

OAKLAND
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021





“Thank you for all the wonderful recommendations! I see a lot here that interests me and I never would have found without your help. Excited to dive into these.”

DEAR FRIENDS,

2020-21 was an incredibly challenging year for Oakland, the Oakland Public Library (OPL), and our community of staff, patrons, and supporters.

Approximately 30% of OPL staff were called upon to provide Disaster Services to the City of Oakland after the pandemic hit. They distributed food to those in need, phoned high-risk individuals to connect them

2020, most staff had transitioned back to library service work, making materials available to the community through Sidewalk Service, reopening facilities for limited in-person service in February 2021, and finally resuming most of our pre-pandemic hours of operation in June 2021.

I am tremendously proud of OPL staff, who demonstrated compassion, flexibility, and a dedication to our community. I am enormously grateful to OPL patrons, who

with services, supported the city’s Emergency Operations Center, and provided information on how to access COVID-19 tests. By the fall of

were overwhelmingly patient and supportive as the library modified services to meet the changing community health requirements. And I am amazed by all the OPL supporters who demonstrated their passion for Oakland’s public libraries by raising funds, advocating for improved library services and facilities, and sharing OPL news within their networks.

Oakland faces huge challenges, but I believe that OPL – staff, patrons, and supporters – will continue to work together to play an important role in the future of our city. Together, we are stronger and better. I thank you for being a part of the OPL community.

Sincerely,

Jamie Turbak
Director of Library Services

2020-21 FINANCIAL STATS*

EXPENDITURES BY FUND SOURCE

General Purpose Fund: \$12,607,572
Measure Q: \$14,336,009
Measure D: \$12,335,831
Local/State/Federal Grants: \$58,600
Trust Fund & Others: \$149,347
Total: \$39,487,359

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

Personnel: \$30,078,728
Operations & Maintenance: \$7,287,538
Books & Other Materials: \$2,121,093
Total: \$39,487,359

POPULATION BY CITY, APRIL 1, 2020 FROM THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

Oakland	440,646
Emeryville	12,905
Piedmont	11,270
Total OPL Service Area	464,821

AVERAGE INVESTMENT PER CAPITA

\$84.95

Based on the service area population
464,821 (Oakland, Emeryville, and
Piedmont)

* Numbers subject to audit by Oakland City Auditor

“We’re so grateful for the way the library staff have adapted to keep books available during the pandemic. Our son has a new appreciation for books on tape that we’ve borrowed (his favorite is *The War that Saved My Life*), and both our son and daughter have benefited greatly from the bundles of books put together by staff- we’ve definitely been exposed to new books and authors through those bundles. Thank you for all of the work you’ve done to keep providing this service!”



The Oakland Public Library (OPL) has continued to offer programs and services during an incredibly challenging year. Our 2020 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, Greer Nakadegawa-Lee, was part of more than 25 virtual performances. OPL's tenth Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, Myra Estrada, was announced in a live virtual event in June 2021. Our 2020 Summer Program shifted to being entirely virtual, with programming, video content, and prizes for adults, teens, and children.

Throughout the year, OPL continued to host online history talks, a travel series, and several book clubs and ESL conversation clubs. Patrons met with lawyers and the Oakland Tenants Union through the library and were offered talks from East Bay Parks, all without leaving their homes. OPL's partnership with MOCHA continued, allowing us to send children home with craft supplies during Sidewalk Service, and we offered online storytimes for the youngest children of Oakland.

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION

Ada Chan	Joseph Karwat
Alternier Cook	Mary Forte
Angelica Valentine	Mary Going
Ayushi Roy	Mary Jo Cook
Caleb Smith	Nathaniel Dumas
Carolyn Moskovitz	Tyron Jordan
Cathy Smith	Viola Gonzales
Jessica Jung	

FRIENDS OF THE OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2020-21

M.C. Abbott	Nick Marble
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Michael J. Dalton	Sanam Nassirpour
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Elizabeth Falkner	Ashley Robinson
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Genevieve Katz	Winifred Walters
Pooneh Koohyar	
Ronile Lahti	

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

2020-21 SUPPORTERS

Alameda County
Transportation Commission/
Lifeline Transportation
Program

Association of Moving Image
Archivists (AMIA)

California State Library

Herman Auerbach Memorial
Fund Trust II*

BART/Lifeline Transportation
Program

First 5 Alameda County*

Friends of the Oakland
Public Library

William G. Gilmore
Foundation*

Hellman Foundation*

Matson Foundation

Oakland Athletics*

The Bernard Osher
Foundation*

Pacific Library Partnership

Kenneth Rainin Foundation*

Southern California Library
Cooperative

Porter E. & Helenmae
Thompson Foundation

U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian

*Provided support through the Friends of the Oakland Public Library



“I just wanted to say a huge thank you. After eight years in the neighborhood, I’m having to move (darn Bay Area housing market!). For those eight years the Golden Gate branch has been a pillar for me. Beyond a source of reading material, you’ve been a landmark on walks, a part of my weekly routine, and a place to feel connected. I’ve so appreciated the interactions I’ve had with staff: the friendliness, dedication, and warmth you bring to your work is such a gift. Thank you for being part of what’s made this place home to me for eight years.”

