

## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)

On Monday, April 14, 2025 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.

### **Public Participation via Zoom:**

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877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or  
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The meetings will be recorded and posted for viewing after the meetings on the Santa Cruz Public Libraries website <http://www.santacruzpl.org/>

**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](mailto: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, APRIL 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM**

### **SCOTTS VALLEY BRANCH**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Rena Dubin, Charlotte Khandelwal, Timothy Lydgate, 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 (P4-6)

#### **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 January 13, 2025  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Minutes (P7-8)
- B. Change Interlibrary Loan Policy #320 to a Procedure  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Endorse the dissolution of Interlibrary Loan Policy #320 as a Board-approved policy and revise it to align with standard procedures for library services (P9-10)
- C. Recent Articles about Santa Cruz Public Libraries  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accept and File Recent Articles about SCPL (P11-24)

**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. Volunteer Program Update Presentation by Laamsha Young, Volunteer Coordinator
- B. Summer Reading Update Presentation by Jessica Goodman, Adult Programs and Services Manager & Heather Norquist, Youth Programs and Services Manager
- C. Updated Conflict of Interest Code Policy #103  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Endorse the updated Conflict of Interest Code Policy #103 for the Library Joint Powers Authority Board’s adoption (P25-30)
- D. New Child Protection Policy #500  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Endorse the new Child Protection Policy #500 for the Library Joint Powers Authority Board adoption (P31-34)

**9. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Date	Location	Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items:
May 19, 2025	Capitola Branch	•

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the Library Advisory Commission to be held on Monday, May 19 at 6:30pm at the Capitola Branch Library.

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](mailto:library_admin@santacruzpl.org).



**April 14, 2025**

## **Director's Report to the Library Advisory Commission**

### **Introduction**

The first full week of April is National Library Week. Like many other libraries across the U.S., SCPL used this opportunity to promote the staff, programs and services we offer to our constituents. We are especially delighted that many locals elected to nominate SCPL staff on the [ala-apa.org](http://ala-apa.org) website celebrating National Library Workers Day on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The ALA-APA is a companion organization to the ALA established "to promote the mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers." Each year they host a 'Galaxy of Stars' on their website inviting submissions from communities across the country and beyond. Numerous SCPL staff made the Galaxy in 2025, reflecting our team's commitment to providing excellent service and reinforcing that for many, our frontline staff are the 'face' of the library.

Importantly, during this year's budget cycle, we are paying close attention to impacts SCPL patrons may feel should the state budget continue its recent trend of decreasing monies in support of library services, as well as the potential impact of a federal government reduction in library funding to states. This latter money comes through an independent agency called the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). SCPL does not receive money directly from the IMLS, but it does offer services coordinated and paid for by the state library with federal funding such as access to the New York Times Online, the Braille and Talking Book Library direct lending service, and more. We will continue to update as more information is known.

As Director, since our last meeting I have continued to meet with stakeholders including the new Executive Director of the MAH, Ginger Shulick Porcella, our newest LAC Commissioner, Timothy Lydgate, and Patty Wong, Library Director for the City of Santa Clara who hosted me on a tour of her facility. I assisted in an interview panel for the City of Monterey, attended the quarterly meeting of the Monterey Bay Area Cooperative Library System, coming away as its next Vice-Chair, and continue to attend the monthly gatherings of Leadership Santa Cruz County. I joined our Outreach staff on a visit to the Janus addiction treatment center and will be moderating an author panel later this week at Capitola Library as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Santa Cruz Pride event calendar.

### **Library Team**

We have hired Laura Whaley as our new Assistant Director of Libraries. Laura joined SCPL in 1997 and in subsequent years, gained her MLIS as well as holding multiple leadership roles in library branches and administration.

#### New Hires and Promotions:

- Katherine Sorenson was promoted to Library Information Specialist effective March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Shelley Murray was hired as Librarian I effective April 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Staff Departures:

- Helga Smith will be retiring effective May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Savannah Harik resigned March 28<sup>th</sup>, will stay available as an On-Call.

### **Services**

The Library's Website Migration project is now underway with the choice of Communico to host our website, calendar, mobile app, catalog discovery layer and ultimately our self-check kiosks. Communico has a proven track record in public libraries with Vancouver, Salt Lake City, New Orleans and Sacramento Public Libraries among their clients. Work on the migration will ramp up in April, May & June with ultimate implementation and public roll out occurring over the Summer. We will provide an update of this project's status at the next LAC meeting.

### **Libraries**

In close collaboration with and support of the Friends of Santa Cruz Public Libraries, the Library is welcoming residents, officials, visitors, businesses and more to our Meet Me At the Downtown Library celebration on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm on the site of the new library. The construction fencing is slated to go up shortly after for a June 2022 construction ground breaking. The celebration will be an opportunity to engage with the Downtown community, provide an understanding of the range of library programs and services through a demonstration of programs and activities, and get them excited for the new facility to come. Economic Development and other community partners will also be on site to answer questions about the construction project itself.

We continue to coordinate with the County and local Friends chapters on the installation of solar panels and a battery solution at Capitola Library, as well as a generator and possible solar panels at Felton Library.

The awning for the Boulder Creek library is in the installation phase, with stanchions in the ground while the awning itself is being manufactured. It should be installed within the next few weeks.

We are investigating additional lighting solutions for the interior of the Scotts Valley Library to make it less dim as the sun sets.

### **Upcoming**

Library staff will be participating in an all-day in-service training day on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> in Scotts Valley. Topics will include a panel presentation with local providers serving vulnerable populations including New Life Community Services, People First of Santa Cruz County, SC County's Mobile Crisis Response Unit, and City of Santa Cruz' Homelessness Response Team. We'll also have staff presentations, workplace violence training refreshers, professional development break-outs for staff interested in becoming Branch Managers or Librarians, and Q&A with the Director and leadership team.

