior roles, Platt oversaw geographically diverse library locations, fostered collaborations within the library community, and advocated for libraries to fostering a civil society.

He also has a background in library administration, budgeting, collection management, reader's advisory, and staff training.

The big project ahead is to build a new library branch in downtown Santa Cruz, replacing a facility that was deemed obsolete, and taking advantage of the new site to provide 124 units of affordable rentals, three floors of parking spaces, child care, bike lockers and e-bike charging and a roof deck.

This project was launched when voters in June 2016 approved Measure S, providing \$67 million to build or remodel the library branches. New libraries were built in Capitola, Aptos, and Felton; remodels took place in La Selva Beach, Scotts Valley and Boulder Creek, Branciforte, Garfield Park and Live Oak.

"Santa Cruz County's communities have invested significantly in local libraries over the past decade, reinforcing their role as important, valued community resources," Platt said. "I am truly excited to join the team at Santa Cruz Public Libraries and look forward to collaborating with library colleagues and community stakeholders to continue to shape and deliver exceptional library services for all of our community members."

Link to story: <https://tpgonlinedaily.com/new-library-chief-starts-work/>



August 15, 2024: CZU Lightning Complex fire anniversary marked with poetry event



Santa Cruz Public Libraries will mark the four-year anniversary of the CZU Lightning Complex fire from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Felton Branch Library with the “Heavy Lift Listening Tour,” an interactive poetry and storytelling event featuring artist Felicia Rice and poet Theresa Whitehill.

by Lookout Santa Cruz

August 15, 2024

Santa Cruz Public Libraries will mark the four-year anniversary of the CZU Lightning Complex fire from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Felton Branch Library with the “Heavy Lift Listening Tour,” an interactive poetry and storytelling event featuring artist Felicia Rice and poet Theresa Whitehill.

The Heavy Lifting Tour began in February 2023 in Ukiah and has been held monthly in communities affected by wildfires throughout Northern California.

It “explores a range of responses to loss as it considers what might lie beyond these difficult times, from creating space to name the darkness as the first stage of recovery from grief to building strength to tackle the unending work ahead.”

The program will include a display of a book by Rice, a celebrated Santa Cruz book artist and typographer, and a showing of the experimental film, “On Heavy Lifting,” followed by a conversation between Whitehill and the audience in which she reads her poetry and audience members are invited to share their own work or stories in response.

Link to story: <https://lookout.co/czu-lightning-complex-fire-anniversary-marked-with-poetry-event/>



August 26, 2024: Survivor of CZU Fire Shares Her Story Through Art

BONNY DOON, Calif. —Felicia Rice, an artist, publisher, and educator, lost her entire letterpress shop and life's work in the catastrophic CZU fire in August 2020 and now uses art to express her grief and help others heal.

"Four years is not that long. It's been lots of hard work," Rice said.

The wildfire burned more than 86,000 acres over more than a month, affecting more than 900 households, including Rice's neighborhood in Bonny Doon.

The only fatality was 73-year-old Tad Jones of Last Chance, whose body was discovered by his neighbor as he tried to escape the fire.

"I had to dig deep in the stamina to rebuild my life. Many people are struggling to rebuild their homes," Rice said.

Rice and her friend, poet Theresa Whitehill, have been traveling to wildfire-ravaged communities with their "Heavy Lifting Listening Tour," which recently stopped at the Felton Library.

"When you bring them something this potent and ask them, 'So what was your experience,' how did you get through the fire, did you evacuate, did you have neighbors that lost their home?'... for us, it's healing," Whitehill said. The tour accompanies a book and companion film titled "Heavy Lifting," which aims to spur conversations about grief and loss and help others with their shared trauma of world events, including wildfires.

"I spend every day once it started writing to people, thanking them for their donations, letting people know I was okay but things had changed," Rice said.

Rice used some of the burned wood from her property to create an accordion-style book as a tool and a commemoration of resilience.

"The growth has been again in recognizing again how important community is," Rice said.

Rice has since relocated to her family home in Mendocino and, with the help of supporters, has reestablished her publishing business.

Link to the story: <https://www.ksbw.com/article/survivor-czu-fire-shares-her-story-california-art/61976050>

Santa Cruz Sentinel

August 28, 2024: Homeless criminalization topic draws crowd to Capitola meeting



Housing Matters' monthly Neighbors for Neighbors series drew a full house Tuesday night at the Capitola Branch Library. (Jessica A. York — Santa Cruz Sentinel)

By Jessica A. York | jjork@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

CAPITOLA — With the topic of criminalizing homelessness on the agenda, a local service provider drew a packed house to its monthly community discussion series Tuesday night.

