

Objective: Align on a clear, concise message for all Commissioners to share with our elected officials, communicating the benefits OPL brings to our community, highlighting the areas where we could use their support and deepening our relationships and rapport. These are intended to be a foundational launching point to inform your conversations. Please adapt, personalize and expand as you see fit!

"Warm Up" Talking Points:

- Libraries continue to be a key community asset that support education, public safety, and our economic recovery. They are an essential element for a vibrant and healthy community and are community destinations leveraged for a wide range of services, resources, programming and resiliency needs.
- Libraries continue to be a safe space for young people to do homework and hang out with their friends, a resource for connecting jobseekers with opportunities, and a partner for public school teachers across Oakland.
- 2023 was a big year for the Oakland Public Library (*add a few of your favorite accomplishments here - need inspo? Check out the ["What's New" section](#) of OPL's website or the [Newsroom](#)*)
- We're also really excited about the future of OPL! Please join us on Sunday, April 14th from 1 - 3PM for our Annual Spring Mixer where we will gather to celebrate, hear from local Poet Laureates and share more of our 2024 agenda!
- *Please add in your own personalized talking points based on the needs and concerns of your Elects and representative districts.*

The Ask: There are three focal areas where we could use the Electeds support and advocacy

1. **PROTECT THE MOE:** As Council works on the mid-cycle budget revision, it is crucial that the library's **Maintenance of Effort** (\$14.5M) be protected. There is no natural disaster, recession or catastrophic change in government funding that would justify a fiscal emergency declaration and any attempt to reduce the Maintenance of Effort would betray the Council's promise to the voters when adopting Measure C. This is particularly important because reducing the MOE below the \$14.5M commitment would effectively result in Measure C funds subsidizing the city's general fund, a violation of the voters' terms in Measure C.
2. **FOSTER OPL'S FUTURE:** The library is also working on a variety of **exciting capital projects**- like upgrades to the main library this summer will enable it to serve as a cooling in future- as well as feasibility studies for the future of the Main Library, Hoover Durant and Piedmont Ave. Additionally, staffing challenges within Public Works pose a threat to the management of these critical projects and, if left unaddressed, could **jeopardize millions of dollars of state funded grants** to support and evolve our library system.
3. **AMPLIFY OPL'S MESSAGE & WORK:** An additional way the Electeds could help support and advance our work is to share some key library updates with their constituents through their **newsletters and social media accounts**.

Timeline: There is urgency to this work! Please reach out to your assigned elected officials ASAP to calendarize an appointment and share the above information ahead of the June budget approval.