



KNOWLEDGE
is my
SUPERPOWER!

ABC

**Oakland
Public Library
Annual Report
2016/2017**



PHOTO: VOLUNTEER NOVA TOGATOROP

LETTER

from the Director

As an administrator, it's easy to get caught up in the long-range planning and operational issues of this 19-location public library system that serves more than 400,000 people in the communities of Oakland, Emeryville, and Piedmont.

That's why I love this year's Annual Report. It reminds me of what I love most about Oakland's libraries: the huge impact our staff and resources have on the lives of individuals.

Now more than ever, Oakland needs its libraries. As the country struggles to answer the question of who is an American and fits under that umbrella, Oakland and its libraries welcome everyone in our diverse community. As you'll see in the following pages, our programs make a huge difference in peoples' lives. I hope you will appreciate this report, and that it will encourage you to think of your library as more than just a place to access great books, DVDs, and other materials. Your libraries are also places to find hope, inspiration, a helping hand, and a brighter future.

None of this would be possible without our talented staff, legions of teen and adult volunteers, the Library Advisory Commission, and countless other individuals and institutions – including the individual Branch Friends and the steadfast Friends of the Oakland Public Library. As we recognize the library's accomplishments in 2016-17, please know that these folks play a huge part in the success of your Oakland Public Library.

If you'd like to get more involved with the library, there is a place for you. Visit a branch you've never seen before, check out a tool at the Tool Lending Library, swap out your old library card for one of the new designs, or apply for a volunteer position. Start by visiting our website, to find a program or project that appeals to you – it could change your life!

Warm regards,

Gerry Garzón
Director of Library Services
through March 2, 2018

Jamie Turbak
Interim Director of Library Services
as of March 3, 2018

CITIZENSHIP RESOURCES

Natalia

“I learned English here!” says Natalia, who started coming to the library after a difficult divorce. At that time, she had been in the country 13 years, but she hadn’t become a citizen. She was unsure of how to start the citizenship process and had been suffering in an abusive marriage with no nearby family. “I was lost,” she says, and the library helped her find her way. She got citizenship preparation materials from the César E. Chávez Branch Library, reviewed the materials, and after a time, passed her test. Now Natalia is a citizen and is making her way in the community that adopted her and she is ready to give back. She works with library staff and other community members on various initiatives in the Fruitvale District and says that this is “the most wonderful time” of her life.

Oakland Public Library offers a weekly program assisting new residents on the path to citizenship, along with 4 ESL clubs and numerous electronic resources connecting immigrants to the services they need.



Natalia at the César E. Chávez Branch

PHOTO: ANNABELLE BLACKMAN

READY, SET, CONNECT!

Andrea Guzmán

In 2013, Andrea Guzmán was accepted as a participant in OPL's Ready, Set, Connect! program.

In the program, she gained skills, confidence, and a career path. /the following year she was hired as the program's coordinator, putting her in a position to help other young people obtain tech skills and in turn help others in the library's computer labs. The experience helped Andrea pinpoint her own goals, and she is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science, and is a permanent employee of the Oakland Public Library. "I'm looking forward to the day I can be a librarian and continue to serve Oakland in caring and innovative ways," she says. "I sure am glad Ready, Set, Connect! has taken me down this road. I love my job and my colleagues, and am hopeful for the future."

Ready, Set, Connect! is made possible by a partnership with Community Technology Network. Financial support is provided by Western Digital Foundation and Barrios Trust.

More than 80 young people have graduated from RSC!
since it started in 2013.

Since 2013, participants have tutored more than 5,000 patrons,
clocking over **3,000 hours** of time.



Andrea took a break to glimpse the eclipse last summer at the Main Library.

PHOTO: LANA ADLAWAN

YOUTH POET LAUREATE

Tova Ricardo

Tova, Oakland's 2015 Youth Poet Laureate, is now a student at Columbia University's Columbia College, pursuing a degree in English and Sociology. She is a member of the Columbia/Barnard poetry slam team and is involved in other advocacy and leadership organizations on campus.

She says her year as Oakland's Youth Poet Laureate was pivotal.