Mer Stafford, Housing Matters' chief impact officer, kicked off the Neighbors for Neighbors event by laying some groundwork around how the nonprofit defined the issue and impacts of criminalization. The meeting, hosting some 50 attendees in a Capitola Branch Library event space, came some two months after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the *Grants Pass v. Johnson* case, holding that outdoor sleeping bans are not considered "cruel and unusual punishment" under the

Eighth Amendment. The landmark ruling knocked down the U.S. District Court of Appeals 9th District ruling of six years earlier, *Martin v. Boise*, calling for jurisdictions to provide shelter options before arresting and fining people for sleeping publicly.

“Sleep is a biological necessity akin to breathing,” said Santa Cruz County Public Defender Heather Rogers, one of the event’s guest panelists. “So, when we criminalize sleeping outside or camping outside when there’s nowhere else to go, we’re criminalizing the very existence of human beings and their ability to exist in our spaces. I think that’s critical as we talk about policy and what we’re doing now to confront the issues.”

Fellow panelist Larry Imwalle, Santa Cruz’s homelessness response manager, said the Grants Pass decision had turned the necessity of providing shelter “on its head.” The earlier ruling had led to the city of Santa Cruz updating its no-public camping ordinance to require shelter alternatives before enforcement, a law that remains in place. Both Rogers and panelist Don Lane, a Housing Matters board member and former Santa Cruz mayor, noted that while people living on the streets are not being ticketed specifically for doing so, they face other punitive measures.

“We can look really narrowly at the criminalization of poverty and homelessness, but I think it’s a fool’s errand,” Rogers said. “The truth is that what (Deputy Public Defender) Athena (Reis) and I and our team are experiencing in Santa Cruz is that law enforcement involvement flows from the very act of living on the street, the very act of not having shelter, from the status of being impoverished.”

Throughout the evening, fellow panelists Santa Cruz Mayor Fred Keeley also offered sharp critique for state authorities and emphasized the need for neighboring jurisdictions to do their part in creating and hosting homeless shelter sites. The city of Santa Cruz, which hosts a 24/7 safe parking site and indoor shelter at the National Guard Armory in DeLaveaga Park along with outdoor tent space adjacent to the Armory and on a city-owned River Street lot, has been aided by one-time funding secured by local legislators and city voter-approved sales tax revenues, Keeley said.

“I get it, there’s a fear that, ‘Oh my goodness, if you build it, they will come.’ I get that issue,” Keeley said. “But it is not the city of Santa Cruz’s responsibility to take on the entire burden that comes with everything associated with people experiencing homelessness.”

Santa Cruz County, Keeley stressed, handles health and human services to the area, a task for which cities are not equipped. Meanwhile, state officials have largely “fallen out of love with shelter,” instead moving homeless funding toward addressing “upstream prevention.” The benefits of that type of work, he said, cannot be measured in the same way as response to homelessness efforts. Gov. Gavin Newsom’s order in July directing state agencies to take a stronger response to encampment removals was a sign that “he’s lost his damn mind,” according to Keeley. The concern, Keeley said, was that the state was putting no additional money toward building homeless shelters that would balance out the displacement efforts.

Among concerns from some of the night’s panelists was the status of regular homeless encampment sweeps requiring people to leave sites after being given notice and offered alternative services and shelter. Community member Darius Mohsenin asked why the city was not immediately breaking up any gathering of tents as soon as they occurred. Imwalle responded that, even were the city to put aside the idea of compassion, there weren’t enough shelter options to send people to, negating the idea that encampments can be reduced to zero.

Meanwhile, panelist Collin Webb, a Housing Matters housing stabilization specialist, listed off negative side effects of the camp clearances, including trauma, loss of important documents and possessions and impact to ongoing relationship building with service providers. He suggested that encampment clearings be accompanied by easy-to-access shelter alternatives, clear communication about the eviction, no-barrier health services and detailed information on where seized possessions have been taken. Lane added that a good goal would be to leave law enforcement presence out of the picture during camp clearings.

Audience member Suzanne Lerner termed the city action “encampment teardowns” that would be considered an act of war if someone from another country arrived and kicked residents out of their homes.