## Winter Programming

Youth librarians were busy in the winter months leading special events and ongoing programs that promote reading skills and academic success:

- Boulder Creek staff led a science-based game at the Boulder Creek Elementary Family Science Night.
- Capitola's Babytime continues to grow since its start in September. The average attendance is now 45 babies & caregivers.
- Downtown staff provided database instruction to two classes at Santa Cruz HS along with issuing 30 new library cards to students. They also provided a behind the scenes tour of the library for a class from Costanoa HS while discussing library careers.
- Garfield Park staff attended Bay View Elementary's Fiesta de los Artes.
- La Selva Beach hosted Nina Francisco's storytime and author talk.
- Live Oak staff hosted 15 class visits from local schools.
- Scotts Valley hosted a "Navigating College Admissions" workshop for teens and participated in a Read Across America event at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary. Staff also tabled at the San Lorenzo Valley High School Career & Volunteer Fair.
- Library staff from multiple locations participated in Library Card Drive events with the Santa Cruz Warriors where the new SC Warriors library card was introduced to the community.

Adult librarians presented a range of programming that demonstrates the variety of programs and services available county-wide:

- Aptos staff hosted a Digital Skills Workshop series and Project Scout Tax Preparation Assistance.
- Boulder Creek staff screened the film Little Penguin Love featuring a discussion with the film's director.
- At Branciforte a new Community Poetry Circle writing workshop has started.
- Capitola staff hosted a Lunar New Year's Calligraphy program.
- Downtown staff partnered with UCSC Center for Coastal Climate Resilience for a 3 part series for Co-Developing Tools for Coastal Flooding Risks.
- Felton staff hosted Dr. Julisa Lopez for a discussion of Amah Mutsun History and Native Stewardship.
- Garfield Park staff hosted a Writers Workshop for adults 55+
- At La Selva Beach a new Enthusiastic Bird Watchers group has started.
- Live Oak staff presented a performance of the music of the West African Kora.
- At Scotts Valley the Stanford Blood Center held a mobile blood drive.

The Outreach team collaborated with Rising Scholars and Cabrillo College Library to provide in-person library instruction at Juvenile Hall.





## **LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Charlotte Khandelwal, Mike Termini, Tricia Wynne, Vivian Rogers, Rena Dubin  
**ABSENT:** Pamela Woll  
**STAFF:** Library Director Christopher Platt

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED THE AGENDA</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	<b>Vivian Rogers</b>
<b>SECONDER:</b>	<b>Tricia Wynne</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Khandelwal, Termini, Wynne, Rogers, Dubin</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>Pamela Woll</b>

### **3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

A member of the public, Judy G., made a comment.

### **4. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Library Director, Christopher Platt, provided a written report.

### **5. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Sarah Beck, Executive Director of the Friends, provided a report.

### **6. MEMBER REPORTS**

### **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR Items A - B</b>
	<b>A. Approved Minutes of October 7, 2024</b>
	<b>B. Recent Articles about SCPL</b>

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

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

### A. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2025

**RESULT:** Elected Chair Termini and Vice Chair Dubin for 2025  
**MOVER:** Tricia Wynne  
**SECONDER:** Rena Dubin  
**AYES:** Khandelwal, Termini, Rogers, Wynne, Dubin  
**ABSENT:** Pamela Woll

### A. Confidentiality of Library Records and Patron Privacy Policy #303

**RESULT:** Endorsed the Confidentiality of Library Records and Patron Privacy Policy #303  
**MOVER:** Tricia Wynne  
**SECONDER:** Charlotte Khandelwal  
**AYES:** Khandelwal, Termini, Rogers, Wynne, Dubin  
**ABSENT:** Pamela Woll

### B. Library Promotional Merchandise: A Sustainable Proposal Presentation by Ana Maria Treadwell, Community Relations Specialist

### C. Planned Website Migration Presentation by Carlos Silva, Library IT Manager

### D. Libraries & Well-Being: A Case Study from The New York Public Library

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:30 pm to the next regular meeting of the Library Advisory Commission to be held on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Scotts Valley Branch.

Chair Mike Termini  
Vice Chair Rena Dubin  
Commissioner Timothy Lydgate  
Commissioner Charlotte Khandelwal  
Commissioner Vivian Rogers  
Commissioner Pamela Woll  
Commissioner Tricia Wynne



## STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 14, 2024  
TO: Library Advisory Commission  
FROM: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries  
RE: Change Interlibrary Loan Policy #320 to a Procedure

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Endorse the dissolution of Interlibrary Loan Policy #320 as a Board-approved policy and revise it to align with standard procedures for library services.

### DISCUSSION

Upon reviewing Interlibrary Loan Policy #320 for updates, the Library proposes dissolving this as a policy and converting it into a Collection Management Services (CMS) procedure to align with other library service processes. The current policy applies to a specific service that was much more prevalent and universally used among libraries before the advent of our shared Northern California Digital Library collection and the popular Link+ service, both of which now eclipse it. The Interlibrary Loan service will continue to be offered, and its processes will be updated as necessary. The section of Policy #320 that addresses fines for lost and damaged items is already covered in the existing Circulation Policy #306, so nothing will be lost in this conversion. The change will provide CMS with greater flexibility to update and streamline this service, ensuring that patrons receive the most current information available.

### FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### ATTACHMENT

Current Interlibrary Loan Policy #320

Report Prepared by: Sarah Harbison, Collection Management Services Manager

Reviewed and Approved by: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN POLICY

Interlibrary loan is the process by which a library requests material from, or supplies material to, another library. Santa Cruz Public Libraries provide interlibrary loan service in order to enhance and extend the resources available to cardholders. Because the Library cannot purchase every resource, interlibrary loan is an essential part of the Library's effort to meet the informational needs of the community. SCPL requests print materials from and supplies print materials to other libraries according to principles and procedures established in the MOBAC Interlibrary Loan policy, which is in alignment with the [National Interlibrary Loan Code](#) for the United States.

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN PROCEDURES

Patron accounts must be in good standing to be eligible for interlibrary loan.

Print materials (books and journal articles) are eligible for interlibrary loan. Books published within the previous 12 months are not eligible for loan.