"I don't think I would be who I am right now if it weren't for the Poet Laureate competition. I know that I was raised with great values and in a strong family and in strong schools, but the Youth Poet Laureate competition gave me the opportunity to take that next step that I needed as a young person from Oakland and from the Bay Area to become a person that young people could look up to. As a queer black woman from Oakland, that opportunity not only means a lot for me, but it means that my city is not going to be invisible anymore. This program allows our voices to be at the forefront of activism, at the forefront of the political climate, and we will not be silenced. The opportunity that I had as Youth Poet Laureate has driven me to be even more hungry as an adult, as a college student, to pursue justice for people who are often marginalized. That really is what I want to dedicate my life to." The Youth Poet Laureate program's 2017 scholarship award is provided by the Friends of Oakland Public Library and Youth Speaks. Scholarship administration and academic support is provided by ScholarMatch.

Since the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate began in 2012, 243 youth poets have applied to enter the contests.

Youth Poet Laureate public events draw 100-150 people.

The Youth Poet Laureate has awarded a cumulative \$30,000 in scholarships to the winning poets.



Tova made her point at a poetry reading.

PHOTO: VOLUNTEER BILL BAGNELL

BARK THERAPY DOGS

Emilee Leon

Emilee Leon has two children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and for a long time she wasn't comfortable taking them to the library. She had always pictured the library as being for specific kinds of people and not a place for her kids. But when her children started school, they began to visit the 81st Avenue Branch Library. Emilee noticed how well they responded to these library visits and decided to give it a try on her own. She talked to the 81st Avenue Branch Library staff about her children and their special needs and found the staff to be incredibly supportive. They told her about all kinds of programs that her children would be welcome to attend at the library, including the Bark Therapy Dogs. This changed everything for her daughters. It was the first time Emilee ever saw them actually sit and read. "My children wouldn't read. Now they read. Bark Therapy Dogs taught my kids to read! This is the first place where the girls ever went regularly. It's a non-judgmental space for all families." Now Emilee brings her children to library activities all the time and Emilee helps out as a volunteer.

BARK Therapy Dogs has been working with OPL since 2014.

In 2016-17, they offered 73 programs in three locations, and nearly 400 young readers read to a dog.



Well-trained dogs are attentive listeners and put children at ease.

PHOTO: SIBILA SAVAGE

COMPUTER TUTORS

Genail Randell

Genail Randell frequented the Elmhurst Branch Library while looking for a job. She has low computer literacy skills, and when it came to utilizing a computer for all the things needed in finding a job she didn't know where to start. A volunteer computer tutor at the library taught her how to use a computer to fill out and submit job applications. As a direct result of this support, Genail was hired for a permanent position at UPS. "I was having hard times, a lot of stress and confusion, wondering when I would get a job," she says. "Now that worry is gone."

In 2016-17, the library had 22 volunteer computer tutors assisting patrons in various locations. These volunteers were on hand for more than 1,000 hours.

In addition to these volunteers, each school year the Ready, Set, Connect! program (see page 4) places approximately 20 trained youth in computer labs at 9 OPL locations to help patrons.



Patrons gather around the computers on a busy day at 81st Avenue Branch.

PHOTO: ANGELA LANG



LIBRARY CARD CONTEST

Katy Tanis

In January 2017, the Oakland Public Library announced its first ever Library Card Design Contest. The contest drew 307 entries from artists of all ages, and winners were selected by public voting as well as a panel of esteemed judges. One of the selected artists, Katy Tanis, says the contest was good for her portfolio. "But more than any work or publicity it may or may not have gotten me, it just felt really special to have my work on a library card. I remember the excitement of picking out books from the library when I was younger with my mother and sister. I remember the pride I felt when I got my first library card. I love books. I love book people. I love research and libraries and it just felt very special to feel like I was part of that world." The Library Card Contest was sponsored by the Friends of the Oakland Public Library and AC Transit.

During voting timeframe on Facebook:

- **10,500** votes were cast
- **469** new page likes, a **7,717%** increase!
- **40,310** increase in page views

26 judges participated, including Mayor Libby Schaaf and authors Mary Roach, Mac Barnett and Todd Parr.

The contest appeared in several local media sources including: [SFGate](#), [SFBAY.CA](#), [ABC 7](#), and the Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter (*The Gull*).

PLAY CAFÉ

Blanca, Kian, Anthony, and Candida

“I’m a nanny. I bring Saphira to the Play Café. She loves playing with other kids and for me it’s a great place to come, meet new people, and be part of a group. It’s awesome!” –Blanca, nanny to Saphira (age 2)

“Knebulous is not the type to be around a lot of people and this got him comfy with other babies and people and he’s learning a lot of things.” –Kian, mother of Knebulous (age 2)

“The other parents help create a support system that is really needed, and the diversity is important. We like the group listening skills it teaches.” –Anthony and Candida, parents of Xavier (age 2)

In 2016-17, nearly 4,000 patrons attended Play Café events at 3 OPL locations.