Housing Matters bills its Neighbors for Neighbors discussion series as a monthly meetup aimed at “fostering compassionate action in Santa Cruz County neighborhoods.” For more information on upcoming dates and topics, visit housingmatterssc.org online.

Link to story: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2024/08/28/homeless-criminalization-topic-draws-crowd-to-capitola-meeting/?clearUserState=true>



September 3, 2024: Living Room Conversations: Is There Common Ground?

Sept. 12 & 19 • Garfield Park Library

written by [See Below](#) September 3, 2024



The Santa Cruz Public Libraries with the Conflict Resolution Center invites the public to engage in two “Living Room Conversations” 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Garfield Park Library, 705 Woodrow Ave., Santa Cruz, on Thursday, Sept. 12 and 19. The goal is to reduce polarization and generate understanding across ideological divides.

Divided Times Publishing Group Inc tpgonlinedaily.com First there is a film screening, followed by a discussion moderated by a facilitator from the Conflict Resolution Center. The first session features "Divided We Fall," a 1-hour documentary about ordinary people wrestling with what it truly means to be an American, the divides that prevent unity, and how we can engage in conversation to heal our relationships and communities. To register visit: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12675098>.

The second session is "Listening With Curiosity," exploring how establishing lasting relationships with people across ideological divides continues the process that began with "Divided We Fall." Register at: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12675137>.

While participation in both sessions is not a requirement, attending the complete series may prove beneficial to foster dialogue and understanding.

Divided Times Publishing Group Inc tpgonlinedaily.com On August 5, 2016, Larry Andersen, an editor/videographer, was sitting on his sailboat moored in Boston Harbor talking with Tom Cosgrove, a strategist, at his cabin in the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania.

Together, they hit on the idea of a new reality TV concept to bridge the deep divides in our democracy.

The result is Divided We Fall.

Living Room Conversations is a national organization that offers a sociable and structured way to practice communicating across differences while building understanding and relationships.

People meet in person or by video call for about 90 minutes to listen to and be heard by others on one of 150+ topics, including racism, immigration, social media, capitalism-socialism, and gun control-Second Amendment. Rather than debating or convincing others, each takes turns talking to share and learn, and be curious.

Link to story: <https://tpgonlinedaily.com/living-room-conversations-is-there-common-ground/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Sept 7, 2024: Author to discuss voting rights, history of 26th Amendment at Scotts Valley Library

By Nick Sestanovich

UPDATED: September 7, 2024 at 2:09 p.m.

SCOTTS VALLEY — In just under two months, millions of Americans will be casting a ballot in the U.S. presidential election. That includes many new voters who have turned 18 since the last presidential election.

Once upon a time — prior to the 1972 election, in fact — this was not the case. Americans had to be at least 21 to vote in elections, but the ratification of the 26th Amendment in 1971 created a whole new bloc of voters. Author Jennifer Frost goes over the history of the amendment and movements

leading up to it in her most recent book "Let Us Vote," which she will be discussing at the Scotts Valley Branch Library Thursday evening.

An associate professor of history at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, Frost has written several books about American history and culture including "An Interracial Movement of the Poor: Community Organizing and the New Left in the 1960s," "Hedda Hopper's Hollywood: Celebrity Gossip and American Conservatism" and "Producer of Controversy: Stanley Kramer, Hollywood Liberalism." "Let Us Vote!" goes into the history of why Americans are able to vote as young as 18.

While the framers of the Constitution did not designate a standard national voting age, many states established 21 as the youngest age Americans could vote. There had been movements dating back to the '40s to lower the voting age to 18, which was exacerbated by the Vietnam War where many pointed out the discrepancy between being able to serve in the military as young as 18 but not having any say in voting for politicians who had the ability to declare war. The debate over lowering the voting age became widely talked about in the political sphere and even made its way into popular music, including Boyce and Hart's "L.U.V. (Let Us Vote)," which was performed on "American Bandstand" in 1968 and Barry Maguire's No. 1 hit "Eve Of Destruction," where he laments — among other things — that, "You're old enough to kill but not for votin'."

The efforts were finally set into motion in 1970 when Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy proposed amending the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to lower the voting age to 18, which then-President Richard Nixon signed an extension for. Despite several challenges, even going before the Supreme Court in *Oregon v. Mitchell*, the amendment to lower the voting age to 18 passed in both houses of Congress and was ratified to the Constitution as the 26th Amendment.

Frost will dive deeper into the history of this movement, particularly how California played a role.