Interlibrary loan materials check out for 3 weeks. Renewal requests must be made to the ILL department by phone or email (831-427-7726 / [ill@santacruzpl.org](mailto:ill@santacruzpl.org)); if your renewal is granted, the item's due date will be adjusted to reflect your new loan period. Overdue items are not eligible for renewal; please request renewals at least 3 days before the item is due. Occasionally, the lending library will put restrictions on the item they are lending and it may be for in-library use only, or have a shortened loan period.

Although interlibrary loan materials usually arrive quickly, please allow up to 4-6 weeks for delivery. Arrival times depend on the lending libraries and the delivery service.

Interlibrary loan is intended to be a free service. Most requested materials are borrowed from libraries with whom we have reciprocal agreements so there is no cost. Occasionally, hard-to-find materials may only be borrowed from libraries that charge a fee. In cases such as these, patrons will be contacted prior to incurring any expense. If an interlibrary loan item is lost or damaged, the patron will be responsible for full replacement cost plus any charges as determined by the lending library.

Patrons may have up to 5 ILL items requested or checked out at one time. Overdue ILL material must be returned before new ILL requests are processed.

Generally, only items that are not owned by SCPL are eligible for ILL requests to other library systems; exceptions may be made for owned titles that are in storage and are currently inaccessible to SCPL patrons.

Interlibrary loan materials may be returned to any branch. The identifying bookstrap must be intact upon return.



SANTA CRUZ  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

## **STAFF REPORT**

DATE: April 14, 2025  
TO: Library Advisory Commission  
FROM: Ana Maria Treadwell, Community Relations Specialist  
RE: Recent Articles about Santa Cruz Public Libraries

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Accept and File Recent Articles about SCPL.

### **DISCUSSION**

This Media packet covers the time period for January, 2025 through March, 2025.



# Library Advisory Commission

## Media Packet

(Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Mar 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025)

### In the News and Media



#### January 1, 2025: JANUARY PROCLAIMED POSITIVE PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

By Wendy McKillop **SANTA CRUZ, CA** – January 2025 was proclaimed as Positive Parenting Awareness Month at the Dec. 10 meeting of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors for the 13th year in a row. Positive Parenting Awareness Month highlights the importance for parents and caregivers to develop warm, nurturing relationships with their children and teens and become more confident as parents. “Parenting is one of the most difficult roles a person can take on. It can feel overwhelming, isolating and defeating,” said David Brody, Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz County, which manages the Triple P Positive Parenting Program. “Positive parenting programs, such as Triple P, build a culture that shows it’s OK for parents to ask for help for issues big and small. Families can receive support for raising healthy, thriving children through services including home visiting, early learning and care, afterschool care, preventive health and dental care, behavioral health care, economic supports and other basic needs.”

In proclaiming January 2025 as Positive Parenting Awareness Month, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors are highlighting numerous important messages and concepts related to parenting, some of which include:

- The most important job that caregivers and parents have is to raise children and youth in Santa Cruz County to become healthy, confident, capable individuals.

- Families come in many forms, with children who are raised by parents, grandparents, foster parents, family members, and other caregivers.
- The quality of parenting or caregiving is a powerful predictor of future social, emotional, and physical health.
- All families have strengths that provide a foundation for positive childhood experiences.
- Many parents, caregivers, children, and youth feel stressed, isolated, and overwhelmed — across all ages, racial and ethnic heritages, cultures, and social identities.
- Santa Cruz County families can receive support from positive parenting programs, including Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) that is available through a partnership between First 5 Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz County’s Health Services Agency, Human Services Department, and many community-based organizations.
- Everyone can play a vital role in supporting parents and caregivers in raising happy and healthy children.

The 2025 Positive Parenting Awareness Month proclamation acknowledges that parents and caregivers are experiencing unprecedented levels of stress, exacerbated by factors like economic challenges, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and other societal pressures. Parents are juggling multiple roles, balancing work, caregiving and household responsibilities while economic insecurity, racial disparities and social inequities exacerbate stress on parents, especially those in communities that already experience inequities rooted in structural racism.

“Triple P is here to help. We know there is a lack of adequate support systems for parents, including insufficient access to affordable childcare, paid family leave, and mental health services,” said Yesenia Gomez-Carrillo, Triple P Program Manager. “We want to reduce the stigma around seeking parenting support and provide the resources necessary for parents to thrive.”

During Positive Parenting Awareness Month, Triple P partners will host family events at libraries, Family Resource Centers and other community locations.

Since 2010, more than 50,000 people — parents, children, caregivers — have benefitted from the Triple P program in Santa Cruz County. Parents and caregivers have attended classes and workshops as well as received individualized support. Triple P is proven to reduce the stress, anxiety, and depression felt by parents and increase their confidence to prevent and handle challenging behaviors, all while improving relationships with their children and teens.

POSITIVE PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS

## Laid Back Book Club at the Libraries (in English and Spanish)

Participate in a family-friendly book activity at your local library: read together and express your reflections inspired by the featured book, using art supplies provided by the library. Enter your name into the raffle box by Feb. 1, 2025, for a chance to win books! Participating libraries include Watsonville Public Library and the Santa Cruz Public Libraries – Branciforte, La Selva Beach, Live Oak and Scotts Valley branches.

## Community Bridges Family Fairs

Explore local agencies and their services, meet the Triple P Parent Educators, and enjoy a fantastic event filled with food, games and prizes!

Jan. 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Beach Flats Park, 160 Raymond St., Santa Cruz

Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., La Manzana Community Resources, 521 Main St., Watsonville

Additional family-friendly events will be hosted by various community agencies throughout the month. Triple P providers also will offer virtual and in person parenting classes on a variety of topics in English and Spanish. Visit [www.first5scc.org/triple-p-classes](http://www.first5scc.org/triple-p-classes) for details.

## ABOUT TRIPLE P

The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program is a world-renowned program available to families in Santa Cruz County who have children ages birth to 16, including children with special needs. Backed by more than 30 years of international, scientific research, Triple P offers families proven strategies for strengthening relationships with their children and for preventing or managing a full range of parenting challenges. The program is available to all families in Santa Cruz County through a partnership between First 5 Santa Cruz County, the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency and the Santa Cruz County Human Services Department. For more, visit [triplep.first5scc.org](http://triplep.first5scc.org), [facebook.com/triplepscc](https://facebook.com/triplepscc), or [instagram.com/triplepsantacruz](https://instagram.com/triplepsantacruz).

