

A young child with dark skin and short hair is the central focus, wearing a grey hoodie with a graphic and a yellow sash. The child has their arms raised in excitement, looking upwards with an open mouth. The background is a brightly lit library play area with blue chairs, a green mat with a yellow rabbit cutout, and other children and adults. A large yellow paper object is suspended in the air above the child.

explore
connect
grow

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

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PHOTO: CELIA DAVIS

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am extremely proud to share with you the Oakland Public Library (OPL) Annual Report for July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. In April 2016, the OPL leadership team refined its mission statement to read: “Your Oakland Public Library empowers all people to explore, connect, and grow.” I truly believe that is what our libraries do. OPL doesn’t simply lend books – we allow people of all ages to discover new worlds, meet their neighbors, and develop into their very best selves.

It is thanks to our OPL staff that these programs and services are in place, and I want to take this opportunity to recognize their hard work, passion for service, initiative, and creativity. It is my honor to work with such a dedicated staff.

This year’s report is full of vibrant photos, courtesy of a group of volunteers who donate their time and skills to photograph OPL events. OPL appreciates the efforts of all our 700+ volunteers: photographers, computer docents, Library Advisory Commissioners, gardeners, fundraisers, literacy tutors, Friends of the Oakland Public Library, Branch Friends, storytime readers, Bookmark Bookstore staff, and more.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the City of Oakland’s elected officials, Administration, other city departments, and the incredibly supportive residents of Oakland who make our work possible; without you, OPL wouldn’t be this special place loved by so many.

I hope you will see our new mission captured in this report, and I encourage you to visit your local branch again soon – to explore, connect, and grow!

Warm regards,

Gerry Garzón
Director of Library Services

explore

Broadening horizons, seeing new possibilities

Exploration opens minds to new ideas, allowing one to envision better ways of doing things. Children are natural explorers, and the more new things they see, the more curious they become. The library has always expanded our young patrons' horizons through books, but we also strive to bring more of the world to them through interactive programs on nature, visual and performing arts, creative writing, and science.

In 2015-16, we offered weekly art programs with instructors from the Museum of Children's Art. Visitors from Crab Cove and the Little Explorers Petting Zoo brought a variety of fuzzy, furry, and scaly animals to visit young library-goers. Our most popular annual program – Summer Reading – closed with a huge celebration at the Oakland Museum of California (pictured at right) where we explored the world, right in our own neighborhood.

Oakland Public Library



connect

Getting involved and lending a helping hand

Volunteers filled a wide variety of roles at the library in the past year. They photographed events (including International Game Day, opposite), maintained gardens, raised money to support library programs, provided tech support in our computer labs, served free meals to youth, prepared tax returns, read to preschoolers in Head Start classrooms, registered kids for Summer Reading, and much more.

Photographer Doug Oakley says getting involved at OPL has been rewarding: "The library's volunteer photography program provides a great way to connect with the community. I enjoyed visiting branches I'd never been to before and seeing the variety of programs the library offers."

Do you want to connect at the library?
Visit www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer to learn how.

Oakland Public Library



grow

Developing skills and generating opportunities

The library helps people rise above the everyday complications of life by offering programs that delve into tricky subjects such as Medicare, housing issues, college scholarships, identity theft, grant funding, and starting a small business.

Employment is a particularly pressing concern for many OPL patrons. Since September 2015 the Main Library has hosted well-attended job fairs (as shown in the photo at right) with employers from growing businesses in the fields of construction, food and hospitality, web development, and others. Among the success stories, several attendees were hired to work at the Tesla Factory in Fremont.

Oakland Public Library



explore

Aiding and encouraging human-powered mobility

Exploring the city on two wheels (or even three) is efficient, affordable, and healthy, and the library supports cyclists in numerous ways. At the weekly 81st Avenue Bike Clinic (opposite), young people gather to fix and decorate their bicycles. Thanks to Bike East Bay and the Original Scrapper Bike Team, a similar program was launched at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch in June, just as the branch's new Bike Shed opened. The Shed is a work space equipped with tools and parts needed for bicycle repairs. Great Big Story's Human Conditions Series featured the Scrapper Bike Team and the Bike Shed in an inspirational video that is available online at www.oaklandlibrary.org/bikeshed.