The event is 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Fireside Community Room at the Scotts Valley Branch Library, 251 Kings Village Road. Registration is required and can be done at [Santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12892186](https://www.libcal.com/event/12892186).

Originally Published: September 7, 2024 at 2:06 p.m.

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2024/09/07/author-to-discuss-voting-rights-history-of-26th-amendment-at-scotts-valley-library/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Sept 19, 2024: United Against Hate Week events planned in Santa Cruz County

By Aric Sleeper

The Resource Center for Nonviolence and partnering organizations are hosting a series of events for United Against Hate Week including a poetry slam and bystander intervention training, among others.

[United Against Hate Week](#) was created from the “United Against Hate” poster campaign in Bay Area cities that came in response to white supremacist rallies that occurred in San Francisco and Berkeley in 2017 and grew into an annual week of action that is recognized across California and the country.

According to a statement from the [Resource Center for Nonviolence](#), the events planned in Santa Cruz are “designed to equip our community with practical strategies for nonviolence, share personal stories of overcoming hate and bias, and showcase community-based solutions that foster a beloved community founded on love and inclusion rather than hate and fear.”

“The power to root out hate begins with us, in our towns, our schools and our voting booths,” said Resource Center for Nonviolence Executive Director Silvia Morales. “This week is about transforming our collective defiance against hate into actionable paths forward. It’s about preparing our community not only to face current challenges but to shape the future we believe in.”

The Santa Cruz-based events in recognition of United Against Hate Week begin with “Bystander Intervention Training: Learn effective nonviolence principles and de-escalation techniques to safely counteract hate incidents,” from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Betty Leonard Community Room in the Aptos Branch Library, 7695 Soquel Drive, Aptos.

Later, at 4 p.m. Saturday, the Resource Center for Nonviolence will host “Breaking Bread, Building Bridges — Savoring Solidarity,” at the Resource Center, 612 Ocean St., where participants are welcomed to engage in meaningful dialogue while enjoying a prepared meal.

From 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Resource Center for Nonviolence, community members are invited to “Expressions of Hope: United Against Hate Poetry Slam.” And from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Capitola Branch Library, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola, join others for the panel discussion event “United Against Book Bans, Unite Against Hate.”

For information, visit rcnv.org.

Link to story: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2024/09/19/united-against-hate-week-events-planned-in-santa-cruz/>

Sept 20: Santa Cruz County libraries tackle bystander intervention, banned books



BY LOOKOUT SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz Public Libraries will observe the overlapping United Against Hate Week from Sept. 21-27 and Banned Books Week from Sept. 22-28 with bystander intervention training and a panel discussion.

[CAIR California](#) will lead a bystander intervention training workshop at the Aptos Branch Library from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, in collaboration with Santa Cruz County for Safe and Inclusive Communities. It will cover principles of nonviolence and deescalation techniques, including hands-on skills about how to deescalate a hate incident before it leads to violence, how to create a safe space and how to support the person being targeted. [Registration is required.](#)

A "Unite Against Book Bans, Unite Against Hate" panel discussion will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Capitola Branch Library. It will feature a conversation about the ways reading challenged and banned books positively influence well-being, reduce hate and bias, and save lives with Zak Keith, Diversity Center graduate student researcher and program coordinator; Amber

Baumbach, Capitola Branch Library youth services librarian; Madeline Aliyah, speaker, poet, author and Santa Cruz Queer Trans Youth Council member; and Alex Trask, Delta High School junior. [Registration is required.](#)

Link to story: <https://lookout.co/santa-cruz-county-libraries-tackle-bystander-intervention-banned-books/>

Chair Mike Termini
Vice Chair Rena Dubin
Commissioner Nancy Gerdt
Commissioner Charlotte Khandelwal
Commissioner Vivian Rogers
Commissioner Pamela Woll
Commissioner Tricia Wynne



STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 7, 2024
TO: Library Advisory Commission
FROM: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries
RE: Revised Collection Development Policy #302

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Endorse the revised Collection Development Policy #302 for the Library Joint Powers Authority Board adoption.

DISCUSSION

The Collection Development Policy outlines the goals and principles that guide staff in making responsible decisions about acquiring and managing materials for the Library's collection, while also providing transparency to the public about our selection criteria and practices.

The policy also provides guidance on how the collection is maintained and provides a process for library card holders to request that an item in the collection be reconsidered.