Link to story: <https://www.santacruzmountainbulletin.net/january-proclaimed-positive-parenting-awareness-month-in-santa-cruz-county/>



# Santa Cruz Sentinel

January 9, 2025: Capitola Library to host longtime civil rights activist Maria Gitin



Civil rights activist Maria Gitin will be at the Capitola Branch Library Jan. 17. (Contributed — Ana Maria Treadwell)

By Nick Sestanovich

CAPITOLA — This August will mark 60 years since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which officially prohibited racial discrimination in voting. However, the road to the landmark legislation’s approval was not an easy one.

Although men of color were granted the right to vote with the 15th Amendment, many Southern states continued to disenfranchise Black voters well into the 20th century. Demonstrations were held urging Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson to adopt legislation with stronger protections than the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to register Black people to vote, which resulted in people being beaten and even killed in some instances.

Among the thousands who fought for voting rights was Capitola resident Maria Gitin, who detailed her life story in her memoir, “This Bright Light of Ours: Stories from the Voting Rights Movement,” which she will be discussing in a presentation at the Capitola Branch Library Jan. 17.

Gitin, who grew up in a low-income family in rural Sonoma County, was a 19-year-old freshman at San Francisco State College when she learned about the 1965 marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to demand voting rights for Black Americans. The march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge,

which resulted in 600 demonstrators being beaten and tear-gassed in a day that has come to be known as Bloody Sunday, had a profound impact on Gitin. When the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called upon students to come to the South to aid in the fight for voting rights, she heeded that call.

"When I saw that incident, I thought it was so outrageous, I wanted to do something," she told the Sentinel in 2013.

Gitin spent the summer of 1965 in segregated rural Wilcox County, Alabama, working with King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, all while dealing with a hostile sheriff and the Ku Klux Klan, which had an active presence in the county. Along with hundreds of other youths, Gitin helped register 500 Black voters in the weeks before the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Gitin has received numerous racial justice awards and is a member of the NAACP, Bay Area Civil Rights Veterans, J Street and Temple Beth El in Aptos. She wrote "This Bright Light of Ours" in 2014, based on her original letters, conversations with co-workers, return visits to Alabama and interviews with Wilcox County activists and their families.

"Maria Gitin's book is a unique blend of her own story and those of the local community with whom she worked in Wilcox County in the exceptionally challenging struggle of the 1960s civil rights movement," Bettina Aptheker, emeritus professor of feminist studies at UC Santa Cruz, said in a statement. "These are powerful stories profoundly relevant for our own times."

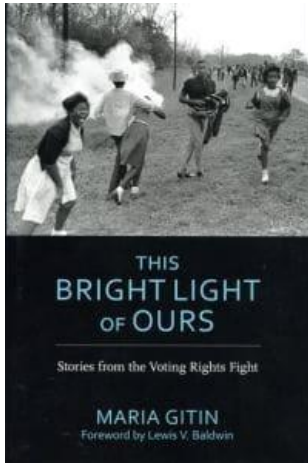
Gitin will be showcasing photographs and personal stories from her friends and co-workers, and talk about how successful strategies from 60 years ago may inform our current culture, per a Santa Cruz Public Libraries news release.

The free event is 3:30-4:30 p.m. Jan. 17 in the Ow Family Community Room of the Capitola Branch Library, 2005 Wharf Road. Seating is limited. For information, go to [Santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/13552752](https://www.santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/13552752).

Link to story: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2025/01/07/capitola-library-to-host-longtime-civil-rights-activist-maria-gitin/>

# Santa Cruz Parent

Jan 15, 2025: Stories from the Voting Rights Fight with Maria Gitin



**This Bright Light of Ours: Stories from the Voting Rights Fight with Maria Gitin**

**Friday, January 17, 3:30pm**

Join SCPL in commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day with Civil Rights veteran and author Maria Gitin. Gitin will share her experience in the Civil Rights Movement and suggest how its successful strategies might inform our current culture. Her one-hour presentation will include historic photographs and personal stories from Gitin's friends and co-workers. Her memoir, **"This Bright Light of Ours: Stories from the Voting Rights Movement"** (University of Alabama Press, 2014 and 2023), will be available for purchase and signing.

Following "Bloody Sunday" and the promised passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Civil rights organizations launched an all-out effort to register thousands of new Black voters in the Deep South. Maria Gitin was an idealistic 19-year-old college freshman at San Francisco State College who responded to Dr. Martin Luther King's call to join the Summer Community Organizing and Political Education project (SCOPE) of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC). After intensive training in Atlanta, Maria was assigned to work with leaders and local youth in violently segregated rural Wilcox County, Alabama. She will read from her published memoir which is the only in-depth account of the Freedom Summer of 1965 from the perspective of a teenage participant.

Bettina Aptheker, Emeritus Professor of Feminist Studies at UCSC says: "Maria Gitin's book is a unique blend of her own story and those of the local community with whom she worked in Wilcox

County in the exceptionally challenging struggle of the 1960s civil rights movement. These are powerful stories profoundly relevant for our own times.”

## **ABOUT MARIA GITIN**

Since the first publication of “This Bright Light of Ours,” Maria Gitin has presented at numerous universities, civil rights and history museums, libraries and bookstores. She was the Martin Luther King Jr. Day keynote speaker for King County in Seattle; for the U.S. Army Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey and for the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University. She was curator of a voting rights art and history exhibit at Pajaro Valley Arts Gallery and the Santa Cruz County Government Center 2018-2020.

From 1993-1999, Gitin co-led public schools training with National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Monterey County Chapter. In Santa Cruz County, she served as President of the Emergency Food and Shelter Board, Advisor to the NAACP Kwanzaa Collective, and to Girlz Space, a program of Santa Cruz County Probation Department for in-risk girls in Watsonville. As co-founder and first co-chair of the Pajaro Valley Cesar Chavez Democratic Club, Gitin worked for many years supporting the voter registration, education, and canvassing efforts of Latino led political action in Watsonville.