In 2016-17, Play Café was made possible by a grant from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.



PHOTOS: SHARON MCKELLAR

LIBRARY FRIENDS

Rosa Ibarra

Rosa Ibarra, an immigrant from Mexico with two young daughters, did not feel connected to her community in East Oakland. That changed when she attended a National Night Out party at the 81st Avenue Branch Library.

Soon she began attending community meetings at the library. She became co-chair of the national Crime Prevention Council and President of the 81st Avenue Library Friends group. “The library empowered me to be able to help the community and the Friends’ group. I can’t be away from the Library.”

Almost every OPL location benefits from the support of a Branch Friends group. These groups – comprised entirely of volunteers – raise money and donate their services to make their neighborhood libraries even better. Branch Friends groups have paid for programming, equipment, furniture, and books or provided volunteers for community outreach, garden maintenance, litter collection, and more. Branch Friends groups are a great way for individuals who love libraries to work with likeminded people to support their community libraries.

17 Branch Friends groups were active in 2016-17, and most of them help their branch staff with National Night Out events each August.

The Friends of Dimond Library raised more than \$50,000 to purchase furniture for the Dimond Library Renovation in 2017.

The Friends of Elmhurst Friends have collected litter from around the branch twice each month for more than five years.



Rosa Ibarra at the César E. Chávez Branch

PHOTO: SHARON MCKELLAR

2016-2017 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 1,000+ donors who support the library through the Friends of the Oakland Public Library and branch friends groups.

Alameda County Transportation
Commission/Lifeline Transportation
Program

BART/Lifeline Transportation Program

Califa

California Library Literacy Services
(California State Library)

China Hanban

Crescent Porter Hale Foundation

Friends of the Oakland Public Library

William G. Gilmore Foundation

The Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation

Matson Foundation

Pacific Library Partnership

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Kenneth Rainin Foundation

Raymond Family Foundation

Target

Porter E. & Helenmae Thompson
Foundation

Union Pacific Foundation



Volunteers at the Friends of the OPL's Bookmark Bookstore

PHOTO: KATHRYN STERBENC

2016-2017

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

Jenera Burton, Supervising Librarian, Branches

Derrick DeMay, Supervising Librarian, Branches

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

Sharon McKellar, Community Relations Librarian

Crystal Ramie-Adams, Human Resources Manager

Mana Tominaga, Supervising Librarian, Main Library



TOP PHOTO: VOLUNTEER MITZI WONG-NGUYEN
BOTTOM PHOTO: SHARON MCKELLAR

2016-2017

Friends of the Oakland Public Library Board of Directors

Ynez Arce

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Kathryn Sterbenc

Stephen Cole

Sheila McCormick

Judy Toll

Michael J. Dalton

Susana Morales

Valerie Villanueva

Cristal Fiel

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Winifred Walters

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Rebecca Pfiffner

Carl Alexander,
Honorary Member

Genevieve Katz

Maria Poppas



TOP PHOTO: SHARON MCKELLAR
BOTTOM PHOTO: VOLUNTEER VALENTINA AITYAN

Library Advisory Commission

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Nidhi Khosla

Rebekah Randle,
Vice-Chairperson

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Andrew Racle

Sophia V. Rodriguez

Traci M.S. Griffin

Charles Sanchez

April Harper

Noelle Tu Duong

2016-2017

Financial Stats

EXPENDITURES BY FUND SOURCE

General Purpose Fund	\$12,078,091
Measure Q	\$16,123,414
Local/State/Federal Grants	\$136,185
Trust Fund & Other	\$219,186
Total	\$28,556,876

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

Personnel	\$20,707,250
Operations & Maintenance	\$6,051,880
Books & Other Materials	\$1,797,746
Total	\$28,556,876

Population

City/County Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change*

TOTAL POPULATION

CITY	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	% CHANGE
Oakland	423,191	426,074	0.80%
Emeryville	11,730	11,854	6.90%
Piedmont	11,227	11,283	0.70%
Total OPL Service Area	446,148	449,211	

\$63.57

IS THE AVERAGE COST PER PERSON

BASED ON SERVICE AREA POPULATION OF 449,211
(OAKLAND, EMERYVILLE, AND PIEDMONT)

*CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH UNIT
JANUARY 1, 2017

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

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Your Library



www.oaklandlibrary.org



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