Some notable changes from the previously adopted policy include:

- A revised introduction
- Combined selection criteria for physical and digital formats
- Updates to reflect the recently revised Gifts Policy #309
- Revised procedure for requesting reconsideration of material
- Revised SCPL Request for Reconsideration of Material Form

Additionally, this policy meets the requirements of California Assembly Bill 1825 (AB 1825) if and when it is enacted. AB 1825, called the "Freedom to Read Act" was introduced by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), the Chair of the Assembly Education Committee. The bill would require public libraries that receive direct funding from the state to adopt and maintain a written and publicly accessible collection development policy and submit that policy to the State Library for review by January 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Revised Collection Development Policy #302
SCPL Request for Reconsideration of Material Form

Report Prepared by: Sarah Harbison, Collection Management Services Manager
Reviewed and Approved by: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries

Collection Development Policy

JPAB Policy #302
Approved: 8/2019
Last Revised: 8/2024
Five-year Review Schedule: 8/2029

Introduction

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (hereinafter the "Library") strives to build and maintain a diverse, accessible collection that serves our community's informational, educational, and entertainment needs. This policy outlines the goals and principles that guide staff in making responsible decisions about acquiring and managing materials, while also providing transparency to the public about our selection criteria and practices.

Aligned with the Library's mission, vision, and values, this policy covers all formats in our physical and digital collections. We are committed to providing free and equitable access to a wide range of materials that reflect a broad spectrum of perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds, including those of marginalized and underrepresented groups. Our collection development practices are grounded in principles of intellectual freedom, inclusion, and are responsive to evolving community interests. The Library adheres to the philosophies embodied in the ALA's [Library Bill of Rights](#), [Freedom to Read](#) Statement, [Freedom to View](#) Statement, Code of Ethics, Core Values of Librarianship Statement, and other guiding documents in serving the public and in determining the development of its collection.

Responsibility for Selection

The authority and responsibility for the selection of library materials rests ultimately with the Director of Libraries. Under their direction, the collections are professionally selected by assigned library staff. The public and all staff members are encouraged to recommend materials for consideration.

Selection Criteria

The Library seeks to develop an outstanding collection by selecting material that reflects the educational, informational, and entertainment needs of the community. Selection decisions are made within the limitations of the available space and funding, and within the scope of this Collection Development Policy. Selection does not imply endorsement of either the content or viewpoint of the material.

Collection Development staff use the following general criteria to select materials for the collection:

- Relevance to the Library's [Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan](#)

- Supports the goals of the Library's [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan](#) and [Statement of Commitment to Racial and Social Equity](#)
- Current or anticipated demand of material
- Current or historical significance of the author, director, or subject
- Contribution to the diversity and scope of the collection
- Attention by critics and reviewers, with preference generally given to titles vetted in the editing and publishing industry
- Reputation and qualifications of the author, creator, publisher, or issuing body
- Artistic merit, literary value, or major award recipient
- Suitability of format to Library circulation, use, and durability
- Date of publication or release
- Price, availability, and impact on the Library's materials budget

Generally excluded from selection:

- Textbooks and curriculum-related works unless they are considered useful to the general reader as an introduction to a subject and their presentation is superior to other sources
- Scholarly and technical materials that are better suited to academic or special libraries
- Items having removable media such as memorabilia, patterns, stickers, or toys, unless the book is usable without these items
- Puzzle or workbooks that encourage filling in blanks

Exceptions are made for materials whose content is within the scope of the Special Collections area and meet its criteria.

Gifts of Books and Materials

Gifts of books, materials, and media donations can be given directly to the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries. In most instances, gifts will be sold by the Friends. All proceeds will benefit the Library. Gifts to the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries are governed by the policies set forth on their website at www.fscpl.org. In general, gifts of materials are not added to the Library's collection.

Related Document: [Gifts Policy; JPAB Policy #309](#)

Languages included in Collection

Non-English language collections are developed depending upon the local demographics and the identified need for substantial material in a particular non-English language.

Maintenance of Collection

Collection maintenance is part of the ongoing evaluation of collections by Collection Development staff. The Library's collection is a living, changing entity and collection maintenance helps to keep the collection current, attractive, responsive, diverse, and useful to the needs of the community. Great care is taken to retain or replace items that have enduring value to the community.