For twenty-eight years she was principal of Maria Gitin & Associates, a national organizational development and diversity consulting group. She served on the Peter F. Drucker Foundation national training team, was a coach for CompassPoint’s Fundraising Academy for Communities of Color, and led training for the National Center for Nonprofit Boards, WK Kellogg, Tides and the Peter F. Drucker Foundation. She founded the Monterey Bay Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and developed a Diversity Fundraising training presented at AFP international conferences.

Projects in the Monterey Bay region included leading the founding of the Monterey YWCA domestic violence emergency shelter, directing start-up of the Carmel Public Library Foundation, and directing capital campaigns for California community health clinics including the Santa Cruz Women’s Health Center. Gitin also developed strategic plans for the Pajaro Valley Health Trust, Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District, and Community Bridges, among others.

Gitin is the recipient of numerous racial justice awards in recognition for her lifetime commitment to civil rights. She is a member of the NAACP, Bay Area Civil Rights Veterans, J Street, and of Aptos Temple Beth El. She and her photographer husband, Samuel Torres Jr., live in Santa Cruz County. For more on Maria Gitin:

Visit <http://www.thisbrightlightofours.com>

e-mail: [msgitin@mariagitin.com](mailto:msgitin@mariagitin.com)

Join SCPL in commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day with Civil Rights veteran and author Maria Gitin. Gitin will share her experience in the Civil Rights Movement and suggest how its successful strategies might inform our current culture. <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com...>

Link to story: <https://santacruzparent.com/event/stories-from-the-voting-rights-fight-with-maria-gitin/>



### February 11, 2025: International Interior Design Association

2025 Honor Awards Gallery – Aptos Branch Library under Serve Category

<https://iidanc.secure-platform.com/a/gallery/rounds/16/details/1868#>

## Santa Cruz Sentinel

### Feb. 14, 2025: Nancy Miller Gomez named new Santa Cruz County poet laureate

By Nick Sestanovich

SANTA CRUZ — Santa Cruz County has a new artistic ambassador who will spend the next year highlighting poetry and literary arts, including readings at county functions. In other words, Nancy Miller Gomez has her work cut out for her.

Gomez is the county's new poet laureate for 2025-26, having officially been announced to the position at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors' Jan. 28 meeting. As always, the poet laureate is selected through a competitive application process where a community panel considers factors such as artistic achievement in poetry, community engagement experience and a demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, according to a county news release.

Gomez has authored many poems over the past decade and has had her work published in literary journals and anthologies such as "Best American Poetry," "Prairie Schooner," "TriQuarterly," "The Adroit Journal," "The Hopkins Review" and a special mention in the 2023 "Pushcart Prize Anthology." She is the author of the 2024 poetry book "Inconsolable Objects," in which Gomez waxes poetic about carnies, pig farmers, sentient

tornadoes, reincarnated catfish and more. The book was named as one of the best poetry books of the year by LitBowl.

Alongside former Poet Laureate Ellen Bass, she is the co-founder of the Santa Cruz Poetry Project, which has brought poetry workshops to incarcerated individuals at correctional facilities throughout Santa Cruz County. She has even brought poetry lessons to Salinas Valley State Prison, which inspired her 2018 chapbook "Punishment," centered around the lives of those serving time in the criminal justice system.

"Poetry can bring connection to the community even for those who have little experience with poetry," she said in a statement. "If you take it out of the ivory towers and off the academic pedestals, it has the power to unify people and deliver hope, especially for those who have been marginalized. We need poetry now more than ever, and I will use this role to spread poetry throughout the county and into all the places where it is needed most."

Gomez has a website, NancyMillerGomez.com, where people can sign up for a newsletter to receive updates and information on future poetry events. She already has an event scheduled for April 14 at Bookshop Santa Cruz, where she will be in conversation with her poet laureate predecessor, Farnaz Fatemi. The poet laureate position is primarily sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Spaces and Cultural Services, in collaboration with the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Arts Council Santa Cruz County and Poetry Santa Cruz. For information on the position, go to [Santacruzpl.org/pages/sc-county-poet-laureate](https://santacruzpl.org/pages/sc-county-poet-laureate).

Link to story: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2025/02/14/nancy-miller-gomez-named-new-santa-cruz-county-poet-laureate/>



## Feb 20, 2025: Gomez appointed 2025-26 Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate Distinguished poet and writer to serve 2-year term

By Staff Report

Nancy Miller Gomez has been named the 2025-26 Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate, announced Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the County of Santa Cruz Department of Parks, Open Spaces and Cultural Services, along with Arts Council Santa Cruz County and Poetry Santa Cruz.

In October 2022, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, at the recommendation of the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission, voted to establish an official County Poet Laureate honorary position. The Board officially appointed Gomez as the new Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate at its Jan. 28 meeting.

Selection of the Poet Laureate was made through a competitive application process, in which the panel considered artistic achievement in poetry; community engagement experience and ability to communicate well across a diverse range of communities; demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; and alignment of the proposed project with the Poet Laureate mission and role.

Gomez is a distinguished poet and writer whose work explores themes of social justice, human connection and the transformative power of poetry. She is the author of "Inconsolable Objects" and "Punishment," and her poetry and essays have been published in numerous literary journals and anthologies, including Best American Poetry, Prairie Schooner, TriQuarterly, The Adroit Journal, The Hopkins Review and a special mention in the 2023 Pushcart Prize Anthology.

Gomez has also been actively engaged in community outreach, using poetry as a tool for education and empowerment. She has worked extensively in correctional facilities and co-founded the Poetry in the Jails program to bring poetry workshops to incarcerated women and men in Santa Cruz County.

"Poetry can bring connection to the community even for those who have little experience with poetry," Gomez said. "If you take it out of the ivory towers and off the academic pedestals, it has the power to unify people and deliver hope, especially for those who have been marginalized. We need poetry now more than ever, and I will use this role to spread poetry throughout the county and into all the places where it is needed most."