Oakland Public Library



PHOTO: VOLUNTEER DOUG OAKLEY

connect

Joining together to take on vitally important issues

The issue of race has come to the forefront in a national conversation that can be heard in political discourse, public protests, and in day-to-day interactions. The Oakland Public Library strives to create safe spaces for the community to meet and discuss such important issues. In May, local activist Shayna Cureton (at right) joined a panel of parents, caregivers, and educators for a community discussion hosted by the West Oakland Branch. The focus was on experiences and best practices for adults to effectively talk about race and racism with children.

You can hear a powerful audio recording of the discussion at www.oaklandlibrary.org/TalkingtoKidsAudio.

Following this event, library staff created a resource guide entitled "Talking to Kids about Racism and Justice" that reached almost 40,000 people via social media. You can access this guide at www.oaklandlibrary.org/TalkingtoKids.

Oakland Public Library



grow

Nurturing talents and launching emerging voices

OPL's Teen Services Department has a full complement of programs to educate, entertain, and challenge young patrons. It also has a unique, high profile event – the Youth Poet Laureate Contest – that catapults exceptional young talents into the limelight. Looking back on her year as Youth Poet Laureate, Sophie Elkin said, "Living as a young person can be labeled and written of as an arrogant period of existing, and at times for me it was and still is. The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Program gave me the responsibility my voice needed, and the validation that sculpted confidence in my work."

In August, Azariah Cole-Shephard (pictured at right) was named Oakland's fifth, and current, Youth Poet Laureate. When interviewed by local news media, she said, "A lot of my work is motivated by injustices with the status quo and a lack of affirmation for Black girls – and people of color as a whole – in a society that consistently tells them they aren't good enough."

Oakland Public Library



explore

Heading out for some field work

In May, the Golden Gate Audubon Society led a walk outside the Main Library for a talk about night herons and snowy white egrets, which have colonized trees in the neighborhood. The occasion served as a reminder of the undiminished value of first-hand observation in our information-saturated times. (Photo: Volunteer Nova Togatorop)



connect

Providing access and bridging the digital divide

There are an increasing number of ways to stay connected, and all of them require Internet access – whether that means having operable devices or just being in a free WiFi zone. The library makes invaluable contributions to the city’s ongoing efforts to “close the digital divide” by making up-to-date technologies available to everyone, and by offering classes and support to help people learn how use these communication tools.

The library’s successful Ready, Set, Connect! program (recent graduates appear in the photo at right) is a forward-thinking part of the equation, empowering local youths with job skills for the connected world. One participant said the program “helped me grow professionally, from building my professional profile on LinkedIn to making connections with people in the technology field during the trainings.” As participants received their training, they volunteered in library computer labs to offer free assistance to patrons.

Oakland Public Library



grow

Providing food for thought – but first, a snack

The library provides so many opportunities for young people to learn and experience new things in a safe environment. Storytimes and activities for babies and toddlers introduce families to utilizing the library as a resource for personal growth. As kids develop, they can come to learn about animals, make art, or see an orchestra perform for the first time. Some of these kids grow up to consider the library's TeenZones as *the* place to go afterschool – to browse the web, make a zine, slouch into a couch with a book, or even drive the agenda by joining one of the library's Teen Advisory Boards.

However, the appetite for knowledge is often supplanted by the hunger for something to actually eat. OPL's Afterschool Food Service Program started as a pilot in 2015 at three branches, and since has grown to include six locations. Thanks to a partnership with Children's Empowerment, kids and teens can get a healthy snack or a nourishing supper on most weekdays when these locations are open.

Oakland Public Library



2015-2016 Supporters

The Oakland Public Library is happy to acknowledge the following private and government institutions that provided financial support to the library. We are also deeply grateful to the hundreds of donors who support the library through the Friends of the Oakland Public Library and branch friends groups.

Alameda County Transportation Commission/
Lifeline Transportation Program

Anonymous

BART/Lifeline Transportation Program

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California Library Literacy Services
(California State Library)

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The Estate of James Hill

The Estate of Michael Hiatt

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Friends of the Oakland Public Library

Kenneth Rainin Foundation

Library Services & Technology Act
(California State Library)

Pacific Library Partnership

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Porter E. & Helenmae Thompson Foundation

Raymond Family Foundation

Target

The Stocker Foundation

Union Pacific Foundation

William G. Gilmore Foundation

2015-16 by the Numbers

EXPENDITURES BY FUND SOURCE

General Purpose Fund	11,500,788
Measure Q	15,054,537
Local/State/Federal Grants	143,871
Trust Fund & Other	304,426
Total	\$27,003,622

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

Personnel	19,914,555
Operations & Maintenance	5,359,054
Books & Other Materials	1,730,013
Total	\$27,003,622

\$60.57 is the average cost per person based on service area population of 445,796 (Oakland, Emeryville, and Piedmont).

Note: The cities of Emeryville and Piedmont paid the City of Oakland an annual fee for library service in the amount of \$120,000 (Emeryville) and \$350,471 (Piedmont).





PHOTO: VOLUNTEER DOUG OAKLEY



Library Advisory Commission, January 2016.

PHOTO: OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Administration

Gerry Garzón, Director of Library Services
 Jamie Turbak, Associate Director
 Gene Tom, Chief Financial Officer

Library Managers

Lana Adlawan, Supervising Librarian, Teen Services
 Jiao Han, Supervising Librarian, ILS and Bibliographic Services
 Daniel Hersh, Supervising Librarian, Acquisitions, Processing, Safety and E-rate
 Nina Lindsay, Supervising Librarian, Children's Services
 Jane Lopez, Supervising Librarian, Branches
 Rick Moss, Chief Curator, African American Museum and Library at Oakland
 Crystal Ramie-Adams, Human Resources Manager
 Mary Schrader, Supervising Librarian, Branches
 Mana Tominaga, Supervising Librarian, Main Library
 Winifred Walters, Manager, Community Relations, Grants and Development

Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) Board of Directors 2015-16

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 Sophie Souroujon
 Kathryn Sterbenc
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Library Advisory Commission (LAC) 2015-16

Kathryn Sterbenc, Chairperson
 Rebekah Randle, Vice-Chairperson

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April Harper	Charles Sanchez
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Dr. A. Aurea Lewis	Noelle Tu Duong

Library Branch Locations

Main Library
125 14th Street

African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO)
659 14th Street

Second Start Adult Literacy Program
125 14th Street, 2nd floor

81st Avenue Branch Library
1021 81st Avenue

Asian Branch Library
Pacific Renaissance Plaza
388 9th Street, Suite 190

Brookfield Branch Library
9255 Edes Avenue

César E. Chávez Branch Library
3301 East 12th Street, Suite 271

Dimond Branch Library
3565 Fruitvale Avenue

Eastmont Branch Library
Eastmont Town Center
7200 Bancroft Avenue, Suite 211

Elmhurst Branch Library
1427 88th Avenue

Golden Gate Branch Library
5606 San Pablo Avenue

Lakeview Branch Library
550 El Embarcadero

Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch Library
6833 International Boulevard

Melrose Branch Library
4805 Foothill Boulevard

Montclair Branch Library
1687 Mountain Boulevard

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library
80 Echo Avenue

Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Avenue

Temescal Branch Library
5205 Telegraph Avenue

Tool Lending Library
5205 Telegraph Avenue

West Oakland Branch Library
1801 Adeline Street

Credits

Produced by the Oakland Public Library's Community Relations Department:
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Your Library



www.oaklandlibrary.org



Draymond Green of the Golden State Warriors came to 81st Avenue Branch in March to promote healthy afterschool activities for students from the adjoining elementary schools. He kindly posed for photos with library patrons and staff.

PHOTO: VOLUNTEER AIDA JONES

Your Library



www.oaklandlibrary.org