Replacement

Replacement of lost or withdrawn materials is not automatic. The decision to replace is influenced by:

- Availability of existing copies and formats in the system
- Popular interest
- Coverage in the subject area
- Cost and availability
- Past usage

Mending

The decision to mend materials is made with consideration to the same factors involved in replacement. In addition, the following should influence the decision to mend:

- Historical significance and preservation
- Feasibility of mending
- Cost of mending vs. cost of replacement

Withdrawal Responsibility

Collection Development staff are responsible for regular evaluation of collections in their selection area.

Those materials determined to no longer fit the criteria for inclusion are withdrawn from the collection. An item will be transferred or removed for one or more of the following reasons:

- Physical condition of materials
- Accuracy, currency, and relevance of information
- Accessibility of alternate formats
- Subject or title adequately provided by other materials in the collection
- Ease of borrowing materials from another library system
- Date of last circulation and number of circulations
- Number of copies exceeds demand
- Cost of maintenance of the material is infeasible

The authority to withdraw materials from the collection lies with Collection Development staff, who use their professional expertise in assessing the needs of the community and the content of the collection. Branch staff may withdraw and discard materials unfit for public use, such as those whose condition may compromise other items in the collection (including moldy or water damaged items), and those otherwise damaged beyond repair. If it is the last copy available in the library system, they should notify the Selector.

Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials

Librarians select material in alignment with the Library's mission using established criteria. The Library welcomes feedback from Santa Cruz County residents about the inclusion of materials in the Library collection.

- Individuals with concerns about material in the Library collection may ask staff about such material. Library staff will provide a copy of this policy and provide an opportunity to share their concerns with a branch manager or librarian.
- Those who wish to submit a formal request for reconsideration may fill out a “Request for Reconsideration Form” (Attachment A). Each form can only be used for a single title.
- In order to maintain focus on local community needs and perspectives, forms will only be accepted from SCPL cardholders who are residents of Santa Cruz County.
- Requests to remove specific material from the collection are considered in alignment with the Library’s Collection Development Policy.
- A written response to the submitted form will be provided, typically within 30 days of the receipt of the form.
- The item in question will remain available for check out during the reconsideration process.
- Questioned items will be considered in their entirety, not judged solely on portions taken out of context.

An individual title will only be reviewed one time every three years. If a title has already gone through the review process within the previous three years, patrons wishing to submit a review of that same title will receive the same report provided in the original review process.

A patron who wishes to comment further about a specific item may write a letter to the Director of Libraries, who will review the documentation and respond in writing.

While anyone is free to select or reject materials for themselves or their own minor children, the freedom of others to read or inquire will not be restricted. The Library does not stand in loco parentis (in the place of parents). Parents and guardians, not the Library or staff, have the responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices of their own minor children.

ATTACHMENT A
SCPL Request for Reconsideration of Material Form

Santa Cruz Public Libraries has established a Collection Development Policy and has a procedure for gathering input about items in the collection. Individuals who are both an SCPL card holder and resident of Santa Cruz County may complete a Request for Reconsideration form if they believe an item does not align with this policy. Only one title may be included per form. An individual title will only be reviewed one time every three years. If a title has already gone through the review process within the previous three years, patrons wishing to submit a review of that same title will receive the same report provided in the original review process. If you wish to request reconsideration of a resource, please return the completed form to Library staff. A written response to the submitted form will be provided, typically within 30 days of the receipt of the form.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Library Card Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (optional) _____ Email: (optional) _____

Title: _____

Author/Producer: _____

What brought this material to your attention? _____

Have you examined the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review? _____

What concerns you about the material? _____

What action are you requesting the Library consider? _____

SCPL Request for Reconsideration of Material Form

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Date: _____

Name: _____

Library Card Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (optional) _____ Email: (optional) _____

Title: _____

Author/Producer: _____

What brought this material to your attention? _____

Have you examined the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review? _____

What concerns you about the material? _____

What action are you requesting the Library consider? _____

STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 7, 2024
 TO: Library Advisory Commission
 FROM: Christopher Platt, Library Director
 RE: Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2025

RECOMMENDATION

Review and approve the LAC 2025 calendar

DISCUSSION

The LAC schedule is coordinated with the JPA schedule so that policy items can be reviewed and discussed by the LAC prior to JPA review and discussion.

Meeting Dates - All are on Mondays at 6:30pm	
January 13	Aptos Branch Library
April 14	Scotts Valley Branch Library
May 19	Capitola Branch Library
August 18	Aptos Branch Library
October 20	Downtown Branch Library