Gomez will appear at Bookshop Santa Cruz on April 14 to share poems and conversation with Farnaz Fatemi, her Poet Laureate predecessor. She encourages community members to share their ideas and sign up for her newsletter for updates and future poetry events at [nancymillergomez.com](http://nancymillergomez.com).

The Poet Laureate program aligns with the Strategic Plans of both the County and the Library System. The County's Strategic Plan element pertaining to a Dynamic Economy: Community Vitality, asserts that the arts are essential to a community's vitality and economic development. This project aligns with the Library's Inclusionary goals to create opportunities for diverse groups to connect, have fun and gain understanding through art, history and humanities programs that celebrate diverse cultures and identities.

Link to story: <https://pressbanner.com/gomez-appointed-2025-26-santa-cruz-county-poet-laureate/>



## Mar 20, 2025: Housing Matters partners with local libraries for neighborhood meetings

By Chimera Mohammadi

Homelessness nonprofit Housing Matters is partnering with Santa Cruz Public Libraries for a series of free social-justice-oriented events in Watsonville, Santa Cruz and Capitola as part of a program called "Neighbors for Neighbors: At the Intersections."

The program will consist of group discussion and education with the goal of building community and spreading information about intersectionality, housing insecurity and homelessness. Attendees will join a circle with experts, those with lived experience of homelessness, and other members of the community.

The program will begin at the Watsonville Public Library, 275 Main St., on Monday, March 24, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It will then move to the Capitola Library at 2005 Wharf Rd. on Tuesday, April 22, at the same time. The third session will be at the Branciforte Library at 230 Gault St. on May 20 at the same time. Registration is available on the Housing Matters website.

Link to story: <https://lookout.co/housing-matters-partners-with-local-libraries-for-neighborhood-meetings/story>



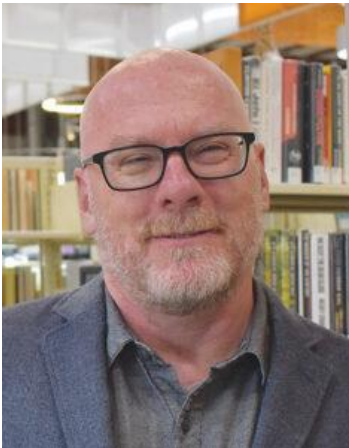


## March 21, 2025: Laura Whaley Promoted to Assistant Library Director



Santa Cruz Public Libraries announces Laura Whaley has been selected assistant director of libraries, effective March 1, succeeding Eric Howard, who left last fall.

The assistant director oversees the public service divisions of the organization which include all branches, Outreach, and Adult and Youth Programs and Services.



*Christopher Platt*

Library Director Christopher Platt said, "As assistant director, Laura brings her knowledge, experience and commitment to our Santa Cruz region to support the staff and patrons in bringing the Library's mission of "Inclusion, Connection, Collaboration" to life."

With a master's degree in library and information science from the University of North Texas, Whaley expanded her leadership skills as a Fellow with the California State Library's Eureka Leadership Program and was a member of the 2017 cohort of Leadership Santa Cruz County.

Whaley began her career with Santa Cruz Public Libraries in 1997 and since then has held many different positions with the organization as a library assistant for Youth Programs, branch manager in Boulder Creek, volunteer coordinator, a librarian in the Programs and Partnerships Dept, regional manager, and prior role as Facilities Manager.



She has served in a variety of interim leadership assignments in different library departments including interim assistant director in several instances.

"It is always exciting to embark on a new opportunity," said Whaley. "I am looking forward to supporting our director's goals, working with staff, and sharing my years of experience with SCPL supporting the organization in this capacity."

Link to story: <https://tpgonlinedaily.com/laura-whaley-promoted-to-assistant-library-director/>

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## STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 14, 2025  
TO: Library Advisory Commission  
FROM: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries  
RE: Updated Conflict of Interest Code Policy #103

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Endorse the updated Conflict of Interest Code Policy #103 for the Library Joint Powers Authority Board's adoption.

### DISCUSSION

The Political Reform Act (Act)<sup>1</sup> prohibits a public official and employees from using their official position to influence a governmental decision in which they have a financial interest. As such, every local agency is required to adopt a conflict of interest code that identifies designated positions that involve making governmental decisions that could cause a conflict of interest. Public officials and employees in designated positions are thus required to report their financial interests on Form 700-Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). State law requires that public agencies review their Conflict of Interest Codes every two years, or as needed. The Conflict of Interest Code Policy #103 was last revised on November 10, 2022.

The updated Conflict of Interest Code has been revised to incorporate the applicable rules formulated by the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), which are set out in 2 Code of Regulations section 18730, rather than specify all of the statute's provisions as was done in prior versions. The incorporation of the statute by reference is authorized by the FPPC and is more efficient since any changes to the regulations will apply automatically without the Library JPA having to make amendments to the Conflict of Interest Code each time there is a change to the regulations.

In addition, the updated Conflict of Interest Code contains revisions to the list of designated positions required to report financial interests in Appendix A. The Library hired a Librarian III – Outreach Manager and must now add this position to Appendix A: Schedule of Designated Positions and Their Disclosure Categories.

### FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### ATTACHMENT

Conflict of Interest Code Policy #103

Report Prepared by: Barbara Choi, Deputy Legal Counsel  
Reviewed and Approved by: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries

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<sup>1</sup> Government Code Section 81000, et seq.

## **Conflict of Interest Code Policy**

JPAB Policy #103  
Approved: 2015  
Last Revised: 04/2025  
Review Schedule: 12/2027

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE - SANTA CRUZ LIBRARY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

Appendix A Schedule of Designated Positions and Their Disclosure Categories

Appendix B List of Disclosure Categories

(Originally Adopted by Resolution: 2015-001)

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**  
**FOR THE**  
**SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

1. The Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has adopted a regulation (2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the standard code may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached **Appendix A (Schedule of Designated Positions and their Disclosure Categories)** and **Appendix B (List of Disclosure Categories)**, designating positions and establishing financial disclosure categories, shall constitute the conflict of interest code of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries Joint Powers Authority.
2. Individuals holding designated positions referenced in **Appendix A**, including temporary employees, consultants, and those in newly created positions who are required to disclose their financial interests pursuant to the California Political Reform Act, shall file their Statements of Economic Interests (FPPC Form 700) in compliance with the provisions of California Code of Regulations Section 18730.
3. Designated public officials and employees are required to file an Assuming Office Statement when they assume a designated position, an Annual Statement each year by April 1, and a Leaving Office Statement within thirty days of leaving office.