OUR LIBRARY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A TIMELINE

MARCH 2020

- All OPL locations close due to County health measures.
- Digital borrowing limits increased.
- Due dates on books, movies, and more extended.
- OPL collects face masks for health care workers.
- OPL issues library cards and answers reference questions by phone and email.

APRIL 2020

- OPL adds Tutor.com as a new virtual service for kids and teens.
- Online storytimes begin.
- Donated 500 WiFi hotspots to support students learning at home.
- Lawyers in the Library returns via Zoom and phone.

MAY 2020

- OPL staff begin performing disaster service work for the City of Oakland.
- OPL launches food distribution at 81st Avenue, Chávez, and West Oakland Branches.
- Disaster service workers begin delivering meals to homebound seniors through Great Plates Delivered.

JUNE 2020

- Online Summer Program begins.
- Oakland Youth Poet Laureate 2020 judging and performances held online.
- Sidewalk Service begins outdoors at four sites.
- Staff begin placing RFID tags in materials in preparation for self-service checkout.



JULY 2020

- Sidewalk Service expands to more locations.
- Oakland History Center launches East Bay COVID-19 Community Archive.

AUGUST 2020

- Tool Lending Library begins offering Sidewalk Service.
- OPL offers air respite centers during unhealthy wildfire smoke events.

SEPTEMBER 2020

- Sidewalk Service expands to all locations.

OCTOBER 2020

- Oakland History Center's Fall Oakland History Series released as a podcast.
- OPL Teen Services Instagram account debuts.

DECEMBER 2020

- Virtual OPL Advocates Holiday Mixer.
- Online Winter Bingo begins.

JANUARY 2021

- 81st Avenue Branch celebrates 10 year anniversary.

FEBRUARY 2021

- OPL begins lending Chromebook and WiFi hotspot bundles.
- Main library reorganizes first floor to make collection more user-friendly.
- OPL hosts drop-off tax help with AARP.
- OPL begins work on new website.

MARCH 2021

- Computer labs open to the public at some branches.

APRIL 2021

- OPL Express begins; public welcomed inside libraries for the first time in over a year.
- Self-service checkout machines at all locations.

JUNE 2021

- RFID tagging completed.
- Full service hours restored

“In an age of algorithms, it’s especially nice to receive such thoughtful recommendations from a specialist. The library is one of my main sources of entertainment, and I appreciate all of the Oakland Library staff for their commitment to serving our community.”

All photos by Doug Zimmerman, except: Summer Reading prize winner (cover) by Jason Jakaitis and OPL staff member (page 2) by Sharon McKellar

OPL Annual Report produced by the Oakland Public Library's Community Relations Department: Amy Martin, Sara Dubois, Andrea Guzmán; and Sharon McKellar, Oakland Public Library Teen Services Coordinator

Design by Innosanto Nagara

Made possible by a grant from the Friends of the Oakland Public Library

FISCAL YEAR 2020–21 BY THE NUMBERS

OPL STAFF:

Placed RFID tags on **1,102,516** circulating items
at **17** locations to prepare for self-service checkout

Welcomed **13,728** new patrons

Shared **382** pieces of recorded content, including
storytimes, lectures, panel discussions, and performances

OPL PATRONS BORROWED:

616,510 physical items (books, DVDs, CDs, etc)

261,000+ ebooks

86,000+ digital magazines

70,100+ digital audiobooks

65,293 streaming movies

OPL: SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The COVID-19 pandemic left many Americans without work or school and in need of food. Thanks to funding from the Eat.Learn.Play Foundation and a partnership with World Central Kitchen (WCK), several Oakland Public Library sites became meal distribution centers during the pandemic. **Staff at these libraries fed over 214,000 meals** to individuals and families in East and West Oakland.

In addition to meals, OPL sites **gave away approximately 15,000 bags and boxes of fresh produce.** Library staff also helped support WCK food distribution at Rainbow Rec Center, and delivered meals to seniors sheltering in place as a part of the Great Plates Delivered program.

OPL is grateful to have been part of this important program.

“Please know that books from OPL have been a source of joy and comfort in our home during this crazy time. You are grounding us and inspiring us and giving us something to look forward to each week.”