## APPENDIX A

### Schedule of Designated Positions and Their Disclosure Categories

DESIGNATED POSITIONS	DISCLOSURE CATEGORY
BOARD of DIRECTORS	1 (Govt. Code §87200 filer)
ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS	1
DIRECTOR of LIBRARIES	1 (Govt. Code §87200 filer)
ASST. DIRECTOR of LIBRARIES	1
TREASURER-CONTROLLER	1 (Govt. Code §87200 filer)
ADULT SERVICES MANAGER YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER BRANCH OPERATIONS MANAGER	3
PRINCIPAL MANAGEMENT ANALYST	3
MANAGEMENT ANALYST	3
LIBRARY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER	3
LIBRARIAN III- COLLECTION MNGT. SERVICES	3
LIBRARIAN III- OUTREACH MANAGER	3
LIBRARIAN II – SELECTION /CATALOGING (Qty. 4)	3
COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST	3
LIBRARY SPECIALISTS	3
FIELD SERVICE CREW LEADER	3
LEGAL COUNSEL	1 (Govt. Code §87200 filer)
<p>SPECIFIED CONSULTANTS</p> <p>Those consultants defined as a “consultant” by the Fair Political Practice Commission (Gov’t Code section 81000 et seq.) and who is likely to participate in the making of a governmental decision as determined by the Library Director in writing.</p> <p>For purposes of this Code, " making a governmental decision" means to make a decision whether to: (a) approve a rate, rule, or regulation, (b) adopt or enforce a law, (c) issue, deny, suspend, or revoke any permit, license, application, certificate, approval, order, or similar authorization or entitlement, (d) authorize the agency to enter into, modify, or renew a contract, (e) grant the agency approval to a contract or to the specifications for such a contract, (f) grant the agency approval to a plan, design, report, study, or similar item, or( g) adopt, or grant agency approval of policies, standards, or guidelines for the agency. (FPPC Regulation Section 18700.3)</p> <p>Consultants who serve in a capacity that is the functional equivalent of a designated position</p>	1

<p>shall disclose pursuant to the disclosure category required by this Code for the comparable designated staff position. The Library Director may determine in writing that a particular consultant, although serving in a capacity that is the functional equivalent of a " designated position" is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements in this section. Such written determination shall include a description of the consultant' s duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Library Director' s determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this Conflict of Interest Code. (Government Code Section 81008).</p>	<p>Depends on category of equivalent designated position.</p>
<p><b>TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES</b></p> <p>Retired annuitants and temporary employees may be included in the list of designated employees when the Library Director, or their designee, determines that they are performing work that is the functional equivalent of a designated position. If such a determination is made, then disclosure shall be pursuant to the disclosure category required by this Code for the comparable designated staff position.</p>	<p>Depends on category of equivalent designated position.</p>
<p><b>NEWLY CREATED POSITION</b></p> <p>Library Director to work with Legal Counsel to determine appropriate disclosure category for any newly created position.</p>	<p>Depends on job duties.</p>

Updated: April 14, 2025

## APPENDIX B

### List of Disclosure Categories

#### 1. **FULL DISCLOSURE**

**What to report?** All investments and business positions in business entities, sources of income including gifts, loans and travel payments, and interests in real property located in the Library System.

**What Form 700 schedules?** All Schedules (A through E)

#### 2. **ALL INCOME, EXCLUDING INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY**

**What to report?** All investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income including gifts, loans and travel payments.

**What Form 700 schedules?** A, C, D, E

#### 3. **LIBRARY SYSTEM/DEPARTMENT-RELATED INCOME**

**What to report?** All investments and business positions in business entities and sources of income including gifts, loans and travel payments if the source is of a type which provides, manufactures, or supplies goods, materials, equipment, machinery or services, including training or consulting services, of the type utilized by or subject to the review or approval by the Library System or the department in which that person is employed.

**What Form 700 schedules?** A, C, D, E

#### 4. **LIBRARY SYSTEM/DEPARTMENT-RELATED INCOME, REAL PROPERTY**

**What to report?** All investments and business positions in business entities and sources of income including gifts, loans and travel payments, and all interests in real property, if the source is of a type which provides, manufactures, or supplies goods, materials, equipment, machinery or services, including training or consulting services, of the type utilized by or subject to the review or approval of the Library System or the department in which that person is employed.

**What Form 700 schedules?** All Schedules (A through E)

#### 5. **REGULATORY, LAND DEVELOPMENT RELATED INCOME, REAL PROPERTY**

**What to report?** All investments and business positions in business entities and sources of income including gifts, loans and travel payments, and interests in real property, if the source is of the type that is subject to the regulatory permit or licensing authority by the Library System or department in which that person is employed or the source of income is from land development, construction or the acquisition or sale of real property by the Library.

**What Form 700 schedules?** All Schedules (A through E)



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Vice Chair Rena Dubin  
Commissioner Timothy Lydgate  
Commissioner Charlotte Khandelwal  
Commissioner Vivian Rogers  
Commissioner Pamela Woll  
Commissioner Tricia Wynne



## STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 14, 2025  
TO: Library Advisory Commission  
FROM: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries  
RE: New Child Protection Policy #500

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Endorse the new Child Protection Policy #500 for the Library Joint Powers Authority Board adoption.

### DISCUSSION

The Library is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children who visit or participate in library programs and activities. The proposed Child Protection policy establishes guidelines for preventing and responding to instances of child abuse and child sexual abuse on library premises, as well as any offsite locations (including the Live Oak Library Annex and Bookmobile) where Library-sponsored programs or events may take place.

While California law does not require library employees or volunteers to be mandated reporters, the Library would like establish a policy that requires all employees and volunteers to follow specific procedures if they witness or learn of child abuse or child sexual abuse. The Library is requesting that the Commission endorse the Child Protection policy for Board approval.

Once approved, the Library will begin staff training, which will occur over the coming months as part of the policy adoption process. This policy has been reviewed by legal counsel, risk management, and human resources. It is currently under review with the union before being presented to the Board. Additionally, this policy ensures the Library's compliance with insurance coverage requirements.

### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no additional fiscal impact to the approved training budget.

### ATTACHMENT

Child Protection Policy #500

Report Prepared by: Jennifer Yeung, Management Analyst  
Lesa Sorensen-Joseph, Training Coordinator  
Heather Norquist, Youth Programs and Services Manager

Reviewed and Approved by: Christopher Platt, Director of Libraries

## Child Protection Policy

JPAB Policy # 500  
Approved: \_\_\_\_/2025  
Last Revised: \_\_\_\_/2025  
Review Schedule: \_\_\_\_/2030

### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (hereinafter the “Library”) is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children who visit or participate in library programs. This Child Protection Policy (“Policy”) applies to all Library premises and Library staff, volunteers, and program providers. The Library prohibits physical, mental, or sexual abuse on its premises. This Policy aims to protect children from misconduct while safeguarding staff, volunteers, and program providers from false accusations. This Policy establishes guidelines for preventing and responding to instances of child abuse and sexual abuse. Staff, volunteers, and program providers must review and sign this Policy acknowledging their review, understanding, and receipt of this Policy.

### DEFINITIONS

- Child/Children: person(s) under the age of 18 years of age.
- Staff: employees of the Library and any board members who are employees of a City/County that is part of the Library Joint Powers Agreement.
- Volunteers: anyone person who provides unpaid services to the Library, including any advisory board members.
- Program provider(s): any person not employed directly by the Library but provides goods or services for children at the Library pursuant to an agreement with the Library.
- Child Abuse: any act that results in physical or emotional harm (other than accidental), neglect, exploitation, or endangerment of a child. This can include child sexual abuse.
- Child Sexual Abuse: any inappropriate or illegal sexual contact or behavior with a child, including but not limited to molestation, exploitation, or exposure to explicit materials.
- Premises: any buildings, premises, and any offsite locations (including the Live Oak Library Annex and Bookmobile) where Library-sponsored programs or events may take place.
- Mandated Reporter: any person with affirmative obligations under the [Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act](#). Library staff, volunteers, and program providers are not necessarily Mandated Reporters, but maybe under certain circumstances. Please consult your supervisor if you have any questions of whether this applies to you.

### PREVENTION MEASURES

- All staff, volunteers, and program providers must undergo background checks.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to make sure that, for Library programs involving children, two adults are present or nearby, including for programs administered by program providers.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to have staff or volunteers monitor, by being present or nearby, program provider work with children.
- No staff, volunteer, or program provider should be alone with a child in a secluded area.
- Photography or videography of children on the premises is only permitted with parental consent and for Library-sanctioned purposes.

- To the extent possible, the doors to rooms where programs and activities involving children should remain open. Doors should never be locked.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to work with children within Library facilities that are visible to others such as open public spaces, rooms with windows, or rooms with open doors.
- Staff, volunteers, and program providers who work with children should refrain from physical contact with a child unless necessary.
- Staff, volunteers, and program providers should not use vulgar or sexual language when a child is present.
- Pornography should never be shown to children.
- In no instance may employees, volunteers, or program providers provide transportation to a child in their personal, company, or Library-owned vehicle.

### **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE**

In any situation of urgency or immediate danger, staff, volunteers, and program providers must immediately call 9-1-1. After calling 9-1-1, and for any other incident of suspected child abuse, use the procedure for reporting and responding below.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. If a staff, volunteer, or program provider believes there is any reasonable suspicion that an act of child abuse has occurred, that person shall immediately report the incident to their supervisor who will, together with the witnessing employee, volunteer, or program provider, inform the Branch Manager or other onsite Person in Charge.
2. Together, the witnessing staff, volunteer, or program provider and the Person in Charge must act immediately by contacting the Director of Libraries, Assistant Director, or the Manager in Charge to notify them of the incident and provide critical information for the Incident Report, as outlined in the Library's internal Emergency Plan section titled *Problem Situation and Emergency Plan Manual*.
3. The Director of Libraries, Assistant Director, or Manager in Charge shall immediately contact local law enforcement to file a police report.
4. All staff, volunteers, and program provider shall cooperate with any state or local law enforcement authorities who are responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse.

#### **INTERNAL PROTOCOL:**

- The Director of Libraries, Assistant Director, or Manager in Charge shall then notify the Risk Manager of the incident and as required, launch a further investigation.
- For alleged child abuse involving staff, that staff shall be removed from any contact with children in connection with their work duties, placed on leave pending due process rights as outlined in the applicable Memorandum of Understanding.
- For alleged child abuse involving a volunteer, their volunteer work shall be immediately suspended pending the investigation of the allegations and their volunteering will be terminated if not determined to be innocent.
- For alleged child abuse involving a program provider, the specific program provider worker involved shall be barred from any contact with children in connection with their duties at the premises, and if a new program provider worker cannot replace them, then the Library can terminate the contract pursuant to the terms of the overarching agreement.

- All records, identities of any alleged victim(s) and any alleged violator(s) are considered confidential and are held by the Library Administration Office.
- The Director of Libraries shall notify the Library Joint Power Authority Board of the incident after the initial investigation takes place.

### **TRAINING**

Staff and volunteers are required to participate in assigned training on recognizing the signs of possible child abuse, as provided by the Library.

### **RETALIATION PROHIBITED**

Retaliation against anyone who in good faith reports, alleges, or participates in the investigation of child abuse is prohibited. False or malicious accusations of child abuse are also prohibited. Any retaliation or intentional false reporting will result in dismissal of volunteers and disciplinary action for staff pursuant to their employment agreements.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Child Protection Policy.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [Printed Name], acknowledge that I have received and read the Child Protection Policy. I understand that I am required to adhere to the Policy, as well any assigned training and associated